

# RELATIVELY SPEAKING

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE

## ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



**The very determined-looking woman in the middle affected the lives of all her descendents, whether they know it or not. To find out how, see page 7.**



# ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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## 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 that will be of interest to anyone researching their family in or from Alberta.

We publish four times a year. Distribution is approximately February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15. Closing date for receiving contributions is approximately six weeks before the distribution dates - i.e., January 10, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

Final authority for acceptance or rejection of material for RELATIVELY SPEAKING rests with the Editor. Neither the AGS nor the Editor assume any responsibility for errors or opinions on the part of contributors. Please contact:

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## AGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Meetings of the Board of Directors are usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of September, November, January, March, and June. Depending on circumstances, these may have to be rescheduled and, on rare occasions, have been cancelled. Members wishing to have an item included on the agenda should contact the Secretary, the President, or the Office Co-ordinator at least seven days before the next scheduled meeting.

## REGISTERED CHARITY

Donations made to the AGS may be claimed as a tax deduction, 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 Act.

## RELEASE OF PERSONAL DATA

Sharing information is one of the primary purposes of the AGS and an intent to which members subscribe when they join the society. Accordingly, the AGS makes information provided to it available to all. Members who wish some or all of their information to be kept confidential should either inform the AGS of this in writing so it can be deleted from the Society records, or not provide the information in the first place.

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## President's Message

*Ian Holmes*

I trust that our members and readers are enjoying a happy and productive summer.

Many AGS branches close down for July and August or devote their efforts to planning their Fall and Winter programs, but the AGS library in Edmonton keeps operating, thanks to the dedicated roster of volunteers. The library will be open once a month on Saturdays, but will be dropping the Wednesday evenings at least until October.

In the May issue of this magazine, John Hughes introduced himself and made some suggestions about the contents for future issues. He is following up in this issue with some ideas for formatting and presentation changes. Please let us have your comments about these.

In June, our website — or I should say Laura Turnbull, our webmaster — scored a real coup by being judged second amongst 53 websites rated by the Federation of Family History Societies. Congratulations Laura!

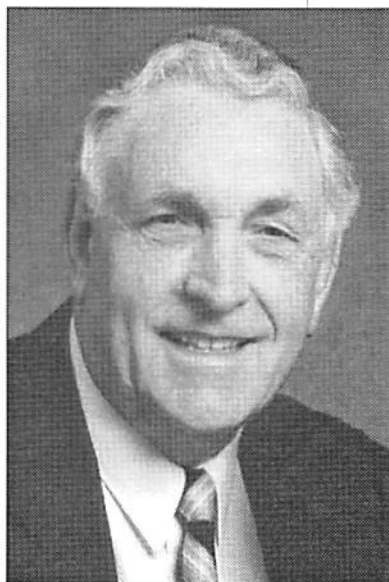
AGS has decided to put our cemetery/surname database on our website (or another suitable location on the Internet). We now have more than 700,000 records in this database and some professional help will probably be needed if we are to develop an adequate 'research engine' for visitors and researchers who want to search it.

On a personal note, my wife and I very much enjoyed the welcome given us at the 20th Anniversary Celebration for the Brooks and District Branch of AGS. About 65

*continued on page 2*

## Contents

President's Message .....	1
Queries .....	2
Research Committee .....	3
Help Offered .....	5
Editor's Remarks .....	6
My Montreal Ramsdens .....	7
The Cousins Next Door .....	10
Recrossing the Seas to Sweden .....	12
Yngvar's Alberta Relatives .....	22
Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland .....	23
AGS News .....	26
Branch News .....	27
Feature Volunteer .....	29
What's New in the Library .....	30
Gleanings from Publications .....	31
News from the Provincial Archives of Alberta .....	35
Announcements .....	36
Other Groups and Societies .....	36
From Other AGS Publications .....	39
25 Years Ago .....	40
Centre .....	between pages 20 and 21
Clandigger	
Heritage Seekers	





members and friends marked the occasion in a special way with an array of displays, table decorations, and buffet foods all keyed to the countries being researched by the members. All 10 past presidents of the branch were there to receive certificates of appreciation and enjoy the Scottish dancing and 'parodies'.

The achievements of the Brooks branch are quite spectacular and an inspiration for other branches. Although the Town of Brooks has a population of less than 11,000, the branch has had 40 to 50 members for several years. This compares with Alberta cities in the 30,000 to 70,000 range where other branches work very hard to hold onto 50 or 60 active members.

During the rest of my time in this office I will continue to work with the branches to consolidate and expand their presence in their respective local communities.

## Queries

Maggie Chmilar, 12 - 11574 St. Albert Trail,  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5M 3L5  
[muffy@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:muffy@compusmart.ab.ca)

**CHMILAR**, Theodore and **GOLINOWSKI**,  
Katherine – Konyushkov, Brody (Galicia)  
**LESIUK (LYSIUK)** Gregory and **TRACH**,  
Maria – Grytsevola, Radekhiv (Galicia)  
**FERLEYKO (FERLEJKO)** Ilko and  
**ROMANOWSKA**, Pelagia – Malnov,  
Mostyka (Galicia)

**HORYN**, Hyra (Harry) and **PANYLK** Anna  
– Manayyuv, Peremyshel (Galicia)

Note: Maggie tells us she has entered the local history book 'Memories of Mundare' into a Family Tree Maker database. It has over 9,000 individuals related to families from this area.

Mr. John W. Erricker, DFC, Archivist of 78 Squadron, Bomber Command, Royal Air

Force, is trying to locate relatives of the airmen in that squadron, including several young Albertans (listed below), who lost their lives in World War II. Ideally, he would like the names and addresses of living relatives of these men, but he is also interested in copies of any documents that identify any of their relatives. Since these men were mostly young and unmarried when they died, direct descendants are unlikely in most cases, but we have been able to supply him with obituaries for the parents of several of these men, which identify their siblings, nephews, nieces, etc. If you have any information regarding any relatives of any of the following young men from Alberta, please contact Mr. Erricker by e-mail at [john.erricker@cwctv.net](mailto:john.erricker@cwctv.net) or by regular mail: John W. Erricker, 7 Ebbisham Court, 34 Dorking Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7NN, England.

**BROOKS**, Keith Bishop, Flying Officer (Bomb Aimer), J/26706 RCAF. Died November 4, 1944, age 22. Son of Raleigh Bishop and Mabel Edith Brooks, of Edmonton. Panel 245 at the Air Forces Memorial, Runnymede, Surrey, England.

**BYERS**, James Edward, Pilot Officer (Air Gunner), J/89955 RCAF. Died June 13, 1944, age 19. From Calgary. (No family details). Buried in the Poix-de-la-Somme Churchyard, Somme, France.

**CLOW**, David John, Sergeant (trade not known), 970463 RAF. Died July 9, 1941, age 21. Son of Andrew Brown and Hester Clow of Medicine Hat. Panel 41 at the Air Forces Memorial, Runnymede, Surrey, England.

**COLE**, John Arthur, Flying Officer (Pilot), J/25897 RCAF. Died June 8, 1944, age 21. From Dinant. (No family details). Buried in Courances Communal Cemetery, Seine-et-Oise, France. (Note: Dinant was apparently about 8 miles east of Camrose.)

**GOLD**, Leonard, Flying Officer (Navigator), J/26287 RCAF. Died June 8, 1944, age 27. Son of William and Pauline

Gold; husband of Margaret Ellinor Gold, of Edmonton. Buried in Corbeil Communal Cemetery, Seine-et-Oise, France.

**MCNEIL**, Robert Willard, Flight Sergeant (Air Gunner), R/178854 RCAF. Died March 25, 1944, age 28. Son of William B. and Pearl McNeil, of Edmonton.. Buried in Les Hautes-Rivieres Communal Cemetery, Ardennes, France.

**MITCHELL**, John Arnold, Sergeant (Air Gunner), R/93972 RCAF. Died August 12, 1942, age 19. Son of John Henry and Marion Gertrude Mitchell, of Wetaskiwin. Buried in the Durnbach War Cemetery, Germany.

**ROBERTSON**, Wilbert James, Flight Lieutenant (Navigator), J/20244 RCAF. Died November 21, 1944, age 25. Son of Mark Wilbert and Bessie Mae Robertson, of Edmonton. Buried in the Stonefall Cemetery, Yorkshire, England.

## Research Committee

by Melva E. Robbins

On 15 March 2001, AGS, Edmonton Branch Research Services received an e-mail from John Forrester, explaining that he was a volunteer helping John W. Erricker, DFC, the Archivist of 78 Squadron, Royal Air

Force (RAF), to locate and photograph the headstones of Canadians buried in British cemeteries. John had recently photographed a headstone in Abbey Cemetery, Elderslie, Renfrewshire, Scotland, marking the grave of William Cleghorn Gilpin who died February 1, 1943. Engraved on the headstone was the information that he was a 23-year-old Flight Sergeant, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, RAF, the son of Herbert and Annie Milroy Gilpin of Kitscoty, Alberta. John indicated he would be happy to give a copy of the photo to anyone with interest in William C. Gilpin, in exchange for some further information about William and his family for the Squadron Archives.s

I accepted the challenge because I have family in the Kitscoty area and own a copy of the Kitscoty Community History, *OXEN TALES TO JET TRAILS*. A quick look in the index located two entries about the Gilpin family.

In 1905, John William Gilpin, his wife Phyllis (Stephenson), and their family of 10 children moved from Ontario to homestead in Alberta on SE 7-50-4-W4th. At the outbreak of WWI, their son Herbert joined the army and served with the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He met and married Annie Milroy Gleghorn in Paisley, Scotland, in 1918. After the war he returned to Canada to resume farming with his father. Annie and infant son Bill arrived in April 1921. Another son, Wally, was born in 1922 before the young family moved to their own homestead on NW 36-49-4-W4th in 1923. Two more babes arrived in quick succession; a daughter, Maureen, and a third son, Art. Herb and Annie farmed until 1939; Annie died in 1954 and Herb in 1974.

The article, written in 1981 by Maureen (Gilpin) Bigras, describes how her brothers Wally and Art continued to operate the farm, broken only by their service overseas with the RCAF during WWII, Wally as an air-gunner and Art an aerial photographer.

*Bill Gilpin (standing, third row, third man in from the left, with an X to the left of his head) with his RAF squadron in Scotland, about 1942.*



Maureen wrote that her eldest brother, Bill, was educated in Paisley, Scotland, joined the RAF in 1939, and was killed in 1943. He had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) for bravery and was a flying instructor at the time of his death. Maureen graduated from the Vegreville General Hospital School of Nursing in 1947, and in 1950 she enlisted in the RCAF, serving a five year term. At the time of the writing she had retired from nursing and was residing in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan.

The second article was written by Art's wife, Lillian (Fry) Gilpin. It reiterated much of the same family history, with some further information about Art. It included a picture of Herb and Annie Gilpin, likely taken at the time of their marriage, a couple of snaps of Art and Maureen on the farm, and one of Wally, Maureen, and Art in 1972. The Military Remembrance Section at the back of the book included photos of all three in uniform and a full-length photo of Issac Herbert Gilpin in his WWI uniform.

A search of the Saskatchewan telephone directory located a listing in Birch Hills for 'M. Bigras.' I wrote a short letter to Mrs. Bigras, explained who I was, and described John Forrester's photograph of William's headstone and the request for further information. In less than two weeks, I received a delightful reply from Marion (not Maureen — her name is wrong in the book!) expressing her pleasure in hearing about the interest in her brother and sending me a picture of Bill's squadron, a copy of the article from the Edmonton Journal (24 Dec 1942) when he received the DFM, and copies of the telegram informing the family of his death and the letter from the Group Captain, RAF Station Westcott, expressing sympathy and regrets. Apparently, the aircraft piloted by a pupil under Bill's supervision, was returning shortly after midnight from a cross-country flight when, in attempting to land, it overshot the runway

and before sufficient height had been gained, hit a tree near the village of Ashendon.

Marion went on to explain how her brother had returned to Scotland for his education and subsequently joined the RAF. Annie's father, William Gleghorn, came from Scotland to visit his daughter and grandchildren in about 1924 or '25. Not only was Annie exhausted and almost overwhelmed raising four young children, but William was appalled at the primitive living conditions on the farm and what he perceived as the unlikelihood of Bill receiving a good education in the 'Wilds of Canada.' He offered to take Bill back to Scotland for his schooling and Annie agreed, not realizing she would never see him again. Marion felt her mother never recovered from the loss of Bill and it eventually lead to her early demise.

I relayed all this information to John Forrester by e-mail, and mailed a package with the photo, transcripts, and copies of the pages from the book. In the meantime, he had mailed the headstone photos to Marion, as well as finding the address of one of her long-lost Gleghorn cousins as she requested. When I talked to Marion shortly afterwards, she was delighted to have received the photo and had already exchanged letters with her cousin, reuniting a family that had lost track of each other back in the '50s.

In researching this request, I noted the error in the spelling of William's middle name 'Cleghorn,' which should have been 'Gleghorn.' John has notified the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to correct their records, however, the headstone will have to remain as engraved.

## References:

OXEN TALES TO JET TRAILS, Inter-Collegiate Press of Canada, 1981.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
<http://www.cwgc.org>

## Help Offered

Virtually everyone who's serious about doing genealogy begins to build up a library of resources; usually they're books, but some people have CD-ROMs, microfiche, or even microfilms, depending on their resources and where their research leads them. But no one (probably not even the LDS Library in Salt Lake City) has — or can afford — everything. So some folks who have good research materials (or even just access to them) offer to look up information for those who don't have access to what they need.

Jean Armstrong, author of *The Cousins Next Door* (page 10), has quite a collection of Monumental Inscription books for towns and villages in East Yorkshire, and is willing to do lookups for anyone researching that area. There's a complete list of her MI books below. Each one lists all known inscriptions in a given cemetery; typically that includes the person's name and dates, but may include relationships, details of the person's origins or death, and occasionally a bit of poetry. Jean's address is [lilygrove7@aol.com](mailto:lilygrove7@aol.com). Note: you must use 'MI Lookup' as the subject, or your message will be deleted, unread.

There's no charge for these lookups, but don't expect them to be done instantly, and remember to say thank you. Best of all, maybe you can do the same for someone else.

So now that Jean has the ball rolling, who else out there has research materials they'd be willing to check for someone looking for a long-lost relative? Send me the details of what you have and any conditions you wish to set, and I'll put the details in this column. Thanks. *Editor*

Bainton  
Bishop Wilton

Burton Agnes  
Butterwick  
Cowlam  
Dalton (North & South)  
Driffield (All Saints)  
Fimber  
Fordon  
Foston on the Wolds  
Foxholes  
Fridaythorpe  
Ganton  
Garton on the Wolds  
Helpethorpe  
Heslerton (East & West)  
Huggate  
Hutton Cranswick  
Kilham  
Kirby Gryndalythe  
Kirkburn  
Little Driffield  
Long Riston  
Lowthorpe  
Lund  
Luttons Ambo  
Malton (St. Leonard's)  
Middleton on the Wolds  
Nafferton  
Old Malton (St. Mary's Priory)  
Rudston  
Ruston Parva  
Settrington  
Skeme  
Sledmere  
Thorpe Bassett  
Thwing  
Wansford  
Warter  
Weaverthorpe  
Wetwang  
Wold Newton

## Editor's Remarks

Welcome to my second issue of RELATIVELY SPEAKING. A quick flip through the pages will, I hope, give you an idea of where I want to take this publication.

The core of each issue will be original articles describing research undertaken by AGS members and other genealogists, supplemented by good-quality graphics that help tell the story. At the front and back of each issue will be news from and about the AGS itself, with priority given to queries from members and non-members alike, and results of the research undertaken by the research group.

These two portions of the magazine will be easily distinguishable, with articles being presented in a one-column format and AGS news in two-column format. I look forward to some feedback on what you think of this concept and layout.

Shifting the focus to all original articles, however, greatly increases the amount of work required to put together each issue. Marilyn Hindmarch very graciously (and quickly!) provided a wonderful item on how a matriarch can change the lives of many people, long after she's gone (facing page). I hope that my friend Jean Armstrong in Denver, CO, will become a regular contributor; her article on page 10 reminds us that some of our distant relatives are much closer than we think! And sometimes articles appear out of nowhere (see page 23) or are delivered up with only the slightest of urging (page 22). Many thanks to Marilyn, Jean, Dianne, and Ian.

In late May I spotted two brief articles by Laurie Keller in a RootsWeb newsletter. Without having any idea of who she was, I sent an e-mail asking if she'd be interested in combining them into a single article for Relatively Speaking. Luck was with me, as

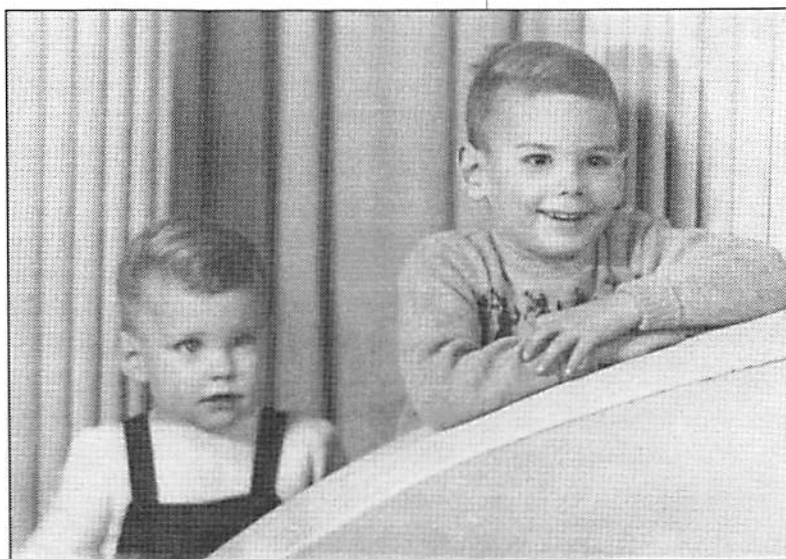
she readily agreed to do an article for us (see page 12), expanding far beyond what she was able to do in RootsWeb. The addition of graphics is simply the icing on the cake. Thanks again, Laurie.

The problem is that I can't always expect things to be this easy. And I won't always be able to spot items that will be of interest to AGS members. In short, I need help finding articles. If the person who steps forward wish a title, it would be Assistant Editor. There will be no writing or editing involved, unless you wish there to be. I simply need one or more additional sets of eyes to look for authors willing and able to write original articles, short items that could be expanded, or long items that could be trimmed down to fit the needs of RELATIVELY SPEAKING.

Sue Philips gave me a copy of an article on a Family History Society competition for the best journal put out by one of their member societies in 2000 (see page 38). In a year or two, I'd like to enter RELATIVELY SPEAKING in that contest, but it has a long way to go. If you'd like to help out, give me a call at 780 / 482-5419 or [jrhughes@telusplanet.net](mailto:jrhughes@telusplanet.net).

Thanks!

*Which of these charming children do you think grew up to become be the Editor of this magazine — not once, but twice? See page 40 for the answer.*





# My Montreal Ramsdens

## *How did my Anglican ancestors become Presbyterians?*

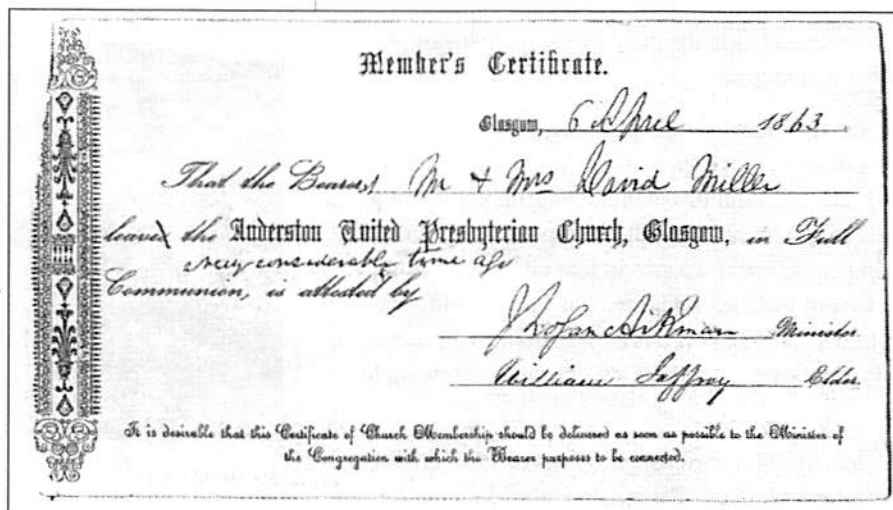
by Marilyn Hindmarch

*The answer may well be a strong-willed Scottish matriarch.*

My father's family were all Presbyterians and belonged to St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Montreal. My father was baptized in that church and married there as well, despite the fact that my mother was Anglican. This was probably because my mother had come to Montreal from Newfoundland and had chosen no church of her own at the time... although it could be that my paternal grandmother simply wouldn't hear of the wedding taking place anywhere else. His siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and one set of grandparents were also married there. A stained glass window in the church was dedicated by the family to his parents shortly after his mother's death. Presbyterian, the Ramsdens have always been, I thought.

In tracing the family back to its British origins, I discovered the Ramsdens had initially settled in Portsmouth, Ontario upon their arrival in Canada, and that all their children born there were baptized in either St. George's Anglican Cathedral or St. John's Anglican Church. My great-great-grandfather, George Ramsden, came to Portsmouth sometime before 1848, the year he married his Canadian-born wife in Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. George and his siblings

had been baptized in Salem Methodist New Connexion in Halifax, Yorkshire, his place of origin. All previous generations that I was able to locate had Church of England affiliations. An uncle living in Ontario told me there were a large number of Ramsdens listed in the Toronto phone book. I contacted all of these people, determined that some were cousins, and discovered that all claimed Church of England origins. Were my ancestors non-conformists whose marriages were required to be legally registered in the Church of England? Had they chosen the Presbyterian church for geographic convenience,



*The Member's Certificate issued to the Miller family of Glasgow by Rev. Aikman of the Anderston United Presbyterian Church before they emigrated to Canada.*

as another relative had done, thus establishing Methodist roots for his family?

I reviewed my records carefully, starting from my father's generation and going back, to see if I could determine when the change had occurred, looking for something that might hint at the reason for the change. Having grown up attending two churches I was curious and eager to know more about my paternal Presbyterian roots. As well as oral reports from aunts, uncles, and cousins, I had three generations of baptism, marriage, and burial records from St. Matthew's Presbyterian and four generations of records from Mount Royal Cemetery. I had

also verified baptism and marriage records for earlier generations.

What I found was one of my paternal great-grandmothers, Mary Elizabeth Miller, a very dour-looking Scot with very definite Presbyterian roots who seems to have influenced the

religious choice of all the Montreal Ramsdens. (I seem to descend from a long line of determined matriarchs.)

Mary was born in Glasgow in 1856 and her parents emigrated to Montreal in 1863 when she was seven. Her parents had been married in the Anderston United Presbyterian Church in Glasgow, where they were members. They were given a Member's Certificate in April, 1863 prior to embarking on their new life in Canada, signed by the minister, Reverend Aikman. It was to be presented to the minister of the congregation they chose to join in their new homeland, and was probably a very good recommendation for them as being upstanding Christian citizens - an important endorsement at that time.

Mary's parents joined St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church which had been formed and dedicated in 1861. She attended Sunday school and church there as she grew up, and it was there she married Richard Ramsden in 1881. He lived in Portsmouth, Ontario, at this time and was likely Church of England, as were his family who continued to reside there. He traveled to Montreal to marry Mary and they took up permanent residence in that city after a brief return to Portsmouth. In 1882 Hannah, the first of their six children, was born in Montreal and baptized in St. Matthew's Presbyterian, from whence she was buried less than two years later. In 1883 John, the first son and the first of five surviving children, was born. He grew up to become become my grandfather.

Richard died in 1900 in a railyard accident, leaving Mary widowed at the age of 44. A formal portrait of her with her children was taken at the time. After Richard's death Mary operated a boarding house, and had her spinster sister as well as her five children living with her. All attended St. Matthew's Presbyterian and all were subsequently married there and raised their children in that faith. Mary is recalled in the family as having been very energetic and well disposed with a natural sense of humor.

Through the church Mary became involved in the Beaver Rebekah Lodge No. 5, IOOF (the womens' branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows). She later encouraged her daughter-in-law - my grandmother - who had grown up Methodist but had married my grandfather in St. Matthew's Presbyterian, to join the Lodge. My grandmother and her



*Baptismal certificate for Hannah Ramsden from 1882. Note that it gives Mary's full maiden name; something that would be appreciated by any genealogist!*



*Marilyn was born in Montreal, and has lived there, on Quebec's North Shore, and in Edmonton. She's a teacher, mother of two, and has been an AGS member since 1995. Marilyn is a regular contributor to Relatively Speaking.*

daughter - my aunt - both did so and over time each held all the chairs in the organization.

As family historians we trace our lineage primarily through paternal links and tend to look there first to verify our findings. What often gets overlooked is the role of females within the family unit, the traditions they brought to the marriage, and the influence they exerted, especially in social- cultural areas. St. Matthew's met its demise June 30, 1999, after faltering for many years, Mary and other dedicated supporters having died or moved away many years before. Many descendants of the Montreal Ramsdens who continued in the Presbyterian church possibly never knew, or have forgotten, to whom they owe their beliefs.



*The Ramsden Family of Montreal, 1900. Standing, left to right, Ethel, George, John, Bill; seated, Mary and Florence. Ethel married but had no children. George married and had four children, one of whom was named after Mary. John had five children and died a month after Mary did. Bill married quite late in life and had no children. Florence died at age 26 shortly after the birth of her first child, Florence Ruth, who died at age 14. Mary lived a long life, dying in March, 1939, at age 83.*



# The Cousins Next Door

by Jean M. Armstrong

I love doing genealogical research; it can be interesting, fun, and frustrating all at the same time... And you never know who's going to turn out to be related to you.

## Distant cousin lost and found

One of the lines I'm researching in Yorkshire, England is Armstrong, although for years I made little headway on it. I've known since 1994 that an Armstrong relative, June Wray, lived in Australia and was working on the Armstrong family tree, as she wrote to Ken Tummons, an elderly relative in Hull, East Yorkshire. Ken and my uncle George (Gudd) Armstrong are first cousins and live just a few miles apart, so Gudd made a copy of June's notes and sent them to me in Denver, Colorado. Unfortunately, the cover letter with her address was missing. After many long-distance phone calls, letters to Ken Tummons and his son (another Ken), I found that they had apparently lost the cover letter, found it, then lost it again. Now, I hate to give up, but by 1999, it seemed that June's address was well and truly lost, and I had to give up.

Then, on October 31, 2000, a letter arrived from Australia. Yes, after six years of me looking for her, June had found me! She had joined the East Yorkshire Family History Society in 1999, and got my name and address from the 1998 Members Interest List. At last we were in contact. Almost immediately large envelopes stuffed full of genealogy information and photographs were flying between the US and Australia. Information was exchanged, questioned, verified, and more information was found; we were on a roll. We determined that we were second cousins, close in age, and in the process became friends as well as relatives.

## Christmas surprise!

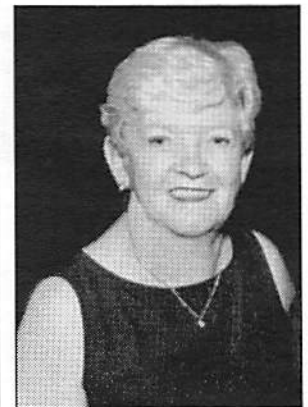
Just before Christmas 2000, I made copies of all the data and photographs from June and sent them to Uncle Gudd. He spent Christmas day with my cousin Franklin Smith and his wife Jackie at their home in Middleton on the Wolds, East Yorkshire. Franklin's sister Sylvia was there as well, and the four of them passed the data sheets and pictures around, perusing names and dates, and examining photos for family likeness.

At some point one of them noticed the surname Wooldridge on one of the data sheets. There was a Rowland Wooldridge living next door to Franklin and Jackie, so after lunch, they all went next door, joking that they might be related. It took just one quick look at June's picture for Rowland to recognize her as his cousin, whom he had last seen in 1966 when he was a mere lad, and declare that in fact he was a second cousin to Franklin and Sylvia. Franklin and Rowland's families had lived next door to each other for 22 years without knowing that they were related!

Rowland is now in touch with June again after 35 years, thus completing the circle. And he has a whole raft of new cousins.

I'm going to England this fall on a research trip, and will visit Gudd and Franklin and Jackie, and hope to meet Rowland and his family. Next spring, Australia and June beckon...

*Some of your relatives may be closer than you think.*



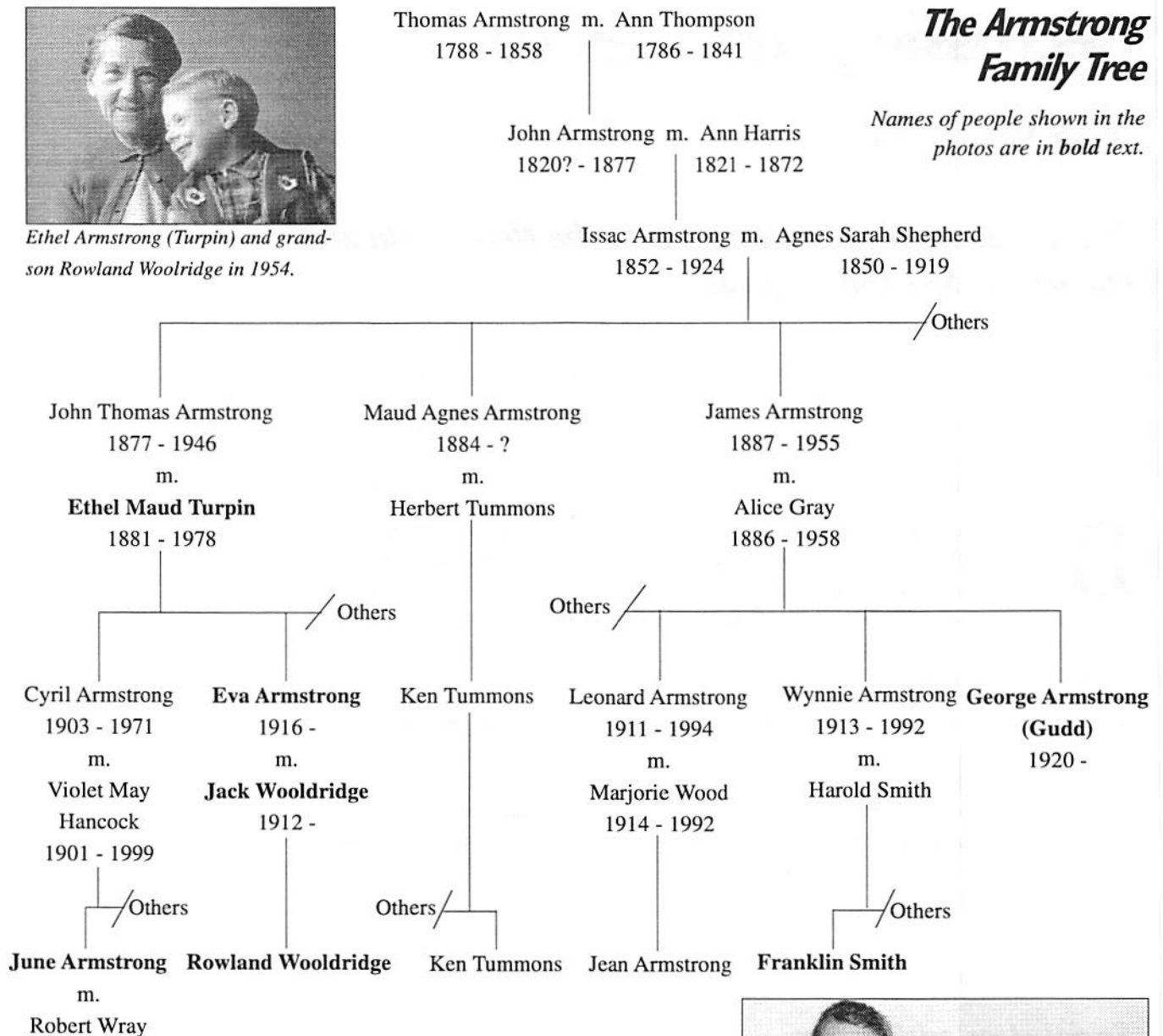
*Jean was born in Hessle, East Yorkshire, and emigrated to the United States in 1967 where she married and raised two sons. She worked for Boeing in Seattle, WA, before moving to the Denver area where she now lives with two retired racing greyhounds and two large cats. Her spare time is spent working on genealogy, making the occasional quilt, and trying to figure out her computer.*



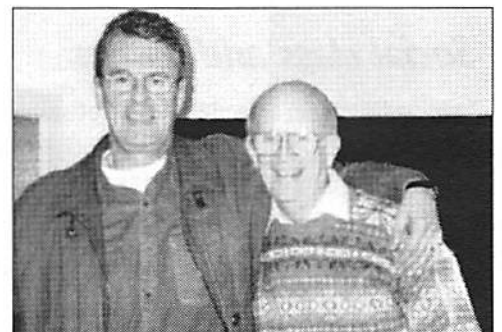
*Ethel Armstrong (Turpin) and grandson Rowland Wooldrige in 1954.*

## ***The Armstrong Family Tree***

*Names of people shown in the photos are in bold text.*



*June Wray (Armstrong) with Eva (Armstrong) and Jack Wooldrige in 1997.*



*Franklin Smith and Gudd Armstrong in 1999.*

# Recrossing the Seas to Sweden

## *The mutation of Swedish names in the New World and finding the Swedish originals*

by Laurie Keller

"My thoughts often wander to the Place where I was born and where my kind Parents helped me grow up. Sometimes I think I would like to go back for a Visit. But I could not see Father and Mother in Life, only their Tombstones. ... It would be burdensome for me to go back to Sweden. ... There is much difference between the Old and the new country."s

Karl Oskar's last letter to his sister in Sweden, in Vilhelm Moberg's *Last Letter Home*

Between 1840 and 1960, 1.25 million people left Sweden for the 'New World' – mostly North America but also Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and South America. So did thousands of Swedish-speaking Finns, whose names and naming customs are very similar to those of Sweden\*. Now many of the descendants of those Swedes and Swedish-speaking Finns are trying to trace their origins – and having difficulties, not least of which is the problem of what their immigrant ancestor was called.

When Swedish speakers came to the New World, they were faced with people – mostly English-speakers – who couldn't pronounce some of their names, or if they could pronounce them, couldn't spell them the Swedish way. The easiest solution was to change the name in some way. Some changes were simple (dropping double letters) while others were quite profound. And many people changed their names altogether, to shake off the low-class associations of their names, to show that they had risen in the world, and/or to be more in tune with their adopted country.

For the family historian, coming to grips with the problem of Swedish names requires a few snippets of knowledge.

### *Social class and names*

In most European societies the use of surnames handed down by a father (or occasionally a mother) to all their descendants (which I call fixed surnames) only came into use when people had something else worth passing on to their children, usually land or a social distinction.

Noble families tended to be the first to develop fixed surnames. In Sweden, their names often reflected elements in their coats of arms, and as coats of arms often feature animals, many Swedish noble names have animal elements: Uggla (owl), Oksenstjern (oxen-star), Falkenberg (falcon-hill). Others feature weapons, such as the name Hammarskjöld (hammer-shield).

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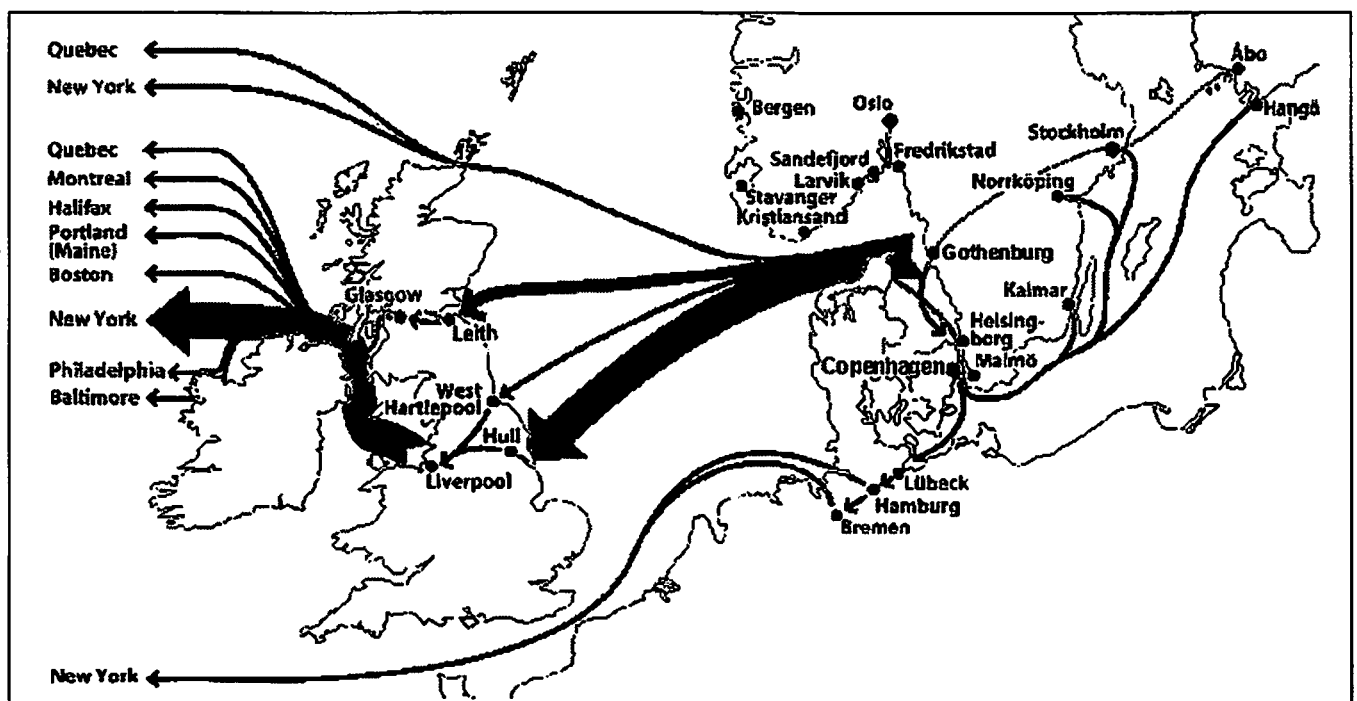
\* Finnish-speaking Finns have completely different names and naming customs. Swedish-speaking Finns were isolated from Sweden when it ceded its Finnish provinces to the Russian Empire in 1807.



Non-noble families with fixed surnames from an early date were the churchmen and the educated. Many latinized their Swedish names and these can often be spotted by their endings: -i, -ius, -is, -ai. Eriksson might become Eriki and Lars might become Laurentius. Among the early Swedish settlers of Wisconsin and Minnesota Territories were Gustaf Unonius, and Anders, Pehr, and Jonas Norelius. Other people translated their Swedish names to Latin, so someone from Kopparberg ('copper mountain' in Swedish) might be called Cuprimontanus ('copper mountain' in Latin).

Some used Greek in their names, adding -ander (Greek for 'man') to a Swedish element to form a surname. This gives names like Björkander, Karlander, and Svenander. (Beware! A few 'ander' names are based on Swedish place names ending in 'land': for example, Nylander – a person from Nyland.) People of the professional and educated classes also took what are called nature names (see below) as fixed surnames. These often go back more than three centuries, though these 'upper class' nature names generally make more use of topographical elements than tree elements (for example Wallenberg – field hill – and Wallmark – field embankment).

Common people only needed to differentiate one from another of the same name in the same parish. In Sweden, as in most of Scandinavia, the majority of these people were peasants and laborers who had little or no social status. Differentiating one such child from another was accomplished by giving the child a first name or pair of names (such as Karl Oskar or Anna Sofia, which are almost always used together) and adding the father's first name (rarely the mother's) with the ending -son or -dotter (for a son or daughter respectively). This kind of 'last' name is referred to as a patronymic, and for many centuries the last name in a family line changed with each generation. Thus Samuel Månsson was the son of Måns Sigfridsson.



*Emigration routes from Sweden and Swedish-speaking Finland to North America. The thickness of the arrows gives some idea of the proportion of people travelling via any one route.*

Samuel's sons' last name was Samuelsson (literally, Samuel's son) and his daughters Samuelsdotter<sup>†</sup>. In the earliest Swedish records the two parts of the patronymic were written as two words: Samuels Son or Samuels Dotter. Later, beginning around the middle of the 19th century, the two parts were run together as a single word: Samuelsson or Samuelsdotter.

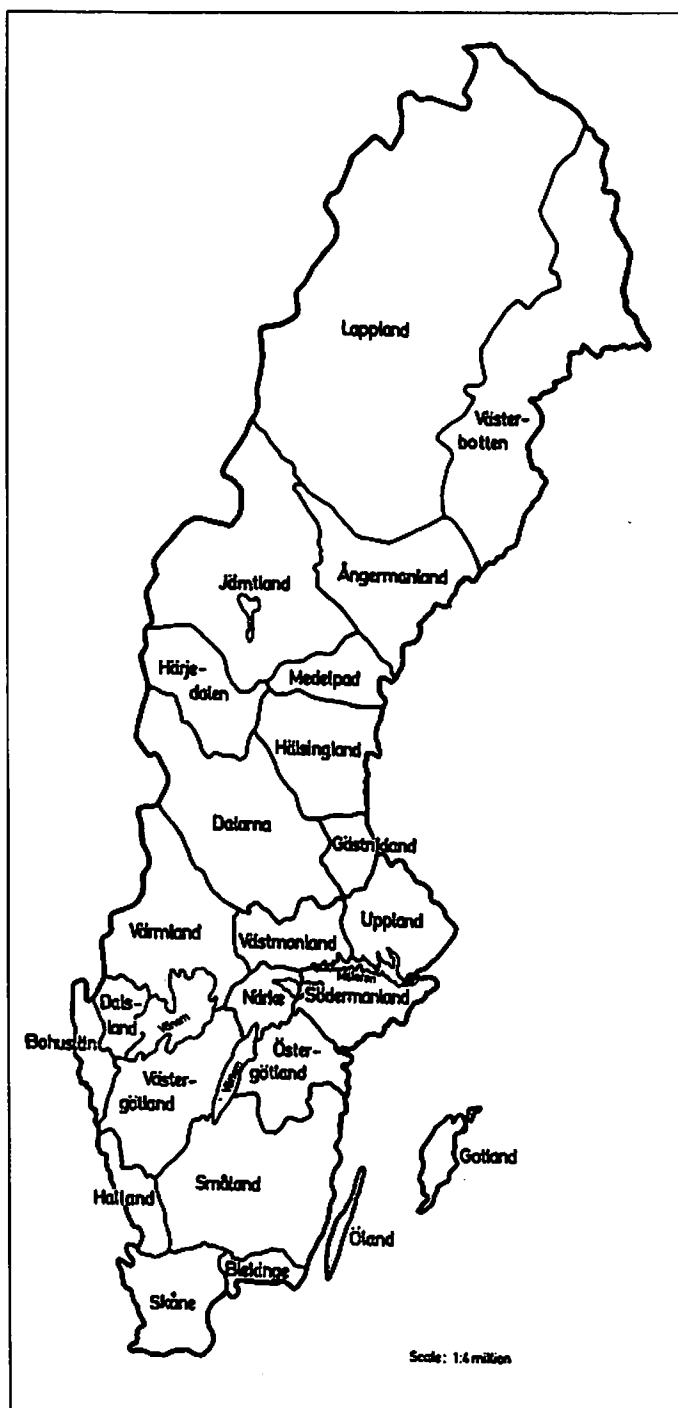
There is an additional class-related aspect of given names which affects the patronymic. Peasants often were given versions of names quite different from their more socially elevated countrymen. Måns is the peasant's version of the name Magnus. Per or Pehr was a peasant form of Peter. These peasant forms of first names are not 'nicknames', which are informal names used by friends and family, but given names. They appear in the baptismal records in this form. If a man was named Peter, his son would be Petersson. If he was named Per, then his son's patronymic would be Persson. Women's names also come in 'peasant' and 'better' forms: Britta is a peasant's version of Birgitta and Stina is the peasant Christina.

Many Swedes who left Sweden, particularly before about 1875, had been subject all their lives in Sweden to social restrictions as a result of their peasant status. Many a Swedish woman in the New World sent a photograph of herself in a fine hat to friends and family back in Sweden. As a peasant woman in Sweden, she would never have dared to wear a hat – that was the prerogative of a 'lady'. Instead, she would have worn a scarf. In the New World, no one ridiculed her for wearing a hat if she chose. Just as the woman's hat was a symbol of an escape from the restrictions of Swedish life in the 19th century, so a change of name become a symbol of the migrant's new-found freedom from old restrictions.

## ***How Måns Samuels Son became Magnus Shaleen***

One of my own ancestors was born in 1796 and baptized as Måns Samuels Son, son of Samuel Måns Son in Gårdsby parish, Kronobergs län, Småland, Sweden. By the time he died in 1870 in Lindstrom, Minnesota, he had undergone a remarkable change in both social status and name. He was born the son of a laborer and maid: people of no status with no land of their own. Some time around 1810 Samuel

<sup>†</sup> The added S is the possessive, as it is in English.



*The 'landskap' of Sweden. These are not official boundaries, but geographical ones, though for many seeking Swedish ancestors the name of the landskap may be the only information they have about the ancestor's origins. Saying someone is from Skåne is the equivalent in Canadian terms of saying someone is from the prairie provinces.*

acquired the tenancy of a farm, thereby improving the family's social standing. He died in 1815, and Måns, the eldest son, took over. In 1823 Måns married Elin Jonas Dotter, and with her came a bigger farm. She died in March, 1829. When Måns married his second wife, Britta



*A 'push' factor for Swedish emigrants, particularly peasant farmers, was the sheer hard work involved in wresting a living from tiny fields in stony ground, as shown in this photograph of Råshult, the farm where the great taxonomist Carl Linneaus was born. The farm is still run in the old way as a demonstration of the historical methods of farming.*

Stina Peters Dotter, in November, 1829, his name had changed in the records from Samuels Son to Samuelsson (though hers was still written as two words). In 1841 Måns sold the farm he inherited from his first wife and bought another in nearby Öjaby. The new farm gave him new status – it qualified him to vote as a member of the peasant estate. He used his prosperity to help his younger children: all had a good education, and the elder son qualified as 'a scholar and organist' in 1854. By then, both sons had adopted the fixed surname of Sjölin. In 1855 Måns sold his farm and the family emigrated to Minnesota Territory, where their names underwent several changes.

Måns almost immediately began to call himself Magnus. When the family joined the local Swedish Lutheran church in 1855, the elder son is listed as Sjölin, with the anglicized spelling Shaleen noted. In 1856 their sister, Maria, married. On the handwritten marriage certificate (in English) her name is given as Maria Magnusson – her patronymic being a 'better' version of her father's name with the -son ending instead of -dotter. (On her death certificate, in 1900, her maiden name is shown as Mary Shaleen.) In 1862 both brothers enlisted in the Union Army in the American Civil War. Their records show them as John and Peter Shaleen, but on John's record an alternative spelling of Shulin is noted. Thereafter the brothers were known by Shaleen, and by the time Måns Samuelsson died, he was also a Shaleen.

## ***Women and names***

In Sweden, most women did not change their names when they married. Kjerstin Eriks Dotter, Måns Samuelsson's mother, was known as Kjerstin Eriks Dotter (or Eriksdotter) from the day she was baptized to the day she died, even though she was married.

This was not the custom in the New World, and women were known by their husband's or father's last name rather than their own. One of the earliest changes to women's names in the New World was the dropping of -dotter in favor of -son, though sometimes both were dropped. My step great-grandmother, for instance, was listed as Anna Charlotta Petersdotter when she was born, but later in life was variously known as Anna Charlotta Peterson and Anna Charlotta Peters.

## ***Pronunciation and spelling***

English and Dutch are the only two languages which use the basic 27 letters of the Latin alphabet without modification. Some languages extend their alphabets, creating new letters using the basic letters with additional marks. Spanish uses an N with a tilde (~) over it in this way. Swedish extends its alphabet with three additional vowels, Å, Ä, and Ö, which appear at the end of an alphabetical list. The alphabetical order is important, because if you are



searching in Swedish lists for someone named Ångstrom, you'll find them not among the As but after the Ws!

There are groups of consonants in Swedish whose pronunciation can't be rendered easily in English. For example, the group KJ is pronounced more like the English 'sh'. The group SJ is pronounced (depending upon the dialect) either like 'sh' or as though it were a drawn-out H pronounced with a large plum in the mouth with the lips very rounded and the tongue pressed low. Even G can be either a hard G (like the G in 'girl') or a soft G, in which case it sounds most like an English 'y' (Swedish 'berg' is pronounced rather like 'BEAR-yuh'). In some cases a soft G could disappear altogether from a name.

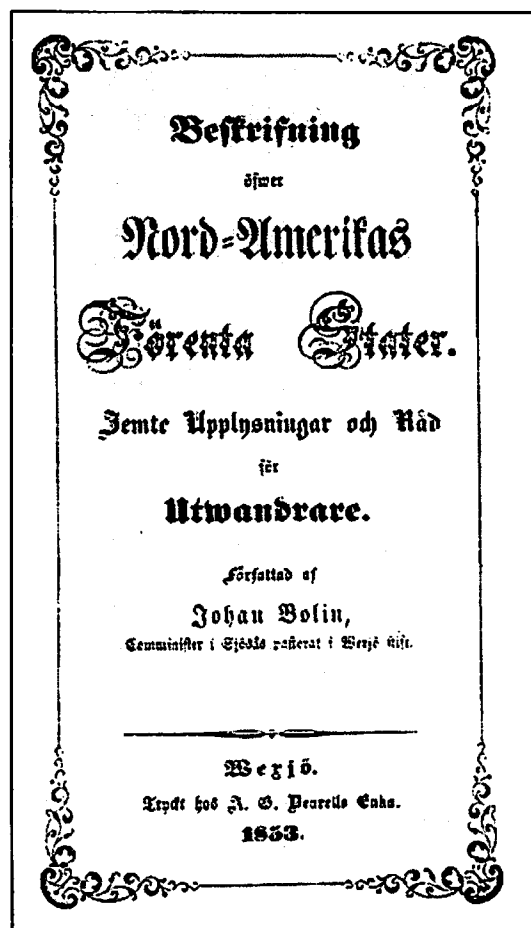
I was recently asked about the name Berlund. Two possibilities are that in Swedish it was Bärlund (pronounced 'BEAR-lund') or Berglund (pronounced 'BEARuh LUND'). In the latter case with its very soft G, it could be that the person decided to drop the G rather than try to get his English-speaking neighbors to spell it one way and pronounce it another. K can also take a soft pronunciation; for example kyrka (church) is pronounced rather like 'SHEERK-ah'. Y is pronounced like the vowel sound in 'boo'.

To complicate matters, Swedish spelling itself has changed over time. The town of Växjö, for example, used to be spelled Vexio or Wexio. The same variations of spelling can appear in names. Ws often became Vs in Swedish, particularly following the spelling reforms of 1906 (the same year that Swedish law changed to require fixed surnames of everyone<sup>§</sup>). A modern Swedish dictionary has no letter W as a separate entry, so if you are trying to look up the meaning of a name beginning with W, try looking under V instead. Many surnames begin with W, however: Wallmark, Wennersten, and so on.

In the English-speaking New World, the additional Swedish vowels weren't recognized as being pronounced differently from the normal A and O in English. But Å is pronounced like the long O in English, and Ä is pronounced like the vowel sound in 'bear' while the Ö is pronounced half-way between an O as in 'oh' and a U as in 'food' (very like a German umlauted O). Other vowel sounds also caused spelling changes. A Pihl family became Peehl in the next generation. Håkansson could become Hokanson, Howkanson, or Hakanson. Månsson usually became Monson, but could become Manson. In cases like Månsson becoming Manson, the pronunciation changed to suit the spelling rather than the other way around.

Combinations of consonants like SJ and KJ that don't appear in English presented more of a problem. Sjölin is pronounced approximately like Shuh-LANE or Hhhuh-LANE, and in the case of my ancestors, was rendered into English spelling as Shaleen, Shalleen, Shaleen, Shulin, Shulen, and Shallun. (One branch of the family is adamant that Mary Shaleen was actually called Mary Shallun.) I have come across a Sjölin (not related) whose name mutated

<sup>§</sup> By then, most Swedes had already adopted fixed surnames. The change from generational patronymics to fixed surnames took place gradually over a long period from the Middle Ages onwards.



*One of the 'pull' factors for many emigrating Swedes was descriptions of the New World such as this early book -- Descriptions of North America's United States -- providing "help and advice for the emigrant. This was published in 1853 and written by a man who never visited America, although his descriptions are reasonably accurate.*

English spelling	Possible Swedish spelling	Examples
SH or CH	SJ or KJ	Chellin was Kjellin
ER	ER at the beginning of a word, otherwise ÄR or possibly ERG	Berlund was possibly Berglund (hill-clearing) or Bärlund (bear-clearing)
V	V or W	Vennersten was Wennersten
W	V or W	Swenson or Swanson was Svensson
U	Could be Ö	Shulin was Sjölin
U	Could be V	Names ending in QUIST were probably QVIST
E, EE or EA	I	Nelson was Nilsson, Shaleen and Shulean were Sjölin, Peehl or Peel was Pihl
O	Ö or Å	Monson was originally Månsson, Lonngren was Lönngren

*Table 1 Changes of spelling to suit pronunciation of names*

to Chellin in the New World. KJ sounds rather similar, and Swedish Kjellin can also become English Shaleen! Other combinations are shown in Table 1.

Many immigrant Swedes who kept their patronymic names modified the spelling to suit English-language habits. For people with names like Olsson, Nilsson, and so on, the first thing to disappear generally was the additional S, so Olsson became Olson. Nilsson not only lost an S, but often became Nelson.

### Complete name changes

Some Swedes changed their names altogether, usually to something like Smith, a name that felt more American or Canadian or Australian<sup>1</sup>. The earliest records of the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Minnesota, for example, record an Anna Hansdotter Smith, a Christina Smith and a Sven S. Hamilton among the earliest members. William Folsom writes in his 1888 book *Fifty Years in the Northwest*: "Benjamin Franklin, though he bears the name of America's most illustrious philosopher, is a native of Sweden, whence he came with a Swedish colony in 1852... By way of explaining how he came by his American name we add that soon after his arrival he came to the writer somewhat puzzled as to how he should write his Swedish name in English. He gave it as 'Ben[gt] Franz Norel,' but pronounced it in such a way that it sounded rather like Benjamin Franklin. We suggested that name as a happy solution of the difficulty, telling him something about the illustrious man who had made it honorable. He adopted it at once, and has never disgraced it." (See sidebar on page 21.)

### Nature names

Even in Sweden fixed surnames became more common in the 19th century, though among the educated, urban, professional, clerical, and noble families these names go back much further.

*¶ Frequent stories that immigration officers in the New World gave out completely new names when they couldn't spell or understand the name they were told by the immigrant are largely untrue – an interesting story, but almost always an urban myth.*

In Sweden, as elsewhere in Europe at the time, there was not only migration abroad, but migration within a nation (known as internal migration), generally from countryside to town and from farming to laboring. As attitudes, and then laws, changed, even social mobility upwards into professions such as bookkeeping or selling became increasingly common. Internal migrants might choose a new surname to signal their change in status. Once such a name was chosen, it was passed to future generations.

One form of surname was the nature name, a name based on the natural world. Names of trees or parts of trees were particularly popular, as were topographical features such as lakes, springs, and hills. Table 2 lists some elements of such nature names. These words could be used on their own or combined in endless ways to give a surname unlikely to be duplicated. Combinations such as Lindberg, Lindblad, Skoglund, Kjelland, Ekman, Eklund, and others are all possible.

In the New World, some of these names sometimes survive in their Swedish form, while others have been translated into English. Translation into English is particularly likely for one-syllable names. So Ek, the Swedish for oak, might become Oak, and Löf, the Swedish for leaf, sometimes became Leaf, although Löf could also become Love in English!

## Military names

Given that most Swedes used patronymic names and the number of men's given names was small, the Swedish military had a problem: in any one regiment there might be several men with the same name. Swedish civil and church records resolved this problem by recording the birthdate of an individual, but an officer could not shout: "Johannes Petersson!" followed by a birthdate (even if he could remember it). Thus soldiers were often given military names. These might be nature names, but more often they were related to the individual's personal characteristics or to weaponry. (The French military had a similar system, and names beginning with or including *dit*, meaning 'called', are of this type.) Table 3 shows some Swedish military names. As with nature names, these elements could be used on their own, or more rarely, combined.

Names taken during military service occasionally became fixed surnames, and a person who was given a military name might be known by his patronymic, his military name, or both in the Swedish records.

Trees and tree parts		Topographical features	
al	alder	berg	hill
alm	elm	borg	castle
bjork	birch	brink	bank, steep hill
bok	beech	by	village
ceder	cedar	dal	valley
ek	oak	fält	field
en	juniper	kjell	spring
fur	(type of) pine	lund	forest clearing
gran	pine	mark	ground or field
hägg	bird cherry	sand	sand
lind	linden	sjö	lake or sea
lön	maple	skog	wood or forest
palm	palm	sten	stone or rock
tall	fir	strand	shore
gren	branch	ström	river
löf	leaf	vall	embankment
qvist	twig	vik	bay

Table 2 Elements of nature and topographical names

Military terms		Personal characteristics	
dolk	dagger	fast	steady
granat	grenade	flick	fast
kanon	cannon	from	pious
pistol	pistol	modig	courageous
sabel	sabre	rolig	jolly
siren	siren	stark	strong
spjut	spear	trogen	loyal

Table 3 Military names





*Born Maria Månsdotter in Sweden, at marriage in America she was Mary Magnusson and became Mrs. Andrew Wallmark. Her death certificate gives her maiden name as Mary Shaleen.*



*Andrew Wallmark. Born in Halland, Sweden as Anders Peter Wallmark, American records list him variously as A. P. Walmac, Andrew Wallmar, and Andrew Walmark.*

## ***Looking for my Swedish ancestors***

Making the jump from the New World back to Sweden (or Finland) is difficult due to the ever-changing nature of Swedish names, particularly after emigration. When I began my family hunt over 40 years ago, I was fortunate in that many of my great aunts and uncles were still living. They remembered their own grandmother, Mary Shaleen. Years passed before I tried to take the family history further. Shaleen somehow looked and sounded more Irish than Swedish. I knew Mary had married Andrew Wallmark in Minnesota Territory in 1856, and I sent for the marriage certificate. Back it came, but the name given was Mary Magnusson! Her death certificate was the next piece in the puzzle, and said her maiden name was as her grandchildren remembered it: Shaleen. Now I was stymied, and it took another few years before a breakthrough occurred, and then I had two at once.

I met a Swedish-speaker and mentioned the puzzle of the name Shaleen. He gave me three alternatives as to what it could be, one of which was Sjölin. Soon after, I found the records of the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, which I knew from the marriage certificate was the church attended by Andrew and Mary Wallmark. Swedes being good record keepers, the early records of the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church indeed recorded that Mary was a member of a family whose other members were called Sjölin or Shaleen. The listing reads:

Måns Samuelsson, f. 1796 25/4 i Växjö. (Han är född i Gårdsby. Utflyttade från Prästorp, Öjaby) Till Amerika 1855 med familjen. Inskreven 1855 30/12

Hustru Britta Stina Petersdotter, f. 1805 31/1 i Växjö. (Han är född i Sandsjö) Inskrevs 1856 4/5

Son Peter Sjölin (Shaleen) f. 1833 31/3 i Växjö. (Han är född i Gårdsby)

Son Johannes, f. 1835 15/11 i Växjö. (Han är född i Gårdsby)

Dotter Maria, f. 1840 23/9 i Växjö. (Han är född i Gårdsby)

What a goldmine these records turned out to be, but it took some effort to 'decode' them. All entries apparently give the birthplace as Växjö, but then note another birthplace, not far from Växjö. It tells me when they left for America and from where (Öjaby). By examining the church records I also noted the next family, a Johannes Svensson married to Sara Månsdotter, who was born in 1830 in Gårdsby. (When I checked the Gårdsby parish records it turned out that Sara was the eldest daughter of Måns and Britta Stina, and that she'd married in Sweden and had a child before she, her husband, and infant child emigrated at the same time as her parents and siblings.) Later, I found an Anna Lisa Petersdotter, born in Sandsjö parish in 1809, and began to wonder whether she might be Britta Stina's sister. She was, and she, her husband, a son, and three daughters all from Öjaby parish, emigrated to America in 1856. Her husband, Peter Johansson (also spelled Johannisson), was born in Gårdsby parish and lived in the same hamlet as Måns Samuelsson, and members of the two families often acted as each other's witnesses and sponsored each other's children at baptism. When I checked the Swedish records, it only took me half a day's work to find Måns and trace his ancestors back to 1720. Britta Stina is more difficult, as she and her sister were orphaned – a fact remembered by one of my great uncles all those years ago – and the Sandsjö records for the years of her and her sister's births were destroyed in a fire.

## Hints

The experience of finding my Swedish ancestors taught me two important lessons.

1. Determine their original name(s).
2. If at all possible, find either their birth parish or a parish where they resided, with approximate dates (a decade will do). If they emigrated after 1869, this information may appear in emigration records kept in Sweden, and the name and approximate age may be sufficient to locate someone.

Once found in Swedish records, an individual and members of his or her household are relatively easy to trace – the difficult part is making the leap back across the seas. In my case, my great uncles and aunts remembered their grandmother's maiden name and I was wise enough to ask about family history as a child, but I was unable to do anything with my knowledge until I found a Swedish-speaker who could 'translate' Shaleen into Sjölin. (If I'd found the Chisago Lake church records first I would also have found the connection.)

Finding information in New World records requires being flexible about the spelling of names. Andrew Wallmark (born Anders Peter Wallmark), whose name appears quite straightforward, appears in the 1855 territorial census as A. P. Walmac, and the name is spelled with one or two Ls, and with or without the final K. His brother, Otto Alexander Bernhard Wallmark, is sometimes recorded as Alexander or Bernhard. Anna Lisa Petersdotter's husband Peter Johannisson became Peter Johnson in America. His son, John W. Peterson, became quite an important local figure – so much so that when Peter died his obituary and tombstone named his son Peter J. Peterson!

So, when looking for your ancestor in New World records, be prepared for misspellings, variant spellings, completely different spellings based more or less on pronunciation, changes to pronunciation to fit the Swedish spelling, direct translations into English of nature names, and sometimes completely new names. You may even find, on occasion, two different names used at the same time. If you can, it would probably pay to make friends with a Swedish-speaker, or at least to borrow a "teach yourself Swedish" tape and book from the local library. Swedish records will also have variant spellings: witness Peter Johannisson sometimes appearing as Peter Johansson and places like Växjö also being Vexio or Wexio.

Find out as much as you possibly can about the family – any family story, however vague, can help – particularly by pinpointing some actual location in Sweden where you can begin

37

*Territory of Minnesota  
County of Le Sueur } 55*

*Be it remembered that  
on the Twenty-second day of August in the year  
of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty  
six, I the undersigned a minister of the Gospel  
resident in said County of Minnesota did join  
in the Holy Bonds of matrimony, according to  
the rites of the Ev. Lutheran Church and the Laws  
of this Territory. Mr. Anders Peter Wallmark of Chisago  
Lake, and Mrs. Mary Magnusson of Le Sueur  
Lake, after having examined one of the parties  
on oath, by me administered, and found  
that she had not obtained the full age of sixteen  
years, but the consent was duly given by her par-  
ents Magnus Magnusson and Bethelina Peterson,  
and then becoming satisfied that there was no legal  
impediment thereto – Done in the presence of  
John Magnusson of Le Sueur Lake and John  
Johnson of Chisago Lake Witnesses  
P. A. Gislén, Pastor  
Pastor of the Ev. Luth. Church*

This handwritten letter is the marriage certificate of Maria Månsdotter (Mary Magnusson) and Andrew Wallmark. They were married in 1856 in Minnesota Territory, before there was any church building for them to be married in, though the congregation had formed in December of 1855.



# Clandigger

## Edmonton Branch Meetings

Regular meetings of the Edmonton Branch are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month (excluding July, August and December) at the Prince of Wales Armouries - Jefferson Room, 10440 - 108 Avenue, Edmonton, at 7:30 p.m.

Special Interest Groups and individual speakers from our membership, gave exceptionally interesting and motivating talks at the General Meetings from September 2000 to June 2001. The new season will have a similar format but will be based on human interest themes such as journeys, mysteries, war, survival, unique ancestors, etc. We will be looking for three 15-20 minute talks for each meeting. If you have ideas for themes, or stories to share, please contact Margaret Bendickson at <margb@connect.ab.ca> or (780) 922 3050. Stories that have already been published in *Relatively Speaking* would be welcomed.

*Clandigger* is published four times yearly within *Relatively Speaking* (February, May, August and November) by the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society  
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e-mail: agsedm@compusmart.ab.ca

## NEW SUMMER HOURS

for

**July, August, September**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\*\*\*The library will not be open on Wednesday evenings.\*\*\*

**THE ENTERTAINMENT BOOK AND THE  
VALUE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN  
THE EDMONTON BRANCH LIBRARY  
TOWARD THE END OF AUGUST**

## Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups welcome all members and visitors. All meetings are held in the AGS Library, Prince of Wales Armouries, starting at 7:30 p.m.

**Canadian** - Meetings are monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

Contact: Jai Williams, 922-5873.

**Compugene** - Meetings are bi-monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, starting in September.

Contact: Fred Vaneldik, 459-8821, or  
<fredvan@telusplanet.net>

**England and Wales** - Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday.

Contact: Pat Pettitt, 436-3627

**German** - Meetings intermittent.

Contact: Jo Nuthack, 479-7878, or  
<jorn@edmc.net>

**Irish** - Meetings are bi-monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, starting in September. Contact:

Margaret Bendickson, 922-3050 or  
<margb@connect.ab.ca>

**Scotland** - Meetings are bi-monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday starting in October.

Contact: Margaret Bendickson, 922-3050 or  
margb@connect.ab.ca

**Ukrainian** - Meetings are bi-monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, starting in September.

Contacts: Peter Skitsko, 349-4073; David Pasay, 939-2472; Marika Brenneis, 473-3019; Joan Margel, 436-3506.

## EDMONTON PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sandra Vaneldik, AGS #3694

### CLANDIGGER TO HAVE A NEW FORMAT AND A NEW HOME

On Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, an extraordinary meeting of the Edmonton Branch executive was held for the purpose of discussing the future of Clandigger.

John Hughes, the new editor of *Relatively Speaking*, had asked that we look at the position of Clandigger within *Relatively Speaking*, as he wanted to revamp the look of our provincial publication. After a small meeting with John, Ian Holmes and Joan Green, I felt that the entire executive should be given a chance to discuss this in depth. As it happened, we had already been discussing the development of a monthly newsletter and John's request seemed very timely.

A very lively discussion was held, with every member taking part. Those who were able gave a history of the development of Clandigger and its inclusion in *Relatively Speaking*. We are lucky to have the original editor of Clandigger on the executive, as well as several with many years of branch historical knowledge. They were able to give us all a good perspective.

The discussion ranged over many topics such as, what did we see as Clandigger's purpose, who is its audience, and to what extent is there a conflict for our branch members in providing articles for Clandigger vs *Relatively Speaking*.

We considered the difference between a newsletter and a journal, and which format would serve our members better.

The decisions which were made that evening are as follows:

1. to remove Clandigger from within *Relatively Speaking*
2. to develop Clandigger as a monthly newsletter, distributed at branch meetings
3. to move toward having Clandigger posted on our website, as well.

The content of Clandigger will change, to include such items as:

- Description of the meeting program.
- The following month's program.
- Calendar of meetings.
- SIG meeting dates and programs.

- Upcoming events.
- Members' news (BMD).
- Volunteer recognition.

Members are asked to submit information to Joan Green by telephone, 488-9549 or by e-mail to <agsedm@compusmart.ab.ca>. Joan would need to receive this by the Thursday before the meeting, that is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

We hope to have the first issue available at the September meeting. Joan will contact the SIG chairs for input for the first issue, after that she should not have to prompt for information. If information is not received in time it will not be published. The time frame allowed is short enough that Joan should not have to chase people.

We hope the membership will enjoy this new/old friend when it appears, and find it useful. ■

### Library News

By Claudine Nelson,  
Library Director, AGS #2592



What should our genealogical library include? Current manuals on how to pursue genealogical research, *Gazeteers*, *Indexes* - census and cemetery/memorials, *Local histories*, *Family histories* with a Canadian connection.

We are all looking for sources that have 'our' names. To this aim we are purchasing published Canadian 1901 census indexes. The census may be the first link on discovering where a family came from - i.e., it may prove that a known 'English' family did not come directly from Britain but spent time in the USA. The census should give the year they immigrated up into Canada. You may find the family in a different place from where they were known to have finally resided - so a search into an adjacent county/district is suggested.

Do you know of published Canadian 1901 census indexes? Provide full details on where they can be purchased.

### Hours: August and September

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Note:** Saturday library hours may continue if the extended hours are more favourable to library patrons. ■



## **The Hagen Family**

Submitted by Elvina (Fleming) Hagan, AGS #2362

The Hagen family were all born in Belfast and Carrickfergus, Antrim County, Ireland.

The oldest daughter, Margaret, born 1820, immigrated to Canada before 1840 with a neighbouring family. She and her oldest brother, James, an ocean sailor, saved enough money to bring their parents, Samuel and Margaret (McDonald) Hagen, two sisters and two brothers to Montreal, Canada. Two children had died in infancy back in Ireland.

The Hagen family settled in "Queens Bush", near Dungannon, Huron County, Ontario. Margaret left Ontario, settled in Michigan where she married a sailor, Martin Leigh, had two children, and then the family moved back to Dungannon and rented a farm.

The parents, Samuel and Margaret, farmed in Ashfield Twp., Huron Co. and their family grew up there. Samuel Sr. is buried in Dungannon Cemetery along with daughter, Margaret Leigh (1820-1886) and her sister Jane Elizabeth Sanderson (1832-1877).

The family of three brothers, James, Robert McDonald and Samuel Jr., along with two sisters, Elizabeth Jane (Eliza), and Jane Elizabeth, were all married in Huron Co. It is here that Robert McDonald Hagen, my husband's Great Grandfather, married Elizabeth Sweatland in 1859, at Goderich, Huron Co., and five of their children were born in Ashfield Twp., Huron Co.

Robert and Elizabeth's oldest son, Samuel, had married Annie Cook, June 18, 1879, back in Clinton. Samuel and Annie, along with their son and two daughters moved to Thessalon Twp., Algoma district, where they farmed for the next 12 or 13 years. Three more sons were born in the Thessalon area.

Samuel and Annie Hagen had heard Alberta would be better for Samuel's hay fever and they moved west about 1899 to Alberta. They arrived in Edmonton area with their six children and were taken by team and wagon to Winterburn district to the home of Artman and Susan (Hagen) Chandler. After their equipment and furniture arrived they bought a quarter section of land and began farming.

They were members of the Methodist Church. Samuel was a Dominion Government homestead inspector from 1912-1922. Samuel (1859-1944) and Annie (1854-1945) are buried at the Spruce Grove Cemetery Parkland County #31, Alberta.

Their oldest son "Bert" Hagen (1881-1975), born in Clinton, Ontario, married Carrie Alma Ayres McKay (MacKay) in 1919 at her parents home in the Spruce Grove area, Parkland Co., Alberta. Two children were born of that marriage, Kathleen and her brother, Donald. ■

## **Natural Child Birth**

A boy was assigned a paper on childbirth and asked his parents, "How was I born?"

"Well honey..." said the slightly prudish parent, "the stork brought you to us."

"Oh," said the boy. "Well, how did you and daddy get born?" he asked.

"Oh, the stork brought us too."

"Well how were grandpa and grandma born?" he persisted.

"Well, darling, the stork brought them too!" said the parent, by now starting to squirm a little in the Lazy Boy recliner.

Several days later, the boy handed in his paper to the teacher who read with confusion the opening sentence: "This report has been very difficult to write because there hasn't been a natural childbirth in my family for three generations." ■

## **Your Dash....**

Submitted by Muriel M. Davidson  
From <ONTARIO-L@rootsweb.com>

I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on her tombstone  
From the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came her date of birth  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between those years. (1934-1998)

For that dash represents all the time  
That she spent alive on earth...  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;  
The cars...the house...the cash,  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard...  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left,  
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real,  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,  
And more often wear a smile...  
Remembering that this special dash  
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy's being read  
With you life's actions to rehash...  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your dash? ■

## **Genealogy Humor**

From the Black Hills nuggets, Volume XXXIII, No.  
2, May 2000

*This has been travelling around the Internet.*

### **Commandments followed by our Ancestors**

1. Thou shalt name your male children: James, John, Joseph, Josiah, Richard, Thomas, or William.
2. Thou shalt name your female children: Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Ida, or Virginia.
3. Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
4. Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as: Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, Sukey. Making them difficult to trace.
5. Thou shalt NOT use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and only where necessary, you may use only initials on legal documents.
6. Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways: Hicks, Hix, Hixe, Hucks, Kicks.
7. Thou shalt, after no more than three generations, make sure that all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a courthouse fire, or buried so that NO future trace of them can be found.
8. Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumours, and vague innuendo regarding your place of origination.
9. Thou shalt leave NO cemetery records, or headstones with legible names.
10. Thou shalt leave NO family Bible with records of birth, marriages, or deaths.
11. Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of thy records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Alfred.
12. Thou must also flip thy parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative. ■



# Heritage Seekers

Four page extract from the June, 2001 Newsletter of the  
Grande Prairie & District Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society

## Judy's Two Bits Worth

By Judy Bradley

At this time, as Grande Prairie and District Branch President, I am asked to prepare a few words of wisdom for publication in Heritage Seekers. At the same time, as Editor of HS, I need to prepare a few words from the editor. Two hats, two jobs, and so, two bits of writing for each issue.

This month's newsletter is overflowing with interesting and informative articles. We are grateful to all our members sending submissions to be published. There is value in submitting snippets of your genealogy project for publication in HS. You never know just who will read your article and believe they have further information for you, or better yet, have a connection with your family. This is your newsletter. Let it work for you.

We are very proud of Paulette Hrychiw a year 2001 recipient of a Special Mention Award from AGS. CONGRATULATIONS PAULETTE. We are both pleased and fortunate to have you as a member of our branch.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Maxine Maxwell for all her hard work in organizing and supervising our quilt raffle sales. It is probably a much bigger job then Maxine thought it would be when she consented to look after this for us. Fund raising is an important part of our society. We want to keep our library collection growing! Thank you Maxine.

I would also like to thank the many members who contributed their time and talents to ensure a successful evening for our Dr. Colin Chapman lecture in May. Although we had short notice of his availability to travel to Grande Prairie, there was a great turnout of genealogists eager to hear his words. Without the help of our volunteers we would have all missed out on a fantastic evening.

And so as summer officially gets underway, I hope you all have a great summer. Whether your genealogical hobby takes you on summer travels or your travelling

is done in an armchair, I hope you all have some success with your research in this summer of 2001.

See you in September.

## Member Interests

By Bill Lappenbush

CRONKITE 1820	1855	NY>WI
CROSWELL 1808	now	
HAM+YKS,ENG>ON,CAN>WA,USA>AB,CAN		
FRIEND 1820	1970	VA>IN>KS>OR
HENDERSON 1820	now	FIF,SCT
HENRY 1820	1870	NY>WI>MN>KS
KEPKE 1831	2000	
CSK>WI,USA>WA,USA>BC&AB,CAN		
KRUSE 1879	now	
LPD,DEU>NE,USA		
LAPPENBUSCH 1674	2000	
LPD,DEU>NE&SD,USA>WA,USA>AB,CAN		
LARMER 1800	1900	ANT,NIR
MUMMERT 1706	now	
DUE>PA>IL>MO>IA>KS,USA>AB,CAN		
ORR 1870	now	
IRL>DUNDAS<ON,CAN		
POPE 1804	1880	
LIN,ENG>IL,USA>BC,CAN		
RAEBURN 1770	now	
BAN,SCT>ON>AB,CAN		
SCHEBLAK 1830	1900	CSK>WI,USA
STUEKE 1750	1900	LPD,DEU
THOMPSON 1870	now	IRL>DUNDAS

Any connections, contact:

Bill Lappenbush

Box 461, Sexsmith, Alberta T0H 3C0

Phone 780-568-3905

Email: lappenbush@yahoo.ca

Note: Bill has also forwarded his interests to our webmaster to be included on the Branch webpage. This service is open to any member whether or not you have an email address.

Contact the Branch to have your interests included. View interests already submitted at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~abgpages/interests.html>

## 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

## New Member Welcome

By Lynda Shopka

We would like to welcome three new members to our Branch. This brings our current membership to 51.

- 1) Dorothea Bulford from Bezanson, whose areas of research include Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Ireland.
- 2) Helene Couillard from Girouxville, whose research at present is focused on Quebec and the U.S.
- 3) Leanne Simonson from Grande Cache who is researching Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Metis Records and Quebec.

Welcome!

## "Bridges to the Past"

A sequel to "Across the Smoky", has just arrived from the printers. It covers the local areas of Goodwin, DeBolt, Crooked Creek, Clarkson Valley, Sturgeon Heights, and the Puskwaskau.

"Across the Smoky" covered the years 1918 to 1940. "Bridges to the Past" carries on from 1940 (with some update stories) to the present. As well as personal stories, this new book covers things not told in the previous book - such as the twelve one room schools and the many sawmills (approx. 53) that were a way of life for many people years ago etc.

Fran Moore, member of AGS and the Grande Prairie and District Branch of AGS, worked very hard (about six years) with several local residents to get this book together and published.

For anyone wishing to purchase "Bridges to the Past", contact Fran Moore at 780-957-3957, or by faxing Fran at 780-957-2934. The cost of the book is \$50.00. Postage (approx. \$5.00) is extra if it is to be mailed.

## R.C.M.P. Detachment

### Grande Prairie 1924

A news item of interest in the Jan. 8, 1924 issue of the Grande Prairie "Herald" newspaper reads as follows:

"R.C.M.P. Opens Detachment at Grande Prairie"

Inspector Montizambert, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, of Peace River is in Grande Prairie in connection with the detachment of the R.C.M.P. that will be located here in the future. The detachment will be in charge of Sergt. Baker who quite recently came down from Herschell Island. Const. Kells will also be located here for a short time. Sergt. Baker and Mrs. Baker will take up their residence on the Boulevard.

## Seize the Moment

By Marilyn Wales

For as long as I can remember my grandfather, Ross WALES, told me family stories - about where he lived before coming to the Grande Prairie area, who he was named after, that my generation is the sixth generation of the Wales family in Canada, and about the early days as a pioneer in Glen Leslie where he, my grandmother, his parents and sisters and relatives of my grandmother settled in 1912 - 1913. Like most children I loved a good story and enjoyed his talks.

It was not until years later that I realized that most of the family history was in danger of being lost as older family members died and many of the younger members dispersed. I started collecting information from family members, saving bits and pieces over the years, but a demanding career gave me little time to devote to genealogy. It seemed to me that the only hope of having as much time as I wanted to spend on family history would have to wait until retirement.

Retirement came and I moved back to Grande Prairie after almost forty years of living in various cities in Canada and the United States. I quickly learned that the idea of having plenty of time after retirement is a fallacy. However I was determined to pursue genealogy interests as much as possible. Three factors helped me further my search.

The first big boost occurred shortly after I returned to Grande Prairie. The local museum wanted to feature the Wales family as part of an on-going series honouring early settler families of the Grande Prairie area. The family decided that they wanted a 'complete' family tree prepared as part of the display. I could supply information on the older generations back to the mid 1700s but did not know or have records of



all the current descendants. We had about a month to prepare so the pressure was on.

I agreed to enter all the family information into a genealogy computer program so that a wall display could be made. The greatest sources of information were the great-grandmothers. They all had little books with the birthdays and anniversaries of all their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. They usually knew everyone's full name and where they were born or married. We decided to include all the wedding photographs we could of the older generations. Many days were spent in the museum, which kindly offered the use of their workroom for our project. The great-grandmothers insisted that the display must include pictures of all the family members, down to the great-grandchild that was only a few months old. Maps, pictures of homes and farms in Ontario and Grande Prairie, and pictures of early pioneer work, school, and families were included. Family articles from the early pioneer days, many that I did not know existed, were sought out for display. My father's cousin from Washington arrived, bringing some wonderful old pictures that her mother had collected. It was a lot of work, but in the end we had added a great deal to our family history.

The second activity that helps me with genealogy is participation in the Grande Prairie & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society. The members are eager to offer assistance and point out items of interest in their genealogical collection. Smaller branches facilitate meeting members, learning of their areas of interest, and exchange of ideas, questions, and successes.

A third project that is helping me develop my knowledge of genealogy is the internet-based courses offered by the University of Toronto and the National Institute of Genealogical Studies. I have complete seven courses, am presently taking the eighth, and am signed up to take another eight over the remainder of the year. Although all the courses are interesting and informative, I find the methodology courses the most helpful. The methodology courses concentrate on organization, proceeding in an orderly manner, and recording 'everything', all of which are sadly lacking in my own research.

Lesson Learned: Seize every opportunity to add to your family history and genealogical knowledge. If opportunities do not present themselves, make some.

Speaking of making opportunities to further family research, I am researching the following families:

#### WALES, WAILES, or WELLS

John and Mary SYMENSON, m. 1782, Terrington, North Yorkshire, England.

Robert (1799-1860) and Ruth ROBINS (1815-1900), m. 1834 Halton County, Ontario.

Robert (1836-19098) and Ann ROSS NESBITT (1834-1914), m. ca 1860, Halton County, Ontario.

Alfred (1863-1937) and Alice VAN ALSTINE (1869-1943), m. 1885, Ontario.

Settled in Grande Prairie in 1913.

#### ANDERSEN

Mads Peter (1881-1960) from Biersted-Enge, Denmark and his wife Laura CHRISTENSEN (1880-1956), from Brohuset-Skeave sogn, Denmark; immigrated to Magrath, Alberta in 1910.

#### MOON

Theophilus and Honor HARKEY, m. 1754 in Liskeard, Cornwall, England

Robert (b.1755) and Ann RESCORLA, of Liskeard, Cornwall, England

Henry John (1788-1870) and Mary ROLLING; immigrated from Cornwall to Medonte Township, Simcoe County, Ontario in 1832.

Charles ROLLING (1858-1904) and Elizabeth MCPHEE; m. 1880; Elizabeth moved to Edmonton, AB with 9 children in 1905; moved to Grande Prairie in 1913.

#### MCPHEE, MCFEE, or MCDUFFIE

Neil MCDUFFIE (1780-1850); Kilmney, Islay, Scotland. Wives: Martha MCKECHNIE (1806), M. Margaret SINCLAIR, Janet MCDUGAL (1792-1887). Others died in Islay; Janet immigrated with family to Ontario ca 1850.

Archibald MCDUFFIE (1821-1897) and Ann REID (1822-1899), both born in Islay; immigrated to Ontario ca. 1850; moved to Spruce Grove, AB in 1892. Surname changed to MCPHEE.

#### VAN ALSTINE, VANALSTINE, or VAN ALSTYNE

Jacob VANALSTINE (1829-1885) and Alice NORRIS (1831-1881) m. 1855 in Brock County, lived in Norwich, Oxford, Ontario.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in these families to compare and share data. I can be reached at:

10119 - 94 Avenue,  
Grande Prairie AB T8V 0K9  
Telephone: 780-539-6592  
Email: mwales@telusplanet.net

# Obituaries - 2000

By Laura Turnbull

Obituaries in the Grande Prairie "Daily Herald-Tribune" from January to December, 2000.

**Note:** The index for the obituaries (630 entries) could not be printed here due to space limitations. It may be seen in the full issue of *Heritage Seekers*

The obituary index (1978-1998) consists of index cards, on which the actual obituary from the "Grande Prairie Daily Herald-Tribune" has been pasted. As well, funeral cards, thank you notices, memorials and notices to creditors & claimants have been included where available. If there were other news articles containing information of the deceased, these have also been collected.

Starting in 1999, only the index has been compiled. Obituaries can be obtained from the microfilms of the Grande Prairie "Daily Herald-Tribune" on file in the Isabel Campbell room of the Grande Prairie Public Library.

This obituary file covers the period from 1978 to the present. Issues of "Heritage Seekers" which contain indexes of these obituaries are:

Vol 11, Nos. 1,2,3,4 Mar-Dec 1988	1978-1987
Vol 13, No. 2, Jun 1990	1988
Vol 13, No. 3, Sep 1990	1989
Vol 14, No. 1, Mar 1991	1990
Vol 15, No. 1, Mar 1992	1991
Vol 16, No. 1, Mar 1993	1992
Vol 17, No. 1, Mar 1994	1993
Vol 18, No. 1, Mar 1995	1994
Vol 19, No. 1, Mar 1996	1995
Vol 20, No. 2, Jun 1997	1996
Vol 21, No. 2, Jun 1998	1997
Vol 22, No. 1, Mar 1999	1998
Vol 23, No. 2, Jun 2000	1999
Vol 24, No. 2, Jun 2001	2000

Our Research Committee will search any surname for a SASE (self addressed stamped envelop). If copies are requested, you will be notified of the number of entries available and copying costs (approximately \$2.00/copy).

Regular Issues of "Heritage Seekers" are ten to twelve pages in length. Readers wishing to receive the full issue must be members of the Branch.

Additional articles in June, 2001 issue not included here:

Newsletter Gleanings, Old Newspapers,  
Cookbook Project, Green Tomato Mincemeat,  
From the Stacks, Obituaries 2000

## Contact Information

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

Email: [agsgp@canada.com](mailto:agsgp@canada.com)

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

## Executive

President: Judith Bradley  
Vice President: Bill Lappenbush  
Secretary: Marilyn Wales  
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Publicity: Leita Askew  
Researchers: Paulette Hrychiw  
Researchers: Joan Bowman  
Volunteer Coordinator: vacant  
Website: Laura Turnbull

### Newsletter "Heritage Seekers"

Editor: Judith Bradley  
Layout & Copying: Laura Turnbull  
Distribution: Evelyn Stark

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

All members receive "Heritage Seekers" as part of their membership. Memberships are available at a cost of \$10.00 per year (all members must belong to the Alberta Genealogical Society).

Subscriptions (to libraries/institutions) are available at a cost of \$10.00 per year.



Laurie was born in Chicago of Minnesotan parents, grew up in the Los Angeles area, went to university in Berkeley, lived in New York, England, and Los Angeles, then settled in England. She is the Head of Department and a senior lecturer in the Computing Department of the Open University at Milton Keynes. Her ancestry is typically 'mongrel'; her mother is 100% German (but born in the USA) and her father was half Swedish, half Irish / English, with a touch of American Indian.

searching, and approximate dates. The annual Swedish clerical surveys record who is where, and it is usually only necessary to find the right person once in order to track them back through the clerical records to births and baptisms, marriages and deaths.

Try to find a good Swedish dictionary. A dictionary of Swedish genealogical terms exists, though any Swedish-English dictionary will do. Web sites can also be very helpful. I suggest beginning by searching for Sweden in the wonderful [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) which has links to thousands of helpful genealogical sites.

## Further reading

### General history of the Swedish migration

Lars Ljungmark, *Swedish Exodus*, translated by Kermit B. Weterberg, published by the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, University of Illinois Press, 1974.

### Other

Vilhelm Moberg's four 'emigrant' novels describe the transformation of Karl Oskar Nilsson to Charles O. Nelson and are (in order): *The Emigrants*, *Unto a Good Land*, *The Settlers* and *Last Letter Home*. All have been translated into English and published in paperback by the University of Minnesota Press. The stories were made into two excellent films by the Swedish director Jan Troell, and these can, with luck, be found with subtitles or dubbing on video. The films are titled *The Emigrants* (in Swedish *Utvandrarna*) and *The New Land* (in Swedish *Ny Landa*).

Moberg also wrote a non-fiction book, *The Unknown Swedes: a Book about Swedes and America, Past and Present*, in which he described his fascination with the Swedish migration and what happened when he looked up his American relatives.

### The many names of Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was born in 1827 in Hassela, Sweden, to Pelle Persson and Helena Bengtsdotter and baptized Bengt. From birth to about 1847 he appears to have been known as Bengt Pehrsson (note the different spelling of the surname), though he may also have gone by the name Bengt Persson Gadd. ('Gadd' means 'sting' or 'stung', so possibly this was a joking nickname given to him.) In 1849 he appears as Bengt Tysk. Again, Tysk may have been a nickname, as it means 'the German' in Swedish. He appears on the passenger list of the ship *Oden*, which arrived in New York in 1850, as Bengt Pehrsson Tysk, servant of the farmer Olof Henriksson Norman. His elder brother was with him on the ship and called himself Per Persson Norell at the time, later calling himself Peter Norell, though for a short time he also used the surname Franklin. Exactly where the name Norell came from is unknown.

Sources: Leaf, Earl (2000) *The Swedish Pioneers of Chisago County*, second edition, published privately, and Olsson, Nils W. (198?) *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States, 1820 - 1850*, Schmidts Boktycken AB.

# Yngvar's Alberta Relatives

by Ian Holmes

In April, 1998, I noticed this query in the 'General Alberta Canada Queries' forum on the internet:

*Posted by Yngvar Kanstad <ykanstad@c2i.net> on Sun, 29 Mar 1998*

I'm a Norwegian looking for my the descendants of Johannes Svare who came to Alberta from the farm of Gyltvig in northern Norway in approx. 1880. His children Johanna, Jenny, Marie, Johannes and Ole had already left for Canada some 5 to 10 years earlier. According to Norwegian name customs at that time, the children are likely to be called Johannesen (as for the boys) and Johannesdatter for the girls. Johannes Svare's wife, Marie, died in Norway. Johannes Svare originally came from Vaagaa in southern Norway. If some of this sounds familiar, please EMAIL."

Although I'd never heard of Yngvar Kanstad, I decided to check the AGS cemeteries/surname database. There were no Johannesdatters and many Johansen/ Johannesen/ Johnsons, but none that looked promising. A search for Svare yielded nothing, but "S?are" produced 25 Svare burials in St. Joseph's cemetery in Hay Lakes (about 80 km SE of Edmonton) and two more in Camrose. Johannes Svare and his father Johannes Arneson Svare were among them. I contacted Yngvar with the news, and he was very pleased and grateful.

(Note: For further information on St. Joseph's cemetery, the AGS has field notes by Helen Heibner with an elaborate chart of the burials showing parents, siblings, and children.)

But there was more, much more. The reference to Hay Lakes led to a 1000-page history book "Each Step Left Its Mark", in which information about the Svare families took up more than 50 pages. Many descendants were listed and one of them had been the chief instigator of the book. Another relative arranged to have a copy of the book hand-delivered to Yngvar in Oslo just a matter of weeks after he posted his query. Apart from all the family history, anecdotes, and stories, one of the most interesting paragraphs was the one that explained the decision to convert from the old naming patterns to the new 'family' name:

"The ship "Oscar 2" sailed from Bodo, Norway, the spring of 1903 with the (...) Svare Family aboard. (...) Aboard ship they argued about what surname to use in Canada. Since they were brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews, a common surname would save difficult explanations, in English, of Norwegian naming systems that gave them several possible choices. They could use "Johannesen" which was their Father's Christian name with "sen" added as was the custom in Norway. or they could use their "gørnsnavn", that is, the name of the farmstead from which they came, which was permissible and popular among Norwegian immigrants. or they could use their Father's surname of "Svare", as was the custom in Canada. Finally they all agreed to use "Svare" when registering with the Canadian Immigration Authorities in Halifax in May when they landed, and "Svares" they have been ever since, signed, sealed and delivered." (pages 466-467)



Johannes Svare



# Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland

by Dianne McCoy

In 1842 Richard Griffith, a Dublin geologist, was appointed Commissioner of Valuation for Ireland under the terms of the Tenement Act. Over a period of 40 years, he compiled an immense amount of information on Irish families as part of an effort to rationalize the Irish tax system. The Valuation process was completed for all Ireland in 1864, with revisions done every seven years thereafter. No single repository has a complete set of the original printed valuation books. Ordinarily, no one would care very much about this untidy bit of record keeping, but in 1922 all the censuses prior to 1901, all Church of Ireland parish records that had been sent to Dublin 'for safety,' and many probate records were destroyed in the tragic Four Courts fire. As a result, Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland (as it is sometimes known) is the only source available to family historians that lists every landholder and every householder in Ireland at mid-century.\*

Most of us don't know what townland (the smallest civil unit) our Irish ancestors came from. We simply know our roots are Irish, and consider ourselves well off if we know the name of a county or nearby large town. Since Griffith arranged his data by county, barony, poor law union, civil parish, and townland, many beginning researchers felt defeated before they began. The Valuation is notoriously difficult to search because a comprehensive index to surnames was lacking until the early 1960s. Even if you are so fortunate as to have access to an index, know where your ancestor lived, and be able to locate the name on the Valuation, the information contained there is not strictly genealogical, being more concerned with land values and taxation.

These mysteries were the first I encountered when I set off in search of Irish ancestors. While

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*\* Editor's Note: Despite the losses in the Four Courts fire, the complete civil records for Ireland are still with us. Civil registration started for all residents of Ireland in 1864, so marriage, birth, and death records are available to any researcher from 1864 onwards. For Church of Ireland ancestors, civil records go back even farther. One does not need to go to Dublin to see these records. All the indices and many of the full records are available via microfilm order from the Mormon church. There is an excellent article on these records at [www.rootsweb.com/~irish/igsi\\_published/cens-sub/homabd01.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~irish/igsi_published/cens-sub/homabd01.htm). Many researchers are completely unaware of the existence and availability of these records, and they send letters to overworked parish priests in Ireland, most of which go unanswered. Granted, in order to research prior to 1864, one must turn to religious records and it's pretty much necessary to be conversant in both Latin and Irish in order to be successful.*

*Some records survived elsewhere like the Representative Church Body Archives in Dublin, but even these are not complete. They are a good place to look for baptismal, marriage, and death records, however, if you know the parish, county, and townland. For that, Griffiths is your best resource. Most material held by the National Archives of Ireland dates from the 19th and 20th centuries, although some of it dates back as far as the 13th century.*

*Another resource for Irish researchers attempting to understand the variations and Irish equivalents of surnames is at the Irish Times web site at <http://scripts.ireland.com/ancestor/surname/index.cfm>.*

others in the Genealogy For Beginners class were finding census records on line or locally available on CD or microfilm, Irish researchers like me, new to the game and unfamiliar with the tools and methods, were shaking their heads and saying the only way was to go to Ireland.

## CD Finding Aid

We are fortunate that the Alberta Genealogy Society has an alphabetical index to Griffith's Primary Valuation at the Edmonton Branch library. This relatively new resource lists family names in alphabetical order with their associated townlands. The Search Wizard in Family Tree Maker on the library computer makes locating names simple; simply type in the name in the appropriate box and a whole list of possible candidates presents itself. The information is time specific; it applies to the period from when the Valuation process began to when it was first completed for all Ireland. If you do not know the exact townland name associated with your family, the CD index to Griffith's Valuation is an important first step in locating it. In fact, it is the only resource I have found that can do so.

Interestingly, by locating the names of my husband's fourth-great grandparents (McCoy and McGill) on this CD and by cross-checking to see which townlands and parishes had both names at the time of Griffith's Valuation, I was recently able to deduce the most likely place to look for further records. I am indebted to a researcher in the Quebec Family History Society for showing me this method.

## Making sense of Griffith's data

Once you have located the likely townland using the CD index of surnames, you are ready to have a look at the original data. While I presume this can be ordered at the Family History Centre from the main Library in Salt Lake City (which has an extensive though incomplete set of the Valuation), I was fortunate to be able to go to the source; the National Library and Valuation Office in Dublin. I returned with photocopies of Griffith's original pages and of revisions done every seven years between 1854 and the date my ancestors left Ireland. I have spent many hours pouring over their contents. By doing so, I was able to see changes in their holdings, reduction or increase in value, and deduce approximate dates of death.

But before you go to the expense and trouble of ordering a copy of your family's townland Valuation from the mid-nineteenth century, it would be wise to consult a relatively new book in the Edmonton Branch Library, *RICHARD GRIFFITH AND HIS VALUATIONS OF IRELAND* by James R. Reilly, published in 2000 by the Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore MD, to learn how Griffith's work can assist your search.

Reilly, a certified genealogical records specialist, has gone to the trouble of documenting the process of data collection and the genealogical uses of the Primary Valuation. His book is readable and answers many questions that plague Irish researchers, such as 'Is this resource reliable for genealogical information?'

Reilly begins by explaining the background of the Valuation, its predecessors (such as the Tithe and Applotment Rolls and the Field and Perambulation Books), and by clarifying instructions given by Griffith to his land and house surveyors. His aim is to deduce what



*This index to Griffith's Primary Valuation lists family names in alphabetical order with their associated townlands. For more information, however, one must refer to the actual Valuation records.*

*Dianne is a relatively new member of the AGS (1998), and a regular volunteer in the library in Edmonton. She's tracing her family in Ireland and Canada, and published the results of her Irish research in 2000.*

genealogical information may reasonably be drawn from what is essentially a government tax document. Here are several of his examples of how the surveyors recorded the data:

- A Christian name in brackets after several male occupiers' surnames indicates who the father was.
- In the case of two women sharing the same Christian and surname, the maiden name is in brackets.
- Words like 'Hill' or 'Hollow' in brackets indicate the location of the property within the townland (useful if you are planning to go there and have a look!).
- The use of 'jun'. and 'sen'. indicate father-son relationships.

For further details, you must go to Griffith's original materials. Reilly's book covers the 40 years of data collection, gives some idea of the thoroughness with which Griffith worked, and provides a glossary of terms. The dates of published townland Valuations and Tenement

Valuations are also in the appendices, so if you already have some idea of the year your family left Ireland, you can determine if they are likely to be found in the Valuation.

A county-by-county inventory of where to find the books of Griffith's General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland makes up the final appendix. This alone makes the book worth its \$49.95 purchase price.

No. and Letter of Entry to Map.	Name.	Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.	Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
				Land.	Buildings.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	James [Hill] (sen.)	House, office, and land.	7 0 20	15 10 0	4 10 0
2	Thomas Mulligan.	House and land.	1 0 10	1 0 0	1 0 0
3	Francis M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
4	Charles Wall [Hill].	Land.	1 0 15	1 0 0	1 0 0
5	Charles M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
6	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
7	John Maginly (Shaw).	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
8	James Dorian.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
9	Charles M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
10	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
11	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
12	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
13	William Walker.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
14	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
15	John Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
16	John O'Donnell.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
17	Dudley O'Donnell.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
18	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
19	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
20	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
21	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
22	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
23	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
24	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
25	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
26	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
27	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
28	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
29	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
30	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
31	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
32	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
33	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
34	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
35	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
36	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
37	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
38	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
39	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
40	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
41	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
42	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
43	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
44	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
45	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
46	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
47	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
48	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
49	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
50	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
51	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
52	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
53	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
54	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
55	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
56	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
57	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
58	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
59	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
60	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
61	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
62	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
63	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
64	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
65	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
66	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
67	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
68	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
69	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
70	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
71	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
72	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
73	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
74	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
75	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
76	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
77	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
78	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
79	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
80	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
81	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
82	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
83	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
84	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
85	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
86	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
87	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
88	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
89	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
90	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
91	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
92	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
93	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
94	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
95	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
96	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
97	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
98	Patrick Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
99	James M. Galtrey.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0
100	Thomas Maginly.	Land.	1 0 20	1 0 0	1 0 0

A page from Griffith's Valuation of Ireland showing some of the land and leaseholders in the parish of Killybegs Lower, County Donegal.

## AGS News

### ***AGS Website and FFHS Web Award***

by Laura Turnbull, AGS Webmaster

We received news on June 17, 2001, that the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) website placed second in the first annual Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) Web Award competition. There were 53 entries from member societies.

The winner was The Family History Society of Cheshire (<http://www.fhsc.org.uk/>) in Cheshire, England. The runners-up were:

- 2nd — Alberta Genealogical Society (Alberta, Canada)
- 3rd — East of London FHS (Essex, England)
- 4th — Watkins FHS (Georgia, USA)
- 5th — Gwent FHS (Monmouthshire, Wales)
- 6th — Norfolk FHS Internet Branch (Norfolk, England)
- 7th — Maryborough District FHS (Queensland, Australia).

Both the winner and the runners-up will be able to display the FFHS Web Award emblem on their web sites.

The main criteria used in evaluating each website included:

- The web pages should be useful, clear and attractive to non-members, outsiders, those who happen on the pages by searching, or by links from other web sites. They should make it clear what the Society provides through the web, at public events, through publications and search services, or by joining.
- The web pages should be useful to members of the Society and other Societies - information about meetings, libraries,

courses, e-mail lists for the region or speciality of the Society. Some societies have pages restricted to members, but the FFHS award is restricted to consideration of pages open to all.

- The web pages should be integrated with other sites - having relevant links to GENUKI, record offices, libraries, etc, relevant to the Society.

Complete details may be found at <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/Societies/Awards/Web2001.htm>.

### **History of AGS website**

The AGS Website first went online on October 25, 1995. I approached the AGS Executive in September that year, proposing to develop a website for AGS and found an internet service provider (TerrAffirmative, Grande Prairie) who was willing to donate space for this venture. Permission was given and the first attempt gave basic information of the society and its branches with meetings and contact details. Within six months this had been expanded to include the membership form, publications list, and the full program for Conference '96. The first four months saw over 2000 accesses to the website from Alberta, other provinces of Canada, United States, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, France, and New Zealand, to name just a few.

In September 1996, the website had to move when TerrAffirmative closed its doors, and after a time the website was relocated to its present site at <http://www.compumart.ab.ca/abgensoc/>.

A study of 'hits' in 1999 showed that over 20,000 people accessed our site that year.

### **Where are we now?**

The main purposes of the website are to provide information to our members and the public on activities and projects of the Society, and research aids to our members



and the public to assist in genealogical research in Alberta.

The main page will link you to information on various areas within the Alberta Genealogical Society, including:

- Alberta Sources - Listing of Cemeteries and Other Surname Sources in Alberta
- Information on all branches, including either website or email access
- Bylaws of the Society
- Campaign for the Public Access to Post 1901 Canadian Census Records
- Conference / GenFair programs and details for registration
- Executive Committee
- Genealogical Events in Alberta
- Library - full listing of materials available for members and details on how to order by mail.
- Links to Useful Sites on the Web
- Master Name Index (including cemeteries)
- Membership information and membership form
- Other genealogical organizations in Alberta
- Publications available from AGS and the order form
- Researchers' Group information.

### Future plans

Plans include adding a Calendar of Events for provincial and branch activities to the website. We are investigating a number of options to make more of the databases already compiled by AGS available for searchable access, and we are working on including information on researching in Alberta to help members and the public in finding records, etc.

Plans are always underway for upgrading the AGS website. Suggestions for additions and improvements are very welcome. Please

e-mail me at [agsoffice@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:agsoffice@compusmart.ab.ca) with your ideas or questions.

## Branch News

### *Brooks & District Branch 20th Anniversary*

*by E. Carol Anderson*

Sixty-five people attended the 20th anniversary of the Brooks & District branch on June 14th. The evening was a celebration of the occasion, and gave recognition to the many achievements of the members since the founding of the branch.

All members were given corsages with colored ribbons denoting their years of membership in the branch. The evening started with a catered dinner of dishes from 13 countries, representing all of the branch members' areas of genealogy research. The international theme was also noticeable in the decorations chosen for wall-hangings and the two main display tables.

AGS President, Ian Holmes and his wife Julie were honoured guests. Ian presented a 20-year Certificate to Branch President Nestor Martinez, in recognition of the branch's achievements and appreciation given its members for years of dedication to genealogy and the AGS. Later, Ian won the first door-prize and he now sports a pair of dutch-shoe slippers in a Holstein pattern.

When the branch was established, 11 people signed the letter of intent requesting branch status with AGS. Four of them are still AGS and branch members; Beverly Hagen, Clara Iwaasa, Carol Anderson, and Irene Vanderloh. Nestor Martinez presented a certificate and lifetime branch membership to each of them.

It was also quite notable that all current and past branch presidents were in attendance;

Beverly Hagen 1981-1982; Maren Burns 1983-1984; Carol Anderson 1985-1986 and 1991-1992; Eileen Flexhaug 1987-1988; Clara Iwaasa 1989-1990; Barbara Tarney 1993-1994; Jean Stewart 1995-1996; Betty Penner 1997-1998-1999; Andre Menard 1999-2000; and Nestor Martinez 2000-2001. They were presented with certificates and floral bouquets.

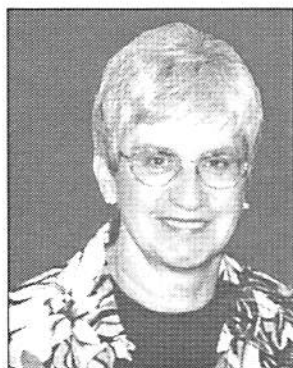
Kimiko and Rebecca Spence, granddaughters of Clara Iwaasa, danced the Highland fling, Highland Laddie, and Hop Scotch Polka. Thirteen branch members performed four short humorous sketches, with the branch's history told by Carol Anderson between each skit. A special memorial was presented by Betty Penner in remembrance of the departed members of the branch, about 14 since 1981. The program concluded with a slide presentation showing members busily involved with branch activities over the past 20 years, presented by branch historian, Pauline Mark.



*Left: Kimiko Spence, granddaughter of AGS and Brooks Branch member, Clara Iwaas, shows off her skills as a Highland dancer.*

*Below: Ten Brooks Branch presidents, past and present; Back Row: Andre Menard, Clara Iwaasa, Eileen Flexhaug, Jean Stewart, Maren Burns, Front Row: Betty Penner, Nestor Martinez, Carol Anderson, Barbara Tarney, Beverly Hagen. Photos courtesy of The Brooks Bulletin*





Laura Turnbull

## Feature Volunteer

### **Laura Turnbull, AGS Webmaster**

*Interview by John R. Hughes, Editor*

Note: As reported elsewhere in this issue, the AGS was awarded second place in the Federation of Family History Societies competition for best website hosted by an FHS member. So how could we not pick Laura as our feature volunteer for this issue?

Q: How long have you been involved with the AGS?

A: I joined the AGS in 1978, and was a charter member of the Grande Prairie and District Branch, which was formed the same year.

Q: You've held so many positions in both the AGS and the Grande Prairie Branch that it's virtually impossible to list all of them. What was your favourite job with the AGS? With the Grande Prairie Branch?

A: I can single out three positions within the AGS that were particularly challenging and rewarding. One was that of AGS President, which I held for two terms, 1983/84 and 1984/85. The Society has grown considerably since then but this position was very challenging and I gained valuable experience during this time. I enjoyed my contacts with people and developed many friendships with people in Alberta and also other parts of the world. The second position I would mention is that of AGS Webmaster. I have enjoyed learning to put together information on the Society and making it available to the world. It is a continual learning experience. Another challenging position was that of Chairman for the AGS Conference held in Grande Prairie in 1982.

Q: What other genealogical groups have you been associated with?

A: I chaired the first and second organizational meetings for the Canadian

Federation of Genealogical and Family History Societies (CanFed) in 1984 and '85, and was the interim Treasurer of CanFed in 1985/86 and the interim President in 1986/87. As part of my personal research, I am a member of three other organizations: Cumbria Family History Society, Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society, and Germans from Russia Heritage Society.

Q: What are some of your ongoing projects?

A: Since 1995 I've been extracting obituary notices from the Grande Prairie Daily Herald-Tribune and the Edmonton Journal and submitting the information to 'The Obituary Daily Times', a searchable database on the internet (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~obituary/>). In 1991 I took on the typing and layout for Heritage Seekers, Grande Prairie & District Branch's quarterly newsletter, and have prepared excerpts from it for publication in Relatively Speaking since 1996. Over the years, I have made several presentations at Grande Prairie Branch meetings and also at genealogy conferences in Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, and Edmonton. I presented several courses on 'Beginning Genealogy' in Grande Prairie between 1986 and 1999.

Q: Completed projects?

A: In 1992, I finished compiling a book called THE TURNBULL FAMILY; 90 YEARS IN CANADA which was printed and distributed to family members. When complete it contained about 150 photographs and was 137 pages long.

Q: When did you start working on the AGS website?

A: In 1995 I set up the web site for AGS and I've been the webmaster since then. Of course, the site has been overhauled several times and is constantly being reviewed and improved, as all web sites must be if they're to keep up to date. Later on, I also set up and continue to maintain a website for Grande Prairie Branch.

Q: With all that, do you have time for a life outside genealogy?

A: I worked full time until June 1999, when I decided to take early retirement. My husband and I have had the opportunity to travel to England several times (the first trip in 1980) and have also been to Mexico, Europe, the Caribbean, and various parts of Canada and the United States. Our various trips have combined our interest in history and genealogy with photography. We both keep close contact with our immediate families living in various parts of Alberta, with roots at Onoway and Hilda, and try to see them as often as we can.

## What's New in the Library

by Norma Wolowyk

### Family Histories

929.2 BJO The Birch Branch [Bjorkquist/Bergstrom Families]. 1976.

929.2 REE Some Ancestors of William David Reesor and Alice Sexsmith Moffatt. 2000. (Donated by Sheila Reesor Cunningham)

### Genealogy Manuals

929.1 DOUa vol 1 Help! I've inherited an attic full of history: volume 1, dating, evaluating, and disposing of the accumulation of a lifetime. 1998.

929.1 DOUa vol 2 Help! I've inherited an attic full of history: vol. 2, archival conservation in the home environment. 1999.

### Surname Indexes

929.305 GEN 2001 Genealogical research directory: national and international 2001. 2001.

### Canada — Ethnic Groups

971.23 ALB Window of our memories. 1981.

### Canada — Genealogy Manuals

929.1 DOU Tools of the trade for Canadian genealogy: a guide for family historians researching in Canada. 2000.

929.171 DOUa Here be dragons, too!: more navigational hazards for the Canadian family researcher. 2000.

929.171 OBEa Western Canadian directories on microfiche and microfilm: a finding aid. 2001.

### Canada — History

971.2 BON Pioneering in the West. 1957.

### Canada — Immigration/Emigration

929.371 ACT Index of passengers who emigrated to Canada between 1817 and 1849. 1999.

### Canada — Land And Property

929.171 OBE Back to the land: a genealogical guide to finding farms on the Canadian prairies. 2001.

### Canada — Maps, Gazetteers

912.7 LOV Lovell's gazetteer of British North America, 1873. 1998.

### Canada — Alberta — Local Histories

971.231 WAT Waterhole and the land north of the Peace. 1970.

971.233 EDG Winds of change: Edgerton and district. 1975.

971.233 ENT vol 1 Foley Trail: a history of Entwistle, Evansburg and the surrounding districts, volume 1. 1984.

971.233 ENT vol 2 Foley Trail: a history of Entwistle, Evansburg and surrounding



districts, volume 2. 1984.

971.233 TRO Remember when: the history of Trochu and district. 1975.

971.234 FOR Shortgrass country: a history of Foremost and Nemiskam. 1975.

971.234 LON Tales and trails: a history of Longview and surrounding area, 1900-1972. 1977.

**Canada — Alberta — Vital Records**

929.3 7123 GED A genealogical index to southern Alberta death and marriage notices, 1962-1980. 1998.

**Canada — Ontario — Oxford Co — Local Histories**

971.346 EMB Embro centennial and Zorra old boys and girls reunion, 1858-1958. 1958. (Donated by George Sutherland of Youngstown, AB)

**Canada — Ontario — Surname Indexes**

929.3713 STR v.5 Strays!: an index to the OGS strays project. 1999.

929.3713 STRa v.1 Strays!: an index to the British strays in Canada resulting from the OGS strays project. 1999.

929.3713 STRb Strays!: married name index to volumes I to III of the strays project. 1999.

**Canada — Ontario — Simcoe Co — Vital Records**

929.3713 17 GED People of Simcoe County, Ontario: birth, death, and marriages notices-early to 1971. 1998.

**Canada — Saskatchewan — Local Histories**

971.242 ALS Captured memories: a history of Alsask and surrounding districts. 1983.

971.242 PIE 'Our Pioneers': Pierceland & district. 1980.

**Great Britain—Genealogy Manuals**

929.142 CHA 1997 Ecclesiastical courts, officials and records: sin, sex and probate. 1997

**Italy — Genealogy Manuals**

929.145 NEL A genealogists guide to discovering your Italian ancestors: how to

find and record your unique heritage. 1997.

**Poland — Genealogy Manuals**

929.1438 CHO Polish roots. 1993.

**U.S. — Maps, Gazetteers**

912.73 DOL Map guide to American migration routes, 1735-1815. 1997.

**U.S. — Vital Records**

929.373 BOL Marriage notices 1785-1794 for the whole United States.

**Recent Federation Of Family History Societies Publications:**

929.142 FFHS 014 Irish ancestry: a beginner's guide. 2001.

929.142 FFHS 088 Bishops' transcripts and marriage licences, bonds and allegations: a guide to their location and indexes. 2001.

929.142 FFHS 122 Basic facts about...

Research in London, Part I: research London ancestors. 2001.

929.142 FFHS 123 Basic facts about...

Using Colindale and other newspaper repositories, Part I. 2001.

929.142 FFHS 124 Identifying your WWI soldier from badges and photographs. 2001.

929.142 FFHS 125 Family History on the Web. 2001.

## Gleanings from Publications

*by Myrna Reeves*

This material was inadvertently missed from the last issue of Relatively Speaking.

**Family Tree Magazine, Dec 2000, Vol 17 #2**  
Births, Marriages and Deaths at Sea — a summary of the records available and their location.

**East Surrey Family History Society, Dec 2000, Vol 23 #4**

Inscriptions at St Olave's Southwark 1924, with a map of civil parishes in Southwark.



**East Surrey Family History Society, Mar 2001, Vol 24 #1**

Children of the Bermondsey Deaf and Dumb Asylum in 1805 — contains occupational and family details.

**Family History Monthly, Jan 2001 #64**

Bound for the Great Salt Lake — Mormon emigration to the United States in the 19th century. Spotlight on Armagh — the spiritual capital of Ireland for 1500 years and the seat of both the Protestant and Catholic archbishops.

**Family History Monthly, Feb 2001 #65**

Identifying and Dating British Military Photographs — uniforms and badges tell a lot about a man's service.

**The Greenwood Tree (Somerset and Dorset) Feb 2001 Vol 26 #1**

Index of Officers and Men who obtained the Victoria Cross in the Crimean War of 1854-55-56.

**Irish Roots, Fourth Quarter 2000, #36**

Genealogy Centers in Ireland — How to make the best use of them, includes a list of the indexed records at the Derry centre.

**Irish Family History, 2000, Vol 16**

Register of Freeholders, County Wexford 1833-1841, arranged by Barony with dates of registry (to be continued).

**The Ancestral Searcher (Canberra), Dec 2000, Vol 23 #4**

see [www.acronymfinder.com/](http://www.acronymfinder.com/) — a, searchable database of acronyms, abbreviations, initialisms on all subjects

**New Zealand Genealogist, Jan/Feb 2001, #267**

Hooked on Genealogy - The Tour — a brief description of resources that were visited on a tour to Salt Lake City and London.

**NGS Newsmagazine, Nov/Dec 2000, Vol 26 #6**

Where Do I Look Next?, Research Guidance at Family Search Internet — use of 'Research Helps' for specific research

guidance.

**NGS Newsmagazine, Jan/Feb 2001, Vol 27 #1**

Oregon genealogical Libraries and Collections — gives the significant Oregon sources for each area discussed.

**Reassembling Female Lines, (NGS), Sept 2000 Vol 88 #3**

an issue devoted to tracing female ancestors.

**The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Oct 2000, Vol 131 #4**

Communicants of the First Presbyterian Church, New York City 1869 — inscribed by order of the session.

**New England Ancestor, Winter 2001, Vol 2 #1**

The Computer Genealogist — a guide to State Historical Societies online.

**Family Chronicle, Jan/Feb 2001, Vol 5 #3**

Fraternal and Benevolent Societies — the records held by voluntary societies and the genealogical information they can reveal.

French-Canadian Roots — a discussion of the unique challenges faced by those tracing their French-Canadian roots.

**Family Chronicle, Mar/Apr 2001, Vol 5 #4**

Cemetery Research Online — a description of cemetery records that can be researched online and cemetery links.

**Family Tree Magazine, Apr 2001, Vol 2 #2**

Coming to Your Census — a review of how well census images online deliver and whether they are worth the money.

**GC (Genealogical Computing), Winter 2001, Vol 20 #3**

Genealogy Programs for Macintosh — a review of the software.

**Black Hills Nuggets, Feb 2001, Vol 34 #1**

The English Society of Genealogists has selected this site for access to their family records, see: [www.origins.netsog/announcement.htm](http://www.origins.netsog/announcement.htm).

**North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record, Dec 2000, #85**

1910 state Census of Granville Township, McHenry Co, ND — a reprint.

**Je Me Souviens (American-French Genealogical Society), Autumn 2000, Vol 23 #2**

Nuns, Wives, Mothers and Much More — The contribution of women to the economy of New France.

**German Genealogical Digest, Fall 2000 Vol 16 #3**

German research on the Internet — an extensive overview of German research sites.

**German Genealogical Digest Winter 2000, Vol 16 #4**

Entire issue largely dedicated to Baden's history and records.

**American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (Lincoln, Nebraska)**

New Subscription — newsletters for 2000 vols 96-101 and Journals for 2000 Vols 23, #s 1-5.

**Heritage Revilew (Germans from Russia Heritage Society), Dec 2000, Vol 30 #4**  
Marriage Register — St Mary's Catholic Church and Missions, Fox Valley, SK.

**Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, Dec 2000, Vol 31 #4**

Village and Town Census Records in the Saskatchewan Archives. Genealogical Study for Prairie Indian and Metis Families  
Researching Your Russian Doukhobor Roots

**The British Columbia Genealogist, Dec 2000, Vol 29 #4**

Did Your Ancestors Homestead in the BC Railway Belt — an introduction to the index to the finding aid at the BC Archives at the BC Archives. (to be continued).

**Generations, (New Brunswick) Winter 2000, Vol 22 #4**

Grandmothers of Kings County — extracted from a series of articles from the Kings County Record 1928.

**Families (OGS), Feb 2001 Vol 40 #1**  
Newspaper Announcements of Eastern Ontarians who Emigrated to the United States — a selected list from the Rideau Record, Smith Falls, 1882-1890.

**Ottawa Branch News, Mar/Apr 2001 Vol 34 #2**

Bytown Lots Leased by Colonel Bye, 1827-1832 — a list of the first leaseholders in Bytown, to be continued.

**Hamilton Branch (OGS), Nov 2000, Vol 31 #4**

Deaths from the Hamilton Spectator, 1846 and 1847 — copies of the obits available in the Hamilton Branch Office.

## New Gleanings

**Abbotsford Genealogical Society, Spring 2001 Vol 6 #1**

Ted Burkmar's Canadian List of English Persons — individuals buried in Veteran's cemetery, Victoria, BC, established 1868.

**Chinook (AFHS, Calgary) 2001, Vol 21 #1**  
Bert Sheppard Stockmen's Foundation Library, The Western Heritage Center, Cochrane — the centre has closed but the library remains open. It is a collection of old and new material focusing on ranching and rodeo.

**The Nipissing Voyageur, Jun 2001, Vol 22 #2**  
Some Addresses for Summer Research — address and phone numbers for libraries and museums in the Nipissing and Parry Sound Districts.

**London Leaf, May 2001, Vol 28 #2**  
Resources to use for Middlesex Co. marriage searches.

**Halton- Peel Newsletter Apr 2001, Vol 26 #2**  
The Ontario Archives has obtained a set of immigration records from Columbia University, created by the Toronto and Kingston Immigrant Offices 1831-1892, available on inter-library loan.

**Toronto Tree, Mar/Apr 2001, Vol 32 #2**  
Scottish family History: Part 3 — a survey of new and notable resources in Toronto.

**Bruce and Grey Branch OGS, May 2001, Vol 31 #2**

Grey Co. copy books of the land records are now on permanent loan to the Grey Co. Archives.

**The Nova Scotia Genealogist, Spring 2001, Vol 19 #1**

Extracts from Lalia Baird's Journal — a record of the BMDs of relatives and friends for 45 years, River Hebert, Cumberland Co, NS.

**Je Me Souviens, Spring 2001, Vol 24 #1**

Acadia 1612-1614 — a letter from Father Baird to the Father Provincial in Paris, from The Jesuit Relations.

**Genealogist's Magazine, Mar 2001 Vol 27 #1**

A Floor Guide to the Library of the Society of Genealogists. Each issue includes a Library Update supplement.

**Family History Monthly Apr 2001, #67**

Spotlight on Yorkshire — an overview of its history, science and industry.

**Family Tree Magazine (UK) Mar 2001, Vol 17 #5**

Settlers of the old Empire — The West Indies — some examples of records and further reading.

**Family Tree Magazine, May 2001, Vol 17 #7**

The story of a Bernardo's Boy — a reprint of an 1987 article telling of the early life of a home child.

**Practical Family History May 2001 #4**

What's at Kew for You? — an introduction to the Public Record Office at Kew.

**Practical Family History, Jun 2001 #42**

World War One — sources for research, includes a chronology.

**Family History Monthly, May 2001, #68**

Irish Immigration to Britain, — the Irish

were the major migrant group to the British mainland during the 19th century.

**Ancestors (Family History magazine of the PRO), Apr/May 2001, #1**

1901 Census Project — a report on the way the data will be published.

Assize Court — how they worked and how the records can be used.

**Seattle Gen Soc Bulletin Spring 2001 Vol 50 #3**

Can You Copyright your Data - and are you Legal? — standards for sharing information with others as recommended by the NGS.

**Everton's Genealogical Helper Jan/Feb 2001, Vol 55 #1**

State Censuses — part three of a series, this focuses on material on free websites.

**NGS Newsmagazine Mar/Apr 2001, Vol 27 #2**

Anabaptist Chronology — an effort to display the time line of most of the reformation sects which have influenced the Anabaptist movement.

PAF 5 arrives in time for the holidays — the new version is more friendly to the international community.

**Genealogical Journal (Utah), 2001 Vol 29 #1**

Two feature articles on credentials for the genealogist.

**Family Tree Magazine Jun 2001, Vol 2 #3**

The Price is Right — a guide to 85 of the best free goodies for genealogists on the internet.

**Family Chronicle May/Jun 2001, Vol 5 #5**

Norwegian Roots — resources available for ancestors from Norway.

**The New Zealand Genealogist Vol 32 # 268**

The Curse of the Border Reivers — a CD on the history of the Reivers is available, see [www.reivers.com](http://www.reivers.com).

**Journal of the American Historical Soc of Germans from Russia, Spring 2001, Vol 24 #1**

What's in a Name? — Names and naming practices among the Bukovina Germans.

**German Genealogical Digest, Spring 2001, Vol 17 #1**

The German Land Registry System — includes a glossary of terms and a bibliography.

## News from the Provincial Archives of Alberta

by Pat Pettitt

### *New finding aids available*

The ambitious volunteers from the Edmonton Branch of AGS have completed several indexing projects and these are now searchable on computer at the Provincial Archives. Ask the Reference Archivist or the Genealogical Volunteer for help with the following.

- Teacher's Retirement Fund Ledgers: 1919-1940 (75.502). This database of names and terms of service of all school teachers in Alberta is searchable by name of teacher or name of school.

- Northern Alberta Land Records: 1907 - 1978 (87.193). Quarter section land files that cover the land usage before patents were obtained from the crown. The files may contain material on grazing leases, hay permits, cultivation leases, homesteading documents and other usages while the land was still the property of the crown. It can be searched by surname or legal land description. (186 boxes).

- Returned Soldiers Commission Files: 1918 (65.118 boxes 58-65). Correspondence regarding resettlement problems faced by certain veterans of World War I.

- Index to Change of Names: 1916-1950 (71.276) Alberta Department of Provincial Secretary. This is searchable by original or new name. This accession does not contain all change of names during this period of time, nor does the archives hold the original certificates.

- Old Age Pension Board Correspondence - 1930-1955 (82.48). Files containing payment vouchers maintained by the Old Age Pension Board on certain individual pensioners concerning disbursement of monies from their estates. The collection contains files relating only to those cases about which questions were raised regarding the terms of the pension.

- Alberta Golden Jubilee Senior Citizen Award - 1955 (71.273) This collection contains the award applications completed by individuals who were pre-1905 residents of the area that is now Alberta. Not all districts are included.

- Bassano Sub-district Surrogate Court Files: 1914-1935 (99.834).

### *Help wanted with photographs finding aid*

This project is in the beginning stage and will be more useful as data is entered. Volunteers are needed to complete this project. If you enjoy data entry and want to help with this project or any others, please contact the Provincial Archives at 427-1750. These databases ensure patrons of the archives will be able to find genealogical material in these accessions.

## Announcements

### ***Ontario Genealogical Society***

Proposed Cemetery Closure by the Corporation of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto; The decision of the Registrar of Cemeteries is still pending and there is no time limit for this. However, it is expected that the decision will be challenged before a Government Tribunal. With this in mind, we are actively searching for descendants of those buried in the burial ground at St. James' Cathedral.

Contact Marjorea Roblin, Past President and Cemeteries Act Representative, at 40 Orchard View Blvd., Suite 102, Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1B9.

Phone: (416) 489-0734.

Fax: (416) 489-9803.

### ***Family History Fair***

Clwyd and Gwynedd Family History Societies present the North Wales Family History Fair, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, September 8, 2001. North Wales Theatre and Conference Centre, Promenade, Llandudno, North Wales, U.K.

Phone: 011 44 1352 810 859.

Website: [www.genfair.com](http://www.genfair.com)

### ***Plantation and Colonial Migration Family History Conference***

24-29 September 2001 Belfast, Ireland

An Irish genealogy event presented by the Ulster Historical Foundation. This conference includes research, workshops, lectures, all optional tours, and enter-

tainment. The all-inclusive conference fee is £560 (CDN\$840). Further details are posted on the bulletin board in the Edmonton Branch Library, or you can contact the Ulster Historical Foundation at Balmoral Buildings, 12 College Square East, Belfast, Ireland, BT1 6DD.

Phone: 0044 (0) 28 9300 2288

E-mail: [enquiry@uhf.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@uhf.org.uk)

Website: [www.ancestryireland.com](http://www.ancestryireland.com)

## Other Groups and Societies

### ***United Empire Loyalists***

#### **UELAC Conference Report**

*by Ivy Trumpour*

Heather Bruchet, Emma Justik, Calvin and Vera Chisholm, Lois Cummings, Ivy Trumpour, and Jack Twells represented Edmonton Branch at the Annual Conference of the UELAC in Cornwall, Ontario, June 7 to 10. Audrey, Walter, Debrah and Michael Wirtzfeld represented Calgary Branch. Altogether about 170 members and guests attended some part of the Conference which was held in the NAV CANADA facility.

Thursday night was Glengarry night with the wine and cheese reception. A local historian, David Anderson, talked about fur traders and western Canada explorers. A group of fiddlers provided lively toe-tapping entertainment. Friday there was a choice of two bus tours, one to see the area of the Lost Villages (flooded by the St. Lawrence Seaway) and the other to the Glengarry area. Especially memorable were the Gaelic Singers at the ruins of the St. Raphael Church. In the evening was an outdoor barbecue with an old time trio entertaining.



Ed Kipp described the history of the Palatine and Huguenot migrations to New York and Canada. A highlight was a musical invitation to next year's conference in Waterloo.

The annual meeting was held on Saturday. The banquet was a gala affair, with the energetic MacCulloch Dancers providing an impressive performance of highland dancing. Bruce Patterson, the Canadian Government heraldry official, gave an interesting talk on this topic, leaving everyone in no doubt that there is no such thing as a family coat of arms. Honourary Dominion President, John Matheson, of Canadian flag fame, was the guest speaker.

Sunday was the church service at St. Andrews United Church, Williamstown. This church was built on land that had belonged to David Thompson, the explorer. His house is nearby. After church there was a parade to Sir John Johnson's Manor House, where the group enjoyed a picnic lunch, musket demonstrations and presentations by local historians.

A more detailed report will appear in *LOYALIST NORTHERN LIGHTS*, newsletter of the Edmonton Branch of the UELAC.

## Edmonton Branch News

by Fran Losie

The annual Founders' Day Dinner was held May 7, 2001 at the Royal Glenora Club. Forty-seven members and friends enjoyed a parade of members in historically correct dress, the meal, and camaraderie. Dr. Michael Payne, guest speaker, spoke about 'Loyalists and the Teaching of Canadian History – Old Ideas and New Trends.' He also described the part Loyalists played in the fur trade. Marion Rex thanked Dr. Payne, presenting him with a framed picture of early fur traders and natives, taken from a London Illustrated magazine of the 1800's.

Branch Vice-President Bob Morgan UE, attended a western regional UEL Mini Conference in Calgary in mid May, on behalf of the Edmonton branch. Presentations were made by some Dominion Executive and Council members from Ontario.

As part of the AGS Family Tree Course, April 10, a UEL information table was manned by UEL branch Genealogist Doreen Mimitroff UE and Louise Croft UE. Louise is one of the founding members of the Edmonton branch and has presented United

States research (including UEL information), at the Family Tree Course for many years. She will no longer be doing so as she is moving to Salt Lake City this fall. We are sorry to lose her from our group.

The Loyalist presence was again felt at the AGS GenFair on April 21, 2001. Volunteers at the UEL table were Doreen Dimitroff UE, Al Dodd, Cheryl Donnachie, Emma Justik, Fran Losie UE, and Ivy Trumpour UE.

The next meeting of the Edmonton branch of the UEL Association will be at the Family History Centre, Bonnie Doon, Thursday, September

*Colour guard at St. Andres United in Williamsburg near Cornwall  
Photo by Heather Bruchet*



20, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. Members are usually contacted by e-mail or by phone, but visitors are very welcome and can find out details from the Edmonton branch UEL website.

Contact for Edmonton Branch: Cal or Vera Chisholm (780) 454-2635 or [vera@telusplanet.net](mailto:vera@telusplanet.net). Contact for Calgary Branch: James Stewart UE, (430) 289-3108. James is also Prairie Region Councillor on the Dominion Council, UELAC.

## ***Federation of Family History Societies***

*by Sue Philips, FFHS Liaison*

### **National Burial Index**

We have received our copy of the National Burial Index on CD-ROM, and it should be available in the library by the time this is published. The CD contains some five million names from throughout the UK. Coverage of each county varies since it depends on the work of volunteers from the various FHSs. This is a great resource to supplement the IGI which does not include burials. It is hoped that a second edition will be released in about three years. A page on the FFHS website ([www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)) will list updates to the program and notify users of any major errors found, but it will not be possible to list every error since some of the data has not been checked.

### **Website competition**

The FFHS ran a competition for websites of member societies. The winner was the Cheshire FHS, but I am pleased to say that AGS took second place. Congratulations to Laura Turnbull and all those who worked to make our website a winner.

### **Elizabeth Simpson Award**

There were 43 entries in the Elizabeth



Simpson Award for the best journal published by a FHS in 2000. Key areas judged were presentation, articles, and information. In a change from previous year's competitions, an amendment enabled one-name and specialist societies to compete on an equal footing.

According to the report given at the annual FHS meeting in Leicester in April, "The presentation, articles and information in many society journals continues to improve and it is evident that the best editors are planning the contents, commissioning items where necessary, editing the received copy and adding appropriate illustrations. However, the standard of the content always depends on the editor receiving a good supply of interesting and informative material to create the best possible result."

First-place winner was the Guild of One-Name Studies, second place was the Somerset and Dorset FHS, and third place went to the Anglo-German FHS. A full list of winners will be posted on the FHS web site and published in the Autumn edition of the Family History News and Digest.

*Debra Welch, Dr. Michael Payne, Bob Rogers, U.E., and Marion Rex at UEL Founders' Dinner 2001*

## From Other AGS Publications

*Reprinted with permission from Saamis Seeker, Vol 22, No 2, Medicine Hat Branch newsletter*

### **PERSI**

*by Marcia Wallis, FHC*

A sometimes neglected gem in the wealth of information available to genealogists, the Periodical Source Index on Microfiche (PERSI), can help you locate many thousands of articles printed in periodicals and journals. The index, published by the Allen County (Indiana) Public Library Foundation in a joint effort with the Allen County Public Library, provides access to about 500,000 articles collected from over 2000 periodicals. To make it easier to search, the index is divided into 3 sections, locality, family (surname) and research methodology.

The Locality Section begins with US Places, followed by Canada, and then Foreign Countries. The Research Methodologies Section offers lots of how-to articles that can help you discover new ways to approach a search or find those records. The Families Section lists surnames alphabetically and can assist you in finding information about families that would have been found in family Bible records, cemeteries and other sources.

While the PERSI is well worth looking at, it does not do everything, so it is best to be aware of its limitations. It has been designed as an index, therefore it does not include the articles themselves. They can be ordered (photocopied) and mailed directly to you. There is a charge, of course, but it is nominal.

Another thing to consider is that it does not index every name that appears in an article. The surname of the family that is the focus of the article is indexed, but other surnames that appear in the article are not.

There are actually two separate indexes that comprise PERSI. The first contains articles in journals from 1847 through 1985. The second (called the Annuals Index) is a cumulative index to virtually all genealogical journals dated 1986 and later.

If you are looking for information about Vital Records, Cemeteries, Passenger Lists, Histories of Particular areas, school records, or countless other topics, you would do well to check this source.

The PERSI microfiche can be viewed at most Family History Centres.

### **Parish and Vital Records List**

The Parish and Vital Records List is one of the resources you can search at the Family History Centre. It shows which records have been extracted (indexed) and listed in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) for each geographical area and time period.

This work is done by volunteers who copy birth, christening, and marriage information about deceased individuals listed in various church and civil vital records. This information is then entered into a computer and listed in the IGI.

When using this list you need to decide what area and time period that you are interested in. The list has been supplied on microfiche and each fiche will give information about its contents in the heading at the top of each sheet. Countries and provinces are listed alphabetically. Names of counties are often abbreviated.

The fiche provide film numbers that can be ordered for viewing. Pages of the microfiche may be copied on the printer at the Family History Centre for a nominal charge.

## 25 Years Ago

### *From Relatively Speaking, Vol. 4, No. 3, 1976*

*Submitted by Vivian Ety*

Dear Alberta Genealogical Society  
Members:

September – that time of year everyone loves, however it is a very busy and demanding month. Farmers rushing to harvest their crops, homemakers finishing the last bit of preserving although still finding time to outfit the children for school and preparing for meetings and social functions during the winter months ahead.

I find myself in the dilemma of juggling my evenings between Sunday School meetings “that special interest course” and naturally our AGS. I’m sure that many of you are also wondering “How can I fit everything in?”

Our AGS Executive made their first stab at “Getting It Altogether” on August 28th in Red Deer. We have set a permanent date for next years’ Seminar – March 26, 1977 in Calgary. The format will change somewhat for previous years. For those who wish to go to Calgary on the Friday evening, a special field trip is being considered. We have had a difficult time getting approval for the forms which we had hoped would be in our Beginners Kit. Publishers have not been as prompt in replying to our requests as we had hoped.

Bill Yoemans, Director – Member at Large, from Red Deer has now become Postmaster at Hines Creek, Alberta. We wish Bill every success in his new position.

To all our membership, I hope your summer was pleasant and that those who were traveling with specific research goals in mind, your efforts were rewarded. I look

forward to seeing familiar faces and hearing of many individual accomplishments when our fall activities get underway.

Our past and future is people and our interaction with them – in the book, *God is No Fool* by Lois A. Cheney, this quotation appears; “People, People important to you, people unimportant to you cross your life, touch it with love and carelessness and move on. There are people who leave you and you breathe a sigh of relief and wonder why you ever came into contact with them. There are people who leave you and you breath a sigh of remorse and wonder why they had to go away and leave such a gaping hole. Children leave parents, friends leave friends. Acquaintances move on. People change homes. People grow apart. Enemies hate and move on. You think on the many who have moved into your hazy memory. You look on those present and wonder.”

Could any of these things have determined why our forefathers moved, or why families lose contact with each other. This is a very important part to our past and our future.

Sincerely,

Mae Deans, President

Answer to the question on page 6:  
Which of those charming children grew up to become the Editor of this magazine — not once, but twice? Obviously, the fool on the left with the stunned look on his face. The smart one on the right with the big smile fled the country years ago.



# 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)}.s

Memberships run from 01 January to 31 December. Memberships which are paid before 30 September will receive all issues of *Relatively Speaking* for that year. Memberships which are paid after 30 September will be applied to the next year unless the current year is requested.

## FEES

### Regular membership(s)

Individual .....	\$25
Senior Citizens (65 yrs and older) .....	\$20
Family (Individual rate plus) .....	\$5
Subscription only .....	\$25
(for institutions, libraries, museums, etc.)	
U.S.A. Members .....	\$30
Foreign Members .....	\$35

### Branch Fees

Branch membership is open to any member of AGS. You are invited to join one or more Branches.

Brooks .....	\$10
Camrose .....	\$10
Drayton Valley .....	\$10
Edmonton .....	\$10
Ft. McMurray .....	\$7
Grande Prairie .....	\$10
Lethbridge .....	\$10
Medicine Hat .....	\$10
Peace River .....	\$10
Red Deer .....	\$10
Wetaskiwin .....	\$10

Cheques should be made payable to:

**Alberta Genealogical Society**

Room 116, 10440-108 Avenues

Edmonton, Alberta T5H 3Z9

Phone: (780) 424-4429

Fax: (780) 423-8980

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

e-mail: [agsoffice@compumart.ab.ca](mailto:agsoffice@compumart.ab.ca)

## 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

## Branches

### Brooks & District Branch

President: Nestor Martinez  
P.O. Box 1538  
Brooks, AB T1R 1C4  
Phone: (403) 362-4608  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Community Cultural Centre  
Main Floor, Room 122  
327 Third Street West

### Camrose Branch

President: Norm Prestage  
8 - 4817 - 47 Street  
Camrose, AB T4V 1J7  
e-mail: [nprestage@ontis.com](mailto:nprestage@ontis.com)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Downstairs Boardroom,  
Camrose Public Library

### Drayton Valley Branch

President: Robin Hunter  
P.O. Box 115  
Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0  
Phone: (780) 542-4628  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Shangri-La Lodge, 5208 - 47 Ave.,  
Drayton Valley

### Edmonton Branch

President: Sandra Vaneldik  
#116, 10440 - 108 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9  
Phone: (780) 424-4429  
Fax: (780) 423-8980  
e-mail: [agsedm@compusmart.ab.ca](mailto:agsedm@compusmart.ab.ca)  
website: [agsedm.edmonton.ab.ca](http://agsedm.edmonton.ab.ca)  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Governor's Room, Prince of Wales  
Armouries, 10440 - 108 Ave.

### Ft. McMurray Branch

President: Jack Moffat  
P.O. Box 6253  
Ft. McMurray, AB T9H 4W1  
Phone: (780) 791-5663  
e-mail: [fmgenes@altech.ab.ca](mailto:fmgenes@altech.ab.ca)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Hill Drugs Building

### Grande Prairie & District Branch

President: Judy Bradley  
P.O. Box 1257  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1  
Phone: (780) 538-0009  
e-mail: [agsgp@canada.com](mailto:agsgp@canada.com)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Grande Prairie Public Library  
9910 - 99 Ave.

### Lethbridge & District Branch

President: Pat Barry  
1:28 909 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5  
Phone: (403) 328-9564  
e-mail: [lgensoc@connect.ab.ca](mailto:lgensoc@connect.ab.ca)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Provincial Admin. Bldg., 909 - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ave. N.

### Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Uwe Krickhahn  
P.O. Box 971  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8  
Phone: (403) 527-5475  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Multi-Cultural Folk Arts Centre  
533 - 1<sup>st</sup> Street S.E. (across from  
City Hall)

### Peace River & District Branch

President: Jo Peterson  
Box 6413  
Peace River, AB T8S 1S3  
Phone: (780) 624-8843  
e-mail: [waynejo@telusplanet.net](mailto:waynejo@telusplanet.net)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
Peace River Library

### Red Deer & District Branch

President: Vic Willoughby  
P.O. Box 922  
Red Deer, AB T4N 5H3  
Phone: (403) 343-6842  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Red Deer Museum, 4525 - 47A. Ave.

### Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Leah Jaburek  
125 Mountain Ash Drive  
Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 2T4  
Phone: (780) 352-5365  
e-mail: [willma@ldstalk.com](mailto:willma@ldstalk.com)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Call for meeting place.

