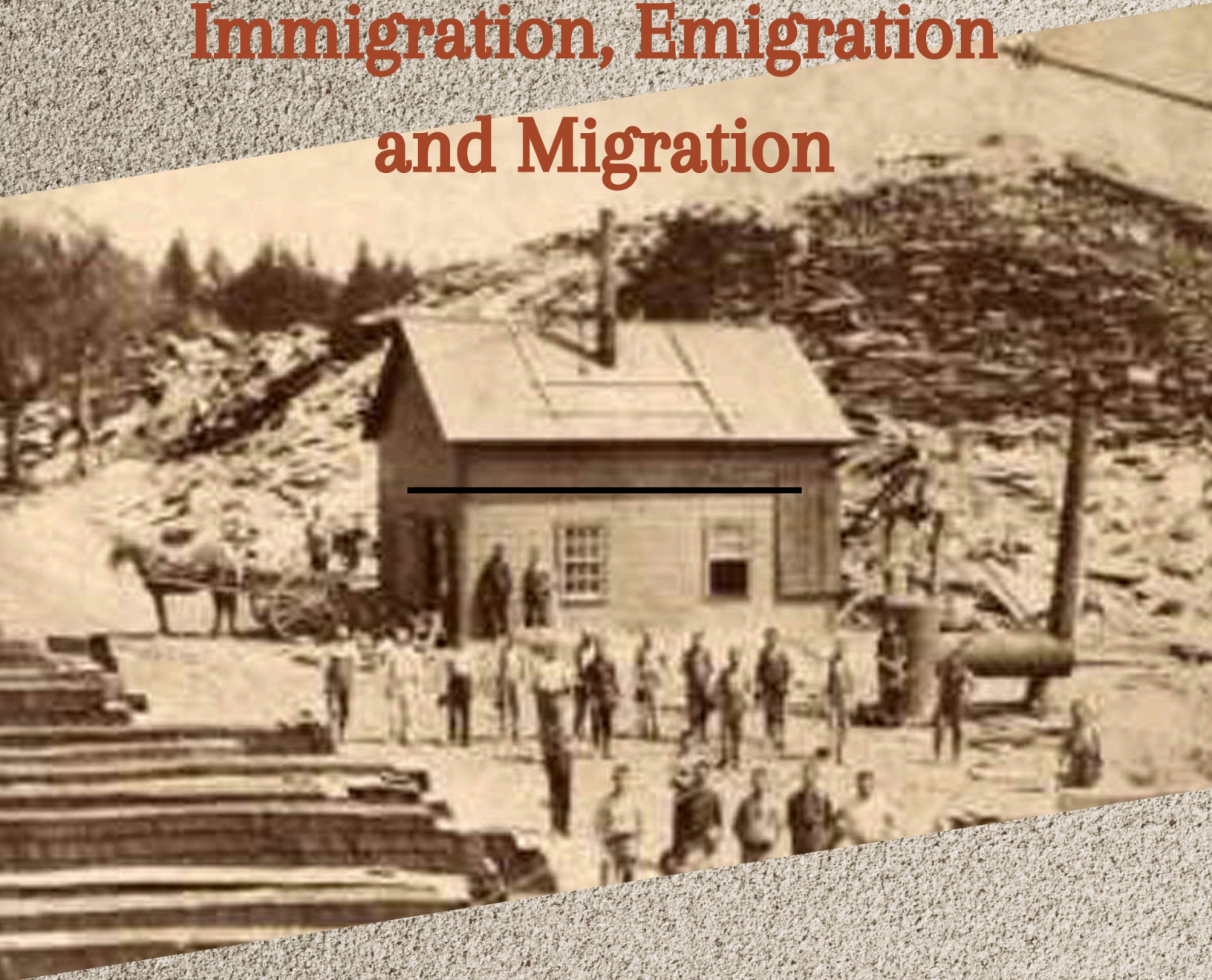


Vol. 27, Issue 2, April – June 2026

British Connections

*Official Publication of the International Society for British Genealogy
and Family History*

Immigration, Emigration and Migration



The World's Roofers | Alice Jane Crowhurst Milner
• **Online Sources for Scottish Immigration**
Using DIPPAAM to Research Irish Immigration

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**Bridges to the British Isles from Colonial America:
Sources and Methodologies for Genealogists
with Gordon Remington**

June 22, 2026

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. EDT

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Immigration, Emigration and Migration

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British Connections (ISSN 0736-8054) is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. Deadlines for submissions are: Feb. 12, May 12, Aug. 12, and Nov. 12.

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President's Message



W. Todd Knowles

After choosing the theme "Moving Forward" for this year, I find it hard to believe we are wrapping up our fifth month of the year already and planning for a variety of events and items of interest for ISBGfH staff, members, and friends.



We just concluded our five-month Winter Webinar series, offering two webinars a month on a vast variety of topics and expert speakers. We have all the presentations recorded and handouts available for members until August 1.

This learning tool offers ideas, suggestions, website links, new book titles, and so much more for everyone—beginners to advanced researchers. We hope you download it, print it, and pass it on to anyone interested in genealogy.



We are all busy with family, friends, and festivals during the summer, but we still desire a bit of learning too! The Ask the Genealogist series is free to everyone and available once Saturday a month. Visit our newly updated website for all the details and recordings, just in case you missed it the day of. Never stop learning!



It's hard to believe that June 22 is just around the corner. Join us for our annual Summer Institute! Gordon Remington will present his day-long seminar, "Bridges to the British Isles from Colonial America: Sources and Methodologies for Genealogists." Visit our website for all the details. We hope to see you there! Consider adding British Institute and get an extra discount if you bundle.



Registration is now open for this year's British Institute. Mark your calendars for the week of October 5–9. Read all about this event and how you can attend without missing a day of work or travel. Paul Milner will be our instructor for "Scottish Research: The Fundamentals and Beyond." Don't miss this opportunity to take Paul's course—you will be amazed.

There is so much more for you to glean from the ISBGfH.com website—you'll be busy all summer long. Learn more about our new members-only benefits, and remember to renew your membership so you don't miss out on all the things we have to offer as we keep "moving forward" one month at a time.

Best regards,
Todd

From the Editor's Desk



Shannon Combs-Bennett, Ph.D.

Welcome to my first issue as editor of *British Connections*. I am honored to be stepping into the role, and grateful to Sandra Roberts both for the standard she set over her years as senior editor and for staying on as our layout editor. The look and feel you know remains in her capable hands.

It feels fitting that my first issue takes up the theme of immigration, emigration, and migration. My most recent immigrant ancestor came from Galway in the 1850s, and my deeper lineages reach back into Scotland and across England, so this is territory I have walked in, both in records and in person, for a long time. The articles in this issue carry us from the slate quarries of north Wales to a transatlantic crossing, where, like so many of our ancestors, they did not simply leave once and stay gone.

I am looking forward to getting to know you through these pages. Article pitches, suggestions, and the occasional disagreement are all welcome at editor@isbgfh.com.

Shannon Combs-Bennett, Ph.D.
Editor, *British Connections*



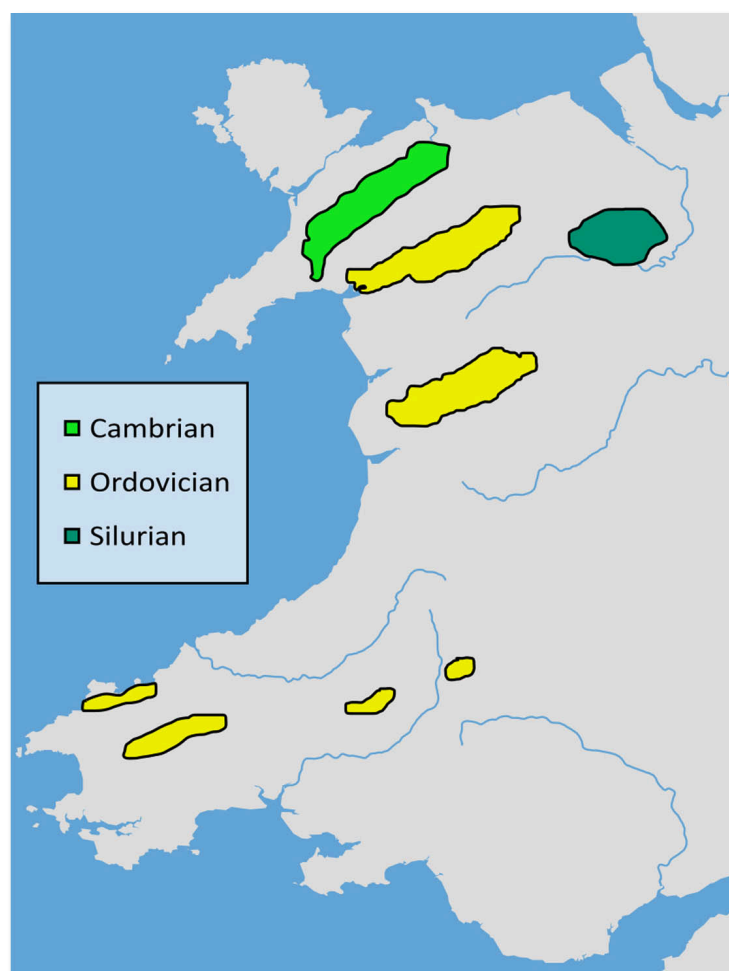


The World's Roofers: Migration Into and Out of the Welsh Slate Belt

Wales once roofed the world, so claims the old adage. A sweeping statement perhaps, but during the nineteenth century in particular it was nevertheless founded on some truth. The Welsh slate industry employed thousands of men over time, attracting large numbers of individuals and families into the country's slate belt. But during economic downturns, and as the industry began to decline by the early twentieth century, many emigrated from those districts. So, where did they come from, and when times became hard, where did they later move to?

The Welsh slate industry is often overshadowed by the country's better-known coal and iron-smelting enterprises; however, its contribution towards the history of Welsh and UK industry is equally valid, and plays a key role in the histories of many Welsh families. The country's most significant slate deposits lie in north-west Wales, covering large parts of the old counties of Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire, and encompassing the most notable of the region's slate communities, including Bethesda, Llanberis, Penygroes/Nantlle, and Blaenau Ffestiniog.

For centuries, for those who lived in that area, slate deposits had provided them with readily available material to help build their houses, cottages, and farms, but even prior to the Industrial Revolution, the records show that some Welsh slate was exported across the border to England to be used as roofing for



The Welsh slate belt: the most significant concentration of deposits is in north-west Wales, with some smaller deposits elsewhere in the country. Time3000, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Welsh_slate_deposits_recoloured.svg (Public domain).

ecclesiastical buildings and grand houses, as well as across the sea to Ireland. Enterprises at that time were generally small-scale, but by the closing years of the eighteenth century, the gears of the industry started to move in earnest, as more slate began to be produced and was shipped to ports not only all around Wales, but to numerous places around England, Ireland, and Scotland, as well as to mainland Europe. Growth was initially gradual; however, during the nineteenth century, the industry flourished—in 1832, around 100,000 tons of slate were produced annually by the north Wales quarries, but by 1882 this had shot up to over 450,000 tons.



Blaenau Ffestiniog, Merionethshire, c. 1875, as it was starting to develop into a fully-fledged slate-quarrying town, by John Thomas (photographer). National Library of Wales Photographic Collection, Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_view_of_Blaenau_Ffestiniog_from_Graig_Ddu_NLW3361243.jpg (Public domain).

This surge to a great degree reflected the huge population growth of that era and the corresponding building boom. As a result, the workforce grew dramatically, and the slate industry came to employ tens of thousands of men over time, not just in the quarries themselves, but also in the transportation of the slate, on the roads and railways, in the ports, and on the ships that carried the slate to an ever-increasing global market. The quarries provided new work opportunities for many men who had previously worked elsewhere as agricultural labourers, but who found there were fewer jobs available for them in their rural birth parishes as the nineteenth century wore on. This signalled the great north Wales slate migration.

Inevitably, the industry attracted many men whose roots lay beyond the fringes of the slate belt, and this resulted in the creation of new towns and villages into which large numbers of families moved and settled. But where did those families come from originally? Analysis of in-migration into the slate belt, as noted by Peter Elias Jones,¹ shows there were two distinct waves—a first peak in the 1830s, followed by a longer, more significant peak between the 1860s and 1880s. His analysis also reveals that in-migration was relatively localised and therefore mainly limited geographically to north-west

Wales, drawing in workers who had been born in other parts of Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire and also from neighbouring Anglesey and western Denbighshire. Indeed, it has been estimated that in the 1870s, 83% of the people who lived in the Nantlle Valley, Caernarvonshire (that includes the town of Penygroes and the prominent Dorothea Quarry) had been born in the same county—they had moved to the slate communities from both neighbouring parishes, but also from places slightly further afield in the county, including from parishes of the Llŷn Peninsula. Only very small numbers of people who had moved into the north Wales slate belt came from elsewhere in Wales or from other parts of Great Britain. This pattern of population movement continued throughout the golden era of slate quarrying in the country.

Having secured work in the quarries, a large number of the men and their families settled in specific communities near their places of work and spent the remainder of their lives there. However, there was also some significant "intra-belt" migration to other quarrying districts. As



Abereididi slate quarry, Pembrokeshire. Pauline Eccles, Geograph: www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1503188, Creative Commons License.

Peter Elias Jones has stated, it is clear that many workmen moved "from one quarrying district to another in response to perceived advantages, such as better working opportunities, higher wages, housing, or domestic arrangements."²

However, some other experienced quarry labourers were encouraged to move to other districts in order to help establish new quarries or

to develop existing sites. Take the example of Abereididi, a small, picturesque coastal village located in the parish of Llanrhian in Pembrokeshire. It lies on one of Wales's smaller slate deposits, which was exploited during the mid-nineteenth century. A browse of the village's 1851 census is striking. A majority of the male population worked as slate quarrymen, and many of them, along with members of their families, had been born in north Wales. One such family was that of 29-year-old Evans Evans who had been born in the parish of Llandwrog, Caernarvonshire, which was itself home to numerous slate quarries. He had moved to Abereididi a few years previously where he met and married his wife. Their children were born in the village, and they took in lodgers who were also experienced slate workmen from north Wales. Their immediate next-door neighbours were the Jones family, also from north Wales, while other neighbours had lodgers who were born in Caernarvonshire and who worked in the Abereididi slate quarry. This snapshot of the village's residents reflects the

expansion of the local quarry as well as those situated nearby in Porthgain and Trwyn Llwyd. Despite developments in Pembrokeshire, the industry in that part of Wales, however, did not flourish or last to the same extent as it did in north Wales, partly as the county's slate was not of such high quality. Some of the Abereididi workers who were from north Wales later returned to the north with their families when the Pembrokeshire industry started to wane, while

THE AMERICAN SLATE TRADE.

The Lloyd Slate Company, whose quarry is located on the Saegersville property, near Slate-dale, has under its recently new superintendent, Mr Robert B. Jones, come to the front as a payable and valuable concern, producing about forty squares per day with prospects of a great demand. The slate from this quarry is hard and durable, and the article is pronounced superior to any in this region, and the company is greatly pleased with its production. We understand that the company has received a heavy order for roofing slate from the West.

Few people have any idea of the magnitude of the slate industry in this country. Until a few years since the product of the different slate quarries in the United States was quite limited. Now the total amount produced of roofing slate alone is about 500,000 squares per year. A square is 100 square feet, or sufficient to cover a space ten feet by ten feet, when laid on the roof. It covers the same area as 1,000 shingles, and sells from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per square.

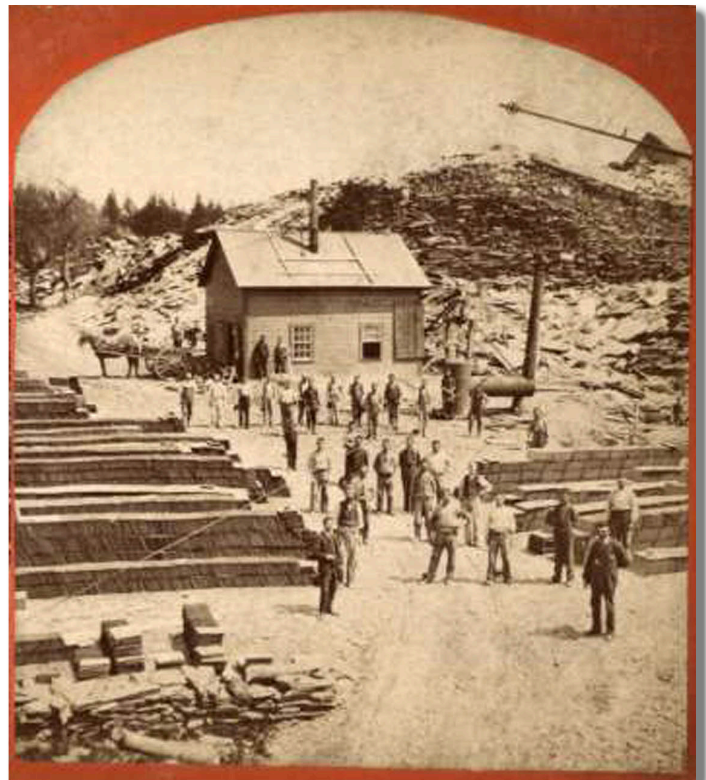
As a roofing material, slate is becoming more generally used, as it lasts a lifetime, is fire-proof, needs no painting, and renders rain water pure and untainted. Besides the large amount of roofing slate produced, a great deal is used for other building purposes, such as window sills, steps, floors and mantles. Billiard table beds are now made exclusively of slate, and it is also used largely for flagging.

Where is most of the slate quarried? is often asked. Well, most of the quarries are in eastern Pennsylvania—in Northampton and Lehigh counties. More than one-half the total product of the United States comes from this region. Main and Vermont produce small quantities. There are also small beds of slate in Michigan and Virginia. The quarries at Slatington, Pa., in Lehigh county are considered superior to any, as the slate is tough, durable, and of an unfading dark blue black colour.

Over 3000 men are employed in eastern Pennsylvania, and the number is fast increasing as new quarries are opened and developed. The workmen are Pennsylvanians, Welsh and English. They earn good wages, have comfortable homes and are a happy, sober and industrious class.

The slate is first blasted out, then hoisted by steam power in large irregular shaped blocks to the bank. These blocks are then broken or "scaloped" into smaller blocks, then split into sheets of the required thickness. For that purpose a chisel or knife, about eighteen inches long, resembling a putty-knife, is used. The slate splits readily whenever the knife is put in, if inserted when the block is wet or "green," as it is called. The workmen speak of the original moisture in the slate as "sap." After the blocks are dry they harden and can not be split. After the blocks are split the sheets are dressed or trimmed with a machine worked by foot power, to the required size, which is from 6x12 inches to 14x12 inches. They are then shipped to all parts of the Union and to the Old World. A great deal of slate goes to Australia. When beds are found the slate is in inexhaustible quantities, and improves in quality as the depth of the quarry increases.

North Wales Express, 13 February 1885: Articles such as this one were essentially recruitment adverts for the north American slate companies, many of which were owned or managed by Welshmen who had emigrated to the US.



Slate factory in Middle Granville, New York state, c. 1880. Robert N. Dennis collection of stereoscopic views of the Lower Hudson Valley, By New York Public Library - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nypl/3991174662/>, No restrictions, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=53537957>.

others were drawn by the promise of work way beyond the shores of Wales.

But even back in north Wales, by the end of the nineteenth century, quarrymen were faced with the possibility that they too had to move away from the slate communities that they and their families called home. Although the quality of Welsh slate meant that markets for it did remain, certain events, coupled with competition from abroad, signalled that the golden era of the industry in Wales was coming to an end.

Economic depression hit the building trade during the 1880s, and that had an immediate, significant effect on the slate industry. Additionally, competition from abroad created further woes as more and more cheap slate was imported from such places as Turkey, Portugal, Belgium, France, and the US. In consequence, Welsh exports fell dramatically between 1889 and 1918—from 79,912 to 1,592 tons. Output

inevitably fell, and this meant that companies could not afford to continue employing the same number of men as previously.

These economic troubles were amplified in the Bethesda area in particular, for there, between 1900 and 1903, the vast majority of workers employed by the Penrhyn Quarry, one of the UK's largest slate enterprises, came out on strike. Their campaign to secure better pay and working conditions eventually grew to become the UK's largest industrial dispute, and this in itself led to extreme hardship, not only for the striking workers and their families, but also for the town's traders who relied on those families spending their wages in their businesses. During that time, as the strike wore on with no end in sight, workers became entangled in a dilemma: on one hand, they needed to stand firm with their colleagues to fight for better pay and working conditions; on the other hand, they became increasingly, painfully aware that the longer they went without a regular pay packet the less they were able to support their families and the less they had to eat. As a result, instead of breaking the strike, many left the area completely in search of work far away from that strife.

A great deal of migration and emigration out of the slate districts occurred around this time, during the early 1900s, due to the changing economic climate. Many quarrymen from all around the slate belt felt they had no choice but to look elsewhere for employment. Some left for south Wales, where they were able to adapt their quarrying skills to processes employed in the burgeoning coal mines of the Welsh Valleys. Others set their sights further afield, across the Atlantic.

Companies located in the slate belt of America, encompassing the states of Vermont, New York, Maine, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, had long been recruiting workers from Wales. Indeed, the origins of modern slate quarrying in that region can be traced back to two Welshmen, William and James Reese, in the 1730s. However, the first big wave of emigration from the Welsh slate belt to its North American equivalent took place some decades later, in the

late 1840s. This was followed by several waves: in 1852, for example, many left Bethesda, while others from the Llanberis area left shortly afterward, bound for Granville, New York. During that time, it is estimated that around 1,300 people emigrated from those Welsh slate communities to Vermont alone. Several of those immigrants were enterprising folk who set up their own companies in the US. For example, 11 of the quarries in Blissville, Vermont, were established by Welshmen from Caernarvonshire.

One of the Vermont pioneers was Hugh Griffith Hughes (1844–84), who became known as the "Slate King of Vermont." He arrived in the US in 1863 and subsequently bought the Hooker and Eureka Quarries in Poultney. Over in Pennsylvania, a Welshman named Richard Jones opened a quarry in Peter's Creek, Lancaster County, in 1859, providing employment to many of his fellow compatriots. Another enterprising Welshman, Owen Jones from Gwredog, Waunfawr near Caernarfon, had arrived in the US by 1841 and soon discovered a rich slate vein that allowed him and his business partner William Roberts to open slate quarries in Slatington, Lehigh County. Owen travelled back to Wales at that point in order to lead a recruitment drive for workers, and by the late 1850s many from the Llanrug and Deiniolen areas of Caernarvonshire had heard his call and had made the move with their families to the US. Fittingly, one of the communities established there to house the early workers was called Welshtown.

From this brief snapshot of population movement into and out of the Welsh slate belt, it is therefore possible to follow the highs and lows of this significant Welsh industry. But above all, the evidence of the giant mounds of slate quarries that dot the north Wales landscape today, hewed by the quarrymen to roof buildings in different parts of the UK and the world, coupled with the enterprising zeal of many of the men who left Wales for the north American slate belt, also helps to prove the old adage that Wales did indeed roof the world.

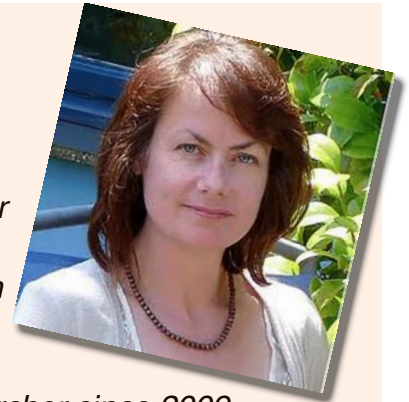
Notes

1. Peter Elias Jones, "Migration and the Slate Belt," *Welsh History Review*, vol. 14, nos. 1–4 (1988–89), pp. 620–621 <https://journals.library.wales/view/1073091/1080171/650#?cv=649&m=13&h=&c=&s=0&xywh=-102%2C229%2C2978%2C1909>.

2. Jones, "Migration and the Slate Belt," p. 622.

For general information on the development of the Welsh slate belt, see <http://www.llechicymru.info/>, and for more information concerning the Great Penrhyn Strike of 1900–1903, see <http://www.llechicymru.info/IPSL190003.english.htm>.

Eilir Ann Daniels has been studying family history for well over 30 years and, as the founder of the research service Your Welsh Ancestors, has been working as a professional researcher since 2009.



Eilir is a Full Member of AGRA (the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives), and is a Pharos Tutors instructor, teaching "Researching Your Welsh Ancestors and Tracing Living Relatives" courses. She provides research services for private clients and solicitors and carries out research for the BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? and for programs on S4C (the national Welsh language TV channel) and BBC Radio Cymru.

She is a native Welsh speaker, and her academic background, which includes a degree focused on the development of Welsh and UK society after the Industrial Revolution, provides the basis for her genealogical work today.

ENGLISH RESEARCH TOPICS

PAUL MILNER, FUGA, M.DIV.

Alice Jane (Crowhurst) Milner, 1883–1970: Transatlantic Journeys

A common stereotype is the idea that once a person emigrated, they never returned to their old country. This is not always the case, and it should not be assumed, especially in the late nineteenth or twentieth centuries. Using the story of my great-grandmother, Alice Jane Milner née Crowhurst, I want to illustrate the various records that can and should be used to piece together an ancestor's journey.

Alice's Early Life

Alice Jane Crowhurst was born on 4 March 1883 in Upper Halling, Kent. She is the third of fourteen children of Walter Crowhurst, a cement laborer, and Sarah Ann Waghorne. Alice marries Ernest Milner on 18 June 1904 at the Medway

Registry Office, obviously needing to get married as their son, my grandfather, Reginald Ernest Milner, was born on 6 August 1904. I have found no evidence that the couple ever lived together as a family, as Reginald appears to have been raised by his grandparents, Walter and Sarah. He is, in fact, only two years younger than his uncle Redvers and was born between his last two aunts, who died as infants. See Figure 1 for photographs of Alice at different stages in her life.

1912: Departing England for the First Time

Mrs. A. J. Milner is identified as a 29-year-old wife, from England, boarding the S.S. *Tunisian* on 3 October 1912 in Liverpool, bound for

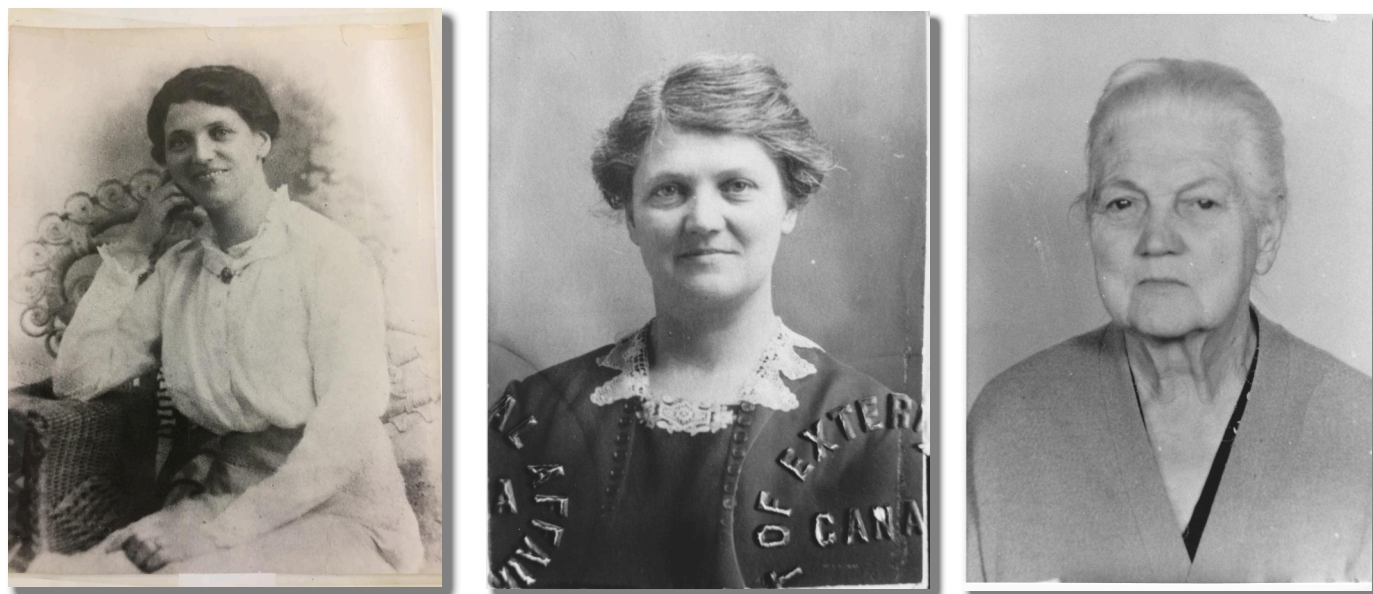


Fig. 1. Three images of Alice Jane (Crowhurst) Milner: as a young woman, on her Canadian passport, and later in life.

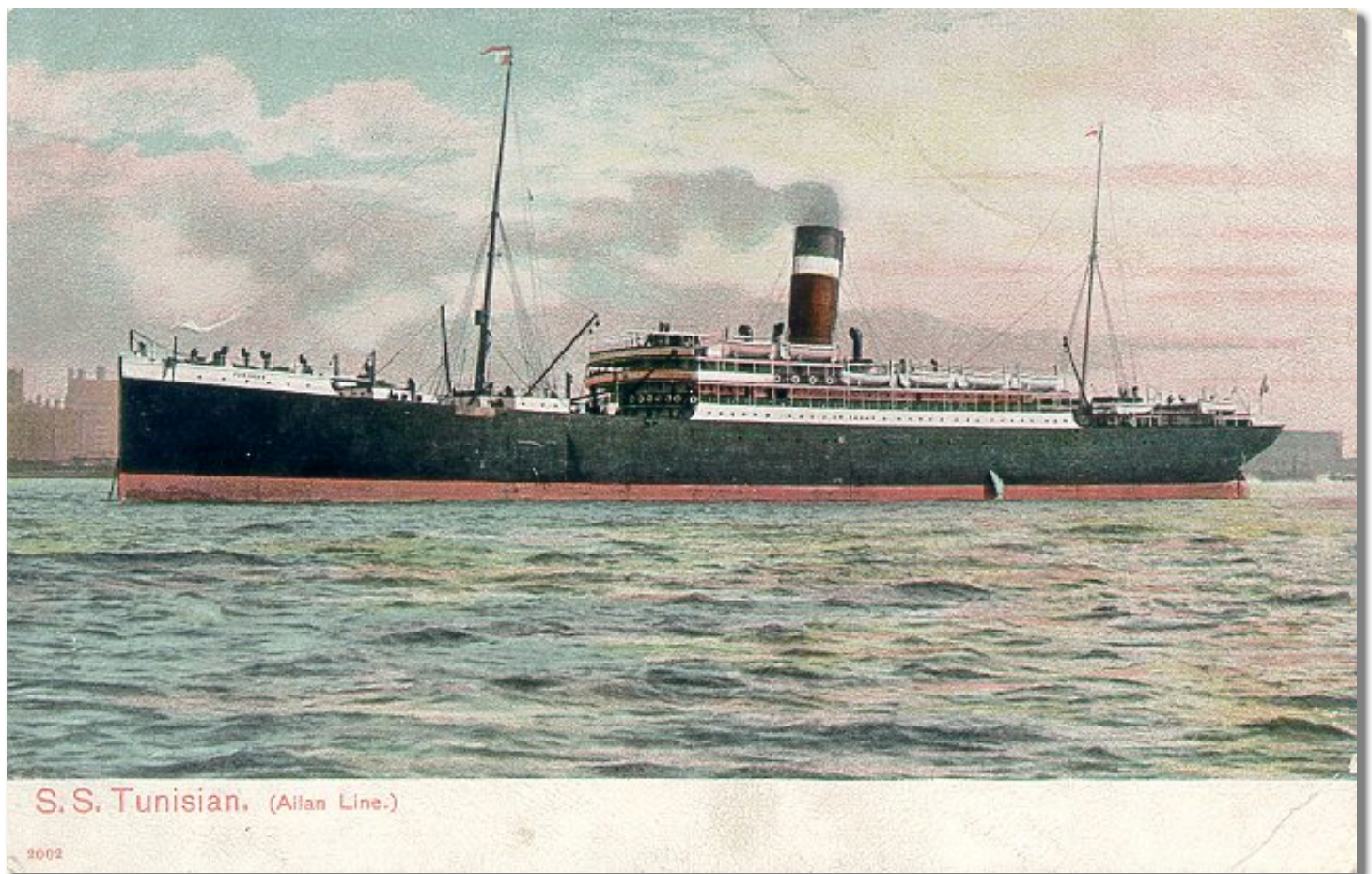


Fig. 2. S.S. Tunisian, used by Alice for her first two trips across the Atlantic in 1912 and 1914, was built by Alex Stephen & Son of Glasgow, was launched in 1900, and was operated by the Allan Line, making numerous trips from Liverpool to Montreal and Quebec. This changed with the outbreak of the First World War. Public domain.

Montreal. She is identified as a second-class passenger, not accompanied by her husband, who intends to permanently reside in Canada. The captain of the ship is A. Rennie of the Allan Line Steamship Co. Ltd. These records are in the outbound British passenger lists in BT 27 (Board of Trade) at The National Archives, Kew, England, accessible online at Findmypast and Ancestry.

The "Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists 1865–1935," found on Ancestry, shows Alice Jane Milner, age 29, arriving in Montreal, Quebec, on 13 October 1912, aboard the S.S. *Tunisian*. This record shows that she is arriving with CAN\$5.00, is married, has not been to Canada before, intends to permanently reside in Canada, can read and write, and is a member of the Church of England. She worked in England as a domestic

servant and intends to do so in Canada, naming Montreal as her destination.

On Ancestry's results page, you have the option to search the "Passenger Ships and Images" database. Doing so for the *Tunisian* provides a B&W image of the ship. An internet search readily provides additional images in B&W and color, as well as ephemera in color, along with information about the ship itself. The ship was under contract as a Royal Mail Ship, carrying the mail and passengers between England and Canada. The ship was built by Alex Stephen & Son of Glasgow, launched on 17 January 1900 for the Allan Line. See Figure 2 for an image of S.S. *Tunisian*.

1914: Returning to England and Canada

Alice Milner departs Montreal, Quebec, as a second-class passenger, arriving on 2 July 1914

in Liverpool, England, again aboard the S.S. *Tunisian*. She is identified as a 26-year-old dressmaker, a permanent resident of a British Possession, i.e., Canada. I believe this is the correct Alice, despite the age being slightly off and the change in occupation. What is interesting is that she is one of a significant number of married women traveling on the ship, unaccompanied by their husbands. This information is found in the Ancestry database "UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960."

Britain declares war on Germany on Tuesday, 4 August 1914. After two months in England, on Wednesday, 2 September 1914, Alice is among 810 passengers boarding the S.S. *Tunisian* at Liverpool for Montreal, Quebec. Alice is identified as a 31-year-old widow (not true). This information is found on Findmypast in "Passenger Lists Leaving the UK 1890–1960" and incorrectly indexed on Ancestry as Alice J Wilner in "UK and Ireland Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960."

This was the last voyage of the *Tunisian* for the Allan Line, as the ship returning to England was requisitioned by the government as a troopship for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. During the war, it first operated as a prisoner-of-war accommodation ship at Ryde, Isle of Wight, and later as a troopship. In 1917, she passed into Canadian Pacific ownership, along with the Allan Line itself, and returned to service, operating between Canada and Liverpool, London, and Glasgow. The ship made its final transatlantic voyage in 1928 before going to the breakers' yard.

We have Alice leaving England; then we find Alice coming into Canada on Ancestry in the database "Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865–1935." Alice arrives in Quebec on 14 September 1914 on the *Tunisian*. The poor-quality image of the passenger list shows that Alice is 31, a returning Canadian citizen born in England, but the destination is unclear.

1921: Returning to England and Canada

Alice Jane Milner arrived on 18 May 1921 in

FORM 30A. ORIGINAL
S.S. *Empress of Britain* On Date of Sailing Aug. 11th. 1921
Inland routing Re-booking at Montreal 179 21.
DECLARATION OF PASSENGER TO CANADA.
1. NAME *MRS. MILNER, ALICE J.* Age *38*
(PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS, FAMILY NAME FIRST)
2. Sex *Female*. Are you married, single, widowed or divorced? *MARRIED*
If married, are you accompanied by husband or wife? If so, give name of husband or wife
3. Present occupation *HOUSEKEEPER* Intended occupation
4. Birthplace *HALLING* Race or people *BRITISH*
5. Citizenship *CANADIAN* Religion *C of E*
(IF PROTESTANT, STATE DENOMINATION)
6. Object in going to Canada
7. Do you intend to remain permanently in Canada?
8. Have you ever lived in Canada? *Yes* If you have, give Canadian address *Aurora, Ontario*
Port of previous entry *MONTREAL* Date *1914*
Port of departure from Canada *QUEBEC* Date *1921*
9. Why did you leave Canada? *VISIT*
10. Money in possession belonging to passenger *\$250*
(I am aware that I must have on my arrival in Canada the sum of \$ 250)
11. Can you read? *Yes* What language? *English*
12. By whom was your passage paid? *SELF*
13. Ever refused entry to, or deported from Canada?
14. Destined to *HOME*
Mrs. J. Milner
Box 33 - Aurora, Ontario
(IF JOINING RELATIVE, FRIEND OR EMPLOYER: 1) STATE WHICH AND IF RELATIVE GIVE RELATIONSHIP; (2) GIVE HIS OR HER NAME AND CANADIAN ADDRESS; (3) IF NOT JOINING ANY PERSON IN CANADA, GIVE YOUR OWN CANADIAN ADDRESS)
15. By which Canadian railway are you travelling to destination?
16. Nearest relative in country from which you came
Mrs. J. Milner *PARENTS*
4, Hills Place, Upper Halling, Roch. Rochester
(GIVE FULL ADDRESS OF SUCH RELATIVE)
17. Are you or any of your family mentally defective?
Tubercular? *NO* Physically defective? *NO*
Otherwise debarred under Canadian Immigration Law? *NO*
(Before answering question 17 see the prohibited classes named in Immigration Booklet 30A which will be handed to you by Booking Agent.)
I declare the above statements are true: I am aware that an inaccurate statement constitutes misrepresentation and that the penalty is a fine, imprisonment or deportation.
Signature of passenger *A. J. Milner*
I hereby declare that the above is the signature of the passenger and that I have handed passenger a copy of Immigration Booklet 30A.
Sig. of Booking Agent *1373 High St Rochester*

Fig. 3. Canadian Form 30A, Declaration of Passenger to Canada, completed by Alice Jane Milner for arrival in Canada in 1921.

Liverpool, England, from Quebec, Canada, aboard the *Empress of Britain*, a ship of the Canadian Pacific Line. She is identified as a 38-year-old housekeeper, a permanent resident of Canada. She is traveling as a second-class passenger, going to The Bungalow, Upper Halling, near Rochester. This information is found in the Ancestry database "UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960."

In Findmypast's database "Passenger Lists leaving UK 1890–1960," Alice is indexed as A. Milner. Again, Alice travels as a second-class passenger, contracted to land in Quebec. She lists her occupation as housewife, age 33, unaccompanied by her husband, and identifies

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Please read the Instructions and Examples shown on the back, and then fill up the Schedule carefully and in Ink.

8

To be filled up by the Enumerator.

NAME and SURNAME:--

RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household

AGE

SEX

STATUS

BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY

Personal Occupation

Employment

Place of Work

Information required only in respect of Married Men, Widowers and Widens.

Number and ages of all living children and step children under 16 years of age, whether enumerated on this Schedule or not, i.e., whether residing as members of this household or elsewhere.

For each child place a X in the column corresponding to its age.

The number of census should be the same as the number shown in Column (6).

1 William H Broad Head 20 7 M Married Kent Halling

2 Ella M Broad Wife 31 1 F Married Kent Halling

3 Henry H Broad Son 6 1 M Single Kent Halling

4 Vera J Broad Daughter 4 10 F Single Kent Halling

5 Alice J Milner Visitor 38 3 F Married Kent Halling

6

7

8

9

10

To be filled up by the Enumerator.

Signature: M. Broad

(Head of Household, Manager of Establishment or other person responsible for making the return.)

Fig. 4. The 1921 census form for Alice Jane Milner, scheduled for Sunday 24 April 1921 but actually taken on Sunday 19 June 1921, recording her visit to her younger sister Ella M. Broad at 4 Hills Place, Upper Halling, Kent.

as a permanent resident of Canada. What definitively confirms that I have the correct passenger is that her last address in the United Kingdom is given as 4 Hills Place, Upper Halling, near Rochester (see later section on 1921 census).

Interestingly, a search for Alice Jane Milner in the Ancestry database "Canada, Incoming Passengers, 1864–1935" returns no results for the return voyage to Canada. This is unlike her arrival in 1912 and 1914. This is where carefully reading the source material description on the search page provides an important clue. In the last section under related records, we learn that the 1919–1924 individual manifest forms [Form 30A] were often used instead of passenger lists as the official immigration record. The use of Form 30A, also known as "Ocean Arrivals," accounts for many gaps in the database. Fortunately, Ancestry has another database with images, "Canada, Ocean Arrival (Form 30A), 1919–1924," that also needs to be searched. These indexed records with images are also accessible for free from home on FamilySearch under "Canada, Immigration Records, 1919–1924."

Form 30A provides valuable information about Alice Jane, especially if this was the first form found for Alice. See Figure 3 for a copy of Alice's Form 30A. Mrs. Alice J Milner, aged 38, sailed from England on 11 August 1921 on the *Empress of Britain*. We learn that she is married and working as a housekeeper. She was born in Halling (indexed by Ancestry as Halline) but is now a Canadian citizen and a member of the Church of England. She lives in Aurora, Ontario, Canada, but later the form lists her address as Box 33, Aurora, Ontario. She acknowledges that she had previously entered Canada via Montreal in 1914 and had departed Canada via Quebec in 1921 for a visit. She states that she has CAN\$250 in her possession, the minimum amount required by law to enter Canada. She identifies her nearest relative in the country from which she came (England) as Mrs. S [Sarah] Crowhurst, parents, of 4 Hills Place, Upper Halling, Nr. Rochester [Kent]. Alice indicates that neither she nor any of her family members was mentally defective, does not have tuberculosis, nor is physically defective. Alice then personally signs the form as A.J. Milner.

1921 Census

Alice Jane Milner is in England from 18 May 1921 until 11 August 1921.

The 1921 census of Canada was taken on 1 June 1921, and Alice was not in Canada.

The 1921 census of England was supposed to have taken place on 24 April 1921, and this is the date on all the pre-printed forms, but it was delayed due to the Black Friday miners' strike. It was actually taken on 19 June 1921, while Alice was in England.

Alice Jane Milner, 38 years old, married, from Halling in Kent, is visiting her sister Ella M. Broad at 4 Hills Place, Upper Halling, in Kent, incorrectly indexed on Findmypast as Fitts (sic) Place and on Ancestry indexed as Fitts (sic) Place, Upper Hadling (sic). What is significant for this exercise is that Alice is listed as a housekeeper for a Mr. Collis in Aurora (Toronto), Canada, but unfortunately, there are too many options without additional information to identify the correct employer. Figure 4 shows Alice visiting her sister in the census.

Alice's 16-year-old son, Reginald (Reggie) Milner, is living just up the road at Rose Cottage, with Alice's parents, Walter and Sarah Crowhurst, along with two of her brothers, Victor and Redvers.

Alice's Later Life

I have found no additional trips that Alice made across the Atlantic. Alice went on to have a daughter in 1924. From 1935 to 1939, Alice Jane was in a variety of hospitals in the Toronto area before moving in 1939 to The Ontario Hospital, New Toronto, Ontario, a psychiatric hospital where she lived the rest of her life. She died in Niagara Falls, Ontario, on 16 September 1970 at the age of 87.

I found no evidence that Alice or Reginald Ernest ever obtained a divorce in England or Canada. Yet Reginald Ernest went on to remarry Harriet Cuff in St. Benet's parish church in Stepney, with the banns called, in November 1919. Luckily, Reginald gave his correct age, father's name, and occupation, which, along with the 1921 census, confirmed I had the correct person. Was it a bigamous marriage, since Alice certainly was not dead? Reginald died in 1939, at the age of 60, in Leytonstone, Essex.

Summary

This case study of Alice Jane (Crowhurst) Milner shows that our modern emigrant ancestors may have, and often did, cross the Atlantic, returning multiple times to visit family. It shows how passenger lists on both sides of the Atlantic, supplemented with additional records, can build a picture of their travels and their lives. Happy Hunting.

Paul Milner, FUGA, M.Div., lives in Chicago, Illinois, but is originally from the coast of Cumberland (now Cumbria) in northwest England. Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for over 35 years. He teaches week-long English and Scottish research tracks at the ISBGFH British Institute, Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR), and Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG).

Paul is a recipient of UGA Fellow Award (2018) and the David S. Vogels Jr. Award from FGS (2019). He is the author of six publications providing how-to guidance for English and Scottish researchers.

Paul is currently the book review editor for the BIGWILL newsletter and retired review editor of the FGS FORUM. He is currently on the board of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH), the past president of the British Interest Group of Wisconsin and Illinois (BIGWILL), and a past board member of the APG, FGS, and GSG. Paul focuses on British Isles resources and methodology on his blog at www.milnergenealogy.com.



SCOTTISH RESEARCH TOPICS

CHRIS PATON

Online Sources for Scottish Emigration

Scots have helped to define much of the world as it is today, following centuries of emigration, both prior to its partnership with England and Wales to form Britain, and through the shared enterprise that became the British Empire, and its aftermath. Many of us will have relatives amongst this tally of Scottish emigrants, and by tracing their stories, we can appreciate the worldwide impact of our ancestral families and, in some cases, find clues in their stories to help us with our research back in Scotland itself.

The National Library of Scotland has a platform section entitled *Scots Abroad: Stories of Scottish*

Emigration, located at <https://digital.nls.uk/emigration/resources/>, which provides many links for research possibilities, as well as highlighted case studies listed under several different menu categories, such as "Preparing to go," "Arriving and settling in," "Building communities," and "Keeping identity." The National Records of Scotland also has an "Emigration Records" guide available to read at www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/emigration-records/, including details of records available on ScotlandsPeople for those emigrating from 1852–57 via the Highlands and Islands Emigration Society to



The National Library of Scotland's Scots Abroad platform has case studies and resources to progress emigration research.



Statue of Dr John Rae of Stromness (1813–1893), Orkney, one of many Orcadians who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company, charting vast areas of unknown Canadian territories for the firm (author's image).

Australia, and other records of Hebridean emigration from the 1880s. Other ScotlandsPeople datasets can also help us trace emigrant ancestors, most notably the Wills and Testaments dataset—a keyword search for "Canada" alone returns 1,882 entries, whilst there are 1,357 entries for the word "Ireland," and 192 for the term "United States of America."

Having been part of Great Britain since 1707 and the UK since 1801, Scotland has archived many passenger records, which are held at The National Archives at Kew (TNA) that can help trace the movement of Scots in more recent times. Many of the records have been digitised, such as the Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk) hosted database "UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960," as sourced from TNA's Board of Trade records (BT 27), with the same records

also available on Findmypast (www.findmypast.co.uk) as the "Passenger Lists Leaving UK 1890–1960" collection, and on TheGenealogist (www.thegenealogist.co.uk) as part of its "Passenger Lists" database. Findmypast also hosts a useful collection entitled "Index To Register Of Passport Applications 1851–1903," which lists many Scots who sought a passport for travel overseas, although such documents were not compulsory until 1914. Additional passenger lists are available on all the platforms, as well as on FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org). TNA also has an emigration guide at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/emigration, with details of various Colonial Office collections and others to help both trace emigration from and immigration to the UK.

There are many overseas areas where Scots settled in large numbers. On Scotland's doorstep lies Ireland, where the Ulster-based settlements and plantations of the seventeenth century drew thousands of immigrants, particularly from the Scottish Borders, Ayrshire, and modern Dumfries and Galloway. The Hamilton and Montgomery settlements of 1606 in Counties Down and Antrim kick-started the process, which can be explored at <https://tinyurl.com/HamiltonMontgomery1606>, whilst the subsequent plantation of Presbyterian settlers in Counties Armagh, Coleraine (later expanded and renamed Londonderry), Cavan, Donegal, Fermanagh, and Tyrone helped to cement the religious divide that still exists in Ireland to this day. These plantations occurred when England was the colonial power, meaning many Scots had to seek denizen status from the English Parliament, the records for which can be searched at Findmypast in its "Britain & Ireland, Naturalisations 1603–1700" database. The names of other Scottish "undertakers," as the principal settlers were termed, are also freely available to find at www.ulsterancestry.com/free/ShowFreePage-337.html, as sourced from volume 8 of the Register of the Privy Council of Scotland.



St Andrew's Church was established in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in 1874 by the Church of Scotland, to serve an emigrant Scottish congregation first established in 1830 (author's image).

Scots also settled in mainland Europe, and for an overview of their migration, particularly to the Netherlands, Russia, Poland, and Italy, visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_people#Scots_in_mainland_Europe. Further background on Russians claiming Scots ancestry can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Russians, whilst David Dobson has published a useful title, *Scots in Poland, Russia and the Baltic States, 1550–1850*, which can be found digitised on Ancestry.

The largest Scottish diaspora in the world is to be found in the United States of America. In addition to the early Scottish settlers who travelled to America for a new life, there were thousands of Scottish prisoners of war, who were deported during the seventeenth-century Wars of the Three Kingdoms as indentured servants to the Caribbean and the American colonies, particularly Virginia. In later years, Covenanters and Jacobites were similarly transported. David

Dobson's *Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations, 1650–1775* can assist on this front and is also available via Ancestry.

From the early 1700s, they were to be joined by many Scots and "Ulster Scots" ("Scotch-Irish"), descendants of seventeenth-century Scottish settlers in the north of Ireland, who were forced to move on following the implementation of the Irish Penal Laws against Presbyterians and Roman Catholics. During the Revolutionary War, many of these disaffected Presbyterians sided with the American cause, and some proclaimed the revolution to be a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian rebellion. This hides a somewhat more complicated picture, however: many soldiers of the British Army were also Highland and Lowland Scots who were fiercely loyal to the Crown, many of whom relocated to Canada following the American Revolutionary War.

David Dobson has compiled many source books for Scottish settlers in the USA, some of which

are available on Ancestry in both database and browse formats, including:

Scottish Quakers and Early America, 1650–1700

Scots in New England, 1623–1873

Scots in the USA and Canada, 1825–1875 (Parts 1–3)

Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America, 1625–1825 (seven volumes)

Scots in the Mid-Atlantic Colonies, 1635–1783

Scots in the Mid-Atlantic States, 1783–1883

Scottish Soldiers in Colonial America (Parts I–III)

The Scottish Surnames of Colonial America

Scots-Dutch Links in Europe and America, 1575–1825

Scottish-American Wills, 1650–1900

Scots in the American West, 1783–1883

Scottish-American Court Records, 1733–1783

Scottish-American Gravestones, 1700–1900

Scottish-American Heirs, 1683–1883

Later Scots-Irish Links, 1575–1725 (Parts 1–4)

Later Scots-Irish Links, 1725–1825

Ships from Scotland to America, 1628–1828 (Vol. I & III)

American Data from the Records of the High Court of the Admiralty of Scotland, 1675–1800: Court, Land, Wills & Financial

The French and Indian War from Scottish Sources

The Original Scots Colonists of Early America, 1612–1783

The Original Scots Colonists of Early America. Supplement 1607–1707

Scots On the Chesapeake, 1607–1830

Directory of Scots in the Carolinas, 1680–1830

One of the British Empire's darkest legacies was the transatlantic slave trade, and Scotland was every bit as culpable in this practice as her British partners. The NRS provides an excellent overview of records relating to the trade within its collections, as well as in other repositories, at www.nrscotland.gov.uk/learning-and-events/research-guides/slavery-and-the-slave-trade/.

The University of Glasgow made the news in 2019 when it announced that it would be the first UK-based university to pay reparations for the benefits that it derived from the trade. Its Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies platform at www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/slavery/ details current research projects, whilst many Scots who profited from the slave trade can be identified from University College London's Legacies of British Slave-Ownership site at www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/. The story of how North East Scotland profited from the slave trade in the Caribbean is available at www.abdn.ac.uk/about/strategy-and-governance/legacies-of-slavery. For those settling in the Caribbean, Ancestry hosts a database entitled "The Original Scots Colonists of Early America. Caribbean Supplement 1611–1707."

Canada has a particularly strong connection to Scotland, where Scots form the third-largest ethnic group after centuries of emigration. From 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company, which traded in furs, was a heavy employer of Scots (particularly those from Orkney), and was later rivalled from 1783 by the Scots-run North West Company. The Archives of Manitoba site at www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives has several guides and catalogues including information on how to access the Hudson's Bay Company Archive.

Many Highlanders also settled in the Maritime provinces in the late eighteenth century, particularly in the aftermath of the Clearances, and as previously noted, Scottish loyalists migrated from the newly formed US in 1783 following the Revolutionary War. A further migration was caused by the failure of the potato crop in Scotland in 1846, affecting many crofting communities. As a consequence, for many years, Scottish Gaelic was spoken in several provinces and remains a spoken community



Carrickfergus Castle. The first Scottish presbytery was established in Carrickfergus in 1642, with thousands of Scots colonising the province of Ulster in the first half of the seventeenth century (author's image).

language in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, to this day, with its own Gaelic college (<https://gaeliccollege.edu>). For more recent emigration, Ancestry hosts many migration and naturalisation records to the country, including "Canadian Passenger Lists from 1865–1935" and Form 30A Ocean Arrivals immigration forms from 1919–24.

By 1822 there were estimated to be 1,200 Scots in Argentina, with their story detailed at the British Settlers in Argentina and Uruguay website at www.argbrit.org. This includes records of baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials from St Andrew's Scots Church in Buenos Aires from 1827–1915, transcripts from the National Archives in Buenos Aires and London, and returns from the Argentinian censuses. A preserved version of the website *The Scots in Argentina 1800–1950* (<http://bit.ly/ScotsinArgentina>) includes transcripts of many other useful vital records, whilst the 1897 publication "Records of the Scottish Settlers in

the River Plate and their Churches" can be found online via Electric Scotland at <https://electricScotland.com/history/argentina/recordsscottish00doddgoog.pdf>. Ancestry hosts another David Dobson book entitled *Scots in Latin America*.

Some of the earliest Scots to settle in Australia were crew and convicts arriving with the First Fleet in 1788, although historically, Scots Law was more lenient with regard to the use of transportation as a form of punishment. Most Scots arrived as free settlers, many of whom made prominent contributions to the development of the colonies across the continent. The National Library of Australia's impressive Trove facility (<https://trove.nla.gov.au>) is well worth searching and contains millions of digitised records, including its superb Australian Newspapers collection, with free-to-access and fully searchable titles for the continent, whilst the Australian Dictionary of National Biography can be consulted at <http://adb.anu.edu.au>. If your

ancestor was transported, many convict resources are available on TheGenealogist, Ancestry and Findmypast platforms.

For New Zealand, an overview of Scotland's connections can be read at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_New_Zealanders and www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/history/scots-new-zealand. The New Zealand History page at <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/home-away-from-home/the-scots> includes statistical analysis of which parts of Scotland settlers originally came from. The New Zealand Society of Genealogists site at www.genealogy.org.nz contains a First Families Index for members and many other useful resources that can help you trace the earliest migrants to the country. Pearl's Pad (<http://pearlspad.net.nz>) equally has many historical resources for tracing migration.

The Papers Past website (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>) carries digitised copies of newspaper titles from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, whilst Victoria University's New Zealand Electronic Text Centre at <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz> has many transcribed entries from books and other resources.

Based in the Ayrshire town of Stewarton, Northern Irish-born Chris Paton runs the Scotland's Greatest Story research service (<http://scotlandsgreateststory.wordpress.com/>) and the daily Scottish GENES genealogy news blog (<http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>). Amongst his many publications are Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet, Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records, and Sharing Your Family History Online from Pen and Sword, as well as Down and Out in Scotland: Researching Ancestral Crisis from Unlock the Past. Chris also tutors short courses through Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd, including Scottish Research Online and Scotland 1750–1850: Beyond the Old Parish Registers.



IRISH RESEARCH TOPICS

CHRIS PATON

Using DIPPAM to Research Irish Emigration

There are many reasons why the Irish have emigrated overseas over the last few centuries, creating one of the largest foreign-based diasporas of any nation in the world as a consequence. In the eighteenth century the religious discrimination endured by Presbyterians in the north of Ireland led to a major relocation of many people to the lands that in time would soon become the United States; in the nineteenth century, the pain and hunger of An Gorta Mór (1845–1851) led to the mass emigration of a substantially larger number, over a million people, predominantly from the Roman Catholic community, to try and seek a better life

in the US, Canada, Australia, and of course Britain. As part of the United Kingdom from 1801–1922, and with Northern Ireland still a constituent part to this day, emigration from Ireland to Britain still continues, with some estimates placing the number of Irish-born people in Britain today at between 500,000 and 600,000, and with almost six million people believed to have at least one Irish grandparent.

As genealogists, we often look for resources that help us track our families' stories overseas, including materials that document their migration and the records of their subsequent lives in their new homes. One major resource often



The home page of the DIPPAM website.



dippam
Parliament, People and Migration



IED Irish Emigration Database



EPPI Enhanced Parliamentary Papers on Ireland



VMR Voices of Progress and Return



IED
Irish Emigration Database

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Will of Archibald Armstrong, Delaware, U.S.A.

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Will of Archibald Armstrong probated May 18, 1775 COPY.

In the Name of God, Amen. This twenty-first day of August in the year of our Lord God, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven I, Archibald Armstrong, of Christina Hundred in the County of New Castle gentleman, being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God.

Therefore calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordaine thus my last Will and Testament. That is to say, principally and first of all give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and for my body, I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the descretion of my Executors, nothing doubting out at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God. And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give devise and dispose of the same following manner and form;

Item. I Give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Ann Armstrong the room in the east end of my stone house, my best bed and furniture the chair and table that is in one, one dozen of the best pewter plates three of the best pewter dishes, one pot, a tea-kettle, firewood sufficient lent, cut and laid at her door. Also, I leave my said wife Ann Armstrong twelve bushels of good wheat every year to be paid her out of my land. I now live upon; two of mybest milch cows and four of my best sheep, and said cows and sheep to be kept on my said land or plantation here after described, yearly and every year during her widowhood, and that in good order, and also my black mare and her saddle, said mare to be kept in like manner; but provided that my wife, Ann Armstrong, should incline not to live in said room

 Document ID	8809155
 Date	18-05-1775
 Document Type	Wills
Archive	Public Record Office, Northern Ireland
 Citation	Will of Archibald Armstrong, Delaware, U.S.A.; PRONI T 474/1; CMSIED 8809155
 Link	45736

overlooked is the Documenting Ireland: Parliament, People and Migration website, aka "DIPPAM," at www.dippam.ac.uk. This project, a collaboration between Queen's University Belfast (www.qub.ac.uk), the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies (<https://mellonmigrationcentre.co.uk>) in Omagh, County Tyrone, and Libraries Northern Ireland (www.librariesni.org.uk), describes itself as "an online virtual archive of documents and sources relating to the history of Ireland and its migration experience from the 18th to late 20th centuries." There are several useful databases available on the platform, including the "Irish Emigration" database (www.dippam.ac.uk/ied) and the "Voices of Migration and Return project" (www.dippam.ac.uk/vmr).

far as the early 1700s. The materials used in the project include diaries and journals, family papers, folklore, songs and music, letters from emigrants, newspaper announcements (including births, marriages, and deaths, shipping advertisements, and further extracts), as well as wills, and extracts from official publications and government documents. Much of the content can provide genealogical clues for the researcher and information about the new lives experienced overseas.

dippam Documenting Ireland: Parliament, People and Migration
IED Irish Emigration Database
EPPI Enhanced Parliamentary Papers on Ireland
VMR Voices of Migration and Return


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Voices Of Migration And Return
Interview: VMR-001

Summary

Angela, 50s, from the Omagh area in west County Tyrone, emigrated from NI in 1969 to join her military spouse in England. Over the years they were posted to Malaysia, Singapore, Bahrain, Portugal and Cyprus, returning to their native Tyrone permanently in 1990.

Record Data

Gender	Female
Age	50s
Denomination	Church of Ireland
Birthplace	Tyrone
Childhood Residence	Tyrone
Current Residence	Tyrone
Date of Interview	2004-07-09

Destinations

Bahrain Cyprus England Malaysia Portugal Singapore

Listen

1	Birth, Omagh, moved to Belfast at age 16	0:57
2	Childhood, family, Omagh, Drumnakilly School, Carrickmore Road, country school, then Omagh Academy	2:39
3	Move to Belfast, job as pharmacist's assistant near Finaghy, urban life, adjustment	2:19
4	Belfast, social life, ballroom dances, Floral Hall, country dances in Omagh, old time dances	2:38
5	Omagh, social life, tap dancing, performance	1:45
6	Dancing, religion, Irish set dancing	4:14
7	Tap dancing, soft shoe, clog dancing	2:00
8	Meeting husband, marriage	3:12
9	Emigration, decision, husband in British military, move to England, marriage allowance	1:52
10	England, journey, mobile home, accommodation, child allowance	1:04
11	England, Lancashire, journey, impressions, job in shoe shop, retail, Lytham Saint Anne's, mobile home, accommodation, managing money, finances	3:10
12	England, missing home, family, sister, homesickness	1:22
13	Posting to Penang, Malaysia, then to Singapore	0:49

The will of Andrew Armstrong from Delaware, USA, in 1775, as transcribed on the "Irish Emigration" database.

houses, out-houses, ways, woods, [?], waters, watercourses and all the appurtenances"—confirming that although he had emigrated, he still had property interests in Ireland. Various other family members were also noted amongst the bequests left by Armstrong.

Amongst the materials included are glimpses into the motivations for emigration. In the poem "Description of a Brig Carrying Irish Emigrants" (www.dippam.ac.uk/ied/records/25484), published in the Belfast Chronicle of 12 May 1828 (a year before Roman Catholic emancipation), the anonymous poet asks

Oh! why do thy children roam over the ocean?

From the land of their fathers why do they depart?

only later to conclude his work with an answer—

Do the curses of heaven blast thy fruits in their seasons?

Does thy corn cease to grow ? is thy land rent with hate?

Hast thou sown with the salt ?—or, oh! what are the reasons

Thy sons, weeping, leave thee—yet spring to their fate?

No! thy land is as broad and as fertile as ever;

Thy birds sing as sweetly, as bright thy meads bloom;

Th' Oppressor is o'er thee—'tis mercy to sever,

And fly from thee, Erin, away from the doom!

A letter held at PRONI (www.proni.gov.uk) from Samuel Brown, Philadelphia, to David Brown in Belfast, dated 23 December 1793 (www.dippam.ac.uk/ied/records/22015), describes the writer's experience of his emigration journey, and of life in the new land to which he had removed himself. He notes that he "had a very good passage of Eight Weeks and two days Without the least sickness on the passage there was a feavour [fever] aboard but not Mortal." Upon arrival in Newcastle, he moved to Philadelphia, where he himself subsequently endured four weeks of a fevered illness out of the eight weeks whilst resident there. He advises that many of his acquaintances died as a consequence of the sickness, which it was estimated was endured by some 6,500 in the city. After discussing the various costs of basic produce in the US, he then



Additional resources on the Irish emigration experience are available in archives such as PRONI in Belfast (author's image).

notes that "I heave not the smalles Right to dispise this Cuntry but I know a great many wishes to be in Irland agean."

Whilst thousands have emigrated over the years, many have also subsequently returned, with the Voices of Migration and Return database offering a glimpse into some of their experiences. This is an oral history archive of those who specifically emigrated from the nine counties of the province of Ulster, tied to two academic research projects (as detailed at www.dippam.ac.uk/static_pages/voice-of-migration-return-oral-archive). The database features interviews of up to two hours in length with 93 migrants, the majority of whom left the province in the 1970s, although there are some examples dating back to the 1930s and through the 2000s. Each of the interviews has been digitised and transcribed, although the names of those interviewed have been identified by a first name only. Some additional details have been included, such as the age of the subject, their religious background, and the

countries worldwide to which they had previously emigrated, before returning home.

Whilst the database is limited on the genealogical front, the social experience of those who migrated and then returned can be fascinating to listen to, offering clues as to why others within our own families may have similarly emigrated in the periods focussed upon. In one example, a lady in her 50s, Angela from Omagh in County Tyrone, mentioned that she had emigrated from Northern Ireland in 1969 to join her husband in the army in England (www.dippam.ac.uk/vmr/interview/455). In her interview, she noted that she had married her husband because he was due to be sent abroad, only to then be told that they would receive no marriage allowance because her husband was under the age of 21, and that as a result of this, she would not be allowed to accompany him overseas due to the lack of financial support. This meant that his overseas posting was cancelled, although in subsequent years they

were then posted to Malaysia, Singapore, Bahrain, Portugal, and Cyprus, before finally returning to Tyrone permanently in 1990.

The site is completely free to use, and it is possible to search across all the databases, including the Enhanced Parliamentary Papers on Ireland database as a third useful offering, via www.dippam.ac.uk/search. If you have wondered about the experiences of those in your tree who sailed for new lands, there is no better platform available online to start trying to provide some answers, but don't forget that the main archives in Ireland, such as PRONI (www.proni.gov.uk), the National Archives of Ireland (www.nationalarchives.ie), and the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies in Omagh will also have thousands of additional resources documenting the Irish emigration experience.

Based in the Ayrshire town of Stewarton, Northern Irish-born Chris Paton runs the Scotland's Greatest Story research service (<https://scotlandsgreateststory.wordpress.com/>) and the daily Scottish GENES genealogy news blog (<http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com>). Amongst his many publications are Researching Ancestral Crisis in Ireland, Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd edition), Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records, and Tracing Your Belfast Ancestors from Pen and Sword, as well as Sharing Your Family History Online. Chris also tutors short courses through Pharos Teaching and Tutoring Ltd, including two Irish-themed courses, Progressing Your Irish Research Online and Researching Irish Land Records.





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