

A

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Alberta Genealogical Society



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ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE ALBERTA HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The business meetings of the Society are held on the 2nd Saturday in the months of September, November, January, March and June, unless otherwise notified. The Library is available only to those members on the Executive Committee attending the meetings. AGS members requesting to be present should contact the President of the Society prior to the meeting specifying their intention to attend.

Mail may be directed to the Executive Committee members listed (with the exception of the Branch Presidents) at the registered address of the Society: Alberta Genealogical Society, Suite #116, 10440 - 108 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9.

REGISTERED CHARITY

"Donations made to Alberta Genealogical Society may be claimed as a deduction by the donors in computing their taxable income, in accordance with, and to the extent provided by paragraph 11Q(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act, if substantiated by a receipt containing all the information required by Part XXXV of the Income Tax Regulations".

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

RELATIVELY SPEAKING is a publication of ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. It is produced by volunteers from the contributions submitted by members and friends of the Society.

We welcome contributions containing material of interest to those who live in Alberta, or to those who are researching in Alberta. Suggestions regarding format and production methods are also welcome.

Please contact: Editor, *Relatively Speaking* - Alberta Genealogical Society, #116, 10440-108 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5H 3Z9.

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RELATIVELY SPEAKING Editor - Lillian Wight

Many thanks to our production crew!

Printing is efficiently done by Print Services, Edmonton Public School Board.

Publishing Dates

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Final authority re: acceptance or rejection of material for "Relatively Speaking" rests with the editor. Neither the Alberta Genealogical Society nor the Editor assumes responsibility for errors or opinions on the part of contributors.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS re: Release of Personal Data

Sharing information is a primary purpose of the Alberta Genealogical Society and the intent to which members subscribe on joining. Accordingly, the Alberta Genealogical Society makes information provided to it available to all. If a member wishes certain information to be held in confidence, it should not be released to the Alberta Genealogical Society. If it was previously released, the member should now give notice to restrict circulation. It will be assumed that a member has no objection to making his or her information available to the public if the Alberta Genealogical Society has not been informed to the contrary prior to publication.

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PHOTO COVER STORY:
CANADIAN BOYS IN THE DUTCH ARMY
 See page 8 for the article.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

E. Carol Anderson



As I write for this issue of *Relatively Speaking* I am reminded that when New Year's Day arrives, we will to some people, have entered into a new millennium. Regardless of the debate on how one rationalizes the exact timing of the millennium by counting either from zero to nine or from one to ten, the years 2000 and 2001 will certainly be memorable ones in our lifetime as we move forward into a new century.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2000

Here is a New Year's Resolution printed in part from 'the Essex Family Historian'. "I will try to persuade elderly relatives to write or record their life stories and to annotate the family photographs. I will also write down my own life story, remembering that I will be the legitimate prey of a future family historian who will enjoy the quaintness and old-world charm of my way of life."

I had the pleasure in October to present on behalf of the Alberta Genealogical Society an information seminar about the Society to a genealogy group in Drumheller. Three members of the AGS Brooks & District Branch accompanied me to outline branch membership responsibilities and executive administration. Seventeen people showed a keen interest in establishing an AGS branch in the Drumheller area. The AGS Executive Committee and provincial members would eagerly welcome this genealogy group if they decide to join us in forming the tenth branch of the Society.

Two other genealogy groups have contacted me both on the same day, expressing an interest in forming a branch of the Society - Cold Lake and Camrose. I am truly overwhelmed with the possibility of having three branches added to our Society in the near future.

Very exciting news for Albertans! A new location site within the provincial capital city of Edmonton has been chosen for the Provincial Archives.

Minister of Alberta Community Development, Mr. Stan Woloshyn, invited the Alberta Genealogical Society to attend the 'Announcement Meeting' held at the Legislature in August along with three other provincial heritage organizations. AGS Edmonton branch member, Terry Gregory, was asked to attend as the AGS representative to the meeting. Terry presented his report to the AGS Executive Committee at their September meeting.

The AGS membership number has made it over the top to reach a total of 1021 individual members as recorded in the Membership Chairperson's report of September 1999! Compared to this time last year in 1998 there were 926 individual members in the Society. The time will soon be here, December 31st year -end, for all members to renew their membership for the year 2000. Don't procrastinate, do it today.

As the year-end draws nearer, this is the time to remind the Branch Executives and AGS Executive Committee members to prepare their reports, volunteer hours (form) for the last quarter, and project lists (form) on any projects that were initiated and/or completed in the past year. Please send these in to the AGS Office by February 02, 2000.

The Annual Reports publication will be sent to the printers earlier this year as compared to last year in mid- March.

I want to give a big hearty Thank You to Doug Jobe who upon reconsideration will continue on as Chairperson of the AGS Cemetery Recording Committee for the remainder of the term. Just to make everyone aware, Doug doesn't plan to make this a lifetime commitment and so welcomes a reprieve next April.

In early September AGS Webmaster, Laura Turnbull of Grande Prairie sent me statistics obtained from the web-counter installed on two of the AGS web-site pages. The total number of visits to the main page were 12,817 in almost 7 1/2 months, averaging about 1709 visits per month or 61 visits per day. Laura estimates that AGS can expect to have had 22,265 visitors in one year.

Laura feels it is time to do a major update to the AGS web-pages with the following suggestions: a new look, additional genealogical research services, calendar of events, Alberta resources available for research and publishing cemeteries, etc.

The AGS Executive Committee welcomes suggestions from the membership as to what you think should be updated and added to the AGS WEB-SITE.

The current AGS fund-raising project, 'Raffle' ticket sales for two cash prizes are going well. Remember that after expenses have been covered, a percentage of the profit will be awarded to each branch accordingly, dependent on the number of ticket sales contributed to by the branch membership.

I have placed the cart before the horse, so to speak, and now conclude my message by greeting everyone with a **VERY MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS.** ■

TIME

If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400.00 and you were not allowed to keep any cash in your account overnight (in other words, the bank would cancel any part of the money you had not spent). What would you do? You would naturally draw out every cent. Well, you have such a bank and its name is "time".

Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off as lost whatever time you failed to invest to good purpose. You cannot carry over any balance and you are not allowed any overdraft. Each day, it opens a new account with you. Each night it burns the record of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back, and there is no drawing against tomorrow.

Source Unknown

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Lillian Wight, AGS #2668

Having recently returned from doing research in Salt Lake I am still overwhelmed by the magnitude of resources available to all who choose to access the Family History Centre there. In this issue you will find an article which vividly describes the experiences of our 35 AGS members who dedicated a week to family research.

For those who have yet to travel to events such as genealogy fairs or conventions the announcements page provides upcoming dates for the year 2000 so that you can begin making your travel plans.

A few of you are watching for your article to appear. Be assured that if not in this issue, it will appear in a following one as we try to have a variety of topics and lengths of articles in each issue. I am pleased to note that, beginning with the February issue, Myrna Reeves has offered to prepare the Gleanings column. Thank you, Myrna, for volunteering in this way.

My next request is for someone who would join me as an assistant with a view to becoming editor in a year or so. It's a way of learning on the job, an opportunity to present your ideas and exercise your creativity. Please give this some serious thought if you have ever considered the field of publishing. (I hadn't, but I've certainly learned a lot and found the work very interesting).

In the last issue I talked about having an enjoyable summer. Today is very much an autumn day, the coloured leaves falling everywhere. How time flies! By the time you receive this issue we'll all be looking forward to the Christmas season and the New Year January 2000 and so I send best wishes to all our readers for a happy and safe time in all your festivities.

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**

■

WHAT'S NEW IN THE AGS LIBRARY

by Norma Wolowyk

Phone: 488-1418

e-mail: nwolowyk@compusmart.ab.ca

AGS e-mail: agsoffice@compusmart.ab.ca

Members of the AGS are entitled to borrow from the library by mail or in person. The library is located in Room 116, the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, 10440-108 Avenue, Edmonton, phone 424-4429. You may also borrow materials by sending requests to agsoffice@compusmart.ab.ca.

The library is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and the third Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 12 noon. If you have any questions regarding the library please phone me at (780) 488-1418.

Please remember when requesting materials written about in this column that there may be some delay due to the rush on borrowing.

Please let me know, by letter, phone or e-mail, if there are any books you would like put on the library wish list. Try to give me as much information as possible as to title, author, publisher and date of publication.

COMPUTERS

929.10285 HOW Netting your ancestors: genealogical research on the Internet. 1997.

FAMILY HISTORIES

929.2 CAL The sun traveller: the history of the Callihoo in Alberta. 1998.

SURNAME INDEXES

929.305 GEN 1999 Genealogical research directory: national and international. 1999

(This directory, in its nineteenth year of publication, is the largest Worldwide surname queries listing published in book form. Includes the 1999 feature article: *Dates and Calendars for the Genealogist* and again the listing of contacts for One Name Study groups.)

AUSTRALIA--GENEALOGY MANUALS

929.1941 COA Western Australian burial location index. 1996

929.1941 OMA Convict records of Western Australia: a research guide. 1990.

(These two books were donated by Marilyn Nelligan to the AGS Library in appreciation for genealogical research work done by Marion Sim.)

CANADA--ALBERTA--HISTORY

971.2306 ALB Alberta Genealogical Society: celebrating 25 years, 1973-1998. 1999

(The twenty-five year history of the AGS and its branches)

929.37123 PIO Pioneer Albertans 1912. 1998

(This publication is an index to the biographies of over 500 pioneer Albertans, with cross references to 950 spouses and mothers and is compiled from *The History of the Province of Alberta*, written by Archibald Oswald MacRae PhD. and published in 1912).

CANADA--ALBERTA--GENEALOGY MANUALS

929.17123 STR Alberta newspapers, 1880-1982: an historical directory. 1988.

CANADA--ALBERTA--VITAL RECORDS

929.37123 HAI Who died when?: southern Alberta, 1885-1959. (13,572 names and death dates compiled from the Lethbridge Herald)

CANADA--MANITOBA--VITAL RECORDS

929.37127 IND 1885 Vol 3 An index of birth, marriage and death notices from Manitoba newspapers, 1885. 1997.

CANADA--NOVA SCOTIA--HISTORY

971.622 MIT Pier 21: the gateway that changed Canada. 1988.

(Donated by Carin Routledge)

U.S.--MONTANA--VITAL RECORDS

929.3786 SAC 1895-1972 Vol 1 Sacred Heart Parish (Cascade-St Peter's Mission - Fort Shaw [Montana]): baptisms, marriages, 1895-1972. 1982

929.3786 SAI 1859-1895 Vol 1 Saint Peter's Mission [Montana]: marriage register, 1859-1895. 1981.

(These books donated by Liliane Maisonneuve). ■

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA

Pat Pettitt AGS #2342

Provincial Archives to get new Edmonton Home. Researchers will be delighted with the Government of Alberta News Release of August 5, 1999.

"A building that will accommodate an easily accessible, state-of-the-art facility for the Provincial Archives of Alberta has been acquired by the Provincial Government. The 7,600 square metre building currently houses the Capital Health Authority's Patient Services Centre, which produces hospital food. Built in 1981, the newly acquired archives building has enough room to accommodate the growing archives collection up to 2021, with space on the site to expand. This will make the Provincial Archives of Alberta one of a few major archives in Canada that houses its public reference room and all of its holdings in a single location.

The building is located on Roper Road and 86 Street, close to major roadways like 51 Avenue, Whitemud Drive and 75 Street. There is plenty of free parking space. City bus service is excellent with two bus stops and the Millgate bus terminal nearby.

The building has high ceilings that will accommodate two levels of shelving and wide open spaces that can be divided into specialized storage vaults. The floors are strong enough to handle the archives' demands and there are a number of loading bays that meet the archives' need.

Space is available to build a large conservation lab for preserving and restoring documents. The renovated building will include a larger reference room, private reading rooms, a library, a meeting room and a classroom."

Thanks are due to the many members of our Society who, by writing letters and talking with their MLAs, made the Government aware that Albertans really care about their heritage. ■

TRANSLATION COORDINATOR

Sue Philips, AGS #1660

I have had requests for translation in German, Dutch and Spanish. Thanks to Rose and Peter Goutbeck, and Catherine Low for their help.

A request for Polish translation was forwarded to Barbara Kossowska-Szysko, a non-member who has volunteered to help.

I have had a request for Latin translation but do not have a volunteer for that language. If anyone can help, please contact me through the AGS office. ■

FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

Sue Philips, AGS #1660

Hopefully by now everyone with research in the British Isles has submitted their names to the British Isles Genealogical Register. Application forms were in the last issue. Deadline for submission was the first of November. The BIG R should be published in spring of 2000. AGS will receive a copy of the complete register on microfiche which will be available in the library.

The latest publications from the FFHS have been received and passed on to the library for cataloguing. The titles include:

- Lists of Landoners, 3rd ed.
- FamilySearch on the Internet
- An Introduction to...Occupations, A Preliminary List, 2nd ed.
- Basic Facts About...Using Education Records
- Basic Facts About...Using Record Offices for Family Historians, 2nd ed.
- Current Publications by Member Societies, 10th ed.
- Second Stages in Researching Welsh Ancestry ■



Alberta Family Histories Society

The Society is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote and encourage an interest in family history research. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month (second Monday if first is a holiday) at Southminster United Church, 3818 - 14A. Street S.W., Calgary, phone (403) 214-1447. The library is housed at this location. Beginner classes are at 6:45 p.m. and general meetings starts at 7:30 p.m. ■



La Societe Genealogique du Nord-Ouest

Researching Your French-Canadian Ancestors

Research Library: phone: (403) 424-2476
200, 10008 - 109 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 1M4
Hours: Mon., Tues., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
By Appointment: Thurs., 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and
Second Saturday on the month: noon to 4 p.m. ■



La Societe Historique et Genealogique de Smoky River

Denise LaFleur

Our personnel is bilingual and we make it our pleasure to serve our clients in both French and English.

Hours of operation: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon. to Fri.

Address:

Societe Historique et Genealogique de Smoky River
C.P. 224, Donnelly, Alberta, T0H 1G0

phone: (403) 925-3801 fax: (403) 925-2203

e-mail address: genealfa@agt.net ■



The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada Edmonton Branch

National e-mail uela@npiec.on.ca

Web page

www.npiec.on.ca/~uela/uclal.htm

Edmonton web page

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/e-states/9030>

Submitted by Ivy Trumpour U.E., AGS #2168

The Edmonton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC) established a Mission Statement at its September meeting. **The Mission of the Edmonton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada is to raise awareness in Northern Alberta of Loyalist history.** Various ideas about how to raise this awareness were brought forward with there being particular interest in visiting public schools. In addition, we hope to gather stories about our ancestors from our branch members, to be compiled and available in a suitable location.

Ken Halladay was presented with his U.E. certificate at the September meeting and told us stories about his Stevens ancestor's spying activities and prison escapes. A History Lands video, "Muskets and Mayhem" showing re-enactment of a battle on the Plains of Abraham, was shown at the meeting. History Lands videos are available from McNabb and Connolly, 60 Briarwood Avenue, Port Credit, Ontario, L5G 3N6. Phone 905-278-0566, fax 905-278-2801, e-mail mcnabbconnolly@homeroom.ca.

Dates for upcoming meetings are as follows: On October 18, at the AGS Library a workshop will be held for those new to the UELAC, to explain the general proofs required and how to start. A second workshop will be held March 27, 2000, at the AGS Library to discuss more specific proofs, such as Ontario land records, New Brunswick wills and land and perhaps Nova Scotia. General meetings are booked for November 22, 1999, February 14, and November 27, 2000, all at the AGS Library. Anyone who thinks he/she might be descended from a United Empire Loyalist is welcome to attend. Associate membership is available for those who have not yet proved a link to a Loyalist. The Edmonton Branch has a total membership of approximately 60 people. The next National Conference will be held May 4 - 7, 2000, in Niagara Falls.

Contact person for the Edmonton Branch is Robert Rogers U.E., (780) 458-3533; and Calgary Branch is James Stewart U.E., (403) 289-3108. ■

*Heredity: Everyone believes in it
until their children
act like fools!*

GLEANINGS FROM PUBLICATIONS

by Lillian Wight, AGS #2668

* **Family Chronicle** Vol 3 No 5 May/June 1999

Research techniques that can Produce Results! by Ron Wild, pp. 9 - 11

- describes twelve tips and tricks to try when there is limited access to public records

I Do! by Beverly Downing, pp. 13 - 15

- looks at the evolution of marriage customs

Social Security Records, by Sylvia L. Jaffe, pp. 18 - 20

- shows how to use and obtain social security records by mail or on the Internet

* **Family Tree Magazine** Vol 15 No 10 August 1999

Proving a pedigree, by Anthony Camp, pp. 4, 5

- highlights a number of considerations, e.g. sources, various kinds of evidence, knowledge, etc.

* **Generations** Vol 24 No 3 September 1999

Ten Dollars and a Dream, by Jean Tucker, p. 11

- a few notes about the Dominion of Canada Homestead Act

* **P.E.I. Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter** Vol 23 No 3, September 1999

P.E.I. Archives and Records Office. Record Group 6.1: Supreme Court Fonds, Part 5

- the fifth and final part of the Archives' article of value to genealogists. Includes legislation relating to children of unmarried parents, petitions, partnership papers, bankruptcy records

* **Toronto Tree** Vol 30 Issue 4 July/August 1999

How to Self-Publish Your Family Tree through the Magic of Computers, by Dr. Larry Gaum, p. 35

- a brief overview citing preferred computer requirements and other tips

* **B&D Heir Lines** Vol 12 No 1 Spring 1999

Did You Lose Someone's Birth, Marriage or Death..., p. 15

- specifies the location of delayed registrations, retakes and corrections on various Ontario Vital Statistic birth, marriage and death index reels

* **The Banyan Tree** No 79 July 1999

Employment of Children & Young Persons in Mines, pp. 29 - 33

- based on an 1842 Royal Commission Report on the above topic

* **Genealogists' Magazine** Vol 26 No 6 June 1999

Records of nurses and nursing: resources in London Metropolitan Archives 1556 - 1939, by Bridget Howlett, pp. 213 - 217

- subtopics include history, nursing in workhouses, mental hospitals, and registration of nurses

* **Ottawa Branch News** July/August 1999

Researching Methodist Ancestors, by Donald A. McKenzie, pp. 119 - 125

- the author, a retired United Church minister is an authority on the resources that are available

* **Family Chronicle** September/October 1999

Finding Records, by Robert W. Marlin, pp. 11 - 14

- gives fax, phone number, and website for each U.S. state; also addresses for National Archives and regional offices

Dutch Genealogy, by Mary Risseeuw, pp. 21 - 24

- follows the trail of Dutch immigrants including research hints, records in the Netherlands and information about the Dutch Reformed Church Records Selection Table, p. 35

- a guide to searching the right records

* **SGS Bulletin** Vol 30 No 3 September 1999

Jewish Surnames, pp. 91 - 94

- tells the stories inherent in Jewish names
Court Records for the Family Historian, pp. 79 - 84
- names records to research at various levels, e.g. small claims, divorce, probate, citizenship; includes Saskatchewan Court House addresses

* **Irish Roots** Issue 30 Second Quarter 1999

Directory of Irish Genealogical Resources 1999, pp. 14 - 24

- includes genealogy centres, archives, societies, researchers, and registered clans

* **SGS Bulletin** Vol 30 No 2 June 1999

Finding School Records in Saskatchewan, by Louise Petschulat, pp. 59 - 63

- cites records held by the Archives, local Boards, teacher reports, early school registers, etc.

* **Je Me Souviens** Vol 22 No 1 Spring 1999

The Devoted, the Distinguished, and the Dauntless: Unusual Women of Seventeenth Century New France, by Eugena Poulin, RSM, PhD, pp. 7 - 23

- social history combined with biographical sketches of early female settlers ■

AGS PUBLICITY UPDATE

Submitted by Velma Kane
Publicity Chairperson

Museums Alberta held a conference in Jasper on October 17 - 20, 1999. We submitted 180 brochures along with membership forms to them for distribution in their presentation folders. I feel quite certain that we will hear from at least a few of the people we reached.

Unfortunately, there's not too much else to report that is new I have spent a lot of time in Nova Scotia due to family illness. ■

COVER STORY:

By Peter Goutbeek, AGS #1006

The Canadian boys in the Dutch army about 1915. Left to right: Willem Krikke, Hendrik Velzen, John Goutbeek. These boys had already come to Edmonton in 1913 to join acquaintances that had come a few years earlier.

Though families of Dutch origin and Reformed persuasion arrived in Edmonton at the turn of the century, there was little or no contact between them at first. Often they were completely unaware of the others presence in the city. It took a tragedy, the death of two children of typhoid fever of a Dutch family, to bring these early families into contact with one another. This tragedy was noted in the newspaper along with their address. This brought many of the Dutch families to this home to express their condolences. This event led to the eventual organization of the First Christian Reformed Church in Edmonton and by 1910 services were held in a tent in the vicinity of Jasper Avenue and 109 street near the former C.P.R. station.

Other early Dutch Churches of the Reformed persuasion in Alberta are Granum organized in 1905, Nobleford organized in 1905, Burdett organized in 1911 and Neerlandia in 1915.

When the first World War started in 1914, these boys went back to join the Dutch Army thinking it would only be a short while and they'd be back in Canada. They had already been in the Militia before leaving Holland, thus felt some obligation to give Holland their help. But Holland was never in the war, so these boys spent their time shining boots and rifles and marching around the country.

When finally the war ended in 1918, these boys had no priority as active soldiers to get transportation back to Canada. It wasn't until 1919 that they were finally able to find the girl friends that were waiting for them.

Sign Reads:
Mobilization 1914/15
East - West
in the Fatherland
is also not so nice
The Canadian Boys

While waiting in Holland, Willem Krikke met and married Cornelia Martina Van Der Veer in Rotterdam. In 1919 they were able to get back to Canada to join other members of the family at Neerlandia.

Hendrik Velzen found his way back to Michigan to marry his girl friend Dena Messelink who had moved there.

John Goutbeek went straight to Edam, Saskatchewan to marry Jannesje Flietstra who had moved there with the family with whom she was staying. ■

*My ancestors must be in a
witness protection program!*

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO IS IN THIS PICTURE?



See page 37 for the answer. ■

AGS RESEARCH GROUP REPORT

Submitted by Norma Wolowyk

The Research Group for both AGS and Edmonton Branch, AGS meets on Fridays. Throughout the week letters received by regular mail, e-mail, phone or fax are processed by Vivian Etty, i.e., they are numbered, photocopied and put along with a research log in plastic sleeves. Members of the group take letters they are interested in responding to, do the research and respond by e-mail from their own home or by mailing correspondence. A database is compiled of surnames researched, submitter's name, locality of inquiry, date of letter and letter ID number.

Charges billed are 50 cents per page of photocopying and \$2.00 per page of computer printout. A request is made for reimbursement for all expenses and a statement is added saying that donations for volunteer time spent researching would be appreciated.

Since 1 May, 159 research letters have been received by AGS. Funds collected have been turned over to the Treasurer. Two books were donated by Marilyn Nelligan to the AGS Library in appreciation for research work done by Marion Sim. Their titles are *Western Australian Burial Location Index*, by Yvonne and Kevin Coate and *Convict Records of Western Australia*, by Gillian O'Mara.

Participating in the Research Group are Marion Sim, Elsie Yaroshuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Lucille Horne, Jeneane Roberts, Vivian Etty, and Norma Wolowyk. ■

LIFE BEGINS AT 60

From the Edmonton Journal, August 19, 1999
by Johanna Kowal, Journal Staff Writer

What do a 98 year-old genealogist, a 63 year-old PhD student and a 62 year-old bicycle racer have in common?

They are all nominees for the inaugural Life Begins at Sixty awards aimed at celebrating outstanding achievements of Edmonton area seniors who have spent their retirement years learning new skills and sharing them with others.

This year's nominees include Charles Denney, 98 who founded the Alberta Genealogical Society in 1972, several years after taking courses in genealogy.

Ever since, he has spent countless hours helping others trace their roots.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. DENNEY

The awards are being presented as part of the International Year of Older Persons and are designed to dispel the myths of aging, especially that older persons are frail, dependent or inactive.

They are being presented October 2nd. ■

CLIPPED OBITUARIES

From the Essex Family Historian, Summer 1999

Have you suffered? I know I have; I once had two apparently similar clippings, torn out of what I assumed to be a Preston newspaper. It was Preston alright but the items turned out to be 25 years apart - father and son, same name, both died aged 47 years. I have many others, which I shall probably never be able to identify.

We should, of course, always note where the clippings came from and when, but as family historians, the ones that come into our hands are beyond our control. We can't do much about the past, but there is now a way of preventing it happening in the future. It is called "Obituary Coding" and costs nothing to us as users. Newspapers are invited to register and put a 15 digit code in small type at the foot of each obituary, whether paid advertisement or news item, for which they pay a once only registration fee. Over 400 papers are already signed up in the USA and the scheme is now being introduced over here (UK).

Full details are available on the website www.obituarycoding.com but anyone interested, who does not have access, may write to the Editor, mentioning the name of the newspaper they would like to nominate.

This is your chance to do something for the family historians of the future.

CANADA ADOPTED ME

From The Citizen, Kipling, Saskatchewan
June 16, 1983
Submitted by Frank Easton

The homestead looked as good to me as when I first saw it but now I must decide where to put my shanty. I walked over the ground. On the east side of the half section I met a Hungarian couple living in a sod house.

"Build near us," they said. "Be neighbours. We have a sod shanty with no lumber but you're welcome to stay with us till you get your shanty up."

I boarded there for three days while I worked on the shanty. The night turned cold and a snowstorm came up. I put the oxen in the shanty to keep them warm for the night. The next morning I found one of them lying down. They had gotten loose into the feed and were overstuffed and one was sick. I got them out onto the grass and worked over them. Finally I went back into the shanty, fixed my bunk and went to sleep in my own house.

I LIKE MY PRAIRIE HOME ... THE COYOTES, BADGERS, WEASELS AND GOPHERS

I like my prairie home ... the coyotes, badgers, weasels and gophers. We saw a few deer and some antelope. But the prairie fleas were the bane of my existence. They came up out of the ground in invisible hordes. They bit and chewed and their bite was far worse than any mosquito I ever met.

But the wind could blow. I should have been warned by the homesteader I stopped to visit on my way out with the load of effects. He was digging deep holes at the corners where he was to build his shanty to put in rocks to anchor the guy wires to keep his house from blowing away. But the night at the Norwegian's showed me what the prairie wind really could do. I was walking home from a date, a couple of miles when the storm came up. Being near the Norwegians I made my way there for shelter. His shanty sat atop a rise between two ravines, its overhanging roof making it look like a mushroom. Guy wires held it firm against the winds. But this night the winds buffeted the house till it trembled like a wild thing.

"I'm afraid it will tumble into the ravine," said his wife. "Please, let's take the children and go down into the hollow where the haystack is. There we will be safe from the wind."

"YOU DON'T WORK AFTER SIX O'CLOCK IF YOU WORK FOR ME," HE SAID.

Her husband agreed and we went to the door. He pushed against it and found it would not open. I went to give him a hand. We pushed with all our strength but the wind was so strong we could not get it open. We broke open a window on the lea side and he climbed out. I helped his wife out and handed the children to them. Then I climbed out after them. Keeping close to the ground we fought our way down to the sheltered stack, and tucked ourselves into the hay to wait out the storm. When it had blown itself out, we went back to the shanty. Even with its strong guys it had been shoved four inches off its foundation.

I worked my ground and took any jobs that came my way. One day I answered a knock at my door to find a short German standing there. "Could you come to work for me?" he asked. "I live with my wife and baby down the way. I must go to Yellow Grass to get oats. I need someone to help me with the work."

I worked for them for quite some time. They were the nicest people. They worried about me. Once again I was with people who cared. I drove five horses tandem ... one lead, two front, three behind ... pulling a breaking plow. The German and his wife worried about my overworking.

"You don't work after six o'clock if you work for me," he said. "If those horses can't do a day's work from seven to six, I'll shoot them. Ten rounds in the morning ... ten rounds in the afternoon ... makes twenty miles a day. That's enough. None after." And that's the way it was. We broke a quarter section that summer.

I used my oxen part time stack threshing. At this I could work clear into winter. Sometimes I cut binder bands in the cold wind with two men to pack down the straw. I worked for a farmer for awhile for \$35.00 per month and for \$45.00 if all harvesting. This was hard work. The farmer worked the day and I worked the night by lanterns on the carts till midnight. We would change horses but the equipment went right on.

At this time the farmers never fed the threshing crews. Instead a cook car would move along to feed the eighteen men. It was my job to move this car. I would go back and move the tent to a new location ahead of where we were working and put in a foot of fresh straw. The exhausted crew would fall onto the straw for the night ... feet to centre till before dawn when they would be up and out. For the crop must be harvested before the weather broke and many a man had been ruined because his crop wasn't in soon enough.

***THEN OUT OF THE DARK GREEN CLOUD A
LONG FUNNEL-SHAPED TAIL
PULLED DOWN, ROSE
AND DIPPED AGAIN.***

A neighbor came to me wanting to buy my team of oxen. "How much?" he asked. "\$150 for the set ... all equipment thrown in." "I've got no money," he said. "Neither have I," I answered, "but I'll trade you the oxen for your breaking fifty acres of land for me."

We made the deal. He broke the land and I had proved up on my homestead. The land was really mine. This orphan boy had his real home in Canada.

And at that real home I now built a barn. I freighted the lumber in from Moose Jaw to Willowbunch and it doubled the cost but it was mine. Finally all was complete except the door which faced to the west. The man who bought the oxen stopped by.

"Gonna finish her off tonight Fred?" he asked. "Not tonight. It's Saturday and I won't work into Sunday. Monday morning will see her finished."

We chatted a while and suddenly noticed the sky was darkening faster than it should. The air was still. The sky changed as we watched, like a sun eclipse. Then out of the dark green cloud a long funnel-shaped tail pulled down, rose and dipped again.

"It's a cyclone!" he shouted and we raced for the shanty. From this safety with the walls sodded to the roof, we watched as the cyclone came nearer. The air filled with flying pieces as the cyclone dipped and swirled. It was now so dark we could hardly see. The new barn exploded into a million pieces and the roof sailed off into the sky. In minutes it was all over. There was not one piece left whole out of the

entire barn. The roof settled down at a neighbors a half a mile away. The Regina cyclone had come to call. For a while I had plenty of wood pieces to burn in place of the cow chips I usually used.

It was a friendly life there on the prairie. Surprise parties cropped up when someone got too lonely to stand it any longer. We'd pay \$5.00 for a violinist and have a real dance. Then three or four of us decided we needed a church. We were just young people but it didn't seem right not to have a church. We canvassed the people who lived around.

"Sure," they said. "A church is a good thing. We'll give you a hand." We collected the money to buy the wood. Our leader was a good carpenter. He did the main work. The rest of us pounded nails, and cut and sawed at his direction. By Spring, our little church was complete. ■

APPLICATION TO THE GLENBOW ARCHIVES

Submitted by Charles Denney, AGS #105

Dear Friends, My friend Geoff Burtonshaw, of Calgary, spends so much time at the Glenbow Archives helping people search for information about their ancestors that he has become very familiar with all the staff.

He must even have become familiar with the retiring President, Bob James. This retirement inspired Geoff to write an application for the vacated position. Though I doubt that he submitted it formally to the Board, or to the Provincial Government, he must have circulated it. Anyway, he sent me a copy of which I am sending you.

I find it most amusing, as well as informative. I think our readers would enjoy reading the document.

Yours sincerely,

Please see next page for Geoff Burtonshaw's letter.

Bob Jones is Retiring as President
and CEO of the Glenbow.
I have had a lot of fun with this letter

My name is Geoff Buxtonshaw I am applying for the
Job of President and CEO of The Glenbow Museum
130-9 Ave S.E Calgary Alta. T2G 0P3.

I was born at G.P.M. Jan 26/1916 on a bush Homestead
NW 2-25-14 W of First just in time for supper.

I was born near my Mother as I was young at the time
and needed some one to look after me.

I went to a one room log school and got my grade 8
I know what work is I have milked 10 cows slopped a bunch
of hogs and feed brushed curran combed and harnessed a
B horse out fit before Breakfast.

I joined the R.C.A.F in WWII went to a school in Winnipeg
8 St Thomas Ont and Manning Pool in Brandon. from school
I was posted to #3 Bombing & Gunnery School at MacDonald
Manitoba and when we close the school near the end of the
war. I was OC of ~~Intero~~ Flying.

After the war. I got into Construction started as a labourer.
and wound up as Field Superintendent I have been 47 years.
Member. Carpenters Union 2103.

In the Dark days of the Fall of 1983. when there were
out backs to close The Archives & Library I wrote Mayor
Ralph Klein - Mary I LeMessurier. Alberta Culture and
to D.E Lewis Q.C Chairman of the Board of Governors
Glenbow Museum. with my consent. I have these answers on
file.

I have been to the U of Manitoba - U of Calgary - U of Lethbridge
U of Great Falls MT. S.A.I.T Western Canada High.

I have award of Merit from The Glenbow Awards from ZIII
and Local 87. am Honory Member (Life) of Local 87 Metis
Nation of Alta. and I tied for top place in a Tall Story
Contest. For Haricetus Reverence please contact Sarah &
Cris on the 6th Floor picture department. O by the way I
will need Weds off as I Volunteer at the Archives.

Your Obecint Volentours Geoff

SALT LAKE CITY TRIP '99

Submitted by June Arnison

AGS #2629

We took this year's scenic route--via Denver, Colorado--to Salt Lake City on Sunday, September 26. Mary-Joan Cornett and Margaret Hougán from Red Deer, Marge Monlezun from Dawson Creek, B.C., Donna Rumohr from Luseland, Saskatchewan, and Marilyn Wales from Grand Prairie were a welcome infusion in our mainly Edmonton area ranks. (Actually, Marilyn drove!)

This pack of Canadian eager-beaver researchers descended upon the LDS Library on Monday. Thirty-five of us simply disappeared amongst the stacks or blended into the microfilm readers until, much later, someone inadvertently thought of lunch. Never before have I spent a week with so many people, yet seen so little of them! And lunch, if you went to the LDS cafeteria, was a sight to behold and a choice of flavours to forever remember. Ask Vivian Ety about the beef ribs.

On Monday evening we attended a seminar given in the hotel. "An Introduction to Genealogy on the Internet or how to surf the web without drowning in data" recommended using genealogy-specific search engines and taking advantage of the searchable databases: Ancestry.com, Everton.com, Familytreemaker.com, Kindredconnections.com, and Lineages.com. The link sites Cindislist.com and Genealogytoolbox.com are musts for genealogists.

Discussion discovered that several of us are having difficulties with searching the LDS catalogue online. We all seemed to have the same server--Telusplanet. If this sounds familiar, just remember you're not alone. (Let's all call the help desk.)

Tuesday to Saturday we met at 10 P.M. for our "Brag and Groan" sessions. Under the ministrations of Marion Rex, we divested ourselves of the stresses of an unrewarding day or took advantage of the opportunity to announce with pride our new findings and additional cousins. The unhappy participants won kisses (chocolate variety) to perk them up, the happy participants basked in the murmurs of congratulation. We asked questions and offered suggestions that might help our research the next day. And so with a few good laughs at the stories told, we shook out our kinks from a hard day of work, and went off to a good night's sleep.

The Saturday evening windup session was definitely more brag than groan. Successes were the order of the week. Norma Wolowyk finished one line back to a 1660 burial in England, Stuart Hosler was working with Scottish wills and got back three more generations. Marg Hougán was dying for someone to ask her how to build a sod house, while Larry Clark said he had a bad-heir day and earned more kisses. Claudine Nelson found lots (ordered eight certificates anyway); Bob Fraser found a death record and the will that named another child; Ian Holmes had new CD-ROMS that will give him another five million names to browse amongst. Pat Woodman had a last-minute find in 1791 Ireland (so it IS possible), Marion Rex had yet another inch-and-a-half stack of photocopying (found a mother lode in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island).

These sessions were also the opportunity for each of us to autograph the book purchased with trip funds as a gift to the Edmonton Branch Library. The 1997 revised edition of James G. Ryan's "Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History" will now replace our outmoded 1988 version.

All of us put more meat on our ancestors' bones with information from India, Belgium, France, Holland, Argentina, Russia, the British Isles, South Africa, Ontario and assorted states of the U.S. What would we do without that fabulous research collection in Salt Lake City?

I'm happy to announce that the Dee's Restaurant roof that went the way of the tornado has been replaced, and all is well again. The establishment still offers whatever late-night snack is just right for you.

The return trip via our scenic route provided some exercise we may have missed during the week--a 38-gate sprint with a seven-minute time limit, at the Denver terminal. Then we waited a half-hour aboard the aircraft while our 'international' luggage caught up with us! Oh, well, we got to catch our breath again.

Wasn't that a great week--let's all do this again sometime. (Newcomers welcome.)

One question was never answered in our evening sessions. If you know the meaning of "dead of renunciation", would you please let *Relatively Speaking* know? (This was a marginal notation on an index to will probates.) ■

WHOSE GRANDFATHER WROTE THIS LETTER 102 YEARS AGO?

by Peter von Lipinsky

It has been said that most discoveries happen by accident. How true this is has once again been proven to be correct.

While doing some research on some of the old church records from the church of Borzyszkowy (Province of Pomorskie, Poland), several pages of a letter were discovered. The letter had been written in Polish a long time ago to the parish Priest, and the Priest had kept the letter. The letter was written 102 years ago.

Not being able to read Polish, I just briefly glanced at the letter and noted the name 'von Glisczinski'. This was the maiden name of my Great-Great-Great-Grandmother. Getting the letter translated was relatively easy - thanks to my Polish neighbors.

After reading the translation it became very obvious to me that the contents of this letter should be shared with as many people as possible and maybe ... just maybe ... there is a descendent of Wojciech Binczik out there somewhere who would like to read this letter.

The letter reads as follows:

Lexington, July 20, 1897

God be with you. I, Wojciech Binczik come to you Sir, with kindest regards and with my compliments for receiving from you Sir, a letter and a birth certificate, which I received on Thursday before Good Friday. I'm asking you Sir, to send the birth certificate for Glisczinski, he lives a mile away from us. His daughter joined the convent and became a nun.

Glisczinski's field was destroyed by hail, and we are feeling very sorry for him, because they are the best neighbors we have. I'm sending you Sir, a money order. In Gdansk in the bank, they will give you 11 Marks (German currency). Once again we send our love and wish you health and happiness.

God be with you. Amen.

Wojciech Binczik and Michael Glisczinski
My addresse: Lexington, Lesueur, Con. Minesota,
North America.

Me and Glisczinski we want to say, that we are sorry for not getting back to you sooner. But 'von Glisczinski' lives a mile from me and it was very hard to get together. But now, he sends you half of the payment for those birth certificates and 3 Marks to have mass said for Glisczinski's relatives. And me, Wojciech Binczik will send 5 Marks, 3 Marks to have a mass said for my relatives, and 1 Mark for those certificates and 1 Mark for parcel (postage?). Rigut (?) now over here is very wet. Often there is rain and hail.

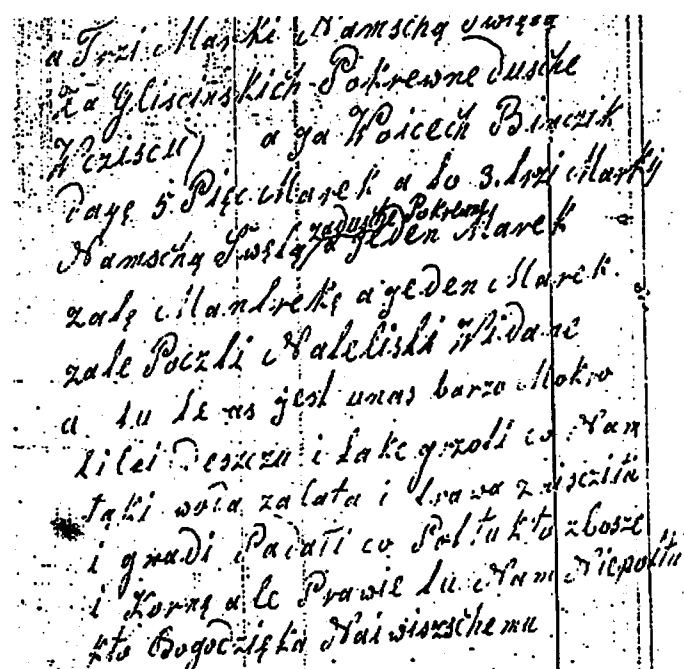
Our Priest left for Europe for 3 months. His name is Ferdynand Ploschek. In our newspaper it says that last year 196 - 730 (?) people immigrated to America. From Deutschland (Germany) 32 - 152 (?) and from France 55 - 86 (?), that what it says in the German Catholic newspaper.

And now we send our love in the name of God and the holy mother. Amen.

Wojciech Binczik.

P.S. The author is still trying to fit Michael Glisczinski into the family tree.

Portion of above letter:



a Trzici Marki i 11 amschq uwazaj
za Glisczinski Potrzebne dusze
Wzrostu a ja Wojciech Binczik
daje 5 Piac Marki a do 3. lipca Marki
11 amschq i 3. lipca jeden Marek
za 1. i 2. i 3. a jeden Marek
za 1. i 2. i 3. a jeden Marek
a tu 11 amschq uwazaj barzo mocno
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DON'T FORGET YOURSELF

Before dashing to trace your family back to the 1600's, stop a moment and think about your own life. In the future your great-grandchildren will know much more about you if they can read your memories. After all, the world has changed and you are the only one who knows what you did and saw and how you felt.

Your neighbours, what were they like? What about your house? Warm in front of the fire and freezing in the bedrooms? We had a tin bath just like the ones in Beamish Museum. It was lovely and warm in front of the fire and I can remember dashing to the outside toilet one winter night, slipping on the ice, grabbing the drainpipe and bringing it down with a clatter. Remember washing day? Hanging clothes on the line in the back lane and taking them in again so the coalman's wagon could pass? Coalmen were not popular on Mondays! Oh and the pleasure of owning our first electric washer and stoking our first central heating boiler.

What was your school like? If it is still there take a photograph before it is pulled down. What about your friends and the teachers? Do you remember swapping cigarette cards, playing marbles and hopscotch? Were you on a school team? Did you win a prize for good attendance or did you play hookey? I can remember doing national dances during the Empire Day celebrations and my friend was Britannia. We sang patriotic songs.

What about memories of being in the forces during the war or were you evacuated? My husband collected shrapnel and one day stood in the street and watched a German plane fly past. Do you have memories of the bombing or stories about the shelters? Remember gas masks? I had a Mickey Mouse one. Nearly every street had a Victory party or Coronation party. Have you a photo of yours?

How did you spend your pocket money? Remember dances with huge dance floors and bands. The cinema gave better value in those days with a cartoon, travelogue, news and B Film as well as the main feature with fish and chips for nine pence on the way home. I used to enjoy the Saturday morning children's G.B. Club at the cinema too when I was younger. My favourite sweet was Fry's Chocolate Cream. What was yours and is it still made now? Did you buy Victory V's and Winter Warmers because they weren't on the sweet rations?

I'm sure you can remember your favourite outfit. Remember how stiletto heels which got stuck between the paving stones, circular skirts with net petticoats underneath and straight skirts that split as you tried to get on the bus? Did you have drainpipe trousers and a teddy boy suit? Get out those old photographs and have a laugh and please put the names on the back so you can be recognized later. Even my daughter's memories of getting the first Beatles' record, wearing Bay City Roller tartan jeans and falling off platform heels the first time they were in fashion, are history to our grandchildren now!

Well, has that got you talking? Jot down those notes now and start writing. Have I done mine? No, like you, I'm doing it tomorrow. Tomorrow may be too late?

Original by M. Furness. Sent in by David Hann from the Somerset & Dorset Family History Society, Vol 23, No. 3 # ■

RAFFLE

By Richard McNeill, AGS #2252

The Alberta Genealogical Society and its branches are running a cash raffle. First prize is \$2,500.00 and second prize is \$1,000.00 provided that 1,900 of the 5,000 tickets printed are sold. The tickets are \$2.00 each. The draw will be held at the Annual General Meeting on April 15, 2000. Help your Society and Branch by selling and buying tickets. Contact the Treasurer or President of your branch for tickets to sell and or buy. Raffle License R 714132 ■



RELATIVELY SPEAKING

25 YEARS AGO

PROBATED WILLS ARE PUBLIC PROPERTY

From Vol. 2, #3, Summer 1974

By C.D. Denney

Submitted by Vivian Etty

Recently I received a letter which said in part as follows: "I doubt very much if I would be granted the privilege of examining any such 'Will'. Generally, wills are well guarded specimens. Keepers of any will are reluctant to exhibit it to anyone. This I know from past experience. First question they ask, 'What relation are you to the party involved?' Most of the time they prefer blood relation."

I must admit that the above perplexed me considerably. So I checked with a lawyer friend, who confirmed that probated Wills are indeed public property, and anyone may visit the Surrogate Court in the Law Courts Building, east of the City Hall in Edmonton, and not only see the Will but also secure a copy of it.

Since my correspondent had not been able to do that, I checked with an officer of the Clerk of Court. It was then I found out the bitter truth. The Clerks in the Court House are instructed to discourage people who want to see Wills. So they ask all sorts of questions, like "What's it to you?"

Obviously when a lawyer asks to see a Will, or asks for a copy, there are no questions asked. The clerks know that he knows he is entitled to do just that. And so is anyone else. It, therefore, appears that if a non-lawyer wants to see a Will, or obtain a copy, he must tell the Clerk that he knows what he is about and is not going to be put off. If that doesn't work, ask for the Clerk of the Court of the Assistant Clerk. Don't be bashful in letting them know that you know what you are about.

At the present time, copies of Wills may be obtained at a fee of fifty cents a page. Another important point to remember in connection with gaining information from Wills is that the Oath of the Executor, attached to the Will, is frequently more informative for a genealogist than the Will itself. So one should always see it also.

On some occasions, the records of Divorce or Separation proceedings could be very helpful to a genealogist. These are also public property. But they are also even harder to see. The reason is that some snoop neighbors or town gossips sometimes want to learn the nasty details. But a demand is a demand. Even so, as with Wills, an explanation that you are interested in securing genealogical information may save a confrontation.

Though I would not want to be dogmatic about it, nor would my lawyer friend, it is reasonable to believe that the above holds true in all Provinces and States. The problem will be to know the location of the appropriate Law Court.

Editor's note: Recently, I went down to the Court House here in Edmonton, partly in search of a copy of a will, and partly to see if I would encounter any opposition to my request. To my surprise, I found the clerks very helpful and courteous, as they didn't even ask WHY I wanted the Will of Leonard Gaetz who died in Red Deer in 1906. I did find, though, that I would have to go to Red Deer (or write to the Court House there) to see the Will, as that is where it is filed.

It seems that wills are kept at the Court House of the Judicial District in which the person died. For example, if Aunt Minnie died in Leduc, her will is in Wetaskiwin. If Uncle Fred died in Edmonton, his will is in Edmonton. The Clerk of the Court can tell you where a will can be found if you can identify where the person died. It must be remembered, though, that this applies only to probated Wills, not all Wills. ■

I AM NOT THAT MARILYN

Submitted by Marilyn Hindmarch. AGS #3295

My name is Marilyn Hindmarch.

The Edmonton Senior newspaper has a humour column penned by Phil Hindmarch wherein my name regularly appears. For example: "Golf is a game for people with infinite tolerance for frustration - not to mention time and money to spare. Will somebody please tell my wife, Marilyn?", July 1997; or more recently, "Come here - quick! my wife Marilyn called.", March 1999.

For several years I have on occasion had questions or comments directed to me regarding my relationship with the golf pro, overseas travel, cooking, etc. Often I am quite puzzled because I cannot place the referent. I do not golf and although my ancestors hail from England I have yet to follow up on my family history research with a trip to that country.

Hindmarch is not such a common name as, for instance, Jones, nor is Marilyn as popular as perhaps, Mary. It is, therefore, not surprising that when people who do not know me well see Phil Hindmarch's name in print along with his repeated mention of his 'wife, Marilyn', they assume a direct link between us. It is not so.

I met my namesake once many years ago and she is a charming woman. We discovered in conversation at that time that we also share the same middle initial 'L'. I am Marilyn Lorna Hindmarch, nee Ramsden, named after my father Lorne. I do not know what the other Marilyn's 'L' represents, nor her maiden name. She is married to Phil and I am married to Brian. These Hindmarch men are not related.

Phil and Marilyn live in the same quadrant of Edmonton that Brian and I do and we sometimes frequent the same shops, pharmacies, banks, etc. I have learned that different institutions employ various means to verify the identity of their clientele. Some use address, others date of birth and the bank of course relied upon the signature card in combination with each account number, as my daughter Suzanne discovered. When stating my name, I usually follow with, "I'm the Marilyn who lives at ..." to avoid any confusion. My daughter scoffed until a new bank teller questioned her S. Hindmarch signature on a paycheque she was

cashing. It did not match up with the signature card (never mind that the account number was also different). It seems that Phil and Marilyn have a daughter whose first name also begins with 'S'. Hers was the card pulled. Suzanne is my daughter's middle name and she now usually signs cheques, documents, etc., - anything 'official' - with the initial of her first name as well.

I do not know anything more of my namesake though perhaps she also has interesting stories arising out of the confusion of the two Marilyn Hindmarch's of Edmonton. For genealogists it is a reminder of the importance of checking and double checking information and verifying sources. However, straightforward a piece of information may seem, it could be tied to someone other than your relative and you may save a lot of time and backtracking if you ensure authenticity at the outset.

■

FRIENDS ARE VERY IMPORTANT

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence...

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said, "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one."

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us. ■

WIT AND POLISH

Written by Pamela Farmer

Submitted by Muriel Jones

When my father received his call-up papers during WW1 he already had a well established music career, not only on the Wurlitzer Cinema Organ but also with his trio with himself at the Hammond organ, one of the few people if not the first to be playing an electric organ at that time. He broadcast on B.B.C. regularly and had made records (audio discs as they are now called). He had to report to Royal Armoured Corps, 58th training regiment, Bovington Camp, Wool, Dorset. He became a driving instructor for tanks and armoured cars. He passed tests for radio, gunnery and driving, a pre-requisite to becoming a Tank Commander. While in the Corps he organized a concert party from fellow instructors and gave it the name *Wit and Polish* (a pun on Spit and Polish which all soldiers had to give their boots to make them shine!) with a band called the *Electronomes*.

Then fate stepped in. The Army Welfare Service heard about the company and, in 1945, my father, Harry Farmer, and *Wit and Polish* were transferred from the Armoured Corps to a new regiment called the Central Pool of Artists, which was a collection of ex-professionals who were serving in several regiments. This collection was soon known as *Stars in Battledress*. The members took entertainment to the troops in Germany.

On November 4, 1945 the *Wit and Polish* concert party was given orders to sail to Germany for a three month tour. By the end of that tour they had given 64 shows and traveled over four thousand miles by lorry (army truck).

I remember my father telling me about the problems of electricity supply. At the theatre at Aachen it was incorrect and the organ was a half tone sharp to the other instruments. Although the Police, the Burgameister, and the Electricity Works were contacted nothing could be done so the band numbers had to be omitted. The next day they went to the Power Station. The Germans there were quite prepared to help but the electricity came directly from the coal mines and the frequency could not be altered without disorganizing the pumps!

At a village called Monschau the electricity again proved difficult, as it was supplied by water power from the river, but the German electrician boosted up the voltage with an old steam engine and the show went on as usual!

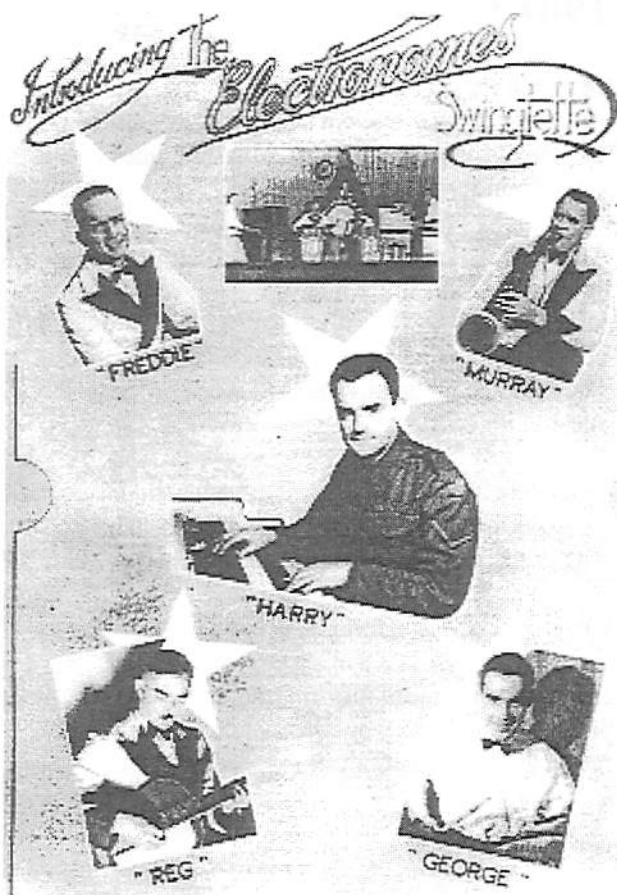
At yet another village, Osnabruck, the organ was not sounding good and another call was made to the Burgameister. The Power Station sent over an electrician who said that the only way he could improve matters was to put some of the village in darkness because the load was too great! An officer's permission was obtained and about a quarter of the village was asked to turn its power off!!! After a few minutes the organ worked on pitch again and the show went on!

I was very fortunate, in a way, to receive an account of the whole tour from my father's guitarist who kept in touch with us even after Dad had died. About two years ago, Reg sent me his notes that he had kept and it reads like a diary for many detailed pages. He thought I might like it because it would get thrown out when he died. Last year he passed away and I will always be grateful that he had decided to send his notes to me. Some incidents are amusing, particularly when one reads of the ineptness of some of the army organizers.

Some places they were treated like royalty, others they weren't expected that day and the barracks had no heat in the middle of winter and there was no food. Other times, there was the meeting and the camaraderie of other entertainment parties. Some theatres were too small, some were freezing cold.

Reg could speak German and he gives little cameos of life and the people living in the ruins and he describes the devastation of war. He was so saddened at the destruction of Cologne. He was a photographer and he took many pictures. How I would have loved to have seen them because they have now probably all been thrown away and this was an account of a time in history.

****Please see next page for pictures.****



Picture of a poster, at that time.



Harry standing in front of the army 'lorry' that was used for transporting the organ (which took five men to lift!), its speakers, the stage equipment and props. Notice the sign above the windshield! ■



Remember



**It's time to renew your membership
for the year 2000**

THE VITAL QUESTION OF VITAL STATISTICS

From Vol. 2, #3, Summer 1974

By C.D. Denney

Submitted by Vivian Etty

That is the heading of an article appearing in the NEWSLEAF of the Ontario Genealogical Society for March, 1973. Seems the folks in Ontario are greatly frustrated by the official attitude there that the vital statistic information each citizen is required to supply to the public body known as the Registrar General is not available to the public. With public funds this information is recorded, indexed, etc. But the information is then denied to the public, who paid for it. Oh, of course, if you are "family", whatever that means, for a fee you may be supplied with a certificate certifying that your Aunt died on a certain date – which information you may have supplied in the first place. But you won't be permitted to examine the records yourself. In other words, the public records are not open to the public.

So far as can be determined, a similar situation prevails in Alberta. The attitude seems to be that unless you can demonstrate some very close family connection with the person for whom you require information, and unless you can identify that person clearly, you are only a snooper. It makes no difference to the Minister in charge, or to the employees of the Bureau, that you have assisted in paying the capital cost of the building, the heating bill, the caretaking bill, and the salaries of the civil servants who have been hired to do the work there. You have no rights to free access to the records.

How different is the attitude at Somerset House in London, England, where the records of the English Registrar General are housed. There, it is represented, the extensive index to all their records of births, marriages and deaths is open to the public at no charge. The official attitude is that these are PUBLIC RECORDS, with the emphasis on the word PUBLIC.

That, I submit, is the way it should be here in Alberta. ■

Genealogists are time unravelers.

1901 CENSUS

If you haven't purchased your copy of the 1901 Alberta District Census now is the time to do it. This is a wonderful index that includes every name found.

Athabasca District is nearing completion so watch for that publication sometime in the not too distant future.

The 'Yak Team' is now hard at work on Assiniboia West.

Thanks to all who have assisted with these two major undertakings over the summer months. The Pot Luck was great, we can cook as well as index!

Keep up the fine efforts.

If you require more information, call Wilma at 460-3986 or jgmck@telusplanet.net or e-mail jgmck@telusplanet.net. ■

FLOOR:

*The place for storing
your priceless genealogy records.*

A message on a tombstone

Here lies a poor woman who always was tired;
She lived in a house where help was not hired.
Her last words on earth were "Dear Friends, I am
going
Where washing ain't done, nor sweeping or sewing.
But everything there is exact to my wishes
For where they don't eat, there's no washing dishes.
I'll be where loud anthems will always be ringing,
But having no voice, I'll be clear of the singing.
Don't mourn for me now, don't mourn for me never.
I'm going to do nothing for ever and ever."

OGS VOL 37 No. 1, 1999 ■



November 1999

Volume 20 / Issue 4

Clandigger

Upcoming Dates

Regular meetings of the Edmonton Branch are held on the 4th Thursday of each month (excluding July, August and December) at the Prince of Wales Armouries - Governor's Room, 10440 - 108 Avenue, Edmonton. Time: 7 p.m. (for 7:30) until about 10 p.m.

November 25, 1999 - Andriy Nahachewsky
Ukrainian Folklore Program, U of A

How it can be a source for genealogists and what some of the past and present research projects are of the program.

January 27, 2000 - Marie Powers, Pastoral Council Specialist
Emotional Trauma sometimes experienced by discovery of family secrets.

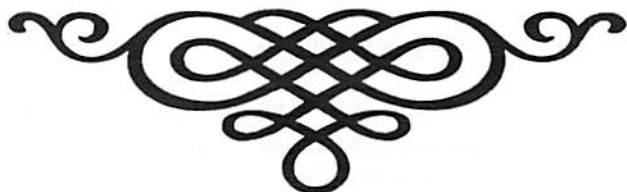
February 24, 2000 - William Brese, President of The Canadian Moravian Historical Society

The settlement of the Moravian Church in Alberta and information on its archives. Display of Charts

CLANDIGGER is published four times yearly within
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by the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society
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Phone: (780) 424-4429, Fax: (780) 423-8980
e-mail: agsedm@compusmart.ab.ca

Library Hours

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
2nd & 4th Wed. Evenings 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
3rd Saturday 9 a.m. - noon



Your Executive

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PAST PRESIDENT

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➤ Vacant

ARCHIVIT/HISTORIAN

➤ Pat Pettitt, 436-3627

EDMONTON PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Susan McKeen, AGS #1910

Hello again, everybody. This will be the last column for the century. It's here already. I hope everybody will take the time to make sure their computer equipment is Y2K compliant and that all of the files are backed up appropriately before the big night. It would truly be a shame to lose all the years of hard work because of a technical glitch at the last moment.

The Salt Lake Trippers are back with tons of good stuff and lots of wonderful stories to tell of the successes and moans. Read June Arenson's article elsewhere in this publication. It was her first trip to Genealogy Heaven. The Trippers are also having their wind-up pot luck supper on October 22.

Everybody tells about their best find and what they plan to do next. For example, as I go through my new material, I start a list of what the next research step is for each piece of data I have collected. That works really well for me--until I misplace my list in the paper blizzard!

The Branch has been working very smoothly for the past months. However, the end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with February 2000 comes the Branch Annual General Meeting and elections. Some of the Edmonton Branch key Executive positions will be vacant. If you wish to volunteer to fill one, or know of someone you think would be able to do the job, please contact Claudine Nelson. She is our Past President and is in charge of Nominations. Her phone number is 487-0099; or she may be reached by e-mail at cbn@powersurfr.com. (See page 4 of *Clandigger*.)

The Executive is the body that keeps everything running smoothly; the part that members rarely see, but is a crucial part of the organization. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 in our Library. No meetings are held in July, August or December. We get a great amount of work done, and at the same time we enjoy ourselves, too. Please seriously consider letting your name stand for a position. We cannot exist without our volunteers!

Since this is the last column of the year:

**On behalf of Edmonton Branch Executive,
I would like to wish everyone
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! ■**

Library News

by Sherry Bell, AGS #1756



Lately, the AGS Edmonton Branch library has received donations of several useful new resources. Charles (Aberdeen) Davidson and his wife Margaret returned from a thrilling trip to Scotland this summer. As a memento of Margaret's first ever meeting with her brother, the Davidsons have donated a new edition of *North East Roots: A Guide to Resources* by H. Lesley Diack (4th ed., published April, 1999).

At the England and Wales Research Group meeting in October, the new items bought with funds from the seminar by Richard and Marjorie Moore were on display. Our thanks go out to the team of Gina McCaslin, Pamela Farmer and Terry Gregory for choosing a variety of enticing titles; among them, the Society of Genealogists publications:

- *Making a pedigree: An introduction to sources for early genealogy;*
- *My ancestors were manorial tenants;*
- *"A comedy of errors" or the marriage records of England and Wales (1837 to 1899);*
- *A guide to the mediaeval manor*
- *Finding East Midlands ancestors.*

Although these books may not be specifically from your areas of research, ideas may be gleaned from them and applied to your own research strategies. Thank you to Shirley Machan for fast-forwarding the cataloguing of these items so they could be on display at the meeting.

The periodicals collection will be undergoing changes soon as a result of the need for more shelf space and better resource allocation. Ever since *Clandigger* was inserted into *Relatively Speaking* several years ago, the Edmonton Branch has not had its own periodical to exchange with other genealogical groups. Thus, we have had to purchase most of the periodicals that you see on our Edmonton Branch shelves (with a few exceptions). We will be canceling many of the duplicate periodical subscriptions effective in the year 2000. The money saved will then be applied to alternate purchases.

It has been brought to my attention that many of the periodicals currently available are not being borrowed from either library. We will soon be asking for feedback from our members to determine where to allocate funds for library purchases. Your responses will help us to spend your dollars more wisely.

If you are able to find the time, don't forget to browse through some of the journals in the AGS library and in our branch library. Articles may describe the social or economic conditions which led to the emigration of your ancestors. Besides informative new articles, you may find someone advertising in a query section who turns out to be a long lost cousin (it happened to me). You may also find that new resources are available which didn't exist the first time you did research in that area. There are often advertisements for indexes on microfiche or CD-ROMs which can store huge amounts of information specific to the localities of interest to you. We also subscribe to a periodical which can help you learn about the use of computers in genealogy called, of course, *Genealogical Computing* [published by Ancestry.com].

Next time you are looking for an item in our library, please try out the new locality catalogue, which supplements the author and title catalogue cards. At the last library volunteer staff meeting, Shirley Machan explained how books specific to a certain county in Ontario, for one example, will now sit together on the shelves (with some exceptions). For further details, refer to Shirley's article in the November 1998 issue of *Relatively Speaking* (p. 33). ■

Recording and Indexing

Submitted by Wilma McKinnon, AGS #3212

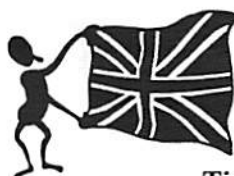
Cemeteries - The cemetery group was very busy this summer. The headstone recordings for both Beechmount and St. Michael's have been completed. These two cemeteries were a major undertaking - many thanks for the efforts of Larry Clark and Jean Klohn who coordinated this effort. Data entry has barely begun, hopefully we will be able to complete this phase over the winter months.

Other areas of the province have also been worked on. Many thanks to Lucille Horne, Noel Nicolson, Roger Raballo and Peter Goutbeck for jobs well done in coordinating these efforts. ■



Special Interest Groups

England & Wales Special Interest Group



When: Next Meeting - September 2, 1999 (first Thursday of each month with the exception of July & August).

Time: Come at 7:15 as we begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Where: 116, Prince of Wales Armouries, 10440 - 108 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. Anyone with research in England or Wales is most welcome to attend! We attempt to challenge, educate, inform and assist each other in our research.

For information, or to add your name to our phone list, please call Muriel Jones at 447-3592. ■

Irish Special Interest Group



We were pleased to see 24 members attend the September 13th meeting. Allan Ronaghan gave an excellent talk on Griffiths Evaluation and some of the members took advantage after the meeting to look at the CD on the computer and were able to find their families listed.

November 8th - Les Campbell will talk about his family and ties to Ireland. Claudine Nelson will tell us about the role of the High Sheriff. Margaret Bendickson - Irish certificates found in records at Salt Lake.

Members are encouraged to tell us what research they have done and what records they are using. New members are always welcome. For more information: Call Pat - 454-4408 or Margaret - 922-3050. ■

East European Special Interest Group

Our next meeting will be held on January 5, 2000 at the AGS library, in the Prince of Wales Armouries. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

For further information on our group or to suggest topics/guest speakers for future meetings, please contact Joan Margel at (780) 436-3506. ■

My family coat of arms ties at the back ... is that normal?

Scotland Special Interest Group

The October meeting has come and gone. Welcome back to another season.

The December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 1999. The first meeting of the new millennium will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2000.

The Scotland Special Interest Group is in desperate need of someone else to come forward to sit on the Steering Committee. It is not a hard job, we just need someone to help see that things run smoothly.

Please call Margaret Bendickson at 922-3050 if you would be willing to help.

Check out our new web site at
<http://www.geocities.com/~srg/scottish.htm> ■

German Special Interest Group

The next German Interest Group will be held on November 17, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. at the Edmonton Branch Library.

Before breaking for the summer we had decided to hold meetings every other month rather than monthly. Two reasons prompted this. Firstly the library is being used so frequently and some of the other groups also meet bi-monthly that we thought freeing up an extra day a month won't hurt our work. Secondly the meeting day always seems to come around so quickly we need a little more breathing space for ourselves.

We are still trying to get a good handle on our activities. What a project could be that doesn't necessarily deal with our own research but with German research as such. Our November meeting will likely answer that question. ■

Compugene Special Interest Group

Submitted by Ivy Trumpour, AGS #2168

The Compugene Group of computer wizards and wishers last met on September 16. Over the summer Lynda Sallis collected an impressive list of websites and a summary of what might be found on them, which she shared with the group. These were found through newsgroups and mailing lists that are available online. Walter Meyer gave a demonstration of PAF 4.0, introduced in June, explaining its advantages and disadvantages and how to obtain it. Marion Rex



showed us some digital cameras and how they work, even let us take some shots.

Our e-mail list includes over 50 names. Members of the group are encouraged to use it to ask other members for help in solving problems. Even experienced computer users have been successful using this route.

The group would welcome volunteers to present information on suitable topics. Help with organizing and leading the meetings is also needed.

Meetings are held bimonthly on the third Thursday of the month at the AGS Library. The next meeting will be held on November 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the AGS Library. If you wish to be on the e-mail notification list, send a message to jtwells@compusmart.ab.ca. ■

NOMINATIONS:

Edmonton Branch AGM in February

Submitted by Claudine Nelson,
Past President, Nominations Chair

Seeking people to be on the Edmonton Branch Executive. This is a great opportunity to participate in decisions that affect Edmonton Branch, at the Library, and in its other activities.

We are seeking nominations for: Library Director, Publications Director, Programs Chair, and a Finance Chair. In brief:

Library Director: oversees the library operations and the purchasing of acquisitions.

Publications Director: editor of Clandigger, liaise with groups producing our Branch publications.

Program Chair: organizes topics/speakers for the evening program following the General meeting.

Finance Chair: to oversee the Branch finances.

We encourage committees to be of 3 members.

The Executive meetings are on the second Thursday of the month, excluding July, August and December.

Only you, your family and friends know what you have to offer. Please put your name forward or suggest a name. Unfortunately, neither I nor the other Executive members are mind readers. You say you don't know enough about the Society/Edmonton Branch. This is the way to learn and assist in the ongoing challenge of promoting Genealogy. Questions? Ask! For more information, please call Claudine @ 487-0099 or e-mail cbn@powersurfr.com. ■



Heritage Seekers

Extracts from the September, 1999 Newsletter of the
Grande Prairie & District Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society



President's Message

By Margaret Kay

Greetings to you all! I hope you had a wonderful summer filled with digging and delving – into your family history of course!

My own project this summer was to tidy, correlate and generally sort all the information that I had in the house before I embarked on any more research. This was started in part because of the increasingly messy piles of papers and pictures that were accumulating but also because I really couldn't figure out what I needed to know until I was sure of what I already knew. I entered a lot of data into my new software program and "just like magic" the gaps were revealed! My winter will not be boring – I have lots to do!

Judy Bradley hosted three study groups since June that focussed on research and were enjoyed by those who attended. I highly recommend that you attend a future session. The next one will be on Wednesday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Library. Apart from that the summer was a quiet one for our branch.

September also sees our next Executive meeting and our Branch meeting. For a fortunate group of members it means a trip to Salt Lake City to do some serious research. Good luck to you all. I hope you find lots of missing links.

Have you noticed how much space is taken in genealogy publications with advertisements and articles relating to internet use? It certainly is a burgeoning business. We have been fortunate enough until now to use a part of Laura and Bill Turnbull's website but it is getting full and we had to investigate a new location. Now that's a sign of the times!

Our home on the internet has now been moved and you can find us at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~abgpags/>

Our Volunteers

By Catherine Ledger

Going back to June (if we can bear to go back and recall those early days of summer.....) several volunteers were involved with the Grande Prairie Highland Games. Thanks to Gail Shau, who is a member of the Scottish Society in town, our organization was invited to set up tables in the Muskoseepi Park Pavilion. With the help of Laura Turnbull and Debby Was, visitors were able to come inside and try their luck on the internet genealogy sites. Thanks go as well to Marian Ledger, Catherine Ledger, Dorothy McDonald, Leita Askew and Bertha Melnyk, who all helped that day.

Also in June was the last general meeting of the season, where members Catherine Ledger and Barb Moreau presented an evening of music and dance as the program. Volunteer guests from the community performed dances from various countries and played music from different parts of the world. The evening was informative as each group shared some history of their dance or musical instrument. As a highlight, Catherine and Barb got up in front of the group and participated in an English Morris dance with their newly formed Morris "team". (Quite entertaining to see the look of surprise on members' faces!!) Lastly, member Gail Shau and her friend taught the group a Scottish country dance. It was a fun way to round out the year and celebrate multiculturalism at the same time!

Over the summer, members continued to work on their obituary "adopt-a-year" projects in the library. Thanks to Tracey Kirouac as I neglected to mention her in the last newsletter - she has completed her year and handed it in. The new deadline for this project has been set as December 1999 (for the rest of us who are late!!)

In July the cookbook committee got together and had a meeting. They are presently requesting genealogical tidbits, jokes, sayings etc. for the book. Please forward to Catherine Ledger if you have any neat items to add.

Paulette Hrychiw was very busy this summer helping on the Grande Prairie Archival Records Survey Committee. In this capacity she was not volunteering for the genealogy society, but if an archives becomes

available in this city the genealogists will benefit!! Paulette was helping to identify and locate archival material in the area.

Another activity Paulette took on this summer was to put together a quilt (called "Rhapsody in Blue") for a raffle this November. Thanks Paulette for your hours of hard work!! Thanks also goes to Debby Was and some of the members of the Grande Prairie Miniatures Club who are donating an "Attic" - a miniature room box also for the raffle. Thanks goes to Debby for her work on building the attic.

When I sat down to write this I thought not much had gone on over the summer but obviously a lot has! Let's keep it up Grande Prairie Branch!

Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
11212-102 St., Grande Prairie
(Use north entrance)
Telephone: 532-3609

Tuesday: 10 am - 4 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm
Wednesday 1 pm - 4 pm, 6 pm - 9 pm
Saturday 10 am - 3 pm

Closed on Saturdays of Long Weekends
Or if -25 Degrees 1 Hour Before Opening

Old Newspapers

By B. Joan Bowman

Births marriages and deaths as contained in the Grande Prairie "Herald" newspaper. Continued from the June 1999 issue of "Heritage Seekers".

(Note: This article is included as an example of the ongoing articles included in the regular issue of Heritage Seekers)

Mar 7, 1922 Issue:

- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank GUTHRIE, March 5, a son."

- "Mrs. J.A. EVANS received word her brother Capt. Ralph FORREST died in Winnipeg on Feb. 25th. Capt. FORREST resided at Lake Saskatoon in the years 1913 - 1915."

Mar 14, 1922 Issue:

- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. A. EDGEWORTH of Tate Creek Ranch, March 7, a son."

Mar 21, 1922 Issue:

- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. A.J. BURGESS, a daughter."

- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Sam LOWE, March 9th, a daughter."

Mar 28, 1922 Issue:

- "Wedding - March 22 at the home of the bride's parents when Miss Norah FISH, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.R. FISH of Grande Prairie married Mr. Thomas PAUL, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John PAUL of Fort Saskatchewan ... groom attended by Mr. John MCAULEY. Ceremony conducted by Rev. Dr. FORBES."

Apr 4, 1922 Issue:

- "In the Estate of James E. HOWARD, late of the Hamlet of Lake Saskatoon, AB. Farmer, deceased ... who died 6 Feb. 1922 ... "

- "In the Estate of A.E. BROWN, late of Post Office of Bralnard (? - poor newspaper print), AB, Farmer, deceased ... 10 June 1922 ... "

Apr 11, 1922 Issue:

- "At the Manse on April 5, 1922, Mr. Sven Hjalwar JOHNSON married Helma WALLIN, both of Grande Prairie. Rev. FORBES officiated."

- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. SLATHER, at Valhalla, April 6, a boy."

Apr 18, 1922 Issue:

- "To the Estate of William SYLVESTER, late of Clairmont, AB, Farmer, deceased ... who died on 13 Nov. 1921 ... "

- "Peter S. HARLEY of Beaverlodge died April 10 ... resulting from slipping and falling and striking his leg on a nail and severing an artery and then bleeding to death ... 55 years of age ... has a wife but has been separated for a number of years ... "

- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. T. RICE, a daughter."

Apr 25, 1922 Issue:

- "At the home of Mr. Cal CAMPBELL of Hermitt Lake, April 3, Mr. N.E. CLOW and Miss C. WILKIE were married. Rev BURNES of Lake Saskatoon officiated ... Miss WILKIE is the Secretary of the local Hospital Board at Grande Prairie."

- "Notice to Creditors and Claimants in the Estate of Edward Peter Rae HEGLER, late of the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, USA and formerly of Grande Prairie, AB ... who died 19 May 1921 ... "

Mar 1, 1922 - Jan 1, 1923 Issues:

Note: There are no issues of the Grande Prairie "Herald" newspaper on microfilm at the Grande Prairie Public Library for any of these stated issues!!!!

SPRING CREEK:

In reading old Grande Prairie newspapers, I frequently come across the place "Spring Creek". I have often asked people where this place is located but no one seemed to know. In travelling west of Grande Prairie, I have seen the sign "Spring Creek Road" and there is also "Spring Lake", a popular campground and lake north of Hythe, Alberta. Recently in reading a family story printed in the Grande Prairie "Daily Herald Tribune" newspaper, I learned that "Spring Creek" is now what we all know as "Dimsdale", located west of Grande Prairie a few miles!

Library Announcements and Methodist Research

By Debby Was

Genies are back in the library starting October 6th - every Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm and Friday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm. Volunteers are welcome to drop in and share their knowledge. We would have started a week earlier, but the "Genies" are going to Salt Lake City (Woo Hoo!) Laura Turnbull, Paulette Hrychiw, Val Jenner and I are leaving on September 23 and will return October 4th. The Edmonton Branch AGS will be in Salt Lake City at the same time. Wow! Almost two whole weeks of doing nothing but genealogy research and sharing it with good friends who understand our enthusiasm.

Judy Bradley and Barb Moreau will be giving a presentation about genealogy at the Peace Library System's Rural Librarians' Conference on September 30. Judy Schultz of the Edmonton Journal will join them. Ms. Schultz will be speaking about her own personal research, while Judy and Barb will give a presentation on resources.

New in the GP branch library collection:

- Alberta Sources
- Who's Who in Southern Alberta (Southwestern Edition) 1988-1989
- East European Genealogist (starts with Vol. 7 No.3, Spring 1999)

Two Ontario newsletters have decided to cancel their exchange with our branch:

- Ottawa Branch, OGS - last issue was Vol. 32 No. 4 Jul/Aug 1999
- Toronto Branch, OGS - last issue was Vol. 30 No. 2 Apr 1999

In Volume 32, No. 4, the July/August, 1999 issue of the Ottawa Branch News, there is an excellent article titled "Researching Methodist Ancestors" by Donald A. McKenzie. Reverend McKenzie is a retired United Church minister and a member of the Ottawa Branch, OGS. He is also the author of several publications containing extracts from various Methodist papers.

Our library collection holds all of the publications mentioned in his article (thanks largely to Paul Gibson's generous donation) with the exception of "Obituaries from the Canadian Christian Advocate, 1873-1884" by Donald A. McKenzie. I will order this publication as soon as possible. Hopefully this list will make it easier to find those illusive Methodist ancestors in Ontario and Quebec.

These titles can be found in the Isabel Campbell Room of the Grande Prairie Public Library:

- United Church Records at Ottawa City Archives by Donald A. McKenzie (at PLS)
- R GEN 929.371 3 HOP Index to Niagara Conference Methodist Episcopal Church Baptismal Register, 1849-1886, 2 Volumes, indexed by Louise Hope.
- R GEN 929.371 3 REI Marriage Notices of Ontario by William Reid
- R GEN 929.371 3 WIL Ontario Marriage Notices by Thomas B. Wilson
- R GEN 929.209 713 ONT Ontario Register, Volumes 5, 6 and 7
- R GEN 929.371 3 REI Death Notices of Ontario by William D. Reid
- R GEN 929.371 3 MCKE Death Notices from the Christian Guardian, 1836-1850 by Donald A. McKenzie
- R GEN 929.371 3 MCKE Death Notices From The Christian Guardian 1851-1860 by Donald A. McKenzie
- R GEN 929.371 3 MCKE More notices from Methodist papers 1830-1857 by Donald A. McKenzie
- R GEN 929.371 3 MCKE Obituaries From Ontario's Christian Guardian 1861-1870 by Donald A. McKenzie
- R GEN 929.371 3 MCKE Death Notices From The Canada Christian Advocate 1858-1872 by Donald A. McKenzie
- R GEN 929.371 3 MCKE More Notices From Ontario's Methodist Papers 1858-1872 by Donald A. McKenzie
- (R GEN 929.371 3 MCKE) Obituaries from Ontario's Christian Guardian 1873-1880 by Donald A. McKenzie (at PLS)

We also have two other publications about Methodist records:

- R GEN 929.371 3 QUI Early Methodist Records by the Quinte Branch, UEL
- R GEN 929.371 3587 MET Methodist Church baptismal records 1841-1888 Prince Edward County, Ontario by Bob & Verona Milner

Branch Meetings

are held at the
Grande Prairie Public Library
Meeting Room, 9910 - 99 Avenue,
Grande Prairie, Alberta
on the
Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
except for July, August, and December

Contact Information

Grande Prairie & District Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society
Box 1257
Grande Prairie, Alberta
T8V 4Z1

Email:
agsgp@canada.com

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~abgpags/>

Executive

President: Margaret Kay
Vice President: Debby Was
Secretary: Marian Ledger
Treasurer: Dorothy McDonald
Past President: Allen Meyer

Committees

Cemeteries: vacant
Historian: Fran Moore
Library: Debby Was
Membership: Laura Turnbull
Obituaries: Laura Turnbull
Obituaries: Alfred & Gwen Richards
Phoning: Nancy Timanson
Phoning: Evelyn Stark
Publications: Judith Bradley
Publicity: Leita Askew
Researchers: Paulette Hrychiw
Researchers: Joan Bowman
Volunteer Coordinator: Catherine Ledger

Newsletter "Heritage Seekers"

Editor: Judith Bradley
Layout & Copying: Laura Turnbull
Distribution: Dorothy McDonald

"Heritage Seekers" is published four times a year by the Grande Prairie & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society in March, June, September and December.

All members receive "Heritage Seekers" as part of their membership. Memberships are available at a cost of \$7.00 per year (all members must belong to the Alberta Genealogical Society).

Subscriptions are available at a cost of \$10.00 per year.

BRANCH BITS

BROOKS AND DISTRICT

The current membership for the Brooks Branch is forty three. Volunteer hours for the three month period of April to June are 285.5.

Our June wind-up dinner was held at the Legion with a supper and visiting among members and guests afterward. This event was enjoyed by all in attendance. Museum Day on August 7 was once again a successful event. People who toured the Albert house were entertained with music played on the piano by local talents. People who are interested in the research of their family history signed up for our fall beginners' course.

As well this summer, a grant application that was applied for was received. This grant comes from the Wild Rose Foundation and will enable us to purchase a photocopier and computer for our room. With the awarding of the grant, Alberta Genealogical Society and its branches may not apply for a grant from this foundation for three years. At this time I wish to thank Tom Trace and Richard McNeill for the help they gave so willingly for the grant.

Upcoming events in September are a Show and Tell of members' research stories over the summer months. Programs are planned for October and November meetings and will be announced when they are decided. Also planned for this fall is a mall display in October and the beginners' course to follow in November.

The last bit of news is that Andy Menard has agreed to become President for the Brooks Branch. This will be done at the October meeting as he is now on holidays.

Respectfully submitted by Betty Penner
President, Brooks and District Branch ■

COCHRANE AND DISTRICT

No report submitted.
■

DRAYTON VALLEY

Here's hoping!! Drayton Valley may have finally found a permanent home. At the end of July, we moved our equipment and materials to a space in Shangri-La Lodge, the Seniors' Lodge, in Drayton Valley. We will be making an annual donation in lieu of rent, and this has been reduced as we will also be helping any seniors who wish to write their stories.

Our September meeting will be highlighting a talk by a local lawyer on the forms and necessities of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Personal Directives. This is a topic that is very necessary, and will perhaps be of importance to genealogists in the future as wills are today.

We have also planned a fundraiser that will be held on September 25th. A local author will be doing a presentation on "Tell Your Story", and signing copies of her own family story - the second volume of which is just being printed. We are all very excited about this event. Again, here's hoping!

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth F. Smyth
President, Drayton Valley Branch ■

EDMONTON

Please see Clandigger. ■

FT. MCMURRAY

Our volunteer hours for the last quarter are 102 hours. Getting back on track after the holidays, our first meeting will be a fun one. Bring your antiques and those trinkets that have been handed down and give us the story on who they belonged to and where they are from.

Our election is in October, so it is possible that this is my last visit. I would like to say at this time that it has been a pleasure to meet and sit in on the meetings. I'm sure I'll miss the time I spent here.

We kept regular hours over the summer due to all the film we received from the National Archives. Sometimes they're slow coming, but we do get them.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Waniandy
President, Fort McMurray Branch ■

GRANDE PRAIRIE AND DISTRICT

Please see Heritage Seekers. ■

LETHBRIDGE AND DISTRICT

On June 11, 1999 our branch took part in the **Seniors 2000 Information Fair** at Fritz Sick Memorial Centre. A copy of the Census petition was available for the public to sign.

The **Census Petition** is also located at our Branch library. There is a copy at the Family History Center in Lethbridge as well. This census can be downloaded from the Internet. An article "Genealogists fighting for access to census records" appeared in the Lethbridge Herald on June 29, 1999. For continued information on the census issue, please check the 'Net' at: <http://www.globalgenealogy.com/census/index.htm>.

Petitions from across Canada will be presented to Parliament in October. It is still important to continue the letter writing campaign.

A Cemetery Recording of genealogical material from the headstones in Mountain View Cemetery, Lethbridge, Alberta took place July 10, 1999. Fifteen members arrived eager to get started. In a three hour period 1,080 stones were examined. We had a continuation of this recording on August 28, 1999 with nine people attending. Over the summer Eleanor McMurchy and Bev Tufts have continued recording on their own.

Pat Barry and Kathryn Harrington represented our Branch at the Genealogy Workshop held in Edmonton on June 5. This was an all-day workshop intended to give the participants a course on how to teach genealogy courses. Pat and Kathryn found the course very informative.

Congratulations to Winnifred Evans on her marriage to Michael Tomasjewski on July 31, 1999. Winnifred and Michael are busy building a new home as well. We wish them all the best.

As of August 31, our member is 49 paid memberships with a total of 45 members. Volunteer hours from June 1 to August 31, 1999 total 368 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Burnett
President, Lethbridge Branch ■

MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT

Unavailable.

Deb Phillips
President, Medicine Hat Branch ■

RED DEER AND DISTRICT

June was a busy month for the Red Deer Branch. Three of our members, Janet Coatham, Evelyne Fairbrother and Diane Lehr attended the course in Edmonton on how to present a beginner genealogy course. They came back full of enthusiasm and good ideas. They will be offering a one-day beginners course on October 23 which will be open to the general public.

For the June meeting of our branch, we were invited to the home of Joanne and Glen Allen for a pot luck dinner. We had a good turnout and the weather cooperated somewhat, but everyone had a good time. Many thanks to Joanne and Glen for hosting this annual event.

At the June Executive Meeting of the AGS, our branch received approval for a \$1,000.00 matching grant to buy census records in microfilm. We were extremely pleased with this news and look forward to increasing our microfilm collection so that we can better serve our members and the general public.

Our branch did not meet over the summer nor did we have Wednesday evening meetings in the library. These will resume in September.

Plans are underway for a mall display at the Bower Mall in Red Deer on September 25th. We hope to attract new members and inform the public of our upcoming beginners course. For our September meeting we have three members of the Calgary Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia coming to speak to us. We are looking forward to their talk.

Again, as a reminder, at our November 25, 1998 meeting we approved an increase in our annual branch fees from \$7.00 to \$10.00 effective January 1, 2000.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Joan Cornett,
President, Red Deer and District ■

* * *

SASKATCHEWAN HOMESTEAD RECORDS

From V2, #3, Summer 1974

By C.D. Denney

Submitted by Vivian Etty

Saskatchewan history, Winter 1965, on page 10, has an article by Lloyd Rodwell, Staff Archivist, Saskatchewan Archives Office, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, on Saskatchewan Homestead Records.

A heading to the article indicates that the Saskatchewan Archives received the Homestead Records of the former Department of the Interior in 1956. Between then and 1965 the Archives Office had prepared a name index by means of which files for any one homesteader can be located. The note says further that the records occupy 1,800 linear feet of shelf space, and the index consists of approximately 360,000 cards.

The applications for entry onto a homestead would appear to be most valuable documents for genealogical researchers. Mr. Rodwell says the applicant was supposed to supply his nationality, place of birth, citizenship status, previous occupation, previous place of residence, the names of the members of his family. All listed in the order of their ages, and he was to indicate which were adult male, adult female, or children under 12 years.

Though it appears all these details were not "required", they were sometimes given. It would appear, therefore, that if an ancestor homesteaded in Saskatchewan, it should be possible to discover where and when by writing to the Saskatchewan Archives, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Now — what about Alberta? ■

WEB WHILE-U-WAIT

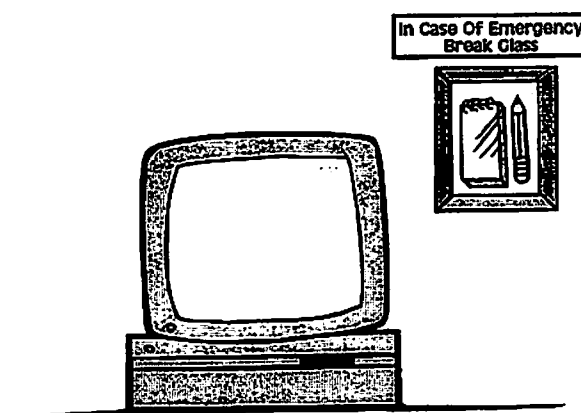
By Dave Geddes, AGS #3485

Here are a few sites I have come across lately which, I think, are worth passing on to others who may be interested.

If you can trace your ancestry back to post-Reformation Austria there is a site for Exulanten (Protestants forced to leave Austria in the 16th - 18th C.) Find: www.rootsweb.com/~autwggw/agsfrx.htm.

For Canadian Ship Passenger Database: www.ingeneas.com/ingeneas/index.html (Source: RWR 4.26).

If your people happen to be of Mennonite stock from the Volhynia region of the Ukraine then check out VOLHYNIA-MENNONITES-L-request@rootsweb.com.



Given names or surnames that have been changed, primarily without leaving any legal record, 'absolutely no adoptions UNLESS prior to 1890'. I don't know how the impossible can be done, but see for yourself in the ALIAS-AKA listing in Rootsweb-Review@rootsweb.com (Source RWR 2.24).

Duffus is a well known name in Scotland in the Elgin, Morayshire area. You can find 'several genealogical trees' plus photos, etc., at www.duffus.com (Source MorayRoots).

Then, one of those favourites, which you can't do without - for all those who may from time to time need help with their Gaelic. For Gaelic-English translation go to www.ceantor.org/Dicts/MF2/index.html (Source Morayroots). Happy hunting! ■

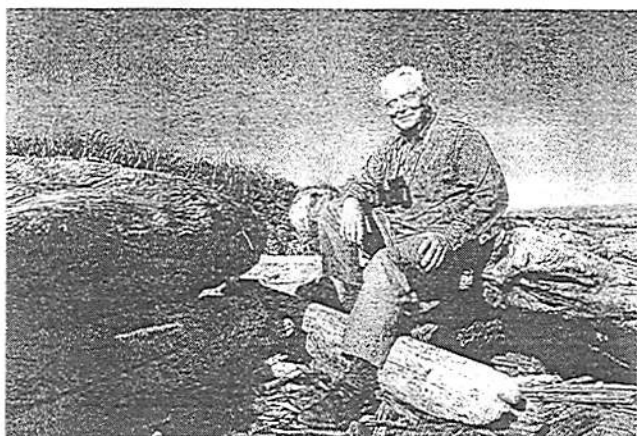
HONOURS FOR WONDERS

Excerpts from Canadian Geographic, n.d.
Submitted by Pat Hewitt.

An early Edmonton Branch and AGS member, William 'Bill' Wonders was the recipient of the 1998 Massey Medal, presented by The Royal Canadian Geographical Society to recognize outstanding achievement in the exploration, development and description of the geography of Canada.

Wonders took much of his schooling in Toronto and later became the first geography teacher at the University of Alberta. In 1957 he became head of the new geography department at the U of A. The University has bestowed his name on the map collection he began and lovingly nurtured. The William C. Wonders Map Collection is now considered the largest university collection in Canada.

Now retired, Wonders lives in Victoria and continues to work on research and writing projects.



THE BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE

from The Tracer, Oxford County Branch OGS
November 1997

<http://schoolnet2.carleton.ca/books/books.htm>
<http://www.schoolnet.ca/books/remember.htm> ■

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

from Bruce & Grey Branch, OGS Vol. 28 No. 4 1998
Submitted by Pat Hewitt
by the Editors
Reader's Digest, November 1996 Issue

In "HE WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN," an article reprinted from *Legion Magazine* in the November 1995 Reader's Digest, Ross Toller told of visiting the Memorial Chamber in the Parliament Buildings.

There, in Canada's Books of Remembrance, among the names of the thousands who gave their lives in the service of their country, he found the name of his uncle, Pte. William Toller, killed in France in 1917. The article noted that relatives and friends of sailors, soldiers and airmen killed in war may obtain, free of charge, a colour copy of the page on which the name is inscribed.

Five months after the article appeared, Toller received a letter from the House of Commons Office of the Sergeant at Arms telling him that his article had not only sparked a markedly increased demand for copies of pages but revealed a number of omissions and misspellings in the Books of Remembrance, anomalies the Department of Veterans Affairs has since set about correcting.

More than 2,200 requests for pages were submitted as a direct result of Toller's Reader's Digest article, almost half the 4,900 requests submitted since the practice of providing colour copies was begun in April 1993, and this fall, (1996) requests were still being received.

"When I wrote the article," Toller says, "my intent was to tell the story of William Toller, his sacrifice in the Great War and Canada's remembrance of him. Knowing that Reader's Digest was instrumental in identifying omissions and ensuring that these men, too, receive their place of honour is a much greater success than I expected. Thank you."

To request the page containing a specific name, write to Robert Biron, Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Room 647 North, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6. Please indicate full name and year of death. (One page per family.)

Among the ways we remember and honour the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for us is by wearing of a poppy each November. ■

ALBERTA STRAYS

JOBIN, Violet May, Death, 1977 APR 08, Dawson, Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1977 Apr 20, p18

JOHNSON (FLINT), Janet Mary Ellen, Death, 1997 OCT 20, Toronto, ON. Source: "Toronto Star", 1997 Oct 22, pD9

JOHNSON, Willard B, Death, 1997 MAY 11, St. Joseph Hospital, Bellingham, Wash. Source: "The Belingham Herald", 1997 May 15

JONES, Earl Deen, Funeral, 1981 SEP 30, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1981 Oct 03, PA3

JOYCE, Norma, Death, 1997 MAR 22, Pouce Coupe, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", 1997 Apr 01, p9

JUDGE, John Lawrence Edward, Death, 1998 FEB 05, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1998 Feb 17, p8

KANIUK, Juvenalia Mary, Death, 1997 JUL 22, Montreal, PQ. Source: "Toronto Star", 1997 Jul 23

KING (LARSON), Laverne V, Death, 1997 AUG 16, Hampton, NB. Source: "Times Globe", Saint John, NB, 1997 Aug 19

KITCHEN, Raymond Charles, Death, 1997 AUG 15, Liard Hot Springs", BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News, Dawson Creek, BC, 1997 Aug 18, p1 and 1997 Sep02, p9

KNOTT, George, Funeral, 1981 NOV 16, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1981 Nov 18, pA14

KNOTT, Mary Ruth, Death, 1997 DEC 31, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1998 Feb 03, p9

KOZMA, William G, Death, 1978 JUN 17, Vancouver, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1978 Jun 23, pp1 & 3

KRASS, Harry Charles, Death, 1998 JAN 11, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1998 Feb 03, p9

KUCHER, Mary, Burial, 1981 JAN 13, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1981 Jan 21, pA3, 1981 Jan 23, pA12

LAMBERT, Donald Joseph, Funeral, 1997 APR 01, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1977 Apr 13, p23

LAUDER, Robert Bernard, Death, 1998 JAN 14, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC 1998 Jan 20, p10

LAZINCHUK, William, Death, 1978 OCT 29, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1978 Nov 03, p12

LEPRETRE, Gabriel Daniel, Death, 1981 JUL 23, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1981 Aug 10, pA3

LILLICO, Verna Fanny, Death, 1997 SEP 19, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", 1997 Sep 23, p5

LOROFF, Barbara Ann, Death, 1979 APR 27, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1979 May 09, p10

LUSTED (STAFFORD), Helen, Death, 1997 NOV 01, Scarborough, ON. Source: "Toronto Star", 1997 Nov 04, pB7

MCCARTY, Arthur Stephen, Death, 1979 SEP 20, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1979 Sep 25, pA10

MCNIVEN, Alexander Maxwell, Death, 1981 DEC 09, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1981 Dec 15, pA3

MILLIKEN, Jesse Edward, Death, 1997 JUN 09, Dawson Creek, BC. Source: "The Peace River Block News", Dawson Creek, BC, 1997 Jun 24, p5

****Be sure to look in future issues for the continued list of Alberta Strays.** ■**

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MILITARY WEB SITES

from The Okanagan Researcher
Kelowna and District Genealogical Society
Vol. 14, No. Two, December 1997
by Gayle Jespersion

Records of the Canadian Expeditionary Force:

<http://www.archives.ca/db/cef/index.html>

This is an on-line, searchable database. Attestation papers may be ordered on-line, but you must write to the National Archives for complete personnel files.

Canadian Military Genealogy FAQ:

<http://www.ott.igs.net/~donpark/canmilfaq.htm>

Sources for Canadian military genealogical research.

Canadian War Museum

<http://www.cmcc.muse.digital.ca/cwm/cwmeng/cwmeng.html>

The Canadian Great War Homepage

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ww1can>
Canada's Role in World War I

The Books of Remembrance

<http://www.schoolnet.ca/books/remember.htm>
The names of Canada's War Dead

Veterans Affairs, Canada

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/brief.htm>
This website includes some audio files of veterans speaking about their wartime experiences.

World War I, Trenches on the Web

<http://www.worldwar1.com/>
An Internet History of The Great War

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<http://www.open.gov.uk/cwgc/cwghome.htm>
The Commission maintains records of all those who died whilst serving with Commonwealth forces during the First and Second Wars.

The OLIVE TREE Genealogy Homepage

Military Records and Indexes, including: Red River Expeditionary Forces (Riel Rebellion)
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/rrefint.htm>
The War of 1812
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote.1812.htm>

RCAF Personnel - Honours and Awards

<http://www.achq.dnd.ca/awards/index.htm>

This index is a compilation of some 9,200 awards to roughly 8,300 RCAF personnel, announced between 1940 and 1949, for services during the Second World War.

Master Index of Army Records (US)

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/records.htm> ■

WHEN CENSUS IS TAKEN IN JUNE (1921)

There is no "Canadian" or "American" race, according to the regulations set down for the taking of the most complete census of the Dominion's population ever recorded, which starts on June 1st. These two words indicate nationality only. If your ancestors have resided in Canada for ten generations or even more you will have to determine your racial origin by tracing the origin of your first great-grandfather who settled on this continent.

The paternal blood determines racial origin in all white people. If a man's paternal grandfather is English and all three of his other grandparents are Irish, he is of English racial origin. All French-Canadians who bear British names will be of British racial origin under this rule.

In the case of Indians, the origin is traced through the mother. In recording them the census takers will give the name of their mother's tribes, such as Chippewa, Cree, Blackfoot, etc. "Children begotten of marriages between white and black or yellow races will be classed as Negro, Mongolian, Chinese, or Japanese." say the instructions from Ottawa. The question of paternal colour is left undecided, which may cause the census takers some trouble ... A list of the 44 principal languages spoken in Canada are given for the information of the enumerators, to help them understand answers and be correct."

From "The Canadian Echo", Warton, Ontario
11 May 1921
London Leaf, Vol. 26, #1, February 1999 ■

CROFTS AND CROFTERS

By Dave Geddes, AGS #3485

There seems to be an air of romance about crofting in Scotland. The wee hoose among the heather. The cow by the gate and the peat smoke rising so poetically from the chimney. Like many of the mind pictures we may have of our forebears reality provides a harsher picture.

Many, if not all, the crofts of the Western Highlands and Islands were poor things established on the poorest soil in a wind and rainswept landscape. This is a beautiful area if you want Romantic Scotland, as a tourist, or for photographers seeking pictures for next year's calendar. For a man and his family, because they all had to be involved, it is a wilderness of land most unsuited for agriculture. Marginal land 'on the edge of husbandry', rocky with little soil and much poorly drained peat-bog.

The people who tried to eke out a living here were those who chose not to be exported as commodities to the colonies when they were forced off the better land by the land-owners to make way for profit in the form of sheep. (Although there were crofts before the Clearances.) They were the victims of the feudal land-owning system in Scotland, a system in existence since the 12th Century, and one promised to be the 'first order of business', for revision of the new Scottish Parliament.

The crofter did gain some measure of independence, a measure that the modern crofter would still claim as his most important right. Independence can come at a high price. His house was usually a simple building with an earth floor. An earth floor in a land where it rains constantly often turned to mud in wet weather. The Rev. Coll Macdonald writing about crofting on Skye in 1841 described it thusly:

The poor tenants are almost universally under the necessity of having their cattle under the same roof with themselves, without partition, without division and without chimney. Their houses therefore are smoky and filthy in the extreme; and having little either of night or day clothing, and their children mostly approaching to absolute nakedness they are fully as much without cleanliness in their persons as they are in their houses.

- Statistical Account of 1841. (Quoted in The Ballad and the Plough-David Kerr Cameron, 1978)

The crofters in the West planted oats between the rocks and along the waters' edges, and in whatever other nooks they could find. Some may have had an acre or two which they could call 'field', but overall it was slim pickings. It was a gamble on a single crop in a harsh climate. It seemed like a blessing then when a new crop, the potato, came into general use. It was bountiful and easy to grow. It became a staple of the crofter's diet meaning that they depended on it to the extent of letting the oats crop decrease. The result was disastrous. Although the Potato Famine is thought of as being an Irish disaster, it affected the West of Scotland as well, only in much fewer numbers. I don't have to spell out the miseries caused by crop-failure.

In Eastern Scotland, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Banff and other counties crofting was the same but different. Here at least there was soil but the land the crofters got was usually, again, of marginal quality, it was the land that the gentlemen farmers didn't want. Much of it had to be cleared of its heather, it was peaty and boggy but there was always someone willing to sacrifice his labour for his independence. The crofts in the West and in the East varied in size but in all cases the acres were few - the census records read like 'farmer - 26 acres', farmer - 11 acres, maybe higher, often lower. By the 1930s the typical croft in the East was described as a man with ten acres, a cow or two, hens, some hay crop, a few acres of oats and some turnips. The latter to probably either be fed to the cows or sold to the landowner to help feed his sheep.

The Great War of 1914-1918 changed many things. Men who had gone to war had seen other ways of life and were not content to scrape a mean living from a croft for the rest of their lives. They went to the cities instead and were welcome in the police forces of Glasgow and other places. (It was a commonplace, maybe even a tradition, in Glasgow in the '30s and '40s that the six foot 'polismen' in Glasgow were all Highlanders.) Many sons of the West went to sea as merchant seamen. Others chose of their own free will, and influenced by an intensive Canadian immigration campaign in Britain after the war, to seek new lives in Canada. ■

THE OLD CHURCH IN BORZYSZKOWY

By Peter von Lipinsky, AGS #4032

My interest about the history and background of my family dates back nearly 50 years. At that time, I had asked my father what information he had about the history of our family. Unfortunately, my father's knowledge in regard to our family was rather limited. My father did tell me, however, that there are several different branches or clans of the "von Lipinskis", and as far as my father knew, we belong to the "Pazontka" clan. (As I found out later during my research, the name "Pazontka" was one of over 30 different ways of spelling or writing this name. As it turned out, the correct name is "Pazatka.")

Pressing my father for more information about my great-grandfather and grandfather, or anybody else from years past, did not produce any further useable results, except that my great-grandfather was born in the town of Glisno, West Prussia, and that my grandfather was born in the town of Zemmen, in the Province of Pommerania. It wasn't much to go on, and I realized at that time, which is now almost 50 years ago, that I had a lot of work to do, if I ever wanted to know the history and story of my family.

MY BIG BREAK CAME WHEN RELATIVES IN HAMBURG, GERMANY AGREED TO TAKE MY WIFE AND ME ALONG IN THEIR CAR.

So my very first inquiry about the history of the "von Lipinski(y)" family was directed to the German Heraldic Archive in Marburg. The reply arrived two weeks later, confirming only what my father had already told me about the different branches or clans, which go by the name of "Lipinski". The reply from the archive also gave a description of the family Coat of Arms, which up to this date had not been known exactly. The description of the "Wappen" was one more reason to intensify my research about the "von Lipinskis".

I guess I didn't know at that time so long ago, that the genealogy bug had bitten me, and that now, almost 50 years later in a different land, I am still infected with no known cure in sight.

In 1955 I decided to leave Germany to try my luck in Canada. For the first few years in Canada any

research I might have wanted to undertake had to be put on the backburner for economic reasons. Years later, as I traveled to Germany to visit relatives and friends, I was able to obtain a few old pictures and documents here and there, but nothing to take me back into history past my grandfather.

Most of my working years in Canada, I spent working for the oldest trading company on the North American continent, The Hudson's Bay Co. After 32 years of service, it didn't take much to convince me to take early retirement in 1995. Now I had the time to do what I wanted to do for a long time, research my family.

THE BIG HELP WE HAD WAS THAT MY RELATIVES SPOKE GERMAN, POLISH AND KASCHUBIAN

My big break came when relatives in Hamburg, Germany agreed to take my wife and me along in their car and drive from Hamburg to Poland. So arrangements were made in August of 1998 and we drove from Hamburg to the border crossing at Szczecin and then on to Gdansk for a few days of holidays. From Gdansk we continued to Bytow with our final destination being Tuchomie, a little but very friendly town. Here we had good, clean accommodation. From Tuchomie we drove to all the small towns on different days to search for the past. The big help we had was that my relatives spoke German, Polish and Kaschubian. The towns we visited were: Ciemno, Glizno, Plotowo, Bytow, Nieczabyszewo and Borzyszkowy.

We also visited several cemeteries in the area to search out the inscription on the different headstones. In the area around Borzyszkowy, there seemed to be approximately six different clans of the Lipinskis, which are: Jant Lipinski, Wnuk Lipinski, Pych Lipinski, Rymon Lipinski, Pupka Lipinski and Pazatka Lipinski.

Why are there double names e.g., von Pazatka Lipinski? Our old double family name, as recorded in the church records from the church of Borzyszkowy show that our name was recorded as Nobilis Mathias Pazatka Lipinski.

Let's examine the four segments of the name:

1. Nobilis - latin for 'aristocrat' or 'The Noble'. It also means 'free man'. Nobody has any claim on this man (i.e., nobody owns this man). The name

Pazatka alone was enough that everybody knew that the bearer of this name was 'Nobilis'.

2. Mathias - his first name.
3. Pazatka - this was Mathias' family name.
4. Lipinski - derived from the town of Lipienice (Polish) and Liepnitz (German). Today the name of this town is Lipnica.

This means that at one time, Mathias Pazatka had his own land (the Pazatkas often had substantial landholdings) in or around Liepnitz/Lipienice. To identify the different families (i.e., Nobilis Mathias Pazatka) with his landholdings being close to the town of Lipienice now became known as ... 'Nobilis Mathias Pazatka Lipinski'.

***THERE ARE ALSO NAMES LIKE
BORZYSZKOWSKI, OSTROWSKI AND
KIEDROWSKI...***

Over the years, and for a variety of reasons, the name was changed many times either by some clerk who forgot to write the name down correctly, or some descendant who just dropped either the name Pazatka or the name Lipinski. You now could have Mathias Pazatka or Mathias Lipinski or Mathias von Pazatka Lipinski or Mathias von Lipinski, or any other combination made up from his original name.

There are even today a few Parzatkas living in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Illinois. I am sure that we have here some descendants of the old Pazatka family from around Borzyszkowy.

There are also names like Borzyszkowski, Ostrowski and Kiedrowski which are all names derived from existing towns like Borzyszkowy, Ostrowite and Kiedrowice. There is a Professor Dr. Josef Borzyszkowski now lecturing at the University of Gdansk. His roots date back over 500 years to the town of Borzyszkowy.

Most of these towns belonged to the parish of Borzyszkowy and the records from this church go back to the very early 1700's. Earlier records have been destroyed. The Zweitschrift (handwritten copies) from the old church records are in the archive of the Bischoefliches Zentralarchiv in Regensburg, Germany. A lot of the original records as well as some of the Zweitschriften are available on microfilm from the FHC in Salt Lake City.

A visit to the church in Borzyszkowy is unforgettable and almost a must for anybody with roots in this area.

The church was built in the 1600's and burned down on May 17, 1721, but was rebuilt the same year.

There are many hand-painted religious pictures inside the church. Above the pulpit there is a canopy with five Coats of Arms from five of the old Nobilis families from the surrounding area. In the church yard you will find, even now, the gravesite from Theophil Simon von Pazatka Lipinski, born on 11-10-1845 in Liepnitz and died on 18-12-1926 also in Liepnitz. From the location and size of the headstone, Theophil must have been a strong supporter of the church.

On our way back, we stopped in Bytow and had lunch at the Kaszubianka Restaurant. The quality of the food was excellent and the price was more than reasonable. Do I have any regrets? Yes, I didn't stay long enough.



**CONGRATULATIONS
ANTHONY CAMP, MBE**

In the Queen's Birthday Honours Anthony Camp was made an MBE for services to the Society of Genealogists. This is a well deserved award, for not only did Anthony spend his whole working life with the Society, he has, as most family historians know, been a tireless worker and international diplomat on behalf of British family history.

Over the years he has sat on many committees connected with the preservation and use of records and has never been afraid to speak his mind when he has felt things should be done to improve access to sources. On retiring from the SoG, Anthony was elected President of the Federation of Family History Societies and has recently returned from a speaking tour of New Zealand. ■

WHAT IS THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES?

by Richard Ratcliffe
Director of Public Affairs

A registered educational charity founded in 1974.

- The umbrella organization for 220+ family history societies worldwide. These include County Family History Societies (FHS), Town/District FHS, One Name Societies, Societies with European links, State FHS in Australia and Canada, National Societies as in NZ, as well as Societies like the SOG and IHGS.
- Criteria to join the FFHS - Minimum membership of 40 members, Soc. Must have been in existence for at least 12 months, have an agreed constitution and publish a regular magazine/journal.
- Member societies pay an annual subscription of 20p per member calculated at year-end with a minimum sub of £25 and a maximum of £400 for large societies.
- Membership includes a cheap, comprehensive Public Liability Insurance within the annual subscription; cheap Personal Accident Insurance and Assets Insurance are also available to member societies if required.
- FFHS represents the interests of Family Historians on governmental and national bodies. Lord Teviot is the spokesman in the House of Lords.
- FFHS is represented on the British Genealogical and Record Users Committee (BGRUC) along with Society of Genealogists, Genealogical Society of Utah, Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Association of Genealogists and Record Agents, Public Record Office, Family Records Centre, Public Record Office in Northern Ireland, General Record Office in Scotland, National Library of Wales.
- Through its Publishing Company, (FFHS Publications Ltd.), publishes over 160 titles on an enormous range of Family History subject which are sold to member societies at a discount for resale as well as to commercial outlets. Every member society gets a free copy of every title on publication. Profits from the Publishing Company are covenanted to the educational charity.
- FFHS publishes a Handbook every 2 years listing all member societies and their officers. Changes in personnel are shown in Newsflash as advertised.
- FFHS publishes Family History News Digest twice yearly. This contains reports by Officers on the Executive Committee, reports on the activities of Member Societies, Digests of articles published in Member Societies' magazines, book reviews and an updated list of Member Societies with Society Secretaries' names and addresses.
- FFHS publishes Newsflash every 2 months to all MS - information of more immediate interest and action.
- Day to day running of the FFHS is maintained by 3 part-time paid staff - Administrator, Assistant Administrator, and Finance Officer and the elected members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee comprises of: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Directors of Finance, Publications, Projects, Education, Public Affairs, Publicity and Archive Liaison and Computers, the International Liaison Officer and Representatives of the SOG and IHGS. Members of the Executive Committee are elected at the AGM held each year in April, initially for a term of 3 years, which can be extended for a further term of 3 years. The members of the Executive Committee report in turn to the Federation Council which meets half yearly. The Council determines FFHS policy to be followed.
- FFHS has several Subcommittees chaired by Directors on the Executive Committee - Education, Public Affairs, F&GP and Computers.
- FFHS produces free guidelines for MS such as Guidelines for Society Secretaries, Society Treasurers, Society Editors, Model Constitutions, Running Conferences and Lists of Recommended Speakers.
- Through its Officers and Subcommittees, the FFHS offers advice and assistance on a wide range of subjects from VAT to publishing on fiche or choosing suitable computer software.
- FFHS organizes regular one day conferences and occasionally conferences of up to five days.
- FFHS runs regular one day seminars for MS officers - Secretaries, Treasurers, Editors, Projects Coordinators, etc.
- FFHS initiates or coordinates National Projects, e.g., 1881 Census Project, National Burials Index, Big R, National Inventory of War Memorials.
- FFHS Public Affairs Committee members attend FH Fairs to promote FH and the work of MS. In 1999, it attended Fairs at Westminster, York, E. Anglican Fair, SW Societies Fair, NEC and NW Societies Fair.

- FFHS has produced a series of information leaflets for distribution to member societies - also available at Family History Fairs.
- FFHS promotes FH and FFHS services via the Internet - this is currently being upgraded. ■

NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH?

By Susan McKeen, AGS #1910

One of the most valuable research tools available is the New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register. It contains scholarly, well-sourced articles dealing with history and genealogy. The publication also frequently has transcriptions of different types of records.

The Society recently published a set of nine CDs containing the full text of the first 148 volumes of the Register (1847 - 1994) plus a fully searchable index. It is now almost impossible to obtain this valuable resource in book form, and if it was possible, space to store it would quickly become a problem.

The cost of the set of nine CDs is \$265.50 US. The price makes it difficult for the Edmonton Branch Library to purchase the set. However, several people have already shown an interest in obtaining this set, and are willing to donate towards the purchase price. Allowing for the exchange rate, if 25 people were to donate \$20 Canadian, we would have enough to order this wonderful reference for the Library. The set would be held as part of the Reference section.

For further information, please phone:
Brent Long 438-0231 or
Susan McKeen 466-0114

Together we can acquire this unique resource for our Library! ■

FROM THE INTERNET

From Generations Vol. 24, No. 3, September 1999

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer, and because their calendar was lunar, we know (the time) today as the "honeymoon". ■

DESCRIPTIONS

HESSIANS - German troops used by the British in the Revolutionary War.

HUGUENOTS - French Protestants who fled from Religious Persecution. They first went to Prussia, the German Palatinate, and then came to America. Those in the French West Indies escaped to the southeastern coast of America, others went to England and Ireland.

LOYALISTS - Those men who supported the British during the American Revolution and who settled in Ontario, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia.

MENNONITES - A Swiss Protestant group formed in Bohemia in 1525, followers of Menno Simons. They migrated to America by way of Alsace, England, and Russia, settling primarily in Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota.

MORAVIANS - The United Brethren, a Protestant group formed in Bohemia ca. 1415. They spread to Poland, Prussia, Germany and England.

QUAKERS - The Society of Friends was formed in England in 1648. Early restriction brought them to New Jersey in 1675, and in 1678 some 230 English Quakers founded Burlington, New Jersey. More than 3,000 Quakers settled in Pennsylvania in 1681, after William Penn was granted the territory.

SCOTS-IRISH - The descendants of Presbyterian Scots who had been placed in the northern counties of Ireland by British rulers in the early 1600s. Most came to America, starting in 1718, first settling in Pennsylvania.

WALLOONS - Peoples from Southern Belgium. The language of the Walloons is a dialect of French. Cornelis May of Flanders, Holland. About 30-40 families came to America in 1624 and established Fort Orange, now known as Albany, New York.

from Tree Tracer Vol 19 #3, Sept 1998 ■

POTPOURRI

WESLEYAN METHODIST BAPTISMAL REGISTER

From the Toronto Tree, Volume 30, Issue 4
July/August 1999-09-09

This information has been prepared for all who have an interest in the transcribing of this important burial register.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church required its ministers to submit baptismal returns from about 1840. These were copied into the General Register. The copy books are contained in four volumes which are arranged by township, town or city and are held at the United Church/Victoria University Archives in Toronto. The entries start with one in 1825 and a few in the 1830s. Most entries appear between 1840 and 1873 and the latest in 1910. Known transcriptions of parts of the General Register have been published in several OGS Branch newsletters. The areas covered include nine Ontario counties and parts of Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta.

On behalf of the United Church Archives, Toronto Branch's Places of Worship Registers Inventory Committee has agreed to coordinate and standardize the transcribing and indexing of the General Register. A formal agreement has been prepared. Copyright will be held by The United Church of Canada. The promotion and sale of the transcribed copies will be the responsibility of the participating OGS Branch or individual.

So that there will be a uniform appearance and to avoid duplication of volunteer efforts, a standardization package has been prepared to assist an OGS Branch or others interested in this project. To obtain this package or further information please contact: Sandra Moore at (905) 881-0526 or Dorothy Martin at (416) 222-6918 or write to them at the Branch address. ■

Halbert's is going out of business. "The company blames 'competition from the Internet' as the reason for their business problems," says Dick Eastman in his Online Newsletter, September 12, 1999. This is

the infamous company that sends out mailings that offer to send you the *New World Book of [your surname]*.

If you had not read the numerous warnings about this product, you might order it, only to find that any surname information is generic and the people in it are listings from telephone directories found for no cost out on the Web.

Elliott Bloom, spokesman for Cendant, the parent company, says "The product has really run its course as far as viability, so the best course of action was to close the business."

It looks like genealogists are getting smarter.

Excerpt from UGA News
Vol. 28, No. 5, Sept. 1999 ■

The Ordnance Survey has made available on the Internet an on-line gazetteer which provides means of searching a large list of place names extracted from the Ordnance Survey database, but not including farms and houses. The search will return the name of the place, its county, grid reference and the number of the 1:50,000 Landranger series map that the place appears on. For those with access it can be found on the GENUKI home page.

From Cleveland FHS Journal
July 1999, Vol. 7, No. 7 ■

DOMINION LAND GRANTS

From The Nipissing Voyageur

Web site:
<http://www.archives.ca/exec/naweb.dll?brs?020111/e/t/op/0>

This speciality database relates exclusively to Letters Patent issued by the Lands Patent Branch of the Department of the Interior. The records refer to grants issued in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the railway belt of British Columbia, c. 1870-1930. ■

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY ARCHIVES

The Nipissing Voyageur

If you are certain that your ancestor was employed by the HBC and you know which post he worked at you can contact the HBC archives and they may be able to conduct a brief search and provide you with additional information. Contact: Andrea Paci, Archivist, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Provincial Archives of Manitoba, 2-200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg MB, R3C 1T5, phone: (204) 945-7586, fax: (204) 948-3236 or e-mail: apaci@chc.gov.mb.ca.

Visit their web site at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/index.html>

■

FREE GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

From the Nipissing Voyageur

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) is offering free downloads of its genealogy software program. The newest version of Personal Ancestral File (PAF) is a windows based version (Version 4.0). For those new to computers, it will be much easier to learn than the old DOS versions. To find out more about it and to download the program go to their web page: www.familysearch.org. ■

PRICES FOR UK WILLS

From Cleveland FHS Journal

July 1999, Vol. 7, No. 7

As of 26th April the prices charged by the Principal Registry of the Family Division (PRFD) for copies of wills/admons 1858 to date will be going up.

For personal applicants at First Avenue House or a District Probate Registry, any copy of a grant of probate, including a copy of the will, if there is one, will cost £5.00 (five pounds). This is an increase from the current prices of 25 pence for a grant and 75 pence for a will. Any extra copies ordered at the same time will be £1.00 (one pound) per document.

If you want to read the will or grant in the searchroom, the fee will go up to £15.00 (fifteen pounds), from the current rate of 25 pence. No, this is not a mistake or a misprint, yes, it is an increase of 5,900%.

Postal applications to the sub-registry at York will be £5.00 (five pounds) for a search of up to four years, including a copy of the grant, and the will if there is one. Additional years will cost £3.00 (three pounds) for every four year period. There is no refund for an unsuccessful search.

There are changes to the prices of their other services, but the above are the ones of the most relevance to family historians. ■

NEWS RELEASE: INTERACTING WITH YOUR ANCESTORS

Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, (Wednesday, August 18, 1999) - Admittedly, computers are incredible tools for researching and recording family history. Researching on the internet can bring a wealth of new discoveries to be verified and the newer genealogical programs with multimedia offer the ability to link an individual to their photos, sounds and videos. With the click of a mouse you can see, hear or watch a beloved relative. Scanners to digitize your relatives' photos are user friendly and affordable but sounds and videos? Are these genealogical programs offering something that is beyond our grasp?

The answer is yes and no. "It is as easy as and as complicated as hooking up a ghetto blaster or VCR to your computer with the hardware and software needed for sound and video editing," explains owner of Digitell Legacy Productions, Nancy Carswell. "Even your camcorder can be hooked up to your computer and it is best because the video quality has not been diminished by copying. Then you need the hardware and software and an inclination to develop the expertise. If you desire multimedia but are missing one of these necessities, our company offers these as a service and goes beyond by creating an interactivity that is customized for your family."

Imagine inserting your interactive family history CD and, after an introduction scripted by your family, clicking on a beloved relative in the waterfall style family tree chart. Read their biography or story or other writing written by the individual or about them. Their photos are first presented as a group of small "thumbnails" with each mini-photo being a link to the full size image with description. Their sounds and videos are short clips from cassette tapes and VHS tapes.

"It is the sound and video clips that really make this sing and dance," says Carswell. "My husband's aunt had kept this incredible cassette tape of Christina, her grandmother, my husband's great grandmother. Not only had Christina recorded her voice but she also sang a song and recited a poem. Imagine being in a room full of grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren who are hearing Christina who died in 1972. It was very memorable. Any of Christina's descendants who have a computer capable of multimedia, and most computers are now, can have a copy of the CD with Christina's sound clips and a host of other treasures."

"Every genealogist knows that time is running out but it is wisest to work from the known to the unknown. Multimedia is not yet for the masses but everyone can collect it now," Carswell points out. "While you are labeling and preserving all your photos it is equally important to label and preserve your cassette and VHS tapes."

Carswell does not minimize the amount of work a family must do to collect their media and organize it, "The family does all the work and we must have the honour of putting it together to create a timeless legacy."

By Nancy Carswell
Digitell Legacy Productions
"create a timeless legacy on CD ROM"
Visit: <http://www.carswells.com/dlp> ■

HUMOUR

A little boy opened the big old family bible with fascination and looked at the pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages. "Momma, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's suit!"

IN OUR MAILBOX

MacNamara Family History From Martin Breen

I have recently reprinted the 1896 history of the Irish family of the MacNamaras. Have you checked out the reprint of the history of the MacNamaras: <http://homepage.tinet.ei/~asdfgh/macnamara/>. It gives all the details on the MacNamaras for the last 1,500 years. The book was printed in a limited number over a century ago and is now a much sought after collectors item, with an enormous price tag. I will also supply the publication on demand. ■

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO IS IN THIS PICTURE?

The people in the picture are our very own AGS President, Carol (nee) Gilroy (Anderson) and her father, Charlie Gilroy. ■

KEEP IN TOUCH

Submitted by Sue Philips

Want to keep in touch with old friends from school? The Gradfinder website is the perfect place to do just that.

On Gradfinder you can search for friends, add your current contact information, a current photo, and details about what you are up to these days. You can update your information at any time after that. All changes happen immediately. There are also message boards you can use to help organize reunions. You can use our photo album wizard to create online albums to share with friends and family.

There are currently over 100,000 schools listed from Grade 1 to University from 60 countries around the world.

This service is free so check it out! This site can be found at: <http://www.gradfinder.com>. ■

WARREN BIBLE

Submitted by Phyllis Burnett, AGS #1772

The following Bible was given to AGS Lethbridge Branch researcher, Mary Roberts by Mrs. Mildred Rinke. In turn, it had been handed down to Mrs. Rinke from her grandfather, William Secord Crews born Apr. 27, 1887 in Godridge, (Goderich) Ont. died Apr. 10, 1974 in Lethbridge, AB. Mr. Crews came to Medicine Hat, AB in 1905.

Holy Bible, Old and New Testament together with Apocrypha. Published by: J.W. Bradley, 48 North Fourth St., Philadelphia, PA. Bible belonged to Mr. John Warren of Frome, Ontario.

Among the loose contents in the bible are:

- ❖ a red ribbon with ELGIN S.S. and B.Y.P.U. convention, Dutton '96
- ❖ certificate of signature - Ada Warren signed pledge of the Frome Cong. S. School. Jan. 20, 1884
- ❖ an ink drawing of a bird and the name Ambrose Warren in ink script
- ❖ two old samplers - Think Of Me and Let Us Have Peace
- ❖ business card from: T.M. Legg & N.M. Gass funeral directors 1470 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.; 376 Fourth Ave., Detroit, Mich.

Includes the following names:

Marriages

- ❖ John and Margaret Warren 18-6 - 1882
- ❖ Sara and D.L. McKay Sept. 12, 1889
- ❖ Nancy and Joseph Spackman May 23/95
- ❖ Ada and Herbert Dennis May 12/97
- ❖ Camilla and Eber Balsdon 12/98

Births

- ❖ Ambrose Warren Dec. 17, 1864
- ❖ Sarah Ann Warren Feb. 27, 1867
- ❖ Camilla Ambrosena Warren Nov. 25, 1869
- ❖ Nancy Euphemia Warren Jan. 26, 1871
- ❖ Archibald Warren (stillborn) Dec. 31, 1872
- ❖ Ada Warren Feb. 27, 1874
- ❖ Keith John, son of Nancy & Joseph Spackman Aug. 15, 1906
- ❖ Thelma Margaret, daughter of Nancy & Joseph Spackman Oct. 10, 1907
- ❖ Jennet Warren, (stillborn) March 6, 1864
- ❖ Edith, daughter of Sara & D.L. McKay June 11, 1892
- ❖ Willard, (stillborn) son of Nancy & J. Spackman Nov. 12, 1896

- ❖ Elmore Warren, son of Ada & Herbert Dennis May 19, 1898
- ❖ Wilfred Balsdon, son of Millie & Eber Balsdon May 6, 1900
- ❖ Warren Ellsworth, son of Millie & Eber Balsdon Apr. 18, 1902
- ❖ Ada Spackman, son of Joseph & Nancy Spackman Apr. 30, 1899
- ❖ Gladys Balsdon, Feb. 3, 1904

Deaths

- ❖ Janet Warren March 6, 1864
- ❖ Archibald Warren Dec. 31, 1872
- ❖ Ambrose Warren Jan. 21, 1882
- ❖ Ada Warren May 24, 1898
- ❖ Wilfred Warren May 10, 1900
- ❖ Elmore Dennis Oct. 1898
- ❖ Margaret Warren Aug. 28, 1908

A list of Marriages, Births and Deaths was e-mailed to the Editor of OGS Elgin Branch, St. Thomas, ON, February 6, 1999 by Marion Fleming.

We sincerely hope a descendant of this family will come forth to claim this valuable part of their history. ■

AIN'T THIS THE TRUTH!!

Author Unknown
from North Central North Dakota
Genealogical Record
March 1999, Issue 78

I started out calmly, tracing my tree,
To see if I could find the makings of me.
And all that I had was great-grandfather's name,
Not knowing his wife or from where he came.
I chased him across a long line of states.
And came up with pages and pages of dates.
When all put together, it made me forlorn,
It proved poor great-grandpa had never been born.
One day I was sure the truth I had found,
Determined to turn this whole thing upside down.
I looked up the record of our dear Uncle John,
Then found him younger than his son, Oh darn!
Then when my hopes were fast growing dim.
I ran across a record that must have been him.
The facts I collected made me quite sad,
For dear old great-grandfather was never a dad!
I think someone is pulling my leg,
I am not sure at all I wasn't hatched from an egg.
After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree,
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR 2000

FAMILY HISTORY COMPETITION

From Hamilton Branch OGS

August 1999, Vol. 30, No. 3

A Family History Competition will be part of the Ontario Genealogical Society's Seminar 2000, held Friday, May 12 to Sunday, May 14, 2000 at the Ottawa Congress Centre in downtown Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. This is a new event at OGS Seminars. Judges will award certificates and cash prizes for two classes of entry: Regular and Advanced. There will also be a People's Choice Award.

If you are an OGS member you don't need to attend to enter your family history. Your entry must be postmarked no later than 15 March 2000.

For more information (rules, entry forms, etc.) contact us in one of four ways: Visit our URL at <http://cyberus.ca/~ogsottawa/sem2000.html> or write to OGS Seminar 2000, Merivale Postal Outlet, P.O. Box 65087, Nepean, Ontario, K2G 5Y3 or contact Douglas Hill at (613) 746-9513, or by e-mail at djhill@netrover.com.

Disclaimer: All information about the competition is subject to change without notice. ■

CONFERENCE 2000
BATH UNIVERSITY, 12 - 16 APRIL 2000
"From Domesday to Database"
From Wiltshire Family History Society
Issue 74, July 1999-10-21

Talks of interest to family historians with over 20 top class speakers on a wide range of subjects, several coach outings, a banquet at the Assembly Rooms, Bath, including a tour of the costume museum.

The residential accommodation is limited, but there is room for a number of day visitors and some extra banquet seating. Early booking is strongly advised.

Full details of programme, prices, etc., from Wiltshire F.H.S. Conference 2000. The Workroom, Castle Lane, Devizes, Wilts SN10 3SB or e-mail at donainge@aol.com, or by phone 01380 722893. ■

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Join us in celebrating the heritage of the Yorkshire Settlers, 1772 - 1775 immigration. August 3 - 10, 2000 - NB/NS Border Area.

For information please contact:

Yorkshire 2000
c/o Tantramar Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 6301
Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada
Telephone: (506) 536-4895, or
<http://tapnet.tap.nb.ca/tht/york2000.html> ■

IN SYMPATHY

- * Sympathy is extended to Peter and Rose Goutbeck and their family on the death of their daughter-in-law.
- * Sympathy is extended to Richard and Lois McNeill on the death of Richard's mother, Jean, at 88 years of age.

? ? ? ? **QUERIES** ? ? ? ?

Queries are accepted free of charge from members and non-members. To purchase a copy of *Relatively Speaking*, in which the query appears, non-members should send \$5.50 per copy with their query. Cheque to be made payable to the Alberta Genealogical Society. Please forward your queries, typewritten if possible, otherwise printed plainly, to:

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website: <http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/abgensoc>

e-mail: agsoffice@compusmart.ab.ca

HOLT, Barbara A. - 12 Rayleigh Close, Colchester, Essex, CO4 4AT, England

HODKINSON Seeking info on my great uncle Frank Hodkinson, born 16 Sept 1896 at 9 Meadow Street in Wheelton near Chorley in Lancashire, England. He was the only son of John Henry and Eliza Hodkinson (nee Slater). His four sisters were Mary Jane 1885 - 1946, Annie 1887 - 1908, Bertha Alice b. 1890 and Gertrude Phyllis 1893 - 1969, my grandmother. Before emigrating to Canada he lived at 152 Southfield Street, Nelson Lancashire. My interest is purely for family research and any information would be greatly appreciated.

WRIGHT, David - 35 Little Green Lane, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8TF, England

Tel: UK country code + 1252 722560

WRIGHT Alfred Godwin Wright was born in the London area of England 15 Nov 1885 at 67 Furley Street, Camberwell, Surrey. Father was James Wright, a wheelwright by profession; his mother Ann Wright, nee Godwin. Alfred grew up at 26 Bulwer Road, Edmonton in Middlesex, north of London with his parents, brothers and sisters, prior to emigrating to Canada in approximately 1906 or 1907. He ended up in Toronto prior to returning to England in 1914 to fight in WW1. He returned to Canada shortly after the war and our family eventually lost touch with him. It is believed he made his way to Alberta. If any of this sounds familiar I would appreciate a call or letter to assist me with my family research.

WAFT, Lynn - 4 Whitebridge Road, Onchan, Isle of Man, British Isles

Tel/Fax 01 624 672056; e-mail: gwaft@enterprise.com

ORGILL Searching for info on Thomas and Ellen Orgill who emigrated to Edmonton from Featherstone, Yorkshire, England after 1892. Their children were John (Jack), Phoebe, Ann Maria, Florrie, Evelyn, Millie, and Tom (killed on the Somme 1/7/16). Would be grateful for any information on these persons or their descendants.

HORNE, Lucille - 9505 - 87 Street, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta T8L 1G9

Tel: 1 780 998 9748, Fax 1 780 992 0415, e-mail: lucilleh@istar.ca

HALL Seeking contact with descendants of George and Louise (Bourke) Hall, their child Hazel Hall,
BOURKE living in Calgary at the time of the 1901 Canadian Census. George H. and Margaret (Hall)
POULTON Poulton, their child Alice, living in Calgary during the 1901 Canadian Census. George H. Poulton was listed as a fireman in the Calgary Henderson's Directory during the 1930's. David L. and Mary

Hall (parents of the above George and Margaret Hall) were living at Bowden in 1901. Also a brother, James Hall living at Lethbridge, another brother Walter Hall (harness maker) living at Innisfail, and a sister Charlotte (married name unknown). Any information regarding these people would be gratefully appreciated

ORR, Colleen - 22 Grenfell Ave., St. Albert, Alberta T8N 0Z1, e-mail: lifework @ freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

HAVELIN Merville, Co. Donegal, Ireland, 1850's. Searching for further info about Margaret Havelin (1815 - 1876) and her ancestors.

LYNCH Daniel Lynch moved from Co. Clare to Galway and then to Merville, Co., Donegal, Ireland, where he settled in the 1830 - 1850's.

KEARNEY From Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, Ireland in 1850's to present. Also Edward and John Kearney who settled in the USA pre 1950, grandsons of Daniel Kearney of Carndonagh.

SUTHERLAND From Duffus, Scotland. Researching Margaret Sutherland, born abt 1724, daughter of John Sutherland and Isobell Robertson (married 1709). Margaret Sutherland married James Rhind in 1743. Interested in information regarding the Sutherlands prior to 1724. ■

MEMBERS INTERESTS

ORR, Colleen - 22 Grenfell Ave., St. Albert, Alberta T8N 0Z1, e-mail: lifework @ freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

ORR, George (wife Sarah)	b.1774 d. 1858	Merville, Donegal, Ireland
MACPHERSON, Thomas	b.1856 - 8	Scotland/England; to Australia 1880/90
ANDERSON, George Charles/wifeb.	1820 - 30	Scotland/England; to South Africa 1856
HERBERT, Maryann	b. 1820 - 30	Scotland/England; to South Africa 1856
VanDAALEN (DALEN) Arie	b. 1710 - 20	Nederlands; to South Africa by 1750's

FERLAND, Sherry Anne - 22 Grenfell Ave., St. Albert, Alberta T8N 0Z1
e-mail: lifework @freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

BARNWELL, Patrick	1885 - 1971	Wexford, Wexford, Ireland
STAFFORD, Anne	1890 - 1973	Wexford, Wexford, Ireland
McCULLOUGH, John 1844		Ontario, Canada
ABRAMS, Abraham	1813	Pennsylvania, USA
BAUDER, Ira	1817	Frontenac, Ontario, Canada
SOMMERS		Ireland
HAMILTON		USA/ England
HAWKINS		England
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ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to any person wherever resident. {Bylaw 2.f(A)a}. Individual members are entitled to receive, without charge, one copy of each issue of "Relatively Speaking", the regular publication of the Society. {Bylaw 2, f(A)c}.

Family members: Provision may be made for the payment of annual fees on a family or household basis where more than one individual member resides in a single household. The household will receive one copy of each issue of the publications provided to an individual member, addressed to the member whose name appears first on a current alphabetical membership list. {Bylaw 2 f(B)}.

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OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that we desire to form a society under the Societies Act, R. S. A., 1970 and that:

1. The name of the society is:

Alberta Genealogical Society.

2. The objects of the society are:

a) To promote the study of genealogy and genealogical research within the province of Alberta;

b) To encourage adherence to accuracy and thoroughness in research;

c) To encourage and instruct members in the ethical principles, scientific methods and effective techniques of genealogical research and to defend the standards of genealogy from incompetent and disreputable persons;

d) To assemble a library of genealogical guides, handbooks, reference sources, family and local histories, and other books and materials which may assist the members, all of which will be available to the members;

e) From time to time to publish such bulletins, booklets, books, pamphlets, or other documents as may be found desirable and expedient by the Executive of the society and to make the same available to the members and others as such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Executive;

f) To establish friendly relations with other genealogical societies for exchange of ideas and informalities and the promotion of common interests;

g) To enter into arrangements with other genealogical societies for the publication of bulletins, booklets, books, pamphlets, or other documents, on such terms and conditions as may be found desirable and expedient, by the Executive;

h) To promote seminars and workshops on genealogical research and methodology and such other studies as may seem helpful to members;

i) To provide a centre and suitable meeting place for the various activities of the Society and its members by rent or purchase or otherwise;

j) To encourage the establishment of Branches of the Society under such terms and conditions as the bylaws of the Society, from time to time, provide;

k) To achieve the foregoing objects, funds may be raised and donations, gifts, legacies and bequests accepted.

l) The operations of the Society are to be carried out chiefly in the Province of Alberta.

Dated in Edmonton, Alberta, this 15th day of March, 1973.

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, Room 116, 10440-108 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9

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Basement, W. Entrance, Room #4
Phone: (403) 362-4608

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54 McDougall Road West
Cochrane, AB T0L 0W4

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President: Betty Smyth
Shangri-La Lodge
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Drayton Valley, AB
Meets 3rd Thurs., 7:00 p.m.
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President: Phyllis Burnett
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Meets 3rd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.
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President: Deb Phillips
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Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8
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Red Deer, AB T4N 5H3
Meets 4th Wed., 7:00 p.m.
Red Deer Museum
4525 - 47A. Ave
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