



Anglo-Celtic Roots

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Finding Mount Ruppel: Remembering Uncle Bud

We Shall Remember Them:

***Private Frederick Blackwell: 10th (Service) Battalion,
Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment***

Tech Talk: Understanding Databases



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The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa acknowledges that its activities take place in the ancestral homeland of Indigenous peoples who have inhabited these lands for millennia. We acknowledge the enduring presence here of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people. We recognize the importance of bringing awareness and understanding of our diverse nation's past to all, and we promote research and education programs that bring us together as Canadians.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Back cover

Cover Illustration: WO Class II Iverson Frederick "Bud" Ruppel.

Source: Carol Annett

From the Editor:



In this edition Carol Annett recounts the wartime experience of her Uncle Bud Ruppel, an RCAF navigator

killed in January 1944 when his Lancaster bomber crashed in Germany. Having discovered a mountain in B.C. was named after him, she has identified the various ways in which we focus our memories of those lost serving Canada—lest we forget.

From WW I and the No. 1 CCCS, we have the story of Private Frederick Blackwell, one of 11 children from a family in West Yorkshire, England. Of the three Blackwell brothers who served in the war, one returned, one was declared missing, and the third, Frederick, was critically and mortally wounded in August 1916.

The Tech Talk article makes the case that understanding how databases are built is crucial for accurate data analysis in our research. To illustrate, we look at the behind-the-scenes work involved in constructing the research databases for genealogy, using, as examples, censuses from different decades and countries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Cripwell'.

Paul Cripwell

From the President



Welcome to 2026—I hope that you all had an excellent holiday season and a good start to the new year, albeit a cold one.

The December meeting was an interesting one with great talks and wonderful samples of Christmas baking from some of our members. Thank you to all the chefs who provided treats—the recipes are on the BIFHSGO website in the Members' Area. While the first two meetings of the year have been virtual, happily, we are resuming hybrid meetings in March, so please come out if you can and enjoy the get-together.

At its February meeting, the Board developed a strategic plan for the next three to five years. We identified a serious and immediate risk to the Society's continued operation: the resignation of our website manager and extraordinary multi-functioning volunteer, Sheila Dohoo Faure, effective April 1. For some years, Sheila has had a range of responsibilities that underpin key aspects of our operations: she manages the Society's website, oversees the online payments system for memberships and conference fees, administers our Google Workspace tools, and prepares the rolling screen presentations for monthly meetings. Most of these functions are critical and must now be assumed by others.

If volunteers don't step forward quickly, the Society's ability to function effectively will be at real risk, as these roles are essential for our daily operations and the services we provide our members. Please consider volunteering or suggest others to help fill these roles. The responsibilities can be divided among several people, and all procedures are documented. Training and mentoring will be provided.

We are an entirely volunteer-run and very successful society—but we can only remain so if members now come forward to help.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Duncan Monkhouse".

Duncan Monkhouse

Finding Mount Ruppel: Remembering Uncle Bud

BY CAROL ANNETT



This is Carol's third war-themed article published in ACR. "Mary Imhoff, the War Bride on our Family Tree," appeared in Volume 27, No. 1, Spring 2021; "Stories from the War" appeared in two parts in Volume 29, No. 4, Winter 2023 and Volume 30, No. 1, Spring 2024. This article, "Finding Mount Ruppel," is based on a presentation of the same name that Carol gave to BIFHSGO in November

2025. The YouTube video of the presentation can be found in the members-only section of the BIFHSGO website. Carol is coordinator of the BIFHSGO Writing Group.

My uncle, Warrant Officer Iverson Frederick "Bud" Ruppel, RCAF, who died when his bomber crashed in Germany in 1944 (cover illustration), was buried in an unmarked grave. In 1962, a mountain near his hometown of Nelson, British Columbia, was named in his honour.^{1,2} In this article, I tell the story of how, almost 20 years after the name was assigned, Bud's family finally learned about Mount Ruppel. I share sources for geographic memorials in B.C. and elsewhere in Canada. Finally, I acknowledge worthy tributes, besides geo-memorials, by which Canadians continue to remember individual soldiers like Bud who perished in war.

Before Bud Ruppel went overseas in 1942, he posed for a photo wearing his Royal Canadian Air Force uniform, his arm around a young woman (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Marjorie and Bud Ruppel, Nelson, B.C., 1942.

Source: Author

If you assumed she was his girlfriend, you would be wrong. She was his kid sister, my mother, Marjorie, who adored him, even though he teased her unmercifully.

When Marjorie graduated in 1945, her name appeared on several pages of the Nelson High School annual.³ The yearbook's name, *Mountaineer*, was particularly appropriate since Nelson is surrounded by mountains. My mother contributed two poems and appeared in three photos: her class photo, the girls' curling team photo, and a photo of the school parliament, which raised money for Victory Bonds and War Savings Stamps.

Her brother, Bud, had graduated from Nelson High School five years earlier, in 1940. However, his name appears in the 1945 yearbook too—on the honour roll of 24 graduates who had perished during WW II. My mother's high school yearbook was a painful reminder of the loss of her dear brother who would never tease her again.

Who was Bud Ruppel?

His full name was Iverson Frederick Ruppel, but he was always known as Bud. When he was four years old, his family traded the flat prairie landscape near Vulcan, Alberta, where he was born, for the scenic, mountainous terrain of Nelson, a town nestled in a valley of the Selkirk Mountains on the west arm of Kootenay Lake in southeastern British Columbia (Figure 2). Before prospectors arrived in 1887 and began mining for silver in the area that is now Nelson, it had been home to Indigenous people for millennia.⁴ When the Ruppel family arrived in 1925, Nelson was a railway hub for the mining and forestry industries, with a population of about 7,000 people.



Figure 2: Map of B.C. showing location of Nelson.

Source: Author



Figure 3: (L to R) Harry, Kay, Marjorie and Bud Ruppel in front of the Ruppel house, Nelson, about 1939.

Source: Author

The Ruppels lived in a rambling house on a hillside on the outskirts of town (Figure 3). For years, the house had only one electrical outlet—a light on the front porch. The 1931 Census shows that many of their neighbours worked for the railway, but others, like Bud's father, Fred Ruppel, gave their occupation as farmer.⁵ Bud was the third of four children of Fred and his wife, Agnes. He had an older brother named Harry and an older sister, Kay. The youngest child in the family was Bud's sister, Marjorie, my mother, who was born just after the family settled in Nelson.

In high school, Bud was a popular, bright student who was described in the *Mountaineer* annual of 1940 as an able mathematician. Tall and athletic, he was a star player with the high school Blue Bombers basketball and softball teams. He also played the cornet in the Nelson boys band.^{6,7} Though he had qualified for university when he graduated from high school in 1940, Bud entered the workforce and worked for a year and a half as an electrician's assistant and a machinist. Then, Bud and many former classmates did what young

Canadian men were doing in 1941—they enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces⁸ (Figure 4).

Bud's War Service

In July 1942, Bud enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Calgary, Alberta, and was sent to England four months later. Over the next nine months, he transferred from one unit to another for advanced flying, and operational and conversion training as he learned the skills of a navigator on heavy bomber aircraft.

Bud wrote to his family as often as he could from England.⁹ In an airmail letter to his mother in April 1943, he wrote that trees were blooming and it was getting warmer. "Everybody in England is quite cheerful and pulling for "Monty" in Africa," wrote Bud (Figure 5).



Figure 4: Iverson Frederick Ruppel, RCAF recruit, 1942.

Source: WW II service record

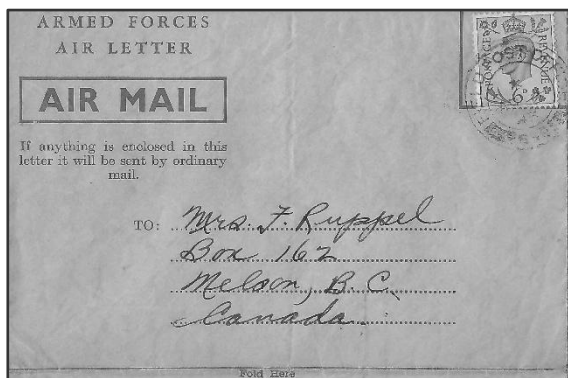


Figure 5: Airmail letter from Bud Ruppel to his mother, Agnes, 1 April 1943.

Source: Author

The rest of the letter concerned the news he had received from home. He was surprised about the great amount of snow they still had at home. He asked whether his Dad had received his letters. He told his mother that he was "still set" on a girl back home he referred to as "Miss Phyllis" and

wondered if his mother should invite her over. "I'd give a million to see Marilyn and her little sister again," he wrote about his young nieces. "Does [Marilyn] still remember me?" he asked. He asked his mother to send some summer underwear (preferably jockey style) and some hankies. "Say hi to Marj and [tell her] she better come out on top this year," he teased my mother, Marjorie, about her school marks. "Write

lots of these air letters,” wrote Bud, “they come over in 8 or 9 days.” Then he signed off with “Love to All, Bud.”

At the end of September 1943, Bud was assigned to a crew in 100 Squadron of the British Royal Air Force.¹⁰ His active service lasted only four months. On 30 January 1944 he flew on the fateful bombing operation in which he perished.

Between November 1943 and March 1944, RAF Bomber Command undertook a bombing campaign referred to as the Battle of Berlin, comprising 16 massed attacks on the capital city of Germany.¹¹ On the night of 30 January 1944, a total of 534 aircraft targeted the city.¹² Of the 33 RAF aircraft that were lost, Bud’s Lancaster aircraft ND 360 was one of three of 16 bombers from 100 Squadron shot down by German night fighters over the target area. Bud’s bomber crashed outside Berlin in a wooded area called Stadtforst Spandau.¹³

The Fate of Bud and his Crewmates

Myths persist about the fate of Bud’s crew, both in my family and in published sources: one is that all seven crewmates perished; another is that the body of only one crew member was identified; a third is that the remains of the other six crewmen were never located at all.^{14,15,16} Until recently, I too believed these accounts. However, documents in Bud’s military service record tell a different story.

Six members of the seven-man crew, including Bud Ruppel, perished (Figure 6).¹⁷ Four of the fatalities—James Kenneth Ives, Denis Cornes, Donald Savage and Derrick Sissons—were from England, while two—

Capt.	1388628	A/W/O.	IVES, J.K.
F/Eng.	1522542	Sgt.	CORNES, D.C.
Nav.	R.149338	W/O.2.	RUPPEL, I.F.
A/B.	NZ.41497	W/O.	FENTON, R.G.
WO/AG	1386346	Sgt.	SAVAGE, D.F.J.
A/C.	R.186292	Sgt.	JOHNSON, H.
R/C.	1474748	Sgt.	SISSONS, D.

Figure 6: Seven-member crew of Lancaster aircraft ND 316, 100 Squadron RAF.
Source: WW II service record, Bud Ruppel

Iverson “Bud” Ruppel and Harold Johnson—were Canadian.¹⁸ The seventh crew member, the air bomber, Flight Sergeant Robert George Fenton, who was from New Zealand, survived the attack and parachuted safely to the ground. He was captured and spent a year and a half in four different prisoner of war camps in Germany until the war ended. I discovered that, after Robert was liberated in 1945, he

married a Scottish woman in Glasgow and took her back to New Zealand with him. Robert Fenton died in 2006, over 60 years after his six crewmates perished.^{19,20,21}

Four years after the crash, authorities were still trying to sort out what happened to the bodies of Robert Fenton's crewmates. An Air Force investigation report from July 1948 in Bud Ruppel's war service file states that two bodies were positively identified—those of the flight engineer, Cornes, and the wireless operator, Savage. Bodies suspected to be those of the other four crew members—Ruppel, navigator, Ives, captain, and the two air gunners, Johnson and Sissons—were found, but their identities could not be confirmed.²²

All the remains were exhumed from graves near the crash site and reburied in Berlin. Cornes and Savage are named on their headstones, whereas those of the four unidentified bodies are engraved with "An Airman of the 1939-1945 War, Royal Air Force, Known unto God." So, Bud Ruppel is buried in Berlin; only God knows which grave is his.²³

Bud's crewmates ranged in age from 20 to 23. Bud had turned 22 in December 1943, one month before he was killed. In March 1944, Bud's family received the dreaded news that their son had lost his life in air operations against the enemy. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick August Ruppel received a card of condolence with a message of gratitude for their son's service. Charles Power, Minister of National Defence for Air wrote: "This commemorates the gratitude of the Government and people of Canada for the life of a brave man freely given in the service of his Country: Warrant Officer Second Class, Air Navigator Iverson Frederick Ruppel, RCAF. His name will ever be held in proud remembrance."²⁴

Memorials to Iverson Frederick Ruppel

In 1949, the RCAF Casualties Officer wrote to Bud's parents telling them that the bodies of two of Bud's crewmates were identified, but their son and the other crew members had no known graves.²⁵ The sole survivor was not mentioned. The letter gives the impression that Bud's body was never found. It would have been more accurate to say that their son was buried in Berlin, but his grave was unmarked because his body could not be positively identified. His parents were told that their son would be commemorated on a memorial to be erected later in England.

Indeed, Bud's name appears on the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede in Surrey, England, along with the names of more than 20,000 men and women of the Commonwealth air forces having no known or unmarked graves, who died during operations in WW II. Over the years, Bud Ruppel's name has been included in other memorials in Canada.

Iverson F. Ruppel is one of 70 names engraved on a plaque listing WW II casualties at the cenotaph in Nelson, B.C. He was one of more than 10,643 Canadians killed while serving with Bomber Command whose names are engraved in granite on the Bomber Command Memorial Wall at Nanton Lancaster Air Museum in Alberta. He can be found online on the Commonwealth War Graves and the Canadian Virtual War Memorial websites, and his name is inscribed in the Canadian Books of Remembrance in Ottawa.^{26,27,28}

In 1962, 18 years after he was killed, the province of British Columbia and the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names named a mountain in Bud's honour.²⁹ Unfortunately, it was years before members of Bud's family found out. At the time, officials were unable to find any family members to notify. By 1962, Bud's parents were both deceased and the authorities did not know how to contact his brother or sisters.

Then, completely by chance, Bud's brother, Harry, found Mount Ruppel almost two decades after the name was assigned.

Bud's Brother Finds Mount Ruppel

Bud's older brother, David Henry "Harry" Ruppel, served in the Canadian Army in WW II (Figure 7). After the war, he became a forest biology ranger. In the 1950s, Harry was employed in the Nelson Forest District and in the 1960s and 1970s



Figure 7: Agnes and Harry Ruppel, Nelson, B.C., about 1940.

Source: Author

he worked with the Canadian Forest Service in Victoria. Harry's specialty was not the trees themselves but the insects that attacked them. As my cousin in Nelson once told me, "Our Uncle Harry was a bug man."

Publications written by D. H. Ruppel in the 1960s and 1970s can still be found on the Natural Resources Canada website.³⁰ Harry Ruppel researched and wrote about nasty insect pests such as carpenter ants, termites and woolly aphids. However, it's not the insects that Harry studied that are important to this story, but the detailed, hard-to-read topographical maps that forest rangers used extensively on the job. Sometime in the 1970s, Harry, or perhaps one of his colleagues, just happened to spot Mount Ruppel (Figure 8). A peak designated as a "mount" was usually named for a person. Since Ruppel is an uncommon surname and Mount Ruppel was located 34 kilometres north of his hometown of Nelson, Harry would have wondered if it was named for someone from that area.

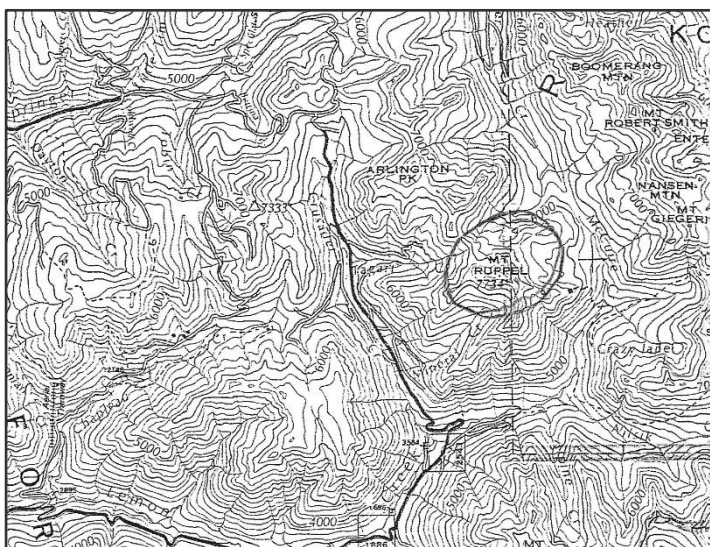


Figure 8: Forest ranger's map showing Mount Ruppel, B.C. (circled).

Source: Author

In the years before email and online databases, Harry made inquiries by telephone and snail mail and eventually solved the mystery. Mount Ruppel was indeed named in remembrance of his brother, Iverson Frederick Ruppel.

Harry received the official documentation in the 1980s, almost 20 years after the name was assigned. He sent a copy of the official naming certificate and a photo of Mount Ruppel (Figure 9) to Bud's relatives, including my mother, who now lived in Ontario. The photo was taken from inside Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. It shows the snow-covered eastern slope of Mount Ruppel, a peak with an elevation around 2,300 metres, with the Valhalla range in the distance to the

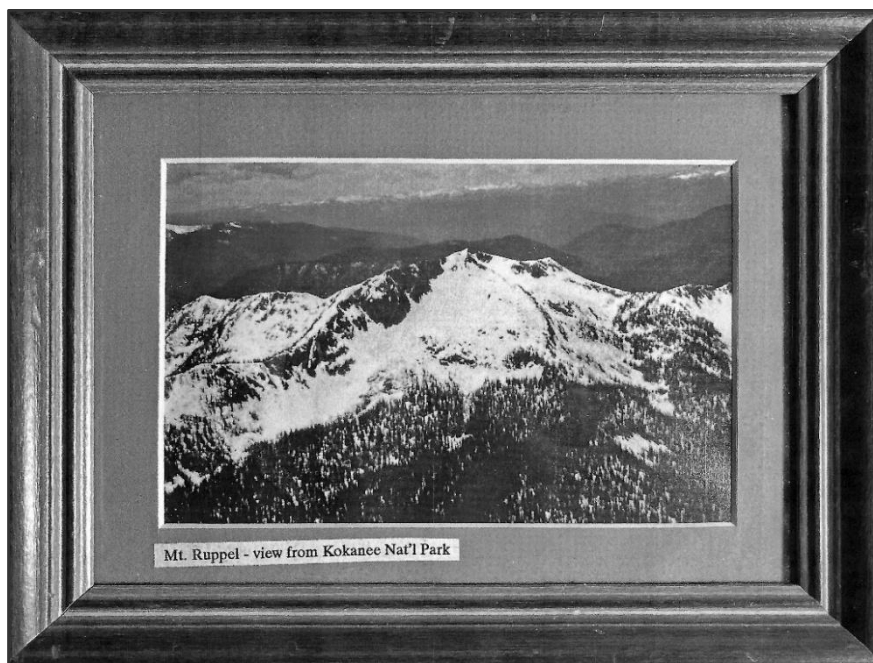


Figure 9: Family heirloom: framed photo of Mount Ruppel taken from inside Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park.

Source: Author

west.³¹ My parents sent each of their four children a framed photo of Mount Ruppel along with a copy of the certificate and a map.

I was then curious to know about other geographical features named for fallen soldiers from Nelson like my Uncle Bud. How would I go about finding them?

B.C. Geographical Memorials

The Government of Canada has created a digital atlas of remembrance called *Canada's Commemorative Map*, which shows geographical features across Canada named for those who died in the service of our country.³² Each province in Canada has an office responsible for

naming its own geographical features. However, the national and provincial databases do not always provide information about the person for whom the geographic feature was named.

The most accessible and informative online geographical names website that I have found is *BC Geographical Names*.³³ The database lists 77 features named in honour of B.C. soldiers who died in the First World War and 955 geographical features named in honour of B.C. soldiers who died in the Second World War.

A search for exact matches to the name Ruppel produces one result; this links to a location on a map and information about the mountain and the person for whom it was named. The story about Iverson Frederick Ruppel claims erroneously that the body of only one crew member was found after the aircraft crashed and that Ruppel and the rest of the crew have no known graves.

To see whether any of my uncle's classmates had geo-memorials, I searched the *BC Geographical Names* database for all 24 war casualties named in the 1945 Nelson High School *Mountaineer* yearbook. I found that seven of the men, including my Uncle Bud, have mountains named for them.³⁴

I'm not certain why these men were chosen while the other Nelson High School grads who died were not. The names of five of the mountains—McBride, Ludlow, Hoover, Eccles and Ruppel—were adopted in 1962. But mounts Aylmer and Hartridge, which lie south of the western arm of Kootenay Lake, were proposed later and adopted in 1980. Did the families of these men know about the mountains named for their relatives? Hoover's family certainly did.

Memorial Plaque on Mount Hoover

In May 2020, many ceremonies to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead of group gatherings, an organization called The Canadian Remembrance Torch challenged individuals to get outdoors, climb a mountain, especially one named after a fallen soldier, and hold aloft a symbolic torch. The significance of the torch comes from the lines in John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields*—"To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high." The family of James Earl "Jim" Hoover went a step further. Jim Hoover graduated as a scholarship student from Nelson High School in 1943, three years after Bud Ruppel. At 20 years of age, he was a casualty of the battle for the

Rhineland in March 1945. In 2020, his family placed a plaque on his mountain that reads:

*Mount Hoover, named in honour of Private James Earl Hoover, 1924–1945, Calgary Highlanders Regiment. Thanks for our freedom, Jim.*³⁵

One experienced hiker, Ron Perrier, describes Mount Ruppel as a remote peak that is rarely visited.³⁶ As far as I know, none of Bud's relatives has scaled his mountain, held a torch or installed a plaque. But our photo of Mount Ruppel is a treasured family heirloom.

"He Lived Where You Live"

The year 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Numerous initiatives in communities Canada-wide were undertaken that year to honour individual Canadian soldiers who perished in the WW II.

For example, in the small Gaspé town of New Carlisle, Quebec, Branch 64 of the Royal Canadian Legion recently hired a student to research the town's fallen soldiers from the Second World War. The research was used to create plaques honouring 26 men who never came home that were placed throughout town on Remembrance Day 2025.³⁷

In his book launched in November 2025, entitled *One Town in a Very Long War*, Robert Drummond chronicles the lives of 47 young men from Montreal West who died during WW II.³⁸ Present-day residents can discover the stories of the casualties of war who once lived on the streets of their neighbourhood.

In 2025, in an ambitious project honouring its war fallen called "Where they called home," the town of Sarnia, Ontario, displayed 315 signs for fallen soldiers from Sarnia and the surrounding area. Each sign bears a name, a photo and a QR code linking to the soldiers' biographies. Modern technology links us to the past.³⁹

In a Canada-wide project in 2025, the Juno Beach Centre Association mailed 1,945 postcards to the former homes of Canadian soldiers who died during the last year of the war. The postcard campaign was called "He Lived Where You Live." To check the names of the fallen soldiers across Canada for whom postcards were sent, see the interactive map on the *Juno Beach Centre* website.⁴⁰

Three Juno Beach Centre postcards were sent to Nelson, B.C., not to Bud Ruppel's former house, which I believe is no longer standing, but

to the addresses where Pilot Officer Francis Miller, Captain Kenneth McBride and Pilot Officer John Kubin once lived.⁴¹ The postcards introduced a new generation to the stories of the fallen soldiers who once lived in their homes. Hopefully, the people living at McBride's and Kubin's former residences learned that these men have mountains in the Nelson area named for them.

References for Geo-Memorials

As mentioned earlier, links to geographical memorials can be found online on Canada's commemorative map and B.C. has an excellent database on its *BC Geographical Places* website.^{42,43} BIFHSGO member Glenn Wright made me aware of two other provinces where books have been published listing places named for war casualties. In *A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in its Geography*, published in 2002, editors Gerald F. Holm and Anthony Buchner list over 4,200 Manitoba military personnel who died in the Second World War, the Korean War and a peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁴⁴ All their names, in addition to those of seven Victoria Cross recipients in the First World War and six women who lost their lives during wartime, have been assigned to geographical features.

Saskatchewan has two publications like Manitoba's. In 2001, Doug Chisholm published a book documenting Saskatchewan's almost 4,000 WW II geographical memorials titled *Their Names Live On: Remembering Saskatchewan's Fallen in World War II*.⁴⁵ Chisholm, a bush pilot from La Ronge, Saskatchewan, was determined to record aerial photographs of the features, which mainly lie in inaccessible places in northern Saskatchewan. He then endeavoured to notify family members of the deceased about the features he photographed.

In 2005, Bill Barry, in collaboration with Doug Chisholm, published *Age Shall Not Weary Them: Saskatchewan Remembers its War Dead*, with names of the fallen, their biographical details and, for many, their geo-memorial information. Barry's book adds another 1,000 casualties to those listed in the previous book by Chisholm.⁴⁶

In my Uncle Bud's hometown of Nelson, B.C., residents are fortunate to have their own reference book with information, including geo-memorials if applicable, about casualties of the Second World War who once lived in their town.

Memorial Book about Nelson, B.C.

Author Sylvia Crooks grew up in Nelson during the Second World War when, as she put it, “almost all of our activities were touched by the theme of war.” As an adult, she realized that “Nelson’s story was the story of communities across the country.” She made it her mission to tell Nelson’s story.

Sylvia Crooks died in 2022. The book she published in 2005, *Homefront & Battlefront: Nelson BC in World War II*, is an extraordinary gift of remembrance.⁴⁷ As UBC professor Basil Stuart-Stubbs wrote in his review on the back cover: “This is about one town, but it could be Anytown, Canada, and so deserves a wide readership.” The author portrays what it was like during the war years in a small, close-knit Canadian community. In the appendix she lists all 73 Nelson casualties by date of death, place of burial, military unit and home address. The book also includes biographical sketches of the Nelson casualties, including Bud Ruppel, bringing to life each of these men whose promising futures were cut short by war.

Sylvia Crooks names four young airmen from Nelson who died in January 1944.⁴⁷ Two of these casualties were Warrant Officer Class II Edward Albert “Teddy” Cornfield, 23, and my Uncle Bud—Warrant Officer Class II Iverson Frederick Ruppel, 22. Cornfield and Ruppel died one day apart on operations over Berlin. Mount Cornfield and Mount Ruppel, both named in 1962, lie about 15 kilometres apart, north of Nelson.

Sylvia Crooks states that the bodies of Cornfield and his crewmates were recovered and buried in Berlin 1939–1945 War Cemetery.⁴⁸ However, she was misinformed about Bud’s crew. She wrote, “The body of one crew member was later discovered in a nearby grave, but the bodies of Bud and his other crewmates were never found.” In fact, one crew member, Fenton, survived, and two bodies, Cornes and Savage, were identified. In the same cemetery as Teddy Cornfield from Nelson, Cornes was buried in Row E, Grave 9, and Savage in Row F, Grave 16, both in Plot VII. A report in Bud’s service record filed by Flight Lieutenant John R. Hughes DFM specifies that the four probable crewmates of Cornes and Savage were also interred in Plot VII, in unmarked graves E.10 and F. 13, 14 and 15.^{49,50}

Sylvia Crooks states that, out of Nelson’s population of 7,000, around 1,300 young men and women went to war in the 1940s. More than 70 of them did not come home. Among those, she lists 28 fallen

servicemen who were given geo-memorials, including the seven Nelson High School graduates from the 1945 yearbook that I had found (Figure 10). These 28 geo-memorials include one inlet, one point, two peaks, three creeks and a whopping 21 mountains, including Mount Ruppel.⁵¹ Most of the features lie within the Kootenay Land District near Nelson, homeland of the Ktunaxa [pronounced k-too-nah-ha] and Sinixt [pronounced sin-eye-kst] First Nations.⁵² Indigenous peoples have long considered the mountains in the Kootenay District as living giants. Twenty-one of these sacred giants around Nelson now share the names of men who died in the Second World War. The landscape has become a monument to those who died fighting for our country.

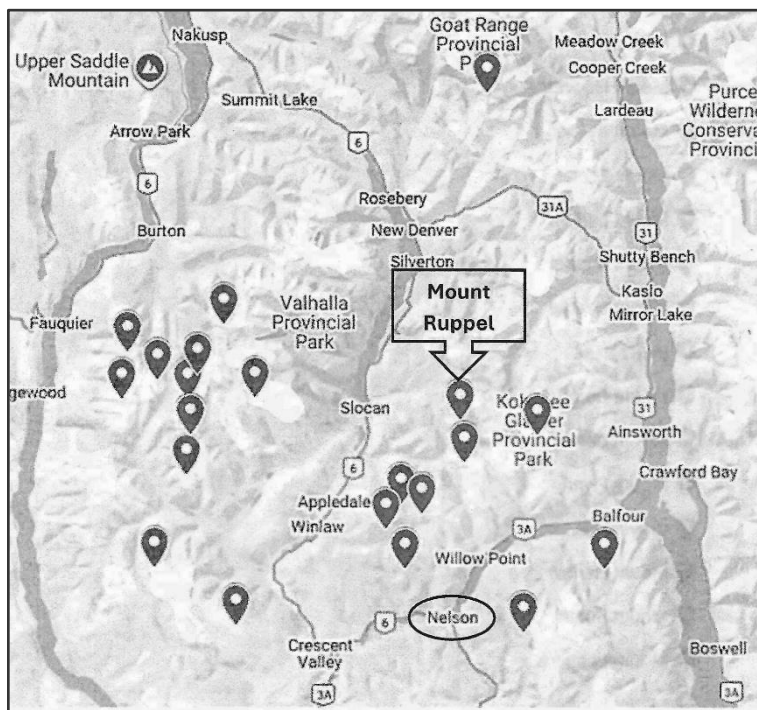


Figure 10: Location of geo-memorials around Nelson, B.C.

Source: Google My Maps

Lest We Forget

The late Tim Cook, esteemed Chief Historian of the Canadian War Museum who died in 2025, knew that memorials are important in remembering Canada's massive contribution during the Second World War. In 2023, while speaking about the refurbishing of the National

War Memorial in St. John's, Newfoundland, Tim said this: "Memorials help focus memory."⁵³

Whether we are prompted by a national monument, a cenotaph, a book, a digital atlas, a commemorative postcard from the *Juno Beach Centre*, a lawn sign with a QR code, or a mountain, Canadians keep finding ways, not just on the 11th of November but every day, to focus our memory—to say the names and tell the stories of individuals like my Uncle Iverson Frederick "Bud" Ruppel, who gave their lives in the service of our country. Lest we forget.

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Reference Notes:

- ¹ Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Geographical Names Database, Mount Ruppel, Kootenay Land District, named on 1962-01-24 (<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/maps-tools-publications/tools-applications/canadian-geographical-names-database>).
- ² British Columbia, BC Geographical Names Office website, Mount Ruppel (apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/web/).
- ³ *Mountaineer* yearbook, Nelson High School, 12th Edition (Nelson, B.C.: 1945), collection of Carol Annett.
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A Joint IGRS and BIFHSGO Event

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We Shall Remember Them[©]

BY HEATHER CARMODY

Heather is a long-term volunteer researching soldiers who died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS). She has been a member of BIFHSGO since 2015 and began writing biographies the following year. She has also been a member of Ontario Ancestors (OGS) since 2010, researching her Irish and Scottish ancestors. In this biography, she describes the life and death of a soldier who came from a large West Yorkshire family with three sons who served in the Great War—only one survived.

Private Frederick Blackwell[©]

Regimental number: 19279

10th (Service) Battalion,

Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment

born: 20 April 1887–died: 31 August 1916

“Too loved to ever be forgotten,” is engraved on Private Frederick Blackwell’s headstone.¹ He was at the Western Front for less than 60 days when he was killed in action, one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the First World War.²

Frederick (known as Fred) was born on 20 April 1887 in Yeadon,³ a town in the Wharfedale district of West Yorkshire, about 13 km northwest of Leeds.⁴ He was the son of William (1847–1927)⁵ and Faith Elizabeth (née Warcup) Blackwell (1848–1927),⁶ who were both born in the area: William in Kirkbymoorside and Faith in Pickering.

They married on 27 November 1869 at the Anglican Chapel of Lockton, in the Parish of Middleton, Yorkshire. William was a farm labourer. Faith did not list an occupation at the time of the marriage.⁷

The couple had 11 children:⁸ Elizabeth Ann (1871–1958)⁹ was the eldest, followed by Hannah Jane (1872–1872),¹⁰ Hannah Jane (1873–1914),¹¹ Emily Warcup (1875–1961),¹² John William Warcup (1876–1879),¹³ William (1880–1933),¹⁴ George (1882–1968),¹⁵ Francis (1884–1979),¹⁶ Alfred (1885–1916),¹⁷ then Frederick and lastly Louise (1889–1890).¹⁸

William and Faith began their married life in Kirkbymoorside. In 1871 they were living with baby Elizabeth at Howe's End, and William was working as a labourer.¹⁹ A decade later, William and Faith, with their four living children—Elizabeth, Hannah, Emily and infant William—were residing in Kirkby Mills. William was a lime burner, a very dangerous occupation.²⁰

When Fred was born, the family had moved to Queen Street in Yeadon,²¹ a small town that had developed with the wool industry. By 1887, Yeadon had five mills manufacturing wool products.²²

It was in these mills that Fred's family found employment. In 1891, Elizabeth worked as a weaver, and Hannah and Emily were spinners. Four-year-old Fred remained at home, while brothers William, George, Francis and Alfred attended school. Fred's father was a labourer; his mother a greengrocer.²³ During the next decade, Fred probably attended school.

By 1901, the 14-year-old was working as a wool spinner. All his siblings were employed in the woollen mills, except William, who was a bricklayer. His father was now a market gardener, and his mother did domestic chores.²⁴

At some point after 1901, Fred's father moved to Lockton, near Pickering, to farm.²⁵ His brother William listed "farmer" as their father's occupation when he married Emma Kitchen on 11 August 1906. William was now employed as a woollen cloth fuller and Emma was a woollen weaver.²⁶

Both of them were still working at these occupations in 1911, living at 13 Queen Street, Yeadon, with their three-year-old son Ernest.²⁷ By then, Fred's brother George had emigrated to Australia, most likely in 1910.²⁸ Fred and the rest of his family remained in Yeadon at 6 Hudson Terrace. All, except his mother, worked in the woollen mills. Elizabeth, Hannah and Emily were weavers; Fred and Francis were spinners and Alfred was a beamer.²⁹

When Francis wed Hilda Norton on 19 August 1911, the family had moved to 8 Football [Street], Yeadon. Francis was still employed as a spinner; Hilda worked as a condenser filler at a woollen mill.³⁰

The family must have been affected by the labour unrest that occurred particularly during the years 1911–1914. The cost of living had increased. Wages for the various occupations had remained stagnant

while employers were demanding greater productivity. On 23 May 1913, the mill owners locked out over 2,000 workers and refused to negotiate with the Yeadon, Guiseley and District Factory Workers' Union.

Fred and Alfred (and probably the other siblings) were members of the union.³¹ They may have marched in the "Hunger Parades" to nearby communities during June and July to publicize the situation and collect money to assist starving workers' families. On 24 July 1913, the owners reopened the mills and made a few concessions, such as pay increases for some workers and a work week shortened to 55½ hours.³²

Life did not return to normal for the Blackwell family. On 6 February 1914, Fred was with his sister Hannah when she died from a perforated ulcer at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, about 11 km from Yeadon.³³ This must have been a sorrowful time for the family.

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, 27-year-old Fred did not enlist, perhaps because he did not meet the height requirement of 160 cm and had no military experience.³⁴

Instead, he continued to reside with his mother and siblings at 8 Football, Yeadon, and to work as the head spinner at a woolen mill. On 20 November 1915, he married Daisy Clark (1890–1972),³⁵ a munitions worker (Figure 1). His brother Alfred was a witness at the ceremony.³⁶



Figure 1: (L to R) Daisy Blackwell, Private Frederick Blackwell, Elizabeth Ann Blackwell

Source: Courtesy of Richard Sim

Fred and Daisy were living at 5 Alma Road, Yeadon, when he enlisted on 8 December 1915. He stood approximately 158 cm tall, weighed 53 kg and was assigned to the Army Reserve until 29 February 1916, when he was posted to the 10th (Service) Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.³⁷

Two of his brothers would also enlist: Alfred in the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment³⁸ and Francis in the Machine Gun Corps.³⁹ George applied to the Australian Imperial Force on 3 September 1916 but was rejected because of his poor eyesight.⁴⁰

The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment was an infantry regiment of the British Army formed in 1881 with the amalgamation of the 33rd (The Duke of Wellington's) Regiment of Foot and the 76th Regiment of Foot. During the First World War, the regiment raised 19 Territorial and Service battalions.⁴¹

The 10th (Service) Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, also known as the 10th West Riding Regiment, was raised at Halifax in September 1914 and became part of the 69th Brigade, 23rd Division. It landed in France on 27 August 1915 to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF).⁴²

The battalion, as part of the 69th Infantry Brigade, spent the next five months in the Erquinghem-Lys area, northern France, assigned to various trenches along the Bois-Grenier line. From mid-February to June 1916, the battalion moved to trenches near Steenbecque, then Hesdigneul-lès-Béthune, Ourton, and Hersin-Coupigny. On 25 June, it travelled from Hersin to Longueau, Somme department, Hauts-de-France, in northern France and then on to Molliens-au-Bois, about 12 km from Albert, France.

On 1 July, at 7:30 a.m., the Battle of Albert (1–13 July 1916) commenced. It was the first of 12 battles during the period from 1 July to 18 November 1916 that became known as the Battle of the Somme.⁴³ On 4 July, the 10th (Service) Battalion was in trenches near Baizieux when it was ordered to capture and consolidate other positions near Albert. This was the first time that the battalion had been employed in an attack. Lieutenant Colonel Hayne, commanding the 10th Battalion, wrote that it was a great pleasure for him to say, "that all the ranks worked magnificently . . . and that many deeds of valour were performed by both officers and men."⁴⁴

By the evening of 5 July, 4 officers and 13 soldiers of other ranks (ORs) were dead, 2 officers and 66 ORs wounded.⁴⁵ Other engagements with the enemy followed: 7 July at Lozenge Wood, 9 July at Shelter Alley; on 10 July, the battalion participated in the attack at Contalmaison and captured many guns and prisoners.⁴⁶ Relieved on 12 July, the battalion retired to Molliens-au-Bois to rebuild.

It was probably at Molliens-au-Bois that Private Frederick Blackwell joined the battalion. After embarking for France on 4 July 1916, he was probably one of the 154 ORs (judged to be of “fair standard”)⁴⁷ that arrived on 17 July to reinforce the battalion. He received some training there and at Millencourt before the battalion went into the front-line trenches at Bécourt Wood. During this time, Fred experienced day-to-day shelling, sniper fire, endless noise and a horrid stench, followed by rest periods behind the lines.

From Bécourt Wood, the battalion moved to front-line trenches near Contalmaison. On the night of 28/29 July, Fred probably saw action for the first time in what became known as the Battle of Pozières. The battalion attacked the enemy in Munster Alley [trench],⁴⁸ consolidated the BEF’s position but “sustained somewhat severe casualties”: 2 officers and 31 ORs killed, 4 officers and 124 ORs wounded, 1 officer and 30 ORs missing and 13 ORs shell shocked.⁴⁹

At the beginning of August, the battalion, assigned to trenches near Albert, had further engagements with the enemy. However, in mid-August, the 10th (Service) Battalion moved out of the Somme area. By 17 August, it had travelled 112 km to Steenwerck, northern France, near the Belgian border. From 18 to 23 August, it took over the defence of trenches in front of Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium, and found “it very quiet compared to Albert.”⁵⁰

During that time, Fred probably assisted with the construction of a new trench (called the 10 West Riding Trench), which brought the BEF forces to about 320 m from the enemy trenches. During the operation, three ORs were killed and four ORs wounded.⁵¹

From 25 to 31 August, the battalion was assigned the left section of this new front-line trench. It was ordered to attack the enemy line at 1:30 a.m. on 31 August.⁵² Before the venture, the BEF’s artillery fired gas bombs on the enemy trenches. Some fell short, releasing gas over a portion of the new trench. Lieutenant Colonel Hayne recorded that three ORs were injured, “one had already died” and “this happened in spite of the most rigorous precautions. All ranks in the front line had their helmets adjusted before 1:30 a.m.”⁵³

On 30 August 1916, Private Frederick Blackwell was critically injured,⁵⁴ most likely during this attack. He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) at Bailleul, France, about 15 km from Ploegsteert Wood. A casualty clearing station was a

medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who could not be adequately treated were stabilized before being transported to a military hospital.⁵⁵

Fred died at 3 a.m. on Thursday, 31 August,⁵⁶ one of four men to die that day at No. 1 CCCS.⁵⁷ His death was recorded by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain.⁵⁸ His wife Daisy and his parents were informed about his death, which was reported in the *Leeds Mercury* on 8 September 1916.⁵⁹

Private Frederick Blackwell was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. F. 188).⁶⁰ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there.

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

Fred was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).⁶¹ By 2 February 1917, Daisy had received all his savings of £2 21s 14d and on 30 September 1919, a war gratuity of £3.⁶²

Daisy applied for a pension on 26 October 1916 and was granted 10s a week, to start on 19 March 1917.⁶³ As next of kin, she received a memorial plaque and a parchment scroll. Unfortunately, the scroll was lost by a picture framing company. Daisy asked for a replacement but was told that this was against regulations.⁶⁴

Of the three Blackwell brothers who went to war, only one, Francis, returned home. Fred's brother Alfred was declared missing in action on 2 November 1916 and was officially declared dead in June 1917. His sacrifice is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.⁶⁵

In the next decade, the surviving Blackwell family members continued to live near each other in Yeadon. In 1921, all of Fred's siblings were employed by D. Waterworth & Sons, Compton Mills, Yeadon. His mother and sisters Elizabeth and Emily were living in the house at

8 Football, and both Elizabeth and Emily were working as woollen weavers.⁶⁶

William, wife Emma and son Ernest were living nearby at 12 Lower Queen Street. William was a cloth miller and Emma a weaver. Francis, wife Hilda and their two children were living nearby on South View Terrace; Francis was a woollen spinner.⁶⁷ Fred's father William, however, was still farming in Lockton Pickering.⁶⁸

In 1922, George married widow Elizabeth Schell in Waverley, New South Wales, Australia.⁶⁹ On 15 April 1925, he arrived back in England to visit his family at 8 Football, Yeadon. At some point he returned to Australia.⁷⁰

Fred's wife Daisy never remarried. Shortly after his death, she moved to her parent's house at 6 Barnet Street, Armley, Leeds. In 1921, she was still living there with her parents, Brian and Ellen Clark, and her sister Ellen. Daisy was employed as a burler worker by Wilson & Sons Worsted Manufacturer.⁷¹ (Burlers dressed cloth by removing slubs, knots and loose threads.) In 1939, she was still employed as a burler, living alone at 6 Barnet Street, Armley, Leeds.⁷²

Private Frederick Blackwell's sacrifice was not forgotten. He and brothers Alfred and Francis were commemorated on the Yeadon War Memorial erected in 1921. Constructed of oak and located in the Town Hall, it listed the names of the 1,137 local residents who died and the names of 1,903 who had served and survived.⁷³ Fred and Alfred's names were also listed on the Factory Workers Institute's Roll of Honour plaque.⁷⁴ More recently, Fred has been remembered on The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) – Regimental Association's website.⁷⁵

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Tech Talk

Understanding Databases

BY PAUL CRIPWELL



This is one of a series of articles designed to address the Education goal of BIFHSGO, namely, to take advantage of technology in our family history research. Future articles will be written to cover this wide-ranging topic. Suggestions are welcome and volunteers to write articles on a topic of their choice would be greatly appreciated.

This article examines subtleties in selected databases, with a particular emphasis on how the records were collected and eventually made available to you.

To take full advantage of the data and the manipulating technologies that are available to us, it is important to understand databases, their structure and, above all else, how the data was collected and turned into the digital form that we ultimately see and use.

If nothing else, my experience with data analysis has shown me that understanding how the data was collected is crucial to understanding what the results and analysis mean.

To demonstrate this, I will look at census data, a well-used and documented data source for genealogists. This is data we use all the time, perhaps without fully understanding it. First, I will examine the differences between the various years for census data in England and Wales, particularly 1841 (the first census) and 1921 (the most recently available). Then I will outline some of the differences across two other countries, Canada and the United States.

English Census

The censuses in England and Wales,¹ and the British Isles in general, are probably the most commonly used among BIFHSGO members, I will look at a few years of data to show why gaining this understanding is so important when attaching records to individuals in your tree. While there are censuses for the remainder of the British Isles, only England and Wales are included in this article.

Let’s examine what data fields were collected in each census across all the years (in the table, Y means yes and N means no).

	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921
Date	Jun 6	Mar 30	Apr 7	Apr 2	Apr 3	Apr 5	Mar 31	Apr 2	Jun 19
Enumerator	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Name	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gender	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Age	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Address	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Occupation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marital Status	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Relation to Head	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Specific Birth Location	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Blind, Deaf or Dumb	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Rooms Occupied	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Employment Status	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nationality	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Children born	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y

Table 1:Information collected by the English censuses, Source Author

This is an excellent start to the analysis; we can see what information was not collected and therefore not available to us for analysis. But that is just the beginning.

Taking a deeper look at these fields and reading the documentation on how the census was conducted, we discover some important facts.

The 1841 Census is infamous for problems with the recording of adults' ages. The rules for completing the forms by individuals or by the enumerators were that children's ages should be recorded to the nearest year, while the age of anyone over 15 should be rounded down to the nearest five years. Unfortunately for us, these rules were not consistently followed. There are numerous cases of the exact age of an adult being recorded. As well, there were different approaches to "rounding down," with some enumerators recording 15 for 16, 17, 18 and 19, while others recorded 15 for 15 and 16 only. If you look at all the records on a page (or subsequent pages), you will get a better idea of how the enumerator applied these rules. Be cautious here, since enumerators were also transcribing forms completed by individuals, and the enumerator would have no knowledge of how this rounding rule was applied.

What does this mean for us? Normally, the age on the census would be within two years of the actual age, but for the 1841 Census it is closer to within five years—a significant difference when trying to reconcile the records of individuals in your tree! Even with a rare name like Cripwell, I found two Richard Cripwells in the 1841 Census, one born 1809 and one in 1811, who were listed as having the same age. As a rookie researcher who did not yet understand the census rules, I didn't have the experience required to sort this out, so it created a real headache for me.

In 1841 the literacy rate was about 60 to 70 per cent among men and 40 to 50 per cent among women. However, this rate varied widely, based on factors including region, urban/rural, class and age. Therefore, the chance of these forms coming to a household where they could not be completed by the occupants was real. In these cases, the forms were completed by the enumerator when they were collected. Would these all have been done on one day?

For me, a couple of red flags crop up here. First, the names and numbers of people who stayed over the target night may be in doubt, since the information could be in the past and subject to the recall of the interviewee. Secondly and significantly, is spelling. If the occupants could not verify the spelling of their names, then the census reflects the enumerator's best guess at the spelling, which may be phonetic.

This brings up an important point about the census of England and Wales, that of residency. The rule here was to record the *de facto*

residence, or where each person was physically staying on a particular night. Not all countries use this rule, as I explain later in this article.

Before 1911, there was an extra transcription step in the overall process (hence the row headed “Enumerator” in the above table). The enumerator interpreted the entries on each form and wrote them in the book, thus transcribing both their own handwriting and that of the person who completed the form. There are many opportunities for errors here. I found one example where the 1861 entry for my great-grandfather had the wrong name. In this case, the initial form may have been correct, but the enumerator may have transcribed it incorrectly. Alternatively, the enumerator may have recorded the information incorrectly at the time of the interview. There is no way of knowing.

The process for the enumerators was to collect all these forms and return to a location where they transcribed the forms to the enumerator books. It is these books that have been digitized and indexed and are now available to us. The original forms were destroyed. However, for the 1911 Census, the forms were retained, and, for the first time, these forms were scanned and indexed.

An interesting peculiarity of the 1911 Census was the impact of the suffragette movement. Women were encouraged to refuse to be counted: no vote—no count. In one case, a suffragette spent the night in the Houses of Parliament and filed that as her residence that night.

The 1921 Census was postponed due to the Black Friday strike by railwaymen, coal miners and transport workers.² Instead of happening on April 24, the census was completed on June 19. It is possible that individual households may have completed the forms on the original date. There is no information on the frequency of this happening, although, if you do find a child born between April and June of that year who is not in this census, it may be because the form was completed early. It’s also possible that families may have been on holiday. Either they could have filled the form out early or completed it on the prescribed day. This would impact where they were counted.

There are many other aspects of the data that could affect your analysis. Be cautious and ask an expert if you think something may be askew.

A 100-year rule for the publication of private information exists for England and Wales. That is why the 1921 Census has only been

released in the last few years. The 1931 Census was destroyed by fire, and there was no 1941 Census due to the Second World War. That means the next census for England and Wales will not be available for researchers until 2052.

We are fortunate to have as a partial fallback the 1939 Register,³ which recorded the civilian population of England and Wales at the start of the Second World War. It was used as the basis for issuing ration books and other wartime activities. Its records were updated for many years after the war, and it is an excellent source for identifying female ancestors whose names changed as a result of marriage after 1939. Since this is not a census *per se*, the same rules do not apply, although names of individuals not known to be dead and less than 100 years old are blacked out.

Canada Census

The first recorded census in what is now Canada took place in 1666⁴ followed by censuses in Canada East and Canada West in 1851/52 and 1861. A national census process was implemented after Confederation in 1867. By statute, a census was to be conducted every 10th year ending in a “1.” Therefore, the 1871 Census was the first national Canadian census; it took place in the four provinces that made up the Dominion at the time.

Enumerators were used to interview each household for all censuses up to and including 1961. The 1971 Census was the first self-enumerated census, using mail-in forms. To determine where a person should be enumerated, the rule was to include them at their regular abode and not at any temporary location. Exactly how “regular abode” was interpreted is a good question. Legally, this is known as *de jure* residence, in contrast to the *de facto* residence rule used in England and Wales.

Having an enumerator write what the interviewee said introduces the potential for errors in spelling. This is a common problem and must be accounted for during any genealogical research, although this issue should diminish over time as the literacy rate increases.

Canada also changed to a quinquennial schedule, every five years, beginning in 1956. Heads up for May 2026⁵ for the next census, although a specific date has not been announced.

Canada has a 92-year rule for the release of private information. The 1931 Census was released in 2024 through Library and Archives Canada.⁶ The 1941 Census will be available in 2034.

United States Census

The first U.S. census was conducted in 1790.⁷ Although relatively limited by later standards, it was designed solely to collect the population count, with no information about individuals.

As in Canada, the U.S. definition uses the answer to the question. Is the dwelling unit for the designated night in question the regular abode (de jure) of the individual?

The first forms⁸ had columns with headings for race, gender and age group, completed with simple numerical counts. In fact, the U.S. Marshals who were charged with enumeration had to provide their own paper and were given only the titles of the columns for which data was to be collected. As you can imagine, this would not have been implemented consistently. The name of the head of the household was the only name associated with any entry.

The 1830 Census was the first census using a standard form. The 1850 Census was the first one that recorded the names of all individuals. The 1960 Census was the first U.S. census where a member of each household, not an enumerator, was primarily responsible for completing the form, although enumerators still collected the forms. The 1970 Census was the first “mail-out/mail-in” census.

Since enumerators were collecting and completing forms for each household in censuses up to and including 1950, the potential for errors in spelling exists, especially in the earlier years. The enumerator would spell and write the name as they heard it, and variations in spelling would be caught and corrected only if the interviewee noticed. This is of particular concern for surnames with many spelling variations.

The U.S. Census Bureau uses a “72-year rule.” Under legislation, private information, including names and addresses, can only be publicly released 72 years after the census was taken. The 1950 Census records were released in 2022, and the 1960 Census will be available in 2032.

Conclusion

This article has covered in some detail a few years of the census for England and Wales as well as the censuses of Canada and the United States.

In comparing the censuses in these three countries, we can see that the rules for determining a person's residence were different in England and Wales than in Canada and the United States. This can make a significant difference when researching your family history.

Another important difference relates to the start of self-enumeration. Whether enumerators were doing the recording versus the individuals in the household can result in different spellings of names. In England and Wales, self-enumeration was always the main procedure, even at the first national census in 1841. In contrast, it was not employed until 1960 in the United States and 1971 in Canada.

This article has covered only one data source—censuses—in three countries and noted that the way the data was collected, and what data was collected, varied and improved over time.

Unfortunately for us, each data source in each country has its own peculiarities. While working with different data sources produces its own set of problems, expanding into other countries and cultures only makes matters more difficult. Cultural standards, such as the passing down of surnames, changes to surname spellings with gender and calculation of age, are just some of the many issues you might encounter and will have to handle in your research. Remember—our way of doing things is not the standard for the world, nor is it the only or best way of doing things!

It is up to you to treat each data source you use with caution until you fully understand it. It is always a good idea to read any reference material for each source. If you are not sure, please ask someone! BIFHSGO has many members who will be happy to assist.

Reference Notes

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BIFHSGO News

Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa

will be held at 9:00 a.m.

13 June 2026.

Please join us!

Comings and Goings

We welcome Susan Smart to the Board of Directors as the Secretary.

After five years as our webmanager, Sheila Dohoo Faure has decided to step down from the role. She has been a key volunteer in our society,

generously sharing her expertise and taking on several other responsibilities as well. We are very grateful for all she has done and will miss her knowledge, dedication and steady support.

BIFHSGO has SIGs!

Special Interest Groups, or SIGs, are a way for researchers working in a particular area to exchange ideas. There are currently four SIGs within BIFHSGO and each will be highlighted in this section.

London Special Interest Group

The London Special Interest Group focuses on researching ancestors from London, England. For purposes of the group, London is defined as Greater London—essentially the area within the modern London Orbital Motorway (M25) in Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, Greater London, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.

Members are encouraged to:

- Discuss their research interests for their London ancestors, share information and links to useful sites
- Report for discussion purposes their current research difficulties and roadblocks, in case other members of the group may be able to assist
- Actively participate by preparing a short (5–10 minute) online presentation on one or more of their research topics.

More general discussions may take place during the meeting or as a result of topics raised.

Some meeting presentations, research findings and suggested links are stored for members' reference in a private members-only Google drive.

For the 2025–26 season, online meetings are proposed for September, November, January, March and May. Notices of upcoming meetings with the Zoom link are emailed to members one week in advance of the scheduled meeting date and are posted in “Events” on the BIFHSGO website.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us.

Coordinator: Maureen Amey

Email: London_sig@bifhsgo.ca

BIFHSGO membership: not required

Thursday Coffee Club – White Pines Café



Photo courtesy Carol Annett

Pictured above are the many friendly faces of the Thursday morning coffee group meeting at the White Pines Café, on McClellan Road. Come join us with your stories!

Gatherings are the third Thursday of each month, September through June, starting around 9:30am. (Check the BIFHSGO Events Calendar.)

Erratum

The Winter Edition of the ACR went out with an error in the volume number. It was shown as Volume 32 and should have been Volume 31. The Volume number for 2026 is 32.

BIFHSGO Board of Directors 2025–2026

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The Society

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) is an independent, federally incorporated society and a registered charity (Reg. No. 89227 4044 RR0001). Our Mission is to encourage family history research, and its dissemination, by people interested in ancestry in the British Isles. We do this by:

- connecting BIFHSGO members with each other and other like-minded persons,
- educating both beginning and more experienced family historians by promoting and demonstrating trusted research methods and best practices,
- sharing members' knowledge readily with other researchers, and
- inspiring others through educational presentations and members' published stories.

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

Each year members enjoy four issues of *Anglo-Celtic Roots* (ACR) and ten family history meetings, plus members-only information on bifhsgo.ca, friendly advice from other members, and participation in special interest groups. Membership dues for 2025–2026 (individuals or institutions) are \$50 (with electronic ACR) or \$60 (with printed ACR).

BIFHSGO Calendar of Events

Saturday Morning Meetings

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

Online—on Zoom, **registration required**

11 April 2026	Tips and Techniques Talk: The Travelling Genealogist: BIFHSGO members' top tips for travelling to research your family history Content from BIFHSGO members Story Talk: The Rise and Fall of John Lowther Kemp Sr. 1793-1869 Doug Loucks
9 May 2026	Tips and Techniques Talk: Update on BIFHSGO Research Projects Sue Lambeth Story Talk: A Good and Faithful Servant: The Life of Henry Arrowsmith Brogdon (1812-1883) Veronica Scrimger
13 June 2026	Annual General Meeting Great Moments: Secrets: The Pullman Family Revisited Patty McGregor Nottingham's Old General Marianne Rasmus Exploding Family Myths: William Wallace, Loyalist Carolyn Brown

Typical Meeting Schedule

09:00 – Tips and Techniques Talk

10:00 – Story Talk

All the above meetings are hybrid.

Check our website at www.bifhsgo.ca for up-to-date information on our monthly meetings, registration for online attendance, details of special interest group meetings and online resources.

Articles for *Anglo-Celtic Roots*

Articles and illustrations for publication are welcome. For advice on preparing manuscripts, please email acreditor@bifhsgo.ca. The deadline for submissions to the Summer issue is 22 April 2026.