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# Alberta Family Histories Society

THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19th, 2003 will be proclaimed 'FAMILY HISTORY WEEK', by the Mayor and Council of Calgary.

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# Chinook



### Volunteer Appreciation Night

Two members of the Kerby Centre Fashion Show

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**Articles** should be typewritten, (double spaced with wide margins) or submitted in text format from a word processor program. Typeface should be Times Roman at 12 point. The publication assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions or opinions of the authors. Materials submitted to the editors will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope of the appropriate size, unless previous arrangements have been made.

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## **A.F.H.S. Program Schedule 2003/2004**

### **Main Program**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PROPOSED SPEAKER</b>
September 8, 2003	Access to Census Records	Senator Lorna Milne
October 6, 2003	Prairie Land Systems	Gordon Williams
November 3, 2003	Allhallows Eve: Guy Fawkes Day; Salem;	Panel: Mary; Adrienne;
December 1, 2003	Family Treasures Night & How To Preserve Them	Heather Dumka; Conservator Norma Marr
January 5, 2004	History of Calgary	
Sat., Feb 7, 2004	CPR Archives	
March 1, 2004	Diseases and Illnesses "So Many Ways to Die"	Carol Robinson
April 5, 2004	Icelandic Genealogy	Nelson Gerrard
May 3, 2004	British Night	Mrs. Felicity Harper Archivist
June 7, 2004	Volunteer Appreciation Night	

### **Basics Program**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PROPOSED SPEAKER</b>
September 8, 2003	Organizing Your Research	Doug Hay
October 6, 2003	Digitization Projects	
November 3, 2003	Jewish Historical Society	David Bickman
December 1, 2003	Basic Scottish Research	
January 5, 2004	Family History Centre	
Sat., Feb 7, 2004	Sites to Excite: Online Research	Mary Author
March 1, 2004	Calgary Based Research	Xenia Stanford
April 5, 2004	Oral History: How to Do Family Interviews	Adrienne Horne
May 3, 2004	Preserving Photos: Scrapbooking	Irene Oickle
June 7, 2004	Getting Ready for Summer Research Projects	Kay



# Chairman's Message

Our illustrious Chairman is away on an idyllic holiday in Ontario so I am trying to fill in for him.

By the time you read this we will have opened our new Library. Senator Lorna Milne has been kind enough to offer her services in 'cutting the ribbon' and speaking to our Society at our first monthly meeting.

Adrienne Horne, our new Chair of the Program Committee provided the following overview for the talk

Senator Milne's speech will take a look at the ongoing battle in Ottawa to gain access to the post-1901 census records. Since 1998 Senator Milne has been working with genealogists across the country to get access to this important part of Canadian history. In January of this year the 1906 census was released online, and a bill was introduced to allow for the release of all other census records. That bill has passed the Senate and is now being studied by the House of Commons. Senator Milne will explain the various provisions of the bill and what they mean to genealogists, and she will explore the pros and cons of amending the bill in the House of Commons. She will also answer questions and share some personal anecdotes.

The Library move and setup would not have happened without the dedication of the Library committee and a some stalwart gentlemen. Helen Backhouse wanted to make special recognition to Alan Peers and John Doyle for turning a basement into a Library.

The new library is more spacious but unfortunately is not, at this time, accessible to physically challenged people. The library actually grew in size during the move as we were given a large quantity of books by a couple of members. The library had to increase its shelf space by a couple of shelving units to make space for these new books.

Up to this moment we will be continuing to meet in the Southminster Church but do not have any formal rental agreement with them yet. I am continually looking for new meeting space in case of upsets in our plans and have one rental facility in reserve in case things fall through. Members will be informed through dist-gen, the AFHS website, email and by phone calls to let you know of any last minute changes. One way of helping

the Board disseminate information is by joining dist-gen or if not by accepting email notifications. In this regard it is important to the Board that the Membership Secretary has your correct details. So if you move, change phone number or email address please let the Membership Secretary know.

A few of the Special Interest Groups are looking for new chairs to run them, the Scottish SIG is dormant at this time, the English SIG needs a new Chair as well as the Family Tree Makers. Though the Scottish SIG is dormant the Irish SIG has become the Celtic SIG to incorporate the Celts.

As you may have noticed on the front page the Alberta Family Histories Society has managed to have the Mayor and Council issue a proclamation that the week of October 19th, 2003 has been declared "Family History Week".

We will be looking at ways to promote the Family History Week so if you have any ideas please forward them onto George Lake or any other member of the Board. The AFHS website and the telephone answering machine will have updates, as well as the Breeze. The SIGs will be given any updates we have as well as at the monthly meeting prior to the week. We shall also use dist-gen to pass on any updates as well as have information at the Library.

If you never completed the survey that was included in the last Chinook then please do so as the survey helps the Board with its planning initiatives and lets it know what the members are thinking. Many members are shy about coming forward to express their interests or concerns and the survey is one way of doing it. The survey is used as a pulse on the health of the Society as well. Suggestions, praise and complaints are all used to decide what direction we should be going in in the future.

Gordon Lane

vice Chair (Facilities)

# **Lemuel Wilmot and Responsible Government**

by Adrienne Home

## **Fight for the Land**

When France and Britain came to the new world in the early 1600s they fought over the possession of New Brunswick for nearly one hundred years until the English won the colony. In 1755, Britain had all those who refused to swear allegiance to the Crown expelled. This included about 4000 French living in Acadia. Then in 1763, the proclamation ending the French and Indian War made Halifax, Nova Scotia, the administrative centre for New Brunswick. The proclamation also permitted the Acadians to return to their homes and with them came many other people from New England. (1)

## **American Revolution**

Surprisingly to both Britain and America, the people of New Brunswick remained neutral in the American Revolution (1775-1783). Although they were neutral, Britain hired New Brunswick to provide the lumber and build the ships for their Royal Navy. The small town of St. John quickly grew to become a legendary shipbuilding centre. A world reputation of building quality ships stayed with St. John for many years and through many wars.

At the end of the Revolution a massive migration of United Empire Loyalists came into New Brunswick, as these men were forced to leave their properties in America. These brave people did not like their administrative post being so far away in Halifax and they immediately fought for separate governments. Not a year later success was achieved when New Brunswick was granted its name and established borders. Although St. John was recognized to be Canada's first city, in 1785, Fredericton was made the provincial capital of the newly recognized province of New Brunswick. (1)

## **Colonial British Government**

The British government had a well-established political system in place to run the colony. At the pinnacle was the Governor to Britain for the province. The Governor generally lacked qualifications but was usually appointed because of who he was or knew. The first Governor to New Brunswick spent most of his time in England and was not financially tied to the colonial government, so the colony had no control over the Governor. The Governor had a private council, appointed by him, called the Executive Council. They were his personal advisors.

The Legislature, also representing Britain, was very slanted towards the Church of England, as the entire Legislature were members of that church. For some time after New Brunswick had become a province the British government supported the Church of England. The government paid the clergymen's salaries, helped to build churches and ensured that the Church had a lot of land. This alliance with the Church went so far as to prohibit marriages performed by any clergymen not of the Church of England. Over the years, Lemuel was successful in lowering the power the Church had in the government.

The Legislature had elected officials in the lower branch, but the upper branch was made up of appointed members from the Executive Council. The Legislature had power over the people of New Brunswick but was controlled by the Governor. The Legislature received all the revenue generated on Crown land for Britain. Of course the Governor had control of what happened to that money. Freeholders, still a select group of voters but at least citizens of New Brunswick, elected the members of the House of Assembly. Thus the House represented the people of the colony, however it had no power or say in what the British government did or did not do for the people.

Britain collected taxes on all goods coming into the province. A tax the people were not happy about but they were limited in what they could do about it. The Governor was free to spend the taxes and revenues from the Crown land on what ever he wanted. He was able to reject or simply ignore votes from the House. It was this obvious lack of responsibility to the people that caused the Reform party to step forward and demand a responsible government. (2)

### **Lemuel Allan Wilmot**

Lemuel Allan, only son to William M. Wilmot, created a strong and famous career in the politics of the New Brunswick government. As he was William's only son he was given all the possible educational advantages available. He went to the College of New Brunswick in Fredericton, at the time when there was only one professor and president, Rev. Dr. Somerville. Lemuel became a student-at-law and in 1830 was admitted as an Attorney of the Supreme Court. Two years later, at the age of 23, he became a Barrister.

What made Lemuel so successful was his eloquence and impressive speeches. He could talk people into anything and no one dared to go up against him. Ironically, Lemuel had a speech impediment that he worked long and hard to overcome. He not only overcame it, but also was considered to be one of the best orators of his time.

The failure of the lumber trade in the mid 1820s clearly demonstrated to Lemuel that if the government could force the leading source of revenue out of business, what other damaging effects would it inflict on all men of New Brunswick? This caused Lemuel to pursue a career in politics, to fix the wrongs of this government. He learned to speak French, fitting with his new ambitions "to become a public man and to assist in the reformation of the constitution of his native province" (2, pg.12).

He made an excellent politician, as he was six feet tall, dark and handsome, with a strong but sweet voice. He was athletic and in the Militia as a teenager. Lemuel was also a very religious man and fortunately it did not hurt his political career as it had his father's. During his entire political career he was the superintendent of the Sunday school in his church as well as its choir leader. He had a great love for children and flowers. The gardens at Evelyn Grove, his home, was known throughout the county. (2)

### **To the House of Assembly**

Lemuel's first fight was for other church denominations to have the right to marry their own members. It took ten years for the bill to be passed but it finally did in 1834. He had proven himself as an excellent representative of the people and was elected to the House of Assembly in that year. Lemuel's main objective in the House was to make New Brunswick's government follow the principles of Responsible Government.

In the following year, Lemuel managed to pass 26 resolutions, most with large majorities. Among those included the condemnation of the management of the Crown Lands office, the composition of the Legislative Council and that the casual and territorial revenues should be in the hands of the Legislature. These resolutions made the basis of an Address to His Majesty, which was to be delivered by two members of the House of Assembly. The Address described the facts of the management of Crown land and reasons the House of Assembly was dissatisfied with the situation. Considering Lemuel's role in the resolutions, he was chosen to deliver the Address in England. However, the Colonial Secretary was so incompetent that he delayed the delegation so that it took four months to reach an agreement on future management of Crown land.

It was mutually agreed upon that the crown land revenues would go to the colony, but the colony had to pay a civil list of £14,500 each year. There was also an added clause that stated the Lieutenant Governor had the power to spend money necessary for the administration of the revenues. This proposal was called the Civil List Bill, which had to be officially approved by the Lieutenant Governor.

Unfortunately the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Archibald Campbell, had his own agenda and stalled the process. Campbell sided with those against the freedom of the colony. He would not agree to the amount set for the civil list. He told the colonial office that miscalculations were done and the amount would not be sufficient to manage the colony. Campbell also wanted to add a clause to the Civil List Bill that would allow him to take it back to Britain for approval. The House of Assembly was of the understanding that if the bill was passed in the form agreed upon in England then the Lieutenant Governor was to immediately approve it, not try and change it. Naturally they refused his request, so Campbell refused to assent to the bill. He was stalling for time with the hope that Britain's Liberal government, who supported the Civil List Bill, would be thrown out in the upcoming election, whereby the Tory's would take control and not pass the bill.

The House of Assembly retaliated by creating a new Address that told of Campbell's intentions to thwart the Imperial government and the conditions of the Colonial government. Again Lemuel was sent to England to deliver the Address. Again the House of Assembly requested that Campbell, as part of his duty, assent to the Civil List Bill, he would not. Before the British government had the chance to fire him for his direct disobedience, Campbell resigned from his position.

The new Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Harvey, immediately gave his assent to the bill. Since July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1837, New Brunswick's Legislature has had control of its revenues from Crown land. For Lemuel the fight had just begun, he still wanted a responsible government for his native land. (2)

### **Responsible Government**

Lemuel did many great things in his life but his greatest fight was for Responsible Government. The main obstacle for Lemuel was to get not only the politicians but also the people to understand what Responsible Government meant. To the people it meant a great change and as always they were cautious and wary to change the system of government. This issue was not as important to them, as was getting control of the revenue from Crown land.

There were structural changes Lemuel wanted to see changed if Responsible Government was to work. Lemuel was tired of important bills (i.e.: the desires of the people) being passed with a majority in the House of Assembly, only then to be rejected by the Legislature. He wanted the Legislature to be made up of men representing all leading interests in the province. It was a condition that members of the House of Assembly own £200 of real estate in the province; Lemuel wanted this condition to also apply to the Legislature. He also wanted to see the majority of Crown appointed members replaced with elected officials, and not all belonging to the Church of England.

The Civil List Bill paid the salaries for Crown officials, which exceeded well beyond what the province could afford. It took several years and many attempts at passing a bill before the salaries were lowered. Another problem with the system was that the government positions were traditionally for life, or even two lives. This system would not work in Responsible Government, the officials had to be more accountable to the people. The system of making the elected officials accountable to the people with the possibility of losing their tenure was brought before the House of Assembly by Lord John Russell and Lemuel fought to have it passed, but to no avail. It would be years before the system would be changed.

In 1842, there was a general election on the Reform's ideas for Responsible Government. The problem was that no one understood it and the people did not seem too concerned about it, so those against the Reform issues won. Lemuel, nominated to be the Speaker, declined the position, as there were too many in the House who opposed his appointment. Some saw he lack of support for the Reformers to be two-faced; they felt that he was all talk but no show. So a Mr. Hill became the Speaker, who was against Responsible Government. This meant that the Reform had a hard struggle ahead of them.

The Reform ran into another problem when the Legislature had squandered £150,000 of the casual and territorial revenues. The members of the government were lead to believe that the Reformers were to blame because they had been responsible in getting this money. However, it was the Legislature who had control of how the money was spent. So in 1842, the province was actually in debt and the Reformers were to blame. This caused them to be very low in the popularity polls.

The following year Lemuel was re-elected as a member of the House of Assembly, and the only one in favour of Responsible Government. In 1844, the Provincial Secretary died and the Governor appointed his son-in-law, Alfred Read, from England, to take the position, without even consulting the Legislature. This was not the first time an unqualified person was appointed to a government office. For Lemuel it was a great injustice to the people. Being so horrified at this, he submitted his resignation. He believed that only people living in New Brunswick should be appointed to such positions. Fortunately the House of Assembly agreed with Lemuel and sent an Address to the Queen, condemning the Read appointment. Going against precedence, Her Majesty agreed with the Address and Read had his office taken away from him. Not in any great hurry though! (2)

### **A Resolution**

In 1847, a resolution was put forward to the Legislature for Responsible Government. There was a great debate over it and of course Lemuel gave a very eloquent speech. In which he stated:

*Will any honourable member dare to tell me that because we are three thousand miles from the heart of the British empire that blood of freemen shall not flow through the veins of the sons of New Brunswick?... The freedom of government does not come down from the Crown, it goes up from the people; and if the people are fit for these institutions they are fit for self-government. I have frequently said that they who get the people's money shall do the people's work...*

*We ask for a constitution that, while it protects the Queen upon the throne, throws, at the same time, its paternal arms around the helpless infant. This we ask for, this we want - the pure, the free, the glorious constitution of England...we ask for a system that will give fair play to all - and give to the sons of New Brunswick their birthright, the benefit of free institutions and self government. (2, pg.106-111)*

Unfortunately the resolution was voted down by nearly two to one, so the Reformers had a lot of work ahead of them.

By 1848, the Imperial government wanted New Brunswick's government to be in line with Canada and Nova Scotia. The Colonial Secretary, Earl Grey, sent a dispatch to the Governor of Nova Scotia explaining that he wanted the House of Assembly to have power over the Legislature as well as the Executive Council. Earl Grey felt that if this was not done then each House would misuse their power and the people would suffer for it. He wanted a parliamentary government in Nova Scotia, just like England's. This same dispatch was sent to the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick with the intent that it could also be applied there. By highlighting the power the House of Assembly would receive, caused a complete reversal in the outcome as more than two to one approved the resolution. (2)

### **Responsible Government for New Brunswick**

There was a great reorganization of the government after that and Lemuel became the Attorney General. He was now a member of the Conservative government (his opposition in this great fight). Lemuel felt that this was the best position to be in to advance the cause of the Reformers.

In 1849, the last step was made to give Responsible Government a firm footing in New Brunswick. A measure was passed that cancelled the seats of the members of the Assembly who had become Heads of the government departments. Thereby avoiding any possible conflicts of interest. (2)

### **Judge & Governor**

Lemuel's political career started to decline as he continued to make changes in the government. He even tried to reduce the government salaries again. In the 1850 general election Lemuel was the lowest government member in the polls. He was then offered the position of Puisne Judge. A position his friends felt was beneath him, that he should have been offered the office of Chief Justice, as he was the Attorney General. But Lemuel accepted his new post with dignity and general acceptance.

After Confederation in 1867, Judge Wilmot became the Lieutenant Governor for New Brunswick. He held this post from 1868 until 1873. The Canadian government gave him a Judge's pension when his term as Lieutenant Governor had expired. He died in 1878, at the age of 70, from heart failure. (2)

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## Early Methodist Clergy in England

By Ryan Taylor

If your family includes a Methodist preacher in the early days of the movement, you may want to find out more about him. Two publications give listings of these missionaries.

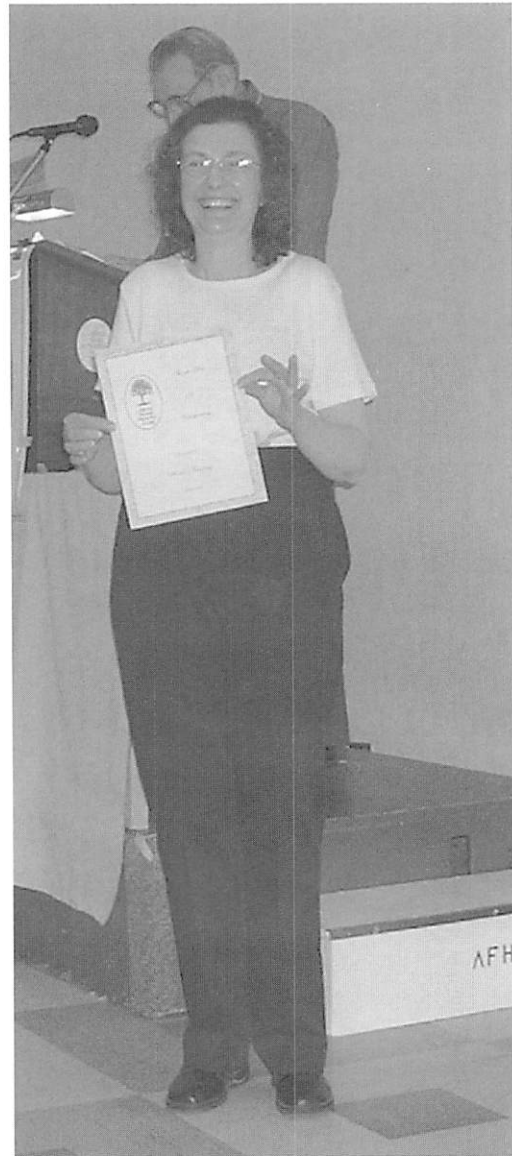
William Hill's *An alphabetical arrangement of the Wesleyan Methodist preachers and missionaries: who are now travelling in Great-Britain and in distant parts of the globe, with a view of all the circuits and stations to which they have been appointed by the Conference, from the commencement of their itinerancy to the present period, carefully extracted from the printed Minutes* (1819) gave 765 names. There are twenty-five later editions of this work, each adding new names to the roster. The most recent is dated 1922, but covers clergy up to 1887.

It might be difficult to find a copy of Hill, but Kenneth B. Garlick prepared a synopsis of the preachers and their charges, published in a limited edition booklet by the World Methodist Historical Society (British Section) in 1977 entitled *Mr Wesley's preachers: an alphabetical arrangement of Wesleyan Methodist preachers and missionaries and the stations to which they were appointed, 1739-1818*. He lists the preachers alphabetically, then chronologically includes all the charges where the man worked. Thus we see that John Hearnshaw was in Whitehaven in 1800, Barnsley in 1801, Manchester in 1803, Congleton in 1805, Sheffield in 1806 and Bristol in 1807-8. This meant a lot of travelling, mostly in the north. The missing years may be a time of retirement; Garlick mentions that many of the clergymen had to take periods of rest and recuperation for health reasons.

Another use of a list such as this is if a genealogist has a document or reference in their family with the clergyman's name, but there is an uncertainty where the original records might be consulted. For instance, a reference in a document to John Hearnshaw dated 1805, when the family lived in Leek, Staffs, might be confusing until we find that Hearnshaw was based nearby in Congleton. That fact might lead to more complete records.

Garlick provides a useful introduction giving the history of Hill's books and his own method in listing the places where the men worked. This tiny volume will be most valuable for researchers working with English Wesleyans. Garlick mentions that there is a similar manuscript text for Primitive Methodists by William Leary, available at the John Rylands Library

in Manchester. This was published as *Primitive Methodist ministers from the commencement to the year 1932* (1971, revised edition 1981). Leary has published a number of lists and directories of Primitive Methodist clergy and churches since then.



**Mabel Kiessling**  
presenting herself with her Certificate of appreciation for the volunteer work she has carried out .



# **STUCK**

By Lois M. Sparling

It comes to pass for most of us, I suppose, that our Great Ancestor Hunt gets more than bogged down. We are not just facing hurdles but well and truly stuck. We are surrounded by brick walls preventing progress on all our ancestral lines. We have read and reread the relevant guides. We have sought advice. We have diligently researched all the likely and unlikely sources, some more than once. Nevertheless, we are stuck. What now?

Before you abandon family history and take up another hobby [see "Genealogist Turns to Scrapbooking" in January, 2003 issue of Chinook] I have a few suggestions to share.

## **Regroup**

Have you done a detailed research report? I am not referring to your family history book or pamphlet to be distributed to your relatives and donated to the local library or archives, although you should do that, too. Have you written a report for yourself and other serious researchers detailing all your sources and what you did and did not find? Have you included the contradictory and flimsy evidence as well as the solid information? Have you included your notes on all the neighbors and possible relatives whom you have come across?

As you work through all your documents and notes on a particular line again, your memory will be refreshed on the thin spots in your research. You may have a new insight or form a new hypothesis. I am finding it handier to be able to read through my reports to myself rather than dig around in my files and binders. I have also found it useful to arrange my reports by source type as well as by family and individual. This has helped me to review the information I have on related families by census year and to watch for links through common witnesses to deeds, persons attending funerals, fellow members of a Methodist class, etc., etc.

A detailed review of your research on the level of the individual and the family group by generation cries out for timelines and plotting movements on maps. A timeline is a chart displaying the events in the life of the person or family in graphic form. Timelines often include world and local events that may have had an impact on your ancestors. Ideas may come to you as you draw them up and compare them with one another. As an added bonus, maps and timelines actually appeal to many relatives with only a passing interest in their family tree.

Perhaps it would be useful to refine the organization of your notes and documents while you are going through your entire collection of research material. For those using a computer, are you making the best use of your genealogy program's capabilities? You might consider attending the meetings of the relevant SIGlet of AFHS' Computer Group. Is it time to up-date your program or to switch to something more sophisticated? A word of caution here – moving a large database from one program to another can be more trouble than it is worth. I switched from Family Treemaker to The Master Genealogist. Sure, all my data was transferred without a hitch. However, I spent a year re-doing my sources and notes in TMG format. It was a painfully long task and I never did finish.

My own system for organizing my paper records and notes involves file folders and binders for each ancestral line. First the paper goes into the folders. It gets into the binders when I periodically catch up. The location of each family line changed as my research went back in time, usually from Saskatchewan back to Ontario and then back to Ireland. Each major change in place gave rise to a new binder or section in the binder. As my research progressed, female lines were added. I found it convenient to keep my records for the husband and wife's families together for a while, if they came from the same area. At some undefined point, those lines diverged into separate binders. When I moved my notes and documents from my file folders to the binders, I grouped them by source type and also collected together correspondence with a repository or fellow researcher. However, overall, my material went into the binders in the order I did the research. Each page was numbered and added to the table of contents for that binder. These detailed tables of contents are the master record of my research.

There are other organizational systems which no doubt work as well or better than mine. There are enough books and articles on the subject! The great thing about my system is that I actually kept it up for ten years.

Review your state of preparedness for a research expedition. How are your supplies? Are there items you should prepare or purchase? Some of us actually have kits: the research bag; a research aids folder or duo tang; the cemetery kit; the correspondence kit; the interview kit. You could write or email away for the latest tourist maps and information for the places you would like to visit.

Create an index of the heirloom photographs, documents and objects in your possession and also in the possession of others. If your relatives will not give you the items or you don't have room anyway, photographs of these heirlooms may be better than a clumsy or vague description. Is your index going to be by family name, location, type of item or all three?

Finally, what are you doing to organize and protect your collection of heirlooms, photographs and original documents? Archival supplies, including clear plastic covers and labels, can be found in office supply, photography and scrapbooking stores. Ballpoint and felt pens damage photographs over time. There are special pens for writing on the back of photographs. Mine is an Illustrator Photo-Graphic Permanent Marker. There is also a product called "Archival Mist" which preserves highly acidic paper such as newsprint from deterioration. The type of paper which will last centuries is lignin free and acid-free. If you want your family history books to become heirlooms, you should buy such paper to print them on. Be warned that it isn't cheap.

### **Family and Social History**

No doubt you have learned much about many of your ancestors in the course of your research to date. While you are (temporarily) stymied with your search back in time, return to the lives of your more recent progenitors. Study them, and their times, in more depth. Look into their employment or occupation, their religious activities and their social lives. Allow yourself to become sidetracked by the evolution of the tools of their trade or the vegetables they likely grew in their gardens.

Local newspapers and denominational periodicals were common throughout the previous century and a half. If they are available to you on microfilm, the internet or even actual newsprint, it would likely be fruitful to read through the issues for the relevant years – time consuming but fruitful. You may discover that your grandmother won prizes for her needlework. The dying words of your pious great great grandfather may be quoted in "The Christian Guardian", since such matters were newsworthy to fervent Methodists during the early to mid nineteenth century. Small town newspapers reported the results of school examinations, every member of the local baseball team, visits from relatives, the loss of a cow, and all sorts of minutiae of everyday living by ordinary folks. Whether your ancestor is mentioned or not, you will discover what fraternal and organized sports activities were available. Church events were reported in detail. Was Great Aunt Matilda involved in the Ladies' Missionary Society? Was there an Orange Lodge? Was there a Masonic Lodge? Did the local citizens set up a lending library? Was there a German or Hungarian language local newspaper?

Sources which you may not have had to use to trace your family back another generation are worth reviewing now in order to flesh out the lives of our ancestors. One brother may have been active in civic affairs while another was a dedicated churchman. Women had their organizations, too, and those organizations may have surviving records. You may be surprised by how far your great grandmother went in school. I discovered that my great grandmother's brother, a teacher by trade, was licensed as an exhorter and then as a local preacher. I found this information in the minutes the Methodist Circuit meeting of elders. When I followed up on this vocation for preaching, I found a lengthy obituary for him in the Year Book of the Illinois Episcopal Methodist Church.

More work on our own ancestors' siblings and cousins and their lives should be done for its own sake. However, many have struck gold by chasing down distant relatives. A letter or old family Bible stating the exact place of origin of your immigrant ancestor may be waiting for you in a far off attic or archives. My great great uncle's obituary did not say where his father was born in Ireland, but it might have. Perhaps his descendants know. I therefore recommend that you trace those collaterals and their descendants as well as neighbors and communities. These people were a big part of your family's history.

Somehow, a research trip to Saskatchewan sounds less exciting than one to Ireland. The advantage of Saskatchewan as a research destination for me, aside from proximity and cost, is that I actually know where my parents, grandparents and great grandparents lived there. I am not merely wandering around or getting frustrated

with failing to find anything relevant to my Ancestor Hunt. I know where my grandmother grew up because she told me. I know where my grandfather grew up because I found the homestead records. All my ancestral lines and all my husband's ancestral lines come together in Saskatchewan.

I have taken photographs of the schools we attended and the houses we lived in. I have local contacts in the form of cousins to show me the High School my mother attended. It was moved many miles to a town that still exists where it is now used as a seniors' social center. One summer I barged in unannounced on a cousin I haven't seen since he was 3. He is farming the old homestead and will get a century plaque from the province this year because that quarter section has been in the family since my great grandfather, Uriah Gettins first broke the sod in 1903. His uncle, my cousin once removed, pointed out the remains of 90 year old farm machinery Uriah bought when times were good. I took pictures. Later we found photographs of the same piece of machinery in use on the homestead.

I visited the Archives of the University of Regina. They were thrilled to pieces that I could identify my grandmother in Regina College class photographs and more disappointed than I was that they did not have her school file. This summer I am off to Wilkie, Sask. to see if Main Street has changed much since another great grandfather sat on the first town council.

"Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History" by Sturdevant is a useful book we have in the AFHS library. It is part of the Betterway Book series of family history publications. One of the interesting concepts developed by Ms. Sturdevant is examining our family heirlooms, letters, photographs and memorabilia as artifacts. What do these objects tell us about our ancestor and his or her life? She suggests a number of resource books to identify and provide details about our family's artifacts. Reproductions of the Eaton's mail order catalogues are an obvious source book for those of us with western Canadian roots. She also recommends folklore periodicals, living history museums such as Heritage Park in Calgary or Upper Canada Village, and consulting with museum experts. The Glenbow Museum and the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary are two places which come to mind.

A seminal work on incorporating social history research into genealogy is Scottish Family History by Moody, published in 1988. Although the examples focus on Scotland, his ideas apply to family history research in general. He points out the importance of local history resources and material on the history of work and occupations. The development of new agricultural practices from the second half of the eighteenth century, for example, had a major impact on the lives of many of our ancestors. This book is also in our AFHS library.

Genwriters web site at [www.genwriters.com](http://www.genwriters.com) has a section on social history with links to related historical web sites. The focus is, inevitably, the USA.

Emily Anne Croom has written several books on both American and general family history topics. She likes to collect signatures of her ancestors. These can be found in old letters and original deeds, wills and other legal documents. She also suggests obtaining or recreating floor plans of ancestral dwellings. Some of us have recipes that have been passed down through the generations. The rest of us have to do some research in old cookbooks and books on food traditions.

Photographs are a great family history resource. It is wonderful to have pictures of our ancestors. However, try as we might, we may never find a likeness of all our great grandparents or even of one or more grandparents. Not only are photographs ruined or thrown out in the course of a century or more, pictures may never have been taken. Asking distant cousins could well turn up a copy of a photograph your own family no longer has. Another place to look is the photographic collections of local or provincial archives. This has not worked for me, but there are thousands of pictures of somebody's ancestors in the Saskatchewan Archives Board collection. I have been able to find photographs of buildings and street scenes associated with my family history. I have taken pictures myself of gravestones, the church my grandparents attended in Grenfell, Sask., the house built by my great great grandfather in St. Mary's, Ontario, and the remains of the now abandoned Saskatchewan villages where my mother lived as a child.

One of my grandfathers was a grain agent. The wooden elevators are rapidly disappearing from the prairie landscape. I arrived in Melville, Sask. two years ago in time to see one still smoldering. It had burned down the night before. That picture fits in well with those I took a few days later of the tin lined walls of the grain agent's office in one of the elevators my grandfather operated in Eskbank, Sask. The embossed tin was to protect the elevator records, and perhaps the elevator agent, from fire. My other grandfather was a lawyer. I'll be spending

my summer vacation this year taking photographs of the Court House where he conducted trials. His law office is now the local library. His house may no longer exist but his summer cottage now belongs to friends of my parents. I also plan to take pictures of the schools my father attended and the house where I spent my very early years. This is recent history but I think it is an important part of my family history.

### Giving Back

If you have done enough research to get well and truly stuck, you must have lots of valuable experience to share with fellow family historians. Your local family history society needs you. Your local historical society needs you. The many internet genealogy projects need you.

#### 12 Opportunities for Stuck Genealogists:

Participate in a Special Interest Group

Write a book review for The Chinook

Transcribe a sub district of the 1906 census (see AFHS web site at <http://www.afhs.ab.ca/data/census/1906/index.html>)

Transcribe a sub district of the 1901 census (see <http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/NationalSummary.jsp>)

Does your local Family History Center need volunteers?

Enjoy a day in the great outdoors with the AFHS cemetery transcription project (contact Judi Riddell at [projects@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:projects@afhs.ab.ca))

Volunteer to do look ups on your favorite mailing list or GenWeb site

Host an orphaned GenWeb site

Help answer queries received by your local family history society

Host a reunion

Volunteer at Heritage Park (contact them at [http://www.heritagepark.ca/employment\\_volunteer.htm](http://www.heritagepark.ca/employment_volunteer.htm))

Fundraise for a worthy small town museum or landmark preservation initiative



**Gord Hulbert**  
being presented with his Certificate of  
Appreciation for his volunteer work  
during the year

# Family History - Hannah

by B. Jones [bjones@telco4u.net]  
Sunday, May 18, 2003 5:13 AM

## Greetings from Manchester, England!

I am a volunteer helper in the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society and try to read many of the exchange journals and got your address from there.

Last week I had an elderly aunt staying with me who started reminiscing about her earlier life - I thought you may be interested in her story:-

In Manchester in 1871 Florence Elizabeth Kirkley was born, the eldest of 8 children of a middle-class letter press printer and compositor, Mathew Kirkley and his wife Harriet born in the Isle of Man.

Florence was a mantle finisher (dressmaker?) but in 1918 emigrated to Canada to nurse with the 'flu epidemic and met and eventually married Jack Hannah, a widower with six sons and a daughter. Jack was a lumberjack and the family lived in Calgary, Alberta.

My aunt is crippled and spent much of her youth in and out of hospitals and wrote to the daughter who was about her age (my aunt was born in 1921) and received many parcels in the 1930's. She enjoyed the tales of the Indians exchanging presents with the family, but was sad when one of the sons lost his life 'shooting the rapids' - this all seemed so magical to a young girl living in an industrial city.

During the early part of the war my aunt was working in a factory in the city centre when she was called to the office and introduced to a young Canadian airman who had been told where she worked. He was a son of Jack Hannah billeted in the UK who had been in touch and stayed with his step-mother's younger brother who lived up on the moors outside Oldham - he knew where my aunt was working and called to see her but only stayed a short while because she was on 'piece work' and couldn't get leave her machine.

Sadly that is when the family lost touch - Florence and Jack had no children and Florence died in 1951.

My aunt was also the youngest of 8 children, is now 83 and the only one left in the family - she has no children and wonders if any of the Hannah family are still around.

It would be lovely if we could make contact again.

I enjoyed reading your journal and every good wish to  
your happy researchers!!

# SQUEEZING AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE FROM THE GLENBOW LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

By Jim Bowman  
Archivist, Glenbow Archives

The Glenbow Library and Archives is well-known to genealogists for its specialized Métis Genealogy resources; its CPR land sales records; its almost-complete collections of Alberta city directories, newspapers, and local history books; and many other resources. The amount of space to describe them here is limited, so I'll refer interested researchers to the guide *Genealogical Resources* available at [www.glenbow.org/archhtm/gene.htm](http://www.glenbow.org/archhtm/gene.htm). For those who don't use the internet, you can phone us at 403-268-4204 or 403-268-4197 and we'll send you a paper copy of this 8-page guide.

Many people assume that an historical repository such as Glenbow only collects the records or information of "famous" people. In fact, records created by or pertaining to hundreds of thousands of "ordinary" Albertans are available there. Much of this information can be found in Glenbow's online catalogues and finding aids, available at the Library and Archives Search Menu at [www.glenbow.org/lasearch/searmenu.htm](http://www.glenbow.org/lasearch/searmenu.htm). Occasionally, I get an inquiry about a person about whom little is known - "All I know is that he moved to Alberta before the First World War". The means to answer such a question are limited - but not impossible. To begin a search, I usually recommend that the following six sources be consulted:

1. The Archives Main Catalogue. The Archives holds about 3,000 fonds (archival collections) from varied sources, mostly in southern Alberta. Their descriptions in the catalogue are designed to include names of families or individuals who may have been correspondents with an individual or organization; subjects of a collection of biographies; or interviewees of an oral history project.

It's useful to pay attention to the search operators used for Glenbow's search engine. When searching for a person, it's usually best to simply enter the surname. If the name is a common one, such as John Smith, you can use the search term "john & smith" to retrieve all records where those two names occur. Since many people named John Smith used their middle initial to distinguish themselves from others with the same name, you could use the search term "john w2 smith"

which will retrieve all instances where the name John occurs within 2 words of the name Smith.

Glenbow's catalogues also use the asterisk (\*) as a wildcard. If you're interested in diaries, you could use the search term "diar\*" which will retrieve all records with the same root, such as diary, diaries, and diarists.

2. Archives Finding Aids. Archival documents in Glenbow's larger fonds are usually accessed using inventories, many of which are in the Archives Finding Aids section linked from the Library and Archives Search Menu. The Finding Aids contain further references to individuals, but at present they are not searchable using an internal search engine. Some researchers have had considerable success using Web search engines such as Google ([www.google.ca](http://www.google.ca)). Google will search for phrases within quotation marks. The Google search term "glenbow "donald a smith"" will retrieve several records in the Archives Finding Aids pertaining to Donald A. Smith (as he was known before he became Lord Strathcona).

3. Archives Photographs. The Glenbow Archives has reference copies of some 80,000 historical images searchable online. They contain images of hundreds of thousands of southern Albertans. Sometimes the contextual information in the photo captions can lead to further sources.

4. The Archives Photo Image Bank manual index. The Archives Photographs database is not yet complete, and to do an exhaustive search of Glenbow's photographic holdings, you will have to visit Glenbow, or hire the Archives Reference Desk staff to do a search (the fee is \$25.00 per half-hour). Most of the Image Bank photos can be located using a card file index, but others require a more cumbersome search. The Archives holds the press photographs of the Calgary Herald from 1950 to 1987, but most of them are not digitized or even indexed. Sometimes, to search for an individual whose photo appeared in the newspaper, you have to know the date when it appeared.

5. The Library Main Catalogue. This source will be a long shot unless the person was the author or the subject of a book or pamphlet.

6. The Library Clipping File index. This source leads to obituaries and other biographical news articles about southern Albertans. Many of the individuals were prominent only in their local communities, or were otherwise quite “ordinary”. The digitization of the clipping file index is still in progress; to access it, you would have to visit the Library & Archives, or if you have a quick question, you can ask by phone or email.

The Glenbow Library and Archives staff welcome your inquiries. Glenbow is located at 130 - 9 Avenue SE, Calgary, Alberta T2G 0P3. Contact the Archives Reference Desk at 403-268-4204 or [jbowman@glenbow.org](mailto:jbowman@glenbow.org) . Contact the Library Reference Desk at 403-268-4197 or [jbowman@glenbow.org](mailto:jbowman@glenbow.org) .

## Volunteer Appreciation Night

The Volunteer Appreciation Night was held on June 2nd. The Alberta Family Histories Society Board re-instituted the Volunteer awards in recognition of the dedication of the volunteers to enhance the services and meeting nights of the Society.

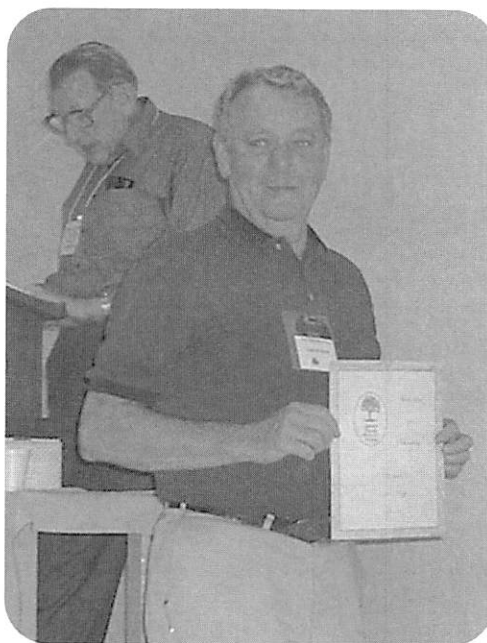
There are many volunteers who work in the background and without whom the Society would not be able to function.. There are several committees and about twelve or so Special Interest Groups and some of the committees and SIGS are made up of a number of members.

Apart from these groups there are individuals who help out by answering Queries, helping with the Website, helping with the set-up and tidy up of the monthly meeting, write articles for the Chinook and numerous other tasks. The Library move was carried out by volunteers who are members of other groups but who came together to make the move work.

All the volunteers who were recognised this past year are listed on the next few pages and within this edition you will find a number of pictures of the members who received Certificates



**Lois Sparling**  
being presented with her Certificate of Appreciation for her volunteer work during the year. Lois will be able to choose a book to be placed in the Library in her honour



**John Doyle**  
receiving his Certificate of Appreciation

Name	2003 Award	Activity
Sparling, Lois	Book	"1906 Census Transcription, Museum of the Regiments Family Day Display, "
Armstrong, Joan	Cert	"Family Roots 2002, Legacy SIGlet (former long time active member)"
Bentley, Jean	Cert	"Buddy Program, Food Bank Donations Organizer, Coffee Coordinator, Organized the "
Campbell, Bill	Cert	"Beginner's Outreach Presentations, Board, Public Relations Chair, Family Roots 2002, "
Crowle, Bob	Cert	"Board Vice-Chair (Finance & Budget), Beginners SIG, Greeter, Buddy Program"
Doyle, John	Cert	"1906 Census Transcription, Meeting Setup & Take-down"
Hulbert, Gordon	Cert	"Museum of the Regiments Family Day Display, Beginner's Outreach Presentations, "
Longair, Marmie	Cert	"Past Board Member, Program/Education Committee, Meeting speaker"
Maitland, Keith	Cert	"Audio/Visual Setup at Meetings, Computer SIG"
Rempel, Judith	Cert	"Webmaster, created 1906 Census data system"
Taylor, Lynn	Cert	Family Tree Maker SIGlet Organizer
Cassley, Alan	Pin	"Beginner's Outreach Presentations, Computer SIG Chair, Family Roots 2002"
Johnston, Wes	Pin	"Audio/Visual Set-up at Meetings, Gensoft, TMG SIGlet"
Kiessling, Mabel	Cert	"Retiring Board member (Facilities), organization of meeting setup, "
Kinnear, Roy	Pin	"Headed up the set-up and take-down of meetings for years, Family Roots 2002"
Leavell, Inge	Pin	"Atlantic SIG Chair, Buddy Program, Recording Secretary"
Lylyk, Carol	Pin	"1906 Census Transcription, Projects Cemetery Recording (Cochrane 2002), "
Mumford, Bill	Pin	"Computer SIG, Family Roots 2002"
Peers, Alan	Pin	"Audio/Visual Set-up at Meetings, The Master Genealogist SIGlet Chair, "
Stanford, Xenia	Pin	"Program Presenter, Nominating Committee, Metis, Ukrainian & French SIG Chair, Webguide, "
Alderman, Lynda	Card	"Projects Committee & CD, Data Transcription/Indexing Processes"



Arthur, Alison	Card	“Board Member, Membership Chair, Nominating Committee, Program Committee”
Aubin, Charlie	Card	“Computer SIG, Legacy SIGlet Chair”
Barr, Blair	Card	“The Master Genealogist SIG, Projects Cemetery Recording, Longtime Computer SIG, “
Beatty, Mertie	Card	“Ukrainian Celebration Committee, Buddy Program, 1906 census”
Bertagnolli, Barbara	Card	Buddy Program
Bertolissi, Sonia	Card	Italian SIG Chair
Brewster, Pete	Card	1906 Census Transcriptions
Buckley, Margaret	Card	Buddy Program
Byam, Ronna	Card	“Board Member(Treasurer), 2 talks at Family Roots 2002, “ printed volunteer thanks materials
Carlin, Olive	Card	Library Committee
Clarke, Kay	Card	“Basics Program Presenter, Producer of a Workbook for Beginners, Education Committee, “
Cormack, Ishbel	Card	Buddy Program
Coulter, Donna	Card	“Family Roots 2002, 1906 Census Transcriptions”
Cox, Luella	Card	Family Roots 2002
Disturnal, Tracey	Card	Italian SIG Secretary and Past Chair
Doyle, Judith	Card	“Chinook Committee, Meeting Set-up, Greeter, Buddy Program”
Drinkwater, Millie	Card	Buddy Program
Duncan, Jackie	Card	Projects-Newspaper Extractions
Dussome, Rene	Card	“Basics & Computer SIG presenter, past Board member, Family Roots 2002”
Elliott, Mary	Card	Buddy Program
Esposito, Mary	Card	Phoner
Field, Spencer	Card	“1906 Census Transcription, Meeting Set-up and Take-down, Projects-Cemetery Recording, “
Folkers, Pat	Card	1906 census transcription

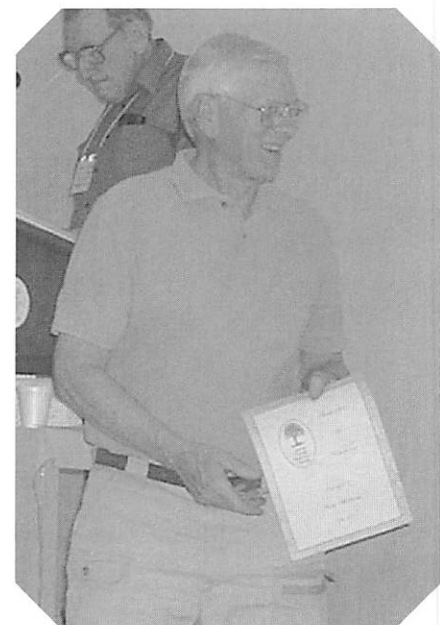
Fournier, Christine	Card	Family Roots 2002
Granger, Diane	Card	"Museum of the Regiments Family Day Display, Chinook, Program/Education Chair, Archives"
Haasdyk, Ulrich	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Hansen, Charlie	Card	"1906 Census Transcription, Computer SIG, Nominating Committee"
Hay, Doug	Card	"Beginner's SIG, Education Committee"
Jacobsen, Fern	Card	Phoner
Jaremko, Heather	Card	"Projects-Website Queries & Data Entry, Membership Committee, Cochrane Cemetery"
Keyes, Margaret	Card	Phoner
Kinghorn, Ellen	Card	"Board, Chinook Editor, Greeter, Cemetery Recording(Cochrane 2002)"
Kinghorn, Bernie	Card	Cemetery Recording (Cochrane 2002)
Kirkwood, Donna	Card	Library Committee
Knott, Marlene	Card	"Projects Committee, Website Queries, Cochrane Cemetery Recording"
LaFrentz, Barb	Card	"Coffee, Projects data entry"
Leggett, Mary	Card	Phoner
Lendrum, Norma	Card	Education Committee
Main, Margaret	Card	"Buddy Program, Long time member"
May, Carole	Card	Family Roots 2002
McCready, Marg	Card	1906 Census Transcription
McDonald, Ethel	Card	Library Committee
McElroy, Eileen	Card	Assistant Webster
McKenzie, Wayne	Card	Projects-Newspaper Extractions
McLean, Don	Card	Supplied boxes for library move
McMahon, Gordon	Card	"Buddy Program, Coffee, Cemetery Recording"
Moore, Gloria	Card	Ukrainian Celebration Committee
Morey, Pat	Card	"Family Roots 2002, Raffle"

Morrow, Frank	Card	Museum of the Regiments Family Day Display
Muise-Benner, Al	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Murray, Linda	Card	“Raffle, Finds Prizes, Sells Tickets”
Myers, Lillian	Card	“{Projects Cemetery Recording (Cochrane 2002), Family Roots 2002, Legacy SIGlet”
Neville, Claire	Card	Buddy Program
Nicholson, Lois	Card	“Library Committee, Chinook”
O’Brien, John	Card	1906 census transcription
O’Brien, Kristie	Card	1906 census transcription
Parent, Lillian	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Phillips, Caroline	Card	“Buddy Program, Library Committee, Greeter”
Rees, Ken	Card	“Breeze Editor, Meeting Set-up and Take-down”
Rodier, Elizabeth	Card	“1906 Census Transcription, Museum of the Regiments Family Day Display, Computer SIG, “
Rojas, Belinda	Card	Family Roots 2002
Rowland, John	Card	Projects Cemetery Recording (Cochrane 2002)
Rowland, Peg	Card	Projects Cemetery Recording (Cochrane 2002)
Roy, Marlene	Card	Ukrainian Celebration Committee
Samuels, Donna	Card	Projects-Newspaper Extractions
Sorbo, Lidia	Card	Italian SIG Co-Chair
Sparrow, Judy	Card	“Elevator Operator, Projects Committee, Greeter”
Sparrow, Stan	Card	“Elevator Operator, Projects Committee”
Stanford, Sarah	Card	Ukrainian Celebration Committee
Stewart, Jim	Card	“United Empire Loyalist/Atlantic SIG, Program Presenter, Elevator Operator”
Stewart, Lorna	Card	“past Board Vice-Chair, Chinook, Cemetery Recording, Coffee, Family Roots 2002, “
Stobbs, Doug	Card	“Nominating Committee, Buddy Program”
Strangward, Bernice	Card	“Phoner, Coffee, Greeter”
Sutton, Kelly	Card	Coffee
Swan, Bev	Card	“Family Roots 2002 Volunteer Coordinator, Buddy Program”

Taylor, Marilyn	Card	“Projects data entry, Italian SIG Treasurer, Buddy Program”
Theroux, Lorna	Card	Projects Cemetery Recording
Thorpe, Barbara	Card	“Past Chair, Nominating Committee”
Trembley, Gisele	Card	“Buddy Program, Projects, Wild Rose Seminar”
Wake, Dave	Card	“Distribution of Chinook, Buddy Program”
Waldroff, Myrna	Card	“Mail Queries, Board Chair (91-93), Library”
Westbury, Bob	Card	“Genealogy course at U of C, Library Openings, Buddy Program”
Westbury, Clare	Card	“English SIG Chair, Buddy Program”
White, Lorna	Card	Buddy Program
Williams, Heather	Card	“1906 Census Transcription, Projects CD & Cemetery Recording”
Williams, Val	Card	1906 census transcriptions
Worman, Tom	Card	Publications Chinook Committee
Yates, Pat	Card	Phoner
Younger, Marilyn	Card	“Board Member 2002/3, Library Bookings”
Zawalsky, OJ	Card	Ukrainian Celebration Committee
Ziajka Phyllis	Card	“Library Committee, Buddy Program”



on the left  
**Jean Bentley**  
 on the right  
**Kieth Maitland**  
 receive their  
 Certificates of  
 Appreciation



# Hilmar and Odette

by Eric Koch

## *Book Review by George Lake*

I'm not sure how this little book got onto my summer reading list, but last year it finally made its way to the top and I read it. It is not a usual kind of family history, but it may appeal to family historians with German and Jewish ancestry and an interest in the history of Germany in World War II.

To quote from the author's introduction: "Not everyone has the good fortune to discover, late in life, two members of his immediate family, both born 'out of wedlock', about whose existence he had known practically nothing. I did. One person was my half sister. The other was almost as close. There is something particularly delightful in uncovering skeletons in the family cupboard, especially when, as in this case, their stories have a significance beyond the merely personal"

The author was a member of an extended Jewish family living in Germany prior to World War II. Hilmar was the son of the author's aunt, allegedly raped by a non Jewish man. Odette was the daughter of a liaison between the author's Jewish father and a non Jewish girl. Hilmar was adopted by a German Lutheran minister and his wife. A marriage was arranged between Odette's mother and the son of a German baron, before Odette's birth.

The author's immediate family fled Germany in 1935 and he eventually ended up in Canada, escaping the Holocaust. Hilmar and Odette, who never knew one another or the author, lived very different lives despite both being technically half Jewish under Nazi race laws. Odette ultimately became a baroness and prospered. She died in 1989, a respected member of German society. Hilmar died in 1945, shortly after the Mauthausen concentration camp, in which he was an inmate, was liberated by the US army.

This extraordinary family history is mainly the story of the lives of Hilmar and Odette, instead of the usual generation by generation documentation of ancestors. It deals mainly with the 1930's and 1940's, but the author does include background material on the origins of the extended family in the 19th century. A small pedigree chart connects the main individuals, but the text references many individuals who are not shown on

the chart and whose connections are difficult to keep track of. Photographs of many of the principle people are included.

The structure of the book uses alternating chapters to relate the histories of Hilmar and Odette individually and separately. This works well once the story gets going, but makes the early part of the book a little disjointed. I would also have liked to see more about the author's research methods, but perhaps that would have detracted from the main story.

Overall, I found the story quite absorbing and an interesting illustration, not only of the injustices of German racial policies in the 1930's and 1940's but of the inconsistency of their application and the opportunity such policies provided for individuals to exercise their personal prejudices.

Hilmar and Odette is published by:

McClelland and Stewart Inc  
481 University Ave  
Toronto ON M5G 2E9  
1995

ISBN 0-7710-4557-3

Calgary Public Library Call # 940-5318-KOC

227 pages including 6 pages notes and references  
and 8 pages of black and white photos

# Success in Surfing the Web

by Larry Hewitt

I have been researching family history for over 22 years, concentrating on four basic families. That is my wife's maternal and paternal lines and my own lines. I have had good success in three lines. "Abbott" for my wife, and "Hewitt" and "Chapman" for myself. These three lines are all back to the early seventeen hundreds. But I have had poor luck in tracing the "Riley" line (my wife's paternal). This family were Roman Catholic, living in London (marlebone) and they did not trust the British government and as a result did not register many of their Births, Deaths and Marriages. As a result I was at the stage of giving up on this search.

I decided to do a little surfing on the Net and looked up the "Riley" family on <http://genforum.genealogy.com/riley> There I found many posted letters from individuals who were researching the Riley name; mostly U.S. citizens searching for people in the U.S.A. After reading 4 full pages on the index I was about to give up and then on page 5 of the index I found an entry under "Riley Family London".

I just about fell off my chair. When I continued to read the letter related to this entry I knew I had hit a gold mine. The lady who submitted the letter for her mother was very detailed and named my wife's family line back to her great grandfather, even naming her father. Her own name was listed as "Dawn Riley" who had married a Canadian around the time of the second World War. *"I am that Canadian"!!*

I soon contacted the lady who posted the letter and email traffic has been very constant since we had this good luck. We have started exchanging documents and pictures of the Riley family and agreed to search in the future, by assigning separate family members to each other, so we do not duplicate our efforts.

The lady who had her daughter post the letter turned out to be Patricia Riley (maiden name) a first cousin to my wife. She was living in Pensacola, Florida, and was an American War Bride which was a strange co-incident as my wife was a Canadian War Bride.

I am sure that my good luck in this family line can be duplicated many times by other researchers. Just be persistent and use the full scope of research tools available to us all.

## Abbotsford Genealogical Society

### Roots around the World

**Family History Seminar - Saturday, October 25, 2003**  
Rick Hansen Secondary School, 31150 Blueridge Drive,  
Abbotsford, British Columbia

Abbotsford Genealogical Society  
Box 672,  
Abbotsford, B.C.  
Canada, V2S 6R7

<http://rootsweb.com/~bcags/>

# My Favourite Ancestor: Cora Nelson Spencer

*By Gale Yvonne Thygesen Burke*

Frosty nights, sharp, bright mornings with a milder noonday, or blustering winds. Bleak days, too.

Bring in that large packing box, now that barrel for the dishes, put paper between the plates. Be careful of my good dishes. Harry, put those mirrors in the bedding.

Did Jarmen get his well drilling outfit in? I hope we get good water! The tents came in – are they the right size? And so the cars are loaded, the men leave with them, mother and I go for a week to visit friends.

A train at 6 a.m. My brother's wife, with five little girls, joins us, and we are off. Change cars at Omaha and while there call on the emigration agent. Another train that night and St. Paul, our next stop. No berths this time – we may get them later; no, save the money – we may need more than we have with us, use your suitcase for a pillow.

Two of you girls go to Granny and two to Aunt Cora. I'll keep the baby, and so we journey on. Strange faces, strange towns, then prairie bare and brown. This is the Dakotas. On and on, we will soon be to the boundary.

There! That is Canada! What is the difference? It looks the same, but I do not feel the same. I am in a strange land – a foreign place.

The train now is crowded. It has been filling ever since we left St. Paul. More settlers! Where are you going? Brooks? Gleichen? Bassano? Yes, we are shipping there, then we drive to our land.

Next stop, Brooks. Children, get your coats on, gather up all our things. Oh, I am so tired! I look out as the train stops. My heart sinks, let's go on. Can this be the place?

Climb off! The hotel! I never saw such a place before, such a room. The sheets are not clean so we sleep in our clothes. Breakfast of porridge with canned milk, sausages fried hard, and greasy potatoes, coffee like soup with a scum on the top. The water is alkali – you can't drink it. Drinking water comes in on the water train. You can get soft water at the "gas well" to wash with.

A flare of gas burns and lights the whole town. In the evening, we go and watch the flames. Our car has not come through yet, but a letter comes saying the horses have to be tested and the men have to wait at Portal.

The hotel being impossible, we look for something else, and the man at the "pump house" says we may use his place until our tents come. Buy some bedding and a few dishes. A clean bed, we bath, and go to bed in our nightclothes after ten or 12 days of sleeping in our dresses. What luxury! I shall sleep for a month!

I find that there are three girls in the town, and about six women, although there is a great many men young and old. More people come – men, women, and children. I find a chum, and that helps some. We walk about, look north, south, east, or west – it is all the same painfully level brown prairie.

The C.P.P. is surveying for irrigation, and some of the men sing very well. One girl has a piano, although the room is small. Everyone crowds in. There is only standing room, and that is close packed. Maude plays, we all sing for an hour or two, then the cowboys bring ponies, and we ride eight or ten miles. The evening is gone.

Heat! I never knew it to be so hot, although the nights are cool, one uses plenty of blankets.

Our car is here now. We move into our tents. More people come. Ones who are going to where we are going, and have land near ours. Another girl, this younger girl becomes a pal. We take pictures, and ride horseback, soon away overland to the homestead.

The Red Deer River – no bridge or ferry. For it! And so we do, making a great many crossings which I make with each load. At last everything is across, and we go on. No road. We drive from the surveyor's marks, and walk a good deal. I collect pretty rocks all day. I never before saw many rocks. Each night the boys make me throw away all but one or two. The loads are too heavy. Now water is scarce, and we are almost out. Even the slews are empty. Make camp. No coffee or tea – we must save the water for the children. Wipe your plate clean with bread crusts, and use it in the morning. Next

morning the grass is wet, and I take the dishes and wipe them on the wet grass. About noon, we find a big slew, and boil a supply of water.

At last, after about ten days, we are there, but the horses feed is used up, and we are out of certain foodstuffs. Grass is plentiful, but water is six miles away at Sounding Creek. We move our things there, and the men plan to drill a well. Then comes a prairie fire, and no feed is left. The men leave us and go to town for supplies and lumber.

The start of our new life – our homestead.

Born: 5 Dec 1891

Died: 19 Jan 1949

Married: 11 June 1913 to Ernest Thygesen

## **My Favourite Ancestor:**

### **Alfred Wilder (1895-1958)**

By Lois Sparling

My Grandfather Wilder died when I was four years old. He was a grain elevator operator in Gainsborough, Saskatchewan when I knew him. He took my sister and I to see his elevator several times. I was most impressed with the piles of wheat. He also built a playhouse for us where we had tea parties with a set of miniature china dishes. He was sick that last Christmas, but got up from his bed in his bathrobe to watch us open our presents. Three weeks later, the nurse sneaked us into his hospital room to say goodbye. We were far too young to attend his funeral.

I know a lot about his childhood because he was an amateur writer. My mother kept his short story about his earliest reminiscences. He was born Ray Alfred Wilder on 22 November 1895 in Wallingford, Iowa. His parents, Josiah Wilder and Jerusha Bangs, grew up in Rising Sun, Wisconsin where they married in 1877. His father drove the stagecoach for awhile and then decided to try his hand at homesteading in Iowa. He must have liked breaking the sod because he did it five times. Jerusha and Josiah had eight children. My grandfather was their seventh.

In November 1899, the Wilder family packed their belongings and livestock onto a freight car and moved to Saskatchewan. Josiah and his 21-year-old son, Roy, traveled on the freight train while Jerusha and the younger children made their way very slowly across the frozen prairie in a passenger train. They arrived in Yorkton on my grandfather's fourth birthday. On New Year's Eve, 1899, they had just moved onto their new farm east of town. The extreme cold came as a shock, but they were experienced pioneers. My grandfather recalled how the howls of the coyotes terrified him that first winter. In 1900, Josiah sold his farm near Yorkton to his mother-in-law, Mary Ann Denning, and moved his family to a homestead at Willowbrook, southwest of Yorkton.

After Alfred got his Grade 8, he went to live with his married sister, Grace Shultz, in Melville, Saskatchewan to continue his schooling. A flu epidemic struck in 1910, killing his cousin and best friend, Ernest. His mother took him back to the farm and kept him there. That was the end of his formal education. He lived with his parents on the homestead at Willowbrook until he was drafted during the First World War. He never left Saskatchewan and was discharged "on account of demobilization" in 1919. Soon after, he took up his occupation as a grain buyer.

One of Alfred's early postings was to the Standard Elevator Company elevator at the now deserted village of Eskbank, Saskatchewan. He was a dashing, personable and highly eligible bachelor. All the farmers' daughters were terribly excited, but it was Reta Gettins who caught his eye. They were married at her parents' home on an unseasonably warm 19 December 1923. The wedding pictures show bare dirt to the horizon in all directions. Their first child (my mother) was born in Central Butte, Saskatchewan in 1926. Alfred ran the grain elevator in Talmadge, Saskatchewan for ten years. My mother recalls playing in the dunes of dust with her little sister during the early years of the Dirty Thirties. In 1933, this sister, just four years old, died suddenly of the flu. I was named Lois after her.

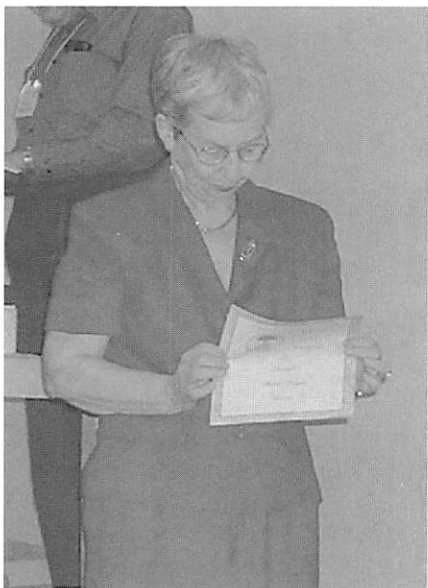
Alfred was transferred to Melville. In 1937, he made the mistake of pointing out the stupidity of a decision by the boss' son. He was fired on the spot. He couldn't find another job. He moved to Talmadge where he set up a one-pump gas station. Folks did not have much money to buy gas. He joined in a grand scheme with a group of friends to develop a gold mine near Hope, British Columbia. In 1940, Reta and their only child moved in with her widowed mother on her farm overlooking Eskbank while Alfred drove his battered car over the mountains to follow his dream. The mine did not work out. After two years, he gave up. The Second World War was well underway by this time. He found a menial job in Weyburn. He was still



remembered as a good grain buyer and eventually was hired by the Inter-ocean Grain Company. He worked for them until shortly before his death.

Alfred and Reta were highly regarded by their friends and large extended family. His brother, Roy, managed the local baseball team and Alfred was his prize catcher. Nephews, Archie Wilder and his brothers, left the farm to play junior hockey in Melville as young teenagers. Reta fed them and Alfred befriended and guided them. During his years in Gainsborough, Alfred was active in the United Church, Eastern Star and Masons. He was very proud to be able to send his only child to university to get the education which circumstances denied him. His little granddaughters (that's me!) were his delight.

My Favorite Ancestors  
cont on Page 29



**Marmie Longair**  
receiving her Certificate of Appreciation

## Board Member Bio's

### Ronna L Byam

I have been interested in Family History from a young age and remember attending a genealogy class when I was only 11 years old. I have served in various positions with the Calgary Family History Center on and off since the mid-1970s. I have taught numerous classes and seminars on various topics over the years. My specialty is Ontario research, but I also have traced my family in Scottish, Irish, English and USA records. I also have lines that go back to Denmark and Wales, and anticipate learning how to research those countries as well.

The highlight of all these efforts came last December when I have published a 728 page book entitled "The Asa Byam Book" detailing my Byam family history for 200 years covering 8 generations in Canada.

I have a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English and a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in accounting. I am self-employed as an accountant, but also do professional genealogy research and consulting.

I was first exposed to the Alberta Family Histories Society when I was asked to give a presentation in the Basics Session in January 2002. I liked what I saw and joined. I was elected as Director-at-Large in May 2002, and have really enjoyed serving in that position. This year I have been asked to serve as Treasurer, and am looking forward to continued association with the members of the Alberta Family Histories Society.

### ANN WILLIAMS

I first joined the AFHS about 1987 and for a couple of years was responsible for the monthly newsletter (forerunner of the Breeze). After a break I rejoined the Society in 2000, and served on the Board as Treasurer in 2001 - one year of that was enough - and the following year I became the Board's Recording Secretary (and Buddy Program Co-ordinator), positions I am pleased to continue with into 2004.



## MARY ARTHUR

I have been an AFHS member about 6 years, and have become quite involved as a volunteer in the Computer SIG, as Computer SIG management team member, beginners moderator, Macintosh computer 'expert', dist-gen and sigtips list manager, Reunion Users Group Siglet (RUG) leader and student. This will be my second year as Computer SIG board member.



I began researching my English and Welsh families in 1985, along the way picking up bits of knowledge on history and research methods. I have given talks on Welsh research for the AFHS and LDS and spent over 11 years as a volunteer at the Calgary Family History Library. My first interest was in my maiden name "Astridge" and I'm registered to that name with the Guild of One-Name Studies.

If there was a contest for the earliest ancestor picture I think I'd be in with a chance – there's a memorial in a tiny Surrey church in which a collateral ancestor claims descendancy from Edward de la Hale. Edward de la Hale died in 1431 and I have a picture of his brass effigy (now under the floor of the same church).

I still continue with a hobby taken up in my teens – that of practicing the old English art of campanology (i.e. ringing really large bells that are connected to the bellringer via a rope which runs around a really large wheel). Only five churches in Canada have its bells set up this way and Christ Church, Elbow Park is one of them.

My main love though is family history - I've made contact with some of the nicest people through it –quite a few of them being fellow members of the AFHS.

My interest in family history first started when I inherited the job of keeping my grandparents descendants list from my father when I took typing 10 and became the best typist in the house. I continue to be list keeper for that branch of my tree, and am trying to train my cousins and their children to keep me informed so I can keep the addresses and additions up to date.

I mean to get back to research my brick wall ancestors in Scotland but the last couple of years have been busy adding living relations to my program and attempting to get my sources organized the way I would like. I am still hoping that something new on the net will solve my problems; so far, anything new has just proved that they weren't 'there' - knowing where they were not is good, but not 'brag' worthy.

cont on Page 28

# Family History

*by Kelli Taylor*

Family history is a worthwhile and fulfilling endeavor. There are many reasons for people to become interested in genealogy, and although the majority of people who research their family tree are retired, there are also a few younger people who are intrigued by their elusive roots.

My interest in genealogy started with a gift. My dad, Don Smith, was semi-retired, and he had started to jot down a few details about our family tree. We had given him our old computer, but he and mom hadn't taken much time to use it, so we thought they might at least turn it on if they had a database for the information dad had gathered. Father's Day was fast approaching, and we didn't really want to buy him yet another golf shirt, so we shopped for a family history computer program.

We helped to get the computer all set up for dad, and left him to enter all of his precious data. Before long, I received a phone call asking for help. Although he was diligent about entering all of the information, dad has never learned to type, and it was a slow process. Would I be able to come over and type in some of this data? It shouldn't take long ...

I went over to help while my son was in preschool, and for about two hours, I heard a number of old stories as I typed in the data. Before long, I heard myself say that I would be happy to come over once every week to help. Dad would collect the data and I would enter it into the system. Those stories intrigued me, and I wish now that I would have had a tape recorder with me, as I have forgotten many of them.

We have a standing date every Wednesday morning now, and we have met most weeks for about four years. We now share the research work, I still do the data entry, and dad is the one who organizes most of the paperwork. I fondly call him the "taskmaster" and I am glad to have his gentle prodding, as sometimes I need a reminder to stay on track.

What's the point of all of this? It's multi-faceted. First, I get to spend a few hours with my dad every week. I learn about my ancestors, and the struggles they faced in order for us to live good lives. They came from all over, and some of the research is challenging, but so rewarding when you fit together another piece of the puzzle. I never paid much attention to "history" in school, but now I am seeing it in a whole new light. I hope to develop an interesting compilation of photographs, stories, and data to leave for generations to come.

Old photographs are looked at in a new way, and I have a better understanding of what the farmers faced in the "dirty 30's." Our lives are pretty soft compared to the challenges that our ancestors faced over the past few hundred years! Many family members now see us as the keeper of information, and they are happy to share old documents and photographs. We are often allowed to keep these items, and if not, we scan them in on our computer.

Where does a person start? We decided to start with everyone who was living. Dad's logic was that the dead were gone, and nothing would change there, but the living could still tell their stories. We generated a basic chart of the family tree and mailed it to everyone we are related to. Most were my parents' generation, and we asked them to fill in the information for their children and grandchildren, if they could. We asked people to make corrections and additions if they could see any errors or gaps, and promised to send an updated chart to anyone who helped us. Most people were happy to clarify the record, and within a few months we had a lot of new information to add to our system.

Next we gathered as much data as we could from old photo albums and by interviewing some of the older people in the family. Through this process we found out who was interested in our family history and who was not. Not everyone was interested, but usually there was one person in each branch of the family who was cooperative. The Internet has also been a great help to us, with sites such as "Cyndi's List," the National Archives of Canada, and the "Family Search" site maintained by the Mormon Church. Many nights I have been known to burn the midnight oil, as I search for hours on these free sites. A few other sites offer information for a fee, but I have not used them much.

Two organizations which are very helpful are the Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS), based in Calgary, and the Family History Centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). The AFHS has a yearly membership fee and offers monthly meetings and publications. Members share an interest in genealogy, and they offer monthly meetings, newsletters, and a great library. Last year we attended an excellent (and affordable) conference in October. There are friendly volunteers at the FHC, and there is no charge to use the family history library. Also, you do not need to be a member of the Mormon Church to access the centre. As you become involved in genealogy, you will find many friendly people who generously volunteer their time.

A more "hands-on" way to search out information is through the public library or the Glenbow Museum. Many resources are available at the downtown branch of the Calgary Public Library, and the staff there are willing to help you find your way. I have yet to access the Glenbow, but I understand their staff are also excellent.

The only caution I offer is that this can become a very time-consuming hobby. I am often on the computer for hours after the kids are in bed, searching for "our" John Smith (no kidding!) or some other ancestor. My research keeps me in touch with many members of the extended family who I may not have known otherwise. We're never at a loss for what to talk about at family gatherings now, and it is great to have my dad to myself every week.

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cont from Page 26

## **Gordon Lane**

I started out on this never-ending journey back in 1987 when my brother-in-law said he couldn't find out any information on his family. I always liked a challenge and detective stories so it seemed to be a good fit to pass my time.

I am now sixteen years into this hobby (?) and still haven't found my grandfather's birth records - he had to lie about his age so he could join the army for World War I.

I became involved in the Genealogical Computing Group by way of the Bulletin Board System (BBS) where I took on being an owner of a BBS when Cathy decided she had had enough. I then got involved with the Internet and the Calgary Free-net (now the Calgary Community Network Association). I negotiated the free space the AFHS was given by the CCNA and it was initially a very small site with tiny tafels and some information on the Society.

I have been in and out of the Computer group for a number of years and finally joined the Society proper in 2002, just in time to be lassoed onto the Board as Treasurer. This year I was just going to be the Chair of the Publications committee but somehow ended up as vice-Chair (Facilities).

My main interests in genealogical research are in Newfoundland, on my wife's side, and London and Yorkshire on my side.

I have my own website, [www.rumbolt.com](http://www.rumbolt.com), where I have about 13,000 people on-line. These are not all direct family members but a lot are related through one marriage or another or sometimes both!

I currently help with the Chinook, on occasion the website, the Computer SIG, Family Roots, and I am a member of the Maritime SIG. I have in the past carried out some transcribing for the AFHS, the Newfoundland Grand Banks and the Newfoundland Genweb site.

Apart from the research and finding new family members I get great pleasure when my work has helped others. I had one young girl email me saying she had got 120% in her school project but she has given me leads on other members of the family.

## **My Favourite Ancestor: Hermina Stegens and Per Olof Ronquist**

*By Caroline R. Phillips*

“Granny,” Hermina Stegens, was born on January 30, 1877, at Peoria, Illinois. She was the daughter of Frederick Stegens and his wife, Anna Stalling, who had emigrated from Oldenburg, Germany, on May 1, 1865. When Frederick arrived in America, he was in debt, but through hard work and ambition, he eventually became a respected and successful farmer in Illinois.

“Grandpa,” Per Olof Ronquist, was born on August 25, 1874, at Bollnäs, Gävleborg, Sweden, the son of Anders Rönnqvist, a soldier, and Karin Jansdotter, his wife. Both of his parents died early in life, and, at 14 years of age, he was one of three surviving children of the 12 born to his parents. The “white plague”, or tuberculosis, had virtually wiped out his family. Grandpa immigrated to the United States on June 2, 1893 with no knowledge of the English language. An uncle living in Illinois had provided his passage.

Granny was trained to be a teacher, but she never did teach. She met Grandpa while he was employed on her father’s farm, and they were married on March 1, 1899, at Peoria, Illinois. On December 31, 1899, they would have celebrated the New Year as a young married couple with a brand new baby boy, Frederick. Two more children, Clara and Albert, were born in Peoria before they moved on to North Dakota about 1905. Three children, Eva, Roy and Elmer, were born while they lived on a farm at Belfield, North Dakota. In 1911, the family moved to Alberta where they homesteaded in the Lake Isle district. A daughter, Anna, was born at Lake Isle and twins were born at Edmonton. Unfortunately, one of the twins died shortly after birth, but the other one, Lilly, my mother, survived. They moved again in 1917, this time to Richmond in British Columbia, where Grandpa was a steam engineer.

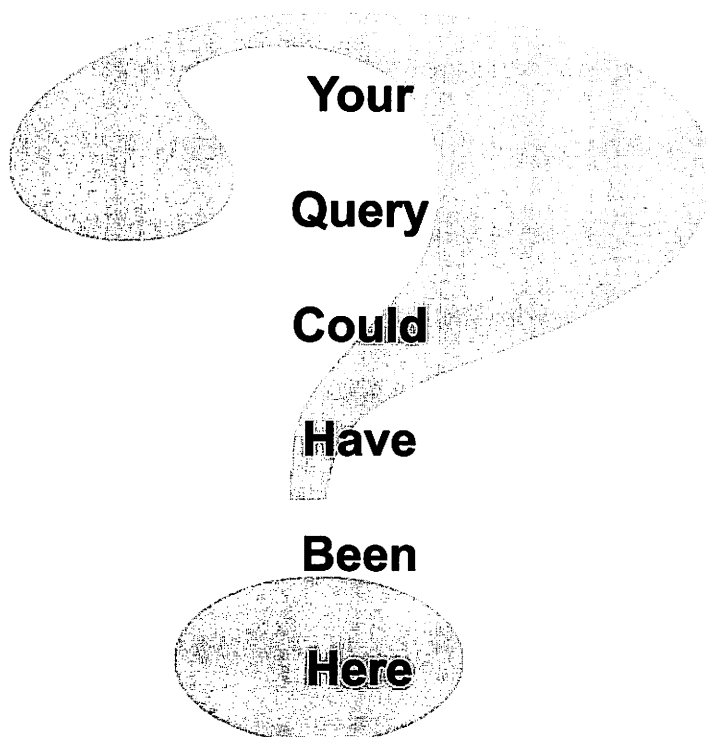
Granny and Grandpa enjoyed living at the coast where they had an orchard, a nice garden, good friends and happy times. It was not, however, without sadness as their son, Albert, died of rheumatic fever, and the family grieved his loss. Two of the daughters, Clara and Eva, were married at the coast before the family moved back to Alberta in 1932, this time to Water Valley, a village in the foothills, northwest of Cochrane, where they lived for the rest of their lives.

The kitchen of their big log house at Water Valley was the centre of activity. Friends and family often visited and enjoyed a meal around the large table in the centre of the kitchen. Most of the food was grown in the garden, and supplemented by wild berries and meat.

Granny was everything a grandmother should be. She was a robust woman with lots of energy and love for all. She had a Christmas cactus that was planted in a butter box and sat beside a south-facing window in their home. It flourished there and bloomed each year. Cuttings from the original cactus have been passed down from one generation to the next.

Grandpa was a quiet man with mechanical abilities and skills. He and his son, Elmer, built the sawmill which was used at the Water Valley lumberyard for many years. He was granted a patent from the Dominion of Canada on December 4, 1945, for a Lever Mechanism for Gear Shifts and Similar Uses.

It was a sad time when Granny was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease. She had the available treatments, but the disease won out, and she died on May 10, 1948. Grandpa died on June 23, 1958, and both of them are resting in the Carstairs Cemetery.



## Thanksgiving Recipes

### Almond Stuffing for Turkey

4 cups bread crumbs  
3/4 cup milk  
1 cup butter  
3 eggs  
2 cups diced celery  
1/2 onion, grated  
1 cup chopped almonds  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 teaspoon ginger

Soak the bread crumbs in the milk. Soften the butter and add to crumbs with well-beaten eggs; add other ingredients and mix well.

### Candied Cranberries

4 cups cranberries  
1 cup water  
2 cups sugar

Wash cranberries. Boil in water; when skins begin to burst add sugar. Boil 5 minutes or until translucent

### Baked Stuffed Acorn Squash

3 medium acorn squash  
2 tablespoons butter or fat  
1/2 onion, chopped  
1/2 cup soaked bread  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon pepper  
1 beaten egg  
1/2 cup cracker crumbs  
butter

Bake squash in moderate oven, 350 F, until soft. Scoop out pulp, being careful not to break shells. Heat butter or fat in a skillet, add the onions, chopped fine, brown, add the soaked bread, mashed, and the squash. Cook 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat, add the salt, pepper, and egg. Fill shells; sprinkle with cracker crumbs and bits of butter, and return to oven to brown.

### Fresh Corn Soup

6 ears sweet corn (2 cups raw pulp)  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon white pepper  
1 teaspoon sugar  
2 cups milk or cream, heated  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 teaspoon flour

Grate the corn. Cover the cobs with cold water, and boil 30 minutes, then strain. To 1 pint of this corn liquid add the raw corn pulp, cook 15 minutes, add the seasoning and hot milk. Heat the butter, add the flour, and gradually the corn mixture; cook 5 minutes longer.

# Alberta Family Histories Society

## Membership

Membership in the Society is open to those interested in family history and genealogy, and may be obtained through the membership secretary of the Society at 712-16th Ave NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2M 0J8. Membership fees are due 1<sup>st</sup> September each year. If a new member joins on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April then that membership is valid until the September of the following year.

Meetings are held the first Monday of every month (second in the case of a holiday) at Southminster United Church, 3818-14a St., S.W., Calgary, Alberta.

## Objectives of the Society

The Society is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote and encourage an interest in family history research worldwide. The activities of the society are funded by membership fees, fund-raising projects, donations, bequeaths and corporate sponsorship.

The objectives of the "Alberta Family Histories Society" are as follows:

- To promote the study of family history and genealogical research;
- To encourage and instruct members in accurate and thorough family history research;
- To assemble, preserve, print and publish information relevant to family history study;
- To raise funds for any of the foregoing objects, and to accept donations, gifts, legacies and bequests;
- To use any profits or other accretions to the Society in promoting its objects without material gain for its members.

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Metis	Geoff Burtonshaw
Ukrainian	Xenia Stanford

### Genealogy Software

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Family Tree Maker	Lynn Taylor
Generations/Reunion	Mary Arthur
Legacy	Charles Aubin
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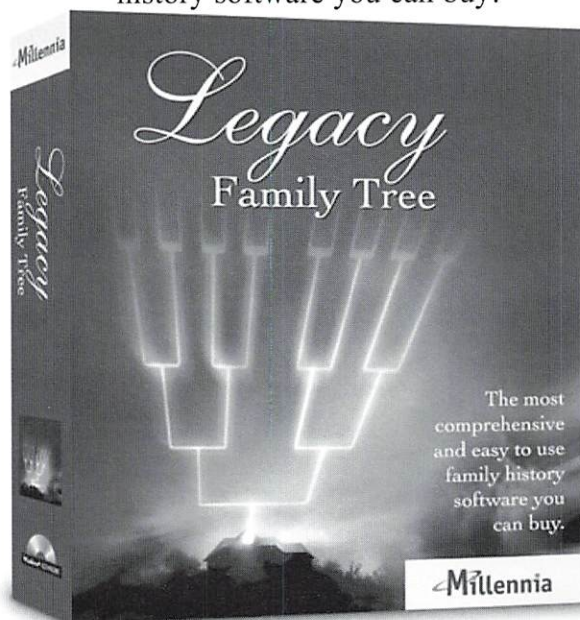
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**New mailing address for the Society  
and the Library Location**

Alberta Family Histories Society  
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*JW LA*

# Alberta Family Histories Society

Volume 23, Issue 3

Summer, June 2003

[www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)

# Chinook

## New mailing address for the Society and the Library Location

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**Articles** should be typewritten, (double spaced with wide margins) or submitted in text format from a word processor program. Typeface should be Times Roman at 12 point. The publication assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions or opinions of the authors. Materials submitted to the editors will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope of the appropriate size, unless previous arrangements have been made.

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## **A.F.H.S. Program Schedule 2003/2004**

There is a tentative program in place for the 2003/2004 year but until some speakers have been approached and confirmed the schedule will not be published until the September issue.

### **Editor's Comments**

Summer is upon us and thoughts turn to holidays and genealogical visits to both near and distant lands.

Articles from these journeys are actively encouraged for the Chinook. You do not need to be a writer and you don't have to write a book. Spelling and grammar don't matter, the program can actually change grammar errors and checking the spelling is a breeze. The only grammar I care about is my ggg-gramma and who her parents and siblings were.

If you want to write a tribute to your parents, grandparents or your favorite ancestor then you are more than welcome to do so. Have a scholarly article you would like to see published - then send it to [chinook@afhs.ab.ca](mailto:chinook@afhs.ab.ca) and it will be included. Studying for genealogical certification then this magazine would count to having works published for that certification.

Are you a member of a Special Interest Group of the AFHS and feel that you would like to advertise your SIG then this is the place to do it, the Breeze is only read by members who go to the monthly meeting, as this magazine reaches all members.

Don't forget that as a member of the AFHS you are entitled to have two queries published per membership year.

When you submit an article if you have a photograph you would like included then I can scan the photo for you and include it in the article.

Hope you all have a wonderful and productive summer.

Please have submissions to me by the beginning of August

Gordon Lane  
Editor  
Vice Chair - Facilities



# Chairman's Message

When I wrote at this time a year ago I predicted Summer would soon be upon us. The rain and snow we have endured in the early part of May this year makes me reluctant to make a similar prediction, especially after postponing last year's Annual General Meeting on account of snow.

Although we suffered some snow again this year, the May 5 AGM went off without a hitch. For those who missed the meeting and didn't get a copy of the 2002-2003 Annual Report, it is posted on our website at [www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca) (look on the left hand side under Board and Members). Once again it shows the great range of activities we are involved with and the many accomplishments of our members. It makes me proud to be a member of our Society.

When I last wrote this column, the future of our Library was in a bit of doubt owing to the high cost of renting adequate space. I am pleased to confirm now that we have leased space at Owls Rook Books in Calgary. Owls Rook Books is a small independent bookstore specializing in genealogical materials so this is a really good fit for both of us. The bookstore will benefit from our presence and we will benefit from a little more library space at a cost we can afford. To top off the 'cake' we have also received through the efforts of John Doyle and Bob Crowle a grant from the Exxon Corporation which will allow us to acquire new computer equipment and software for the Library. Over the coming year expect to see our Library to offer enhanced services to our members.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find your membership renewal form and a member survey form. Unless you joined the Society after April 1 this year, your membership will expire this coming August 31. Because of our good fortune in finding affordable library space we have not had to raise fees this year so membership will be a bigger bargain than ever. Prompt payment of your fees will make the Membership Secretary's job easier and no doubt please the Treasurer, as well as ensuring that you continue to receive future issues of the Chinook, are able to borrow material from the Library, and continue to have your surnames listed on the website.

We last conducted a membership survey two years ago. A large proportion of our members participated in that survey and the results have proven extremely useful in guiding the Board about your wishes and in guiding the Library in its acquisition policies. Please help us again by telling us what your interests are, how we may maximize the benefits of membership for you and in what directions you would like to see the Society go. I remain convinced that we have too few members and that one way to increase membership is to provide high value to existing and potential members. Your ideas to achieve this are always welcome, but this survey is hopefully a convenient vehicle for you to help.

As I am sure you all know, last October's Family Roots 2002 Seminar was a great success and everyone has been pleased with the results. Unfortunately, that success took a considerable toll on the many volunteers who did the work necessary to achieve it. Seminar Chairman Gordon Hulbert and his senior committee members have reviewed the effort expended and the outcome of Family Roots 2002 and reluctantly concluded that the seminar team does not have the time and energy available to repeat the venture in 2003. They have informed the Board, however that with some minor changes it will be possible to repeat the event in 2004. So - keep your eyes open for news about our next significant genealogical seminar: Family Roots 2004.

As I write this a last ditch effort is being mounted to protest the latest effort by the Ottawa bureaucracy to restrict access by Canadian citizens to their heritage, as documented in the historic census. We had all thought when the Government of Canada relented and released the 1906 census that an adequate precedent was set to permit the release of all future censuses after the statutory delay of 92 years for each. Unfortunately, within days of the announcement that the 1906 census would be released, a bill was introduced in the Senate of Canada which would restrict access to the censuses from 1911 to 2001 and likely make some census information beyond 2001 completely inaccessible to family historians. Despite massive evidence that Canadians are not uncomfortable with the release of their census information after 92 years, the Ottawa bureaucracy continues to believe that we will be reluctant to answer their questions unless we are guaranteed the information will never become public.

Continued on Page 7

# The Wilmot Family

*by Adrienne Horne*

## The Wilmot Family Moves to the Colonies

Benjamin Wilmot was the first known Wilmot ancestor who lived in the Colonies. According to the historical registrar of New England, Benjamin settled with his wife and family in New Haven, Connecticut, in about 1641.

As a paternal society, the Western world rarely records women's full names. This results in many contradictions concerning who they are, and Benjamin's wife is no exception. The family consensus is that he married Ann Mace sometime before 1630, in England. However, Beverly Hull, who wrote a book on the Wilmot family, believes that Ann's last name was Ladd. (1) There is also a family claim that her last name was possibly Bunnell, who was believed to have come to the Colonies on the Mayflower in 1620. Unfortunately, there is no record of this, as the ancestor was a woman.

Benjamin and Ann had three children but only one of them is known, William, who was born in 1632, presumably in England. In 1648, Benjamin took the Oath of Fidelity to the Colony. Twenty years later he died. Benjamin was a strong worker as he built a name for himself in New England. It is felt that "the Wilmot's came from the best New England stock, and their connections were highly respectable and even distinguished". (2) The Wilmot family had only just begun to make a name for themselves in the building of this nation.

## Generations of Wilmots

William Wilmot was nine when his family settled in New Haven, and he remained there for the rest of his life, which ended in 1689. In 1658, on October 14<sup>th</sup>, William married Sarah Thomas, who was eight years his junior. All that is known about this family is that in 1679, Sarah had a son, Thomas, who was one of ten children. (3)

Thomas married Mary Lines on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1705. Of the six children in the family, there are only two who have been identified, Ezekiel, and his younger brother Daniel. Ezekiel married a woman named Beulah some time before 1738 (which was the year their first child was baptized). Unfortunately Ezekiel died only eight years later. Beulah went on to marry Jonathon Osborne, but not a decade later she remarried again to a Mr. Collier. This marriage did not last either, because some time after 1757, she married (for the fourth time), to Daniel McNamara. Before Ezekiel died he had three children with Beulah, one daughter, Mary, and two sons, Isaac and Lemuel. (4)

## The Revolution and the Move to New Brunswick

Lemuel Wilmot was baptized on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1743/44, in Woodbridge, Connecticut. As a young man he lived on Long Island, New York, then in about 1769, he married Elizabeth Street. The Street family was originally from Niagara Falls, Upper Canada.

Before the American Revolution Lemuel was a Major in Colonel De Lancy's Loyal American Regiment, (they were loyal to England). This position would lead to a great change for Lemuel at the time of the Revolution, as he was a United Empire Loyalist (Tories, as they were called). "A statement by David Akins, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1776, to the local Committee for Detecting Conspiracies read "Wilmot has lately gone to the enemy from Fredericksburg", [Virginia]". (4)

Major Wilmot, joined the loyal American army before the Revolution, but when the war began he had to desert them and join Britain to remain loyal to the Crown. Lemuel became a Captain in the King's Loyal American Regiment. Although the names are very similar, the two Regiments were of opposite sides of the war. Lemuel remained in New York State for the duration of the war as all five of his sons were born in Nine Partners, New York, the last born in 1780. (4)

As soon as the Revolution was over in 1783, Lemuel took his wife and five boys to New Brunswick with the many other Loyalists. The Americans had won, so the United Empire Loyalists had to flee the country for their own safety. The family remained in the area of Fredericton for five years when Lemuel then purchased, from Thomas Colden of Lincoln, Sunbury County, his 500 acre farm on the southwest side of the St. John River. This

property was beside the Bliss family farm. The Wilmot and Bliss families would become close over the years, especially when they became family through marriage. (3)

Of Lemuel's five sons, three served in the Legislature of New Brunswick and one in the Legislature of Upper Canada. This family became so famous in New Brunswick because they gave the province "five members of the Legislature, a Senator, and a Member of the House of Commons of Canada, two Members of the Executive of New Brunswick, and one of the Privy Council of Canada, an Attorney General and a Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick, and two Lieutenant Governors". (2) The most famous political Wilmot would have to be Lemuel's grandson, Lemuel Allan, who fought for Responsible Government in New Brunswick. Lemuel, with his cousin, Robert Duncan, are responsible for most of the government positions credited to the Wilmot family.

Lemuel died in 1814 and is buried in the Hayward graveyard, which is a quarter of a mile up the river from the Wilmot homestead. However his wife Elizabeth is buried in the Old Burying Ground in Fredericton. His youngest son, William took over the farm when Lemuel died. (4)

### The Sons of Lemuel Wilmot

#### **Malcolm Wilmot**

Malcolm Wilmot was Lemuel's first son, born on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1771, in Nine Partners, New York. When he grew up he moved to West Moreland, where many of his descendants now reside. "He represented his county in the House of Assembly and was a Stipendiary Magistrate in Moncton". (3) Malcolm was a bit eccentric in both his personal and professional life. On a pleasant Sunday afternoon Sir Howard Douglas, on his way to Halifax for official business, travelled through Malcolm's town. Well, as the law abiding man that he was, Malcolm promptly arrested Sir Douglas for travelling on a Sunday. Horrified at this action, Sir Douglas demanded an explanation from the Magistrate. Malcolm eagerly explained that it is illegal to travel on the holy day of Sunday. Of course Sir Douglas was not impressed and quickly got Malcolm fired as the Stipendiary Magistrate! (3)

#### **Samuel Street Wilmot**

Samuel Street Wilmot, born March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1773, in Nine Partners, New York, was Lemuel's second son. Samuel stayed with his father until he was 21, when he left "to seek his fortune in the then wilds of Upper Canada". (5) Sam moved to the Richmond Hill area in York (Toronto) in about 1794. Here he became acquainted with John Stegmann who was a German Land Surveyor, and began his apprenticeship in that profession with him. After a time Samuel married John's daughter, Mary Archange Stegmann. (2)

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1804, Samuel was admitted as a qualified Provincial Land Surveyor. (6) He was employed by the government to survey the main road leading from Kingston to York, which is now the King's Highway #2. This road was cut four rods wide and grooved two rods (a rod was used as a standard measurement tool). Captain Danforth constructed the road, and although being the main post road it was a very treacherous one; during the summer after very heavy rains it was almost impassable. The first mail carried over the road was taken on a mule and arrived every two weeks from Kingston to Darlington. (7)

Samuel quickly volunteered for the British when the War of 1812 began. He commanded a volunteer regiment, and achieved the rank of Major on the field. After the war, in 1816, Samuel moved from Young Street in Toronto to Newcastle in the township of Clarke, having purchased 400 acres of land, later known as the Wilmot Homestead. Here he built a replica of the Bliss' *Belmont Home*, on the banks of the creek that ran through the property, which he named the Wilmot Creek. Samuel's son, another Samuel, redirected the Wilmot Creek through the basement of the home and set up a world famous salmon hatchery. The Newcastle Hatchery, as it came to be known, was a working model for the development of hatcheries all around the world. (5) Samuel must have really liked the Bliss family home to build a replica of it. As it was another twenty years before Samuel's brother, John returned to the Wilmot farm in New Brunswick, merged their land with the Bliss' and made the *Belmont* the Wilmot homestead. Samuel's replica burnt down, but was rebuilt out of brick, on the original foundation and is still standing to this day. (8)

In 1820, Samuel contested the parliament seat of Durham County. Although there was great confusion during the voting period Major Wilmot was declared elected and took his seat on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1821. (9)

## **John McNeil Wilmot**

John McNeil Wilmot, Lemuel's third son, born in 1775, settled in St. John, in 1804, and became a ship owner and builder, as he was largely interested in the timber trade, an important industry at the time. During the Revolution, "Great Britain recognized New Brunswick as an important source of lumber for the Royal Navy, and St. John became a shipbuilding centre". (10)

John soon married Susan Wiggins and they had seven children, two daughters and three sons, the other two are unknown and probably died as children. Only one son is known, Robert Duncan, who became a well-known politician, like so many other men in his family.

For a while John was an alderman for King's Ward in the City Council, he went on to be St. John's Mayor for a term, and afterwards he was a member for the city and county of St. John in the House of Assembly. John was also a strong religious man (like his brother Malcolm), but all John did was be the President of the Bible Society for many years, he never arrested anyone for travelling on a Sunday!

In about 1837, John returned to the Wilmot farm after retiring from business at the age of 62. He bought out his brother William (who had stayed on the farm), as well as acquiring the Bliss' Belmont homestead and adjoining lands from the heirs of the Bliss estate. It was this family and the joining of the land that would make the homestead the famous *Belmont Home*.

"Mr. Wilmot usually employed four married men who paid rent and worked for \$16 per month" (3), while his property taxes were only \$10. To grow wheat in the Maritimes is not an easy task, almost impossible. But the Wilmot family, with their incredible drive and tenacity, were able to grow enough wheat for the large family and have some left over to sell as seed.

Like the owner of the Belmont home before him, Judge Bliss, John Wilmot became the local Stipendiary Magistrate and during his hours of leisure, superintended farming operations, and in his own sphere was a veritable lord of the manor. John died at the Belmont home in 1847. His wife, Susan lived until 1860, she is buried in St. John. (3)

## **Allen & William M. Wilmot**

Lemuel's fourth son was Allen, born in 1778, but there is no known information on him. William M., Lemuel's fifth son, born in 1780, remained on the Wilmot farm and married their neighbour's daughter, Hannah Bliss, in about 1800. This bond helped the families merge their land when John took over the farm from his brother, William. Sadly this marriage only lasted ten years, as Hannah died 18 months after the birth of their third child, Lemuel Allan, their only son. Hannah was considered to be very intelligent, possess much nobility of character and her early death was greatly regretted.

William could not mourn the death of his wife for very long because he had two daughters and a new baby boy to look after. This was not a task for a well-respected merchant and lumberman. William had to work and also look for a new wife to help him raise his young family. Luckily, William met Mr. William Peters, also a lumberman and the two set up a business partnership. Four years after the death of Hannah, William married Mr. Peters' daughter, Susannah, in 1814. Unfortunately, Susannah never had any children with William.

William, being a Wilmot, also had a political life. He was elected as a member of the House of Assembly for Sunbury County in 1816. He was also a very religious man, like his brothers, and as such the mixture of politics and religion was not good for William's political career. Members of the Church of England almost exclusively ran the New Brunswick government at the time. William had set up the first Baptist church in Fredericton, against the approval of the government. He was even a preacher for the church. This role was contrary to the rules of the House of Legislature and he was forced to resign. However, as a Wilmot, William persevered and ran three more times, but unfortunately he was never re-elected.

The last year William ran for office was 1827, it was also at about this time that the lumbermen in the colony were ruined. Poor government management and administration of Crown lands destroyed New Brunswick's main revenue source. William's lumber business failed with the rest of them. (11)

William and Susannah had a good personal life together, but it was cut short when Susannah died in 1838. William, having to deal with the death of his wife for a second time, needed a change and some security. At nearly the age of 60, William decided to retire in Fredericton, where his only son, Lemuel Allan, also on his second marriage, lived. William sold his father's farm (perhaps just a figurative gesture) to his older brother John, and lived out his days in Fredericton with his son. (3)

Lemuel Allan created a strong and famous career in the politics of the New Brunswick government; it is him who was written about in the Makers of Canada book. (11) His main fight was for Responsible Government for New Brunswick, but that is another story.

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### Cont. from Page 3

It seems likely they will win this 'round', but if they believe this will end the matter they should perhaps reconsider. Canadian genealogists feel very strongly about this, and will continue to fight to defeat this meaningless protection to our privacy and restriction of access to what should be our rightful heritage. There are people in Western Canada prepared to carry on this fight until the will of the people prevails.

And finally, an apology. In this space in the last issue of Chinook I gave Frank Morrow the credit for negotiating the very attractive rent we have paid over the past six years for our Library space. Frank has informed me that while he was involved with the search and move, it was Louise Sauve who chaired the Space Committee at that time and who deserves most of the credit for our good fortune. Thank you Louise and the other members of that Committee.

George Lake  
Chairman

### Lahtinen Matti

Marriage to Aino Ovaska - October 12, 1912 Frank, Alberta Canada. Matti and Aino were married by William Young - Methodist minister - Frank, Alberta. Aino (Ovaska) Lahtinen was born April 1892 in Finland and emigrated to Canada in 1912.

Looking for the descendants of Matti & Aino Lahtinen of Bellevue, Alberta Canada. Their children's names were: Salme, Elma, Edvin, Toivo, Elmo and Tuovi.

A Finnish relative has much genealogy data to give to Lahtinen descendants.

Judy Regan  
rnjpa@bellatlantic.net

Highlights from exchange journals  
received in the AFHS library to  
July 2002

by Helen Backhouse and Lorna Stewart

**AUSTRALIA**

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**UKRAINIAN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL  
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The Cemetery (or where I found cousin Florence

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 Jack Lucas recalls old Mounted Rifle days  
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**SUDBURY DISTRICT BRANCH OGS,**  
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**TORONTO BRANCH OGS,**  
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**VERMILION BAY OGS,**  
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 How Vermilion Bay got it's name

**WATERLOO-WELLINGTON BRANCH OGS,  
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 Trades and Professions in Old Deerham  
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 1928 Internments in Bowmanville Cemetery  
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**YORK REGION BRANCH OGS,**

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**QUEBEC FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**

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 Towns and Villages: Douglastown before 1800  
 Vol 24 #2 Dec 01  
 Lucy the blood sister who escaped the Guillotine  
 The well-travelled corpse of Dr. Charles Blake  
 Vol 24 #3 March 02  
 Grand Trunk Riverside Gun Club  
 Court Records: Interdictions

**SOCIÉTÉ DE GÉNÉALOGIE DE QUÉBEC,**

Vol 28 #1 2001  
 Banville? Vous avez dit Banville?  
 Les Lethieq Acadiens de Bécancour et des environs  
 Vol 28 #2 2001  
 Rétablissons les faits historiques  
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 Nos cousins de la Nouvelle-Angleterre  
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**SOCIÉTÉ DE GÉNÉALOGIE ET D' ARCHIVES DE  
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 Joseph-du-Grand-Remous: Quelques Statistequés  
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**SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉALOGIQUE CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE,**  
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Vol 52 Winter 02  
Le destin de ces clochers qui firent une ville  
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**SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉALOGIQUE DE L'EST DU QUÉBÉC,**  
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**SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY,**  
Vol 32 #4 Dec 01  
Pioneers of the Territories  
Making your Genealogical Society Greater  
Vol 33 #1 March 02  
Researching in Belgium - part 2  
Ranches, Ranchlands and Ranch owners of the  
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## **ENGLAND**

**BEDFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 13 #3 Sept 01  
Some thoughts on 1901  
Vol 13 #4 Dec 01  
The experiences of Italian migrants to Bedford in the  
1950's and 60's  
More thoughts on looking at the 1901 Census  
Vol 13 #5 March 02  
Pre 1841 Censuses  
Civil Registration: Vital changes

**BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
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Shady and pig killing in Lambourn  
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A practical guide to using old wills for family history  
Vol 25 #3 March 02  
People of the Kennet and Avon Canal  
Reading Borough Police registers at Sulhamstead

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND SOCIETY FOR  
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Vol 13 Dec 01  
A most fortunate concatenation of circumstances  
John (1) Willer: 1790-1869 Chance and Serendipity  
Vol 13 #3 March 02  
In Atcham Workhouse – a night in the Tramp Ward  
Barton-Under-Needwood churchyard survey

**BRISTOL AND AVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
#105 Sept 01  
A burning at Smithfield  
The Anatomy Act 1832  
#106 Dec 01  
My parish – Bedminster  
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#107 March 02  
My parish – Long Ashton  
Pte. Walsingham Evered

**BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 7 no 3 Summer 01  
Genealogy organization tips  
Your Publishing – Preparing Your Book, part 4  
Vol 8 #2 Spring 02  
Using ships' passenger lists to find records of your  
ancestors  
Home children

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 25 #3 Sept 01  
Made in Bucks, part 8, Straw plait  
Memorials, monuments and gravestones  
Vol 25 #4 Dec 01  
Smallpox and how to treat it  
Tapping  
Vol 26 #1 March 02  
The Long Crendon Postman and his family  
Bucks men at the Inner Temple

**CALDERDALE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
#96 Sept 01  
The contents of the English house 1500-1750  
Stoodley Pike  
#97 Dec 01  
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The Borough markets

**CHANNEL ISLANDS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
#91 Summer 01  
Little Harry's story  
Jersey's first postman  
#92 Autumn 01  
Where did John Eve come from?  
Bouley Bay Harbour, Jersey 1274-1869

**CHESHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 32 #1 Sept 01  
Merchant Seamen's records, part 2  
Letters to America  
Vol 32 #2 Dec 01  
'Parish relief – Lunatic'  
The Solicitor's waste bin  
Vol 32 #3 March 02  
Boat people in Cheshire – 1871 Census  
Sources for Mariners in Cheshire

**MEMBER SURVEY 2003**

1. How long have you been a member of the Alberta Family Histories Society?  
1 year or less  
2 to 5 years  
5 to 10 years  
more than 10 years

2. How many of the monthly general meetings did you attend during the past year?  
10  
5 to 10  
less than 5

3. Why did you not attend some of the meetings? (check all applicable)  
weather  
meeting time  
conflicting commitments  
illness  
not interested in program  
transportation problem  
live at a distance  
other (specify)

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4. Have you ever been instrumental in having another person joining AFHS?  
If yes, why did they join?

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5. Have you ever encouraged someone to join AFHS who didn't?  
If yes, why didn't they join?

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6. How can we encourage more people to join AFHS?

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7. What monthly general meeting time would be most convenient for you?  
Monday evening  
Saturday morning  
Saturday afternoon  
other (specify)
- 

8. Is there any program topic or speaker you would like to suggest for a future monthly general meeting?  
(specify)
- 

9. Which Special Interest Groups (SIG) have you attended during the past year?  
Atlantic Canada SIG  
Beginner's SIG  
Computer SIG (or any of its SIGlets)  
English SIG  
Italian SIG  
Irish / Scottish SIG  
Metis SIG  
Ukrainian SIG  
none

10. Is there another area or topic of interest in which you would like to see a Special Interest Group (SIG) organized?  
(specify)
- 

11. Do you use public transportation to attend the monthly general meetings, SIG meetings or to use the AFHS Library?

Would it be helpful to have a ride to any of these activities?

Would you be willing to provide a ride to any of these activities?

12. Do you have access to a computer?

If yes, do you use a genealogical software program to organize your genealogical records and information?

Do you use the internet in your genealogical research?

13. How often do you use the AFHS website?  
daily  
weekly  
monthly  
never

14. Do you subscribe to the AFHS *Dist-Gen* e-mail list?

Do you subscribe to the AFHS *CompSig Tips* e-mail list?

15. Have you ever attended the AFHS *Level I* course?

Have you ever attended the AFHS *Level II* course?

If not, why not?

date course held didn't fit into schedule

all day time commitment

didn't feel you needed it

cost

other (specify)

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16. Do you feel that the AFHS Library is a valuable asset to have?

17. How often have you used the AFHS Library during the past year?

once a month or more often

less than once a month

never

18. Is the necessity to climb stairs an obstacle to your use of the AFHS Library?

19. How do you find out what hours the AFHS Library is open?

Breeze

AFHS website

AFHS telephone message

other (specify)

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20. Please share any comments or suggestions you have in respect to the AFHS Library.

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21. Have you ever volunteered to assist in any AFHS projects or activities?

If not, why not?

not interested

time commitment

don't feel qualified

transportation

distance

other (specify)

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22. Please rate each of the following 'income generating' suggestions using a scale of 1 thru 5 where 1 is great and 5 is awful:

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| increase annual membership fee                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| establish an endowment fund to provide a guaranteed annual income |   |   |   |   |   |
| charge SIGs for use of AFHS Library room for meetings             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| hold or participate in a casino                                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| charge for use of AFHS Library                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

23. Please share any other suggestions you may have for increasing income.

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24. Please rate each of the following 'cost cutting' suggestions using a scale of 1 thru 5 where 1 is great and 5 is awful:

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| reduce the size of Chinook magazine                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| downgrade the quality of paper used in Chinook magazine      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| reduce the frequency of Chinook magazine                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| eliminate mail delivery of Chinook magazine within Calgary   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| reduce the frequency of the monthly general meetings         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| reduce the acquisition of new materials for the AFHS Library | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

25. If the Chinook were published online would you be willing to print and/or read it in order to cut publication costs?

26. If the Breeze were published online prior to the monthly general meetings, would you be willing to print and/or read it in order to cut costs?

27. Please share any other suggestions you may have for cutting costs.

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# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - 2003-2004

## Alberta Family Histories Society

The Membership year is September 1 to August 31 annually.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Surname                                      Given Name(s)                                      2003  
Member  
Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address                                      City                                      Province                                      Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number                                      Email address                                      Personal Web Page

Type of Membership:     Individual                                      \$40.00                                       Family                                      \$55.00  
                                     Senior (individual)                                      \$35.00                                       Senior(family)                                      \$45.00  
                                     Institutional                                      \$50.00

USA Applicants, please pay in US funds                                      Other countries please pay in U\$ and add \$5.500  
for postage

1. In the past names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members have been published in the Society's quarterly journal, *Chinook*. Please specify below how you wish us to publish information about you. (Mark only one)

- Do not publish any of my information in *Chinook*     Publish all of the above in *Chinook*  
 Publish only my Name(s) in *Chinook*                                       Publish all except my telephone number in  
*Chinook*  
 Publish only my Name(s) and email address in *Chinook*

2. In order to better serve our members it is helpful to know something of your genealogical interests. Please tell us of your research interests. (Mark as many as apply)

Canada: indicate Province(s) \_\_\_\_\_

US: indicate State(s) \_\_\_\_\_

British Isles: indicate Counties \_\_\_\_\_

Europe: indicate Countries \_\_\_\_\_

Other: indicate Countries \_\_\_\_\_

3. Our Society operates entirely on the volunteer labor of our members. Please indicate below where you can help us in the coming year:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work on a Society Project              | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a committee                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work in the Library                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Give a talk or arrange for a guest speaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help set up for meetings               | <input type="checkbox"/> Write an article for <i>Chinook</i>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Answer genealogical queries            | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with a Special Interest Group         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist the Board with special projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with the AFHS website               |

4. Our Society expects to spend over \$10,000 in 2003 - 2004 for printing, photocopying and postage to publish and mail the *Chinook*, *Breeze* and *Annual Report*. We will not stop publishing paper copies, and distributing them in the current way, but any member willing to receive any of these publications by electronic means will save us money. The *Breeze* and *Annual Report* will continue to be distributed at the monthly general meetings. The *Chinook* will continue to be published quarterly, and distributed by mail except for copies picked up at monthly meetings. We hope to reduce costs through your responses below.

Please indicate how you would like to receive the following publications in the coming year (you may change your preference at any time by notifying the Membership Secretary by email).

	<u>The Breeze</u>	<u>The Chinook</u>	<u>Annual Report</u>
I wish to receive a paper copy as in the past	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will read the publication on the website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to receive a copy by email attachment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Details of monthly meetings are published on the Society's website and the Dist-gen electronic mailing list. Do you wish to be reminded personally of the monthly general meeting by a volunteer?

- no thanks       by telephone       by email

New members who join between April 1, 2003 and August 31, 2003 do not need to pay an additional fee, but we request that you complete and return the form above for our records.

Thank you for supporting the Alberta Family Histories Society by paying your annual fee promptly. **Fees not paid by 1 November annually will result in removal of the Member's surname list from the web site, suspension of library borrowing privileges, and stoppage of *Chinook* subscription.**

# My Favorite Ancestor

Submitted by David E. Embury

**I**s my grandfather Dr. Alexander Thomas Embury. He was a physician, philosopher, humorist, soldier, and politician.

Alexander was the great grandson of United Empire Loyalist John Edward Embury, born in 1756 in Ballingarane Ireland of Palatine (Upper Rhine German) parentage who with his family and other Palatines emigrated to New York in 1760. When the Revolution started, John and his brother Andrew joined the King's Royal Regiment of New York. They both made Sergeant! Following the end of the war they made their way with their families to Canada, and eventually established farms at Fredericksburgh in the Bay of Quinte area.

Alexander Embury was born in 1874 in Richmond Township in the same area. Following graduation from Napanee High School in 1892 he got a job in Napanee delivering milk. That summer his elder sister Dr. Elizabeth Embury (Great Aunt Bette) pulled him off the milk wagon, and told him to go down to Queen's and become a Doctor — And He Did!! — graduating in 1896 with his M.D. and C.M.

After doing his internship at a hospital in Toronto he established a medical practice in Bancroft Ontario, a small backwoods lumbering town about 100 miles north of Belleville. He married Hester Jarman in 1902. They had 3 children, 2 daughters and my father, Frederick George Embury who was born in 1905. To facilitate his medical practice he established the only drug store in the village.

When World War 1 started in 1914 Alexander responded the call to duty, and joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, serving in England and France.

Following the war, resuming his medical practice in Bancroft he was largely instrumental in the establishment of the Red Cross Hospital in Bancroft. During this period after the war he wrote a column in the local Bancroft Times under the guise of a pseudonym where he poked fun at the locals for several years. Around 1920 Alexander decided to get serious about helping the local inhabitants through politics. He served as reeve of the Village of Bancroft and warden of Hastings County. On June 25, 1925, he was nominated as the Conservative candidate for the newly-formed riding of Hastings-Peterborough. Quoting from the Bancroft Times - "Embury was so popular that at times the Liberals couldn't find anyone to run against him".

Alexander T. Embury served 2 terms in Parliament, and retired at age 61 in 1935. His wife had passed away in 1929, and he spent the rest of his days visiting old friends, and enjoying his family which grew from 3 children eventually to include 11 grandchildren. He passed away July 19, 1956 in Belleville Ont.

## Bibliography:

Embury, Edith Berry: Embury Family History And Partial Genealogy (1963).  
Bancroft Times  
Queen's University Archives  
Census reports: 1881, 1901

Dave & Sheila Embury  
Calgary, AB Canada

Email: emburyd@telus.net  
Fax: (403)288-0596

**CLEVELAND (SOUTH DURHAM AND NORTH YORKSHIRE) FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 8 #4 Oct 01  
Sarah's story – a mystery unfurled  
A stable Yorkshire pedigree!  
Vol 8 #5 Jan 02  
Friends Meeting House Graveyard, Newgate Street,  
Bishop Auckland 1838-91  
Vol 8 #6 April 02 Know your parish – Leake  
Middlesborough Police Force c1879

**CUMBRIA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
#101 Nov 01  
The Head family charts  
The 'Tayleur' disaster of 1854  
#102 Feb 02  
Quaker Sufferings 17c  
Carlisle and Cumberland Baking Co. – persons of  
whom the company or partnership consists

**DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
#98 Sept 01  
How we used to live – tyths  
Station Road, Hadfield – then and now  
#99 Dec 01  
List of payments – Ilkeston 1651  
Saint Chad, Apostle of the Midlands  
#100 March 02  
A letter home (from Canada), part 2  
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**DEVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
#99 Aug 01  
John Pine – the ferryman  
John Parkin and family  
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James Thorne and the Bible Christians  
Prothesa – an unusual name  
#102 May 02  
The House that holds the Parish Poor, part 1  
Civil Registration: Vital change

**DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 15 #1 Dec 01  
Shoemakers and Methodism  
An Irish Soldier  
Vol 15 #2 March 01  
WWII revisited in the Meccano Magazine  
Seeing it through their eyes

**EASTBOURNE AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 16 #1 July 01  
An introduction to collecting post cards  
The mystery of the missing MI  
Vol 16 #2 Oct 01  
Chalvington Copyholders c1624-1835

**EAST OF LONDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
#91 Summer 01  
Waterman and Lightermen  
Conditions in Canning Town in the 1850's  
#92 Autumn 01  
The remarkable Rose  
Marriages for nothing  
#93 Winter 01/02  
Dirt, muck and squalor  
No room at the Workhouse  
#94 Spring 02  
Some East London Churches  
Yardley of London

**EAST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol 24 #3 Sept 01  
"Nutfield: our village"  
Is there a bigamist...?  
Vol 24 #4 Dec 01  
Families and the Children's Hospital  
Among Grandma's stories  
Vol 25 #1 March 02  
The burial places of Battersea inhabitants 1854-1860  
Smallpox – Thames hospital ships – a further  
instalment

**EAST YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
Vol #88 Oct 01  
Spotlight...Hessle  
Settlement and Removal, part 1  
Vol #89 Jan 02  
Settlement and Removal part 2

**Spotlights on Preston and Hessle  
FAMILY HISTORY NEWS & DIGEST,**  
Vol 13 #3 March  
Rugby football records  
Was great-Grandad the 'Warwickshire Antelope'?

**FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE,**  
Vol 17 #10 Aug 01  
Your average ancestors  
People on the move: mostly married women  
Vol 17 #11 Sept 01  
Wills at the Family Record Centre  
Children on the move  
Vol 17 #12 Oct 01  
People on the move: men and occupations  
Was one of your ancestors German?  
Vol 18 #1 Nov 01  
Probate valuations and fees  
People on the move – waterways and roads  
Vol 18 #2 Dec 01  
Wills in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Deeds speak louder than words  
Vol 18 #3 Jan 02  
Scottish samplers  
Patagonia to Saskatchewan

*Vol 18 #4 Feb 02*  
Divorce indexes 1858-1958 on microfilm  
The French connection  
*Vol 18 #5 March 02*  
Sources for Scottish ancestry  
My hammerman ancestry

**FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES,**  
*Vol 13 #2 Aug 01*  
Records of the Indian Army  
Abstracts of magazine articles published by member societies of FFHS  
Complementary copies, by Stuart A. Raymond  
British Family History on CD  
Using Libraries Workshops for Family Historians  
Irish Family History on the Web, a directory  
Surrey and Sussex Parish Registers, Monumental Inscriptions and Wills  
Surrey and Sussex Occupations  
Surrey and Sussex Family Histories and Pedigrees

**FELIXSTOWE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
*Vol 16 #3 Sept 01*  
Some memories of Trimley St. Martin plus map  
Diary of a Sick Bay Attendant  
*Vol 16 #4 Dec 01*  
'Opping dahn in Kent  
A teenager in Wartime, part 2  
*Vol 17 #1 March 02*  
From Singapore to Suffolk  
Diary of a Sick Berth attendant, part 3

**HEREFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
*Vol VIII #3 Oct 01*  
Sarah's son  
Finding convicts in the family  
*Vol VIII #4 Jan 02*  
The weather  
Tracing your Herefordshire ancestors

**HILLINGDON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
*#54 June 01*  
A Victorian sailor  
My part in Goering's downfall  
*#55 Sept 01*  
Andrew Pears and the story of his transparent soap  
The search for the Y chromosome  
*#56 Dec 01*  
Cattle plague, Rinderpest and Foot and Mouth  
Parish Registers, their contents and uses  
*#57 March 02*  
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Parish or Registration District

**HUNTINGTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
*#40 Nov 01*  
Record changes 2 from 1841 Census of Fenstanton  
Ramsey Wood Cemetery

*#41 March 02*  
Hunts Pewter apprenticeships in London 1600-1900  
The Sextons of St. Ives 1802-1916

**INSTITUTE OF HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL STUDIES,**

*#145 Oct 01*  
The Book of the Clerk, part 3  
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*#146 Jan 02*  
The Book of the Clerk  
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**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BRITISH GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY,**

**KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
*Vol 10 #1 Dec 01*  
St. Mildred's Church – Preston, Thanet  
Hills in Canterbury

**KEIGHLEY AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
*Winter 01*

Comic Bands of Yorkshire  
Maps and map-making  
*Spring 02*  
The Pilgrims of Grace  
Late Baptisms

**LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**  
*Vol 23 #3 Aug 01*

Information overload? A free form database may be the answer

**LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**

*#105 Oct 01*  
Diary of George Wain  
A father's legacy to his daughter  
*#106 Jan 02*  
Memories of Filbert Street  
Victorian migrants – Leicestershire in 1881  
*#107 April 02*  
Darby Railway Station Memorial plaque  
Francis Dalby-from Blakey Chapel to Parkhurst Prison

**LONDON AND NORTH MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**

*Vol 24 #1 (91) Oct 01*  
Black and Asian Londoners  
The Clerkenwell explosion  
*Vol 24 #2 (92) Dec 01*  
London inhabitants within the Walls 1695  
The internment of suicides  
*Vol 24 #3 (93) April 02*  
Know your patch – Ruislip  
City of Westminster Archives Centre: Cutting Collection

**MANCHESTER AND LANCASHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**

*Vol 37 #3 2001*

Getting a foothold in Scotland

Granddad's little notebook: 1900-1905

*Vol 37 #4 01*

Seventeenth Century branch lines

Ships' Musters in Nelson's times

*Vol 38 #1 02*

Adobe Acrobat – using effectively

Adam Hurdus and the Swedenborgians in early

Cincinnati

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,**

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Getting started with Family History  
The Llangibby murders a new theory

### GWYNEDD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY,

## Board Member Bio's

### RAY MARET - Director at Large

I am a relatively new member of the AFHS and have not been able to always attend meetings. I am a geologist and trying to become semi-retired. My maternal grandfather left Denmark in his teens and seems never to have had any contact with the old country again. This is the 'stonewall' I'm facing for him. He later married a Swedish woman of which we know somewhat more.

On my father's side, my great-great-great grandfather was born in about 1751 probably in Virginia but possibly in France or the Channel Islands. I know nothing of his parents, but he served in the American Revolutionary War against the British.

My lack of more family history is largely due to the very common attitude of the younger people of the families in not being interested in the old country--or at least not until it was too late to listen and ask questions.

When I joined the AFHS I was surprised that so very few young people were in attendance at meetings. This is not a new problem; I would like to help with an effort to encourage younger members.

### KEN RUNQUIST - Membership Secretary

I am a new member of AFHS, joining this past summer after hearing about Family Roots 2002. I have long been interested in my family's history but have only seriously started researching my genealogy in the last year. My roots are American, Swedish, and German/Polish. Both sets of my grandparents homesteaded in Saskatchewan. I am also a member of the Legacy SIG.

I am a soon-to-be-retired high school math teacher and was 'gently' persuaded by Xenia Sanford to accept the role of membership secretary. I would like to thank Alison Arthur and Heather Jaremko for their help in getting me up to speed in my new job.

My role as membership secretary will give me the opportunity to get to know each of you a little better and I look forward to working with you.



## **GEORGE LAKE - Chairman**

I first became interested in genealogy about 1983. I came to it at that time, not so much from an interest in my family (about whom I knew very little beyond individuals I had met) but out of curiosity about how much I could find out about an individual with whom I had no direct contact. I chose a brother of my mother who had moved to Edmonton before 1920 and who died there in 1923. Like many others I was soon 'hooked'

About 1985 I took a course at the Calgary Public Library given by Joan Armstrong. Through that I discovered sound basic research methods which have stood me in good stead ever since, and also discovered the genealogy group of the of the Calgary Personal Computer Society which I joined. I recall that at that time the group was about 6 to 10 people sitting around a table, mostly discussing how to overcome the limitations of that day's personal computers and printers.

When the computer group became the Computer Special Interest Group of the Alberta Family Histories Society in 1991, little changed except that we were now encouraged to support family history research more generally by joining the new parent Society. In 1999 I was asked to join the Board as a Director-at-Large. I agreed, somewhat reluctantly, believing I had little to contribute to such an effective and well run organization. In 2000 I accepted the challenge of the Treasurer's job, a duty which I felt I was capable of discharging. In early 2001 I made the error of putting forth some personal ideas about how the Society might be more effectively managed, and for my temerity have been stuck with the Chairman's job ever since. (The bylaws thankfully limit my term to 3 years).

Before becoming fully occupied with Society business, I actually managed some research about my families. My mother's family emigrated to Ontario from Germany about 1842 and my father's from England about 1885. I have managed to discover parish records for my mother's family in Baden, Germany from the 1700s but details of other parts of that family, in Darmstadt, need time I do not have at present. I have managed to trace some of my father's lines back to the 1700's but the main male line is stuck in the early 1800's with an undocumented surname change which needs time I do not have at present to substantiate.

On the whole I enjoy my job, although at times my spouse does object to the time it takes. I do believe it is time for a change and that as well as being a good thing for me it will be of benefit to the Society when I step down in a year.

## **JUDIE RIDDELL - Projects Chair**

After attending the 1995 seminar, I joined the AFHS. Volunteering on the seminar Committee seemed a reasonable step and soon responsibility for the Commercial tables was mine for two years. Later I started working with Janet Morgan on various projects. When Janet became too ill to chair the Projects Committee, it became my responsibility.

As Chair of the Projects Committee, I took on the responsibility of consolidating all the Cemetery data that the Society had transcribed over a 20 year span (over 80,000 records from over 70 cemeteries in Southern Alberta) into a CD: AFHS Digital Library Volume I. Editing the CD with the help of Marlene Knott and publishing it with expertise of Judii Rempel took almost two years. In the past three years under Lynda Alderman's and my planning and organization the committee has transcribed two large cemeteries on the eastern edge of the City of Calgary and their information is presently being prepared for publication in Volume II. This past fall, the committee also revisited with a Digital Camera all the Cochrane Cemeteries. Our Committee is also responsible for answering some 50 Queries a month that come as a result of our data being on our Website.

My other volunteer position, which I have held for 7 years, is at the Family History Centre where I help on the Friday Afternoon shift. In the past few years I have lectured at the FHC and for the AFHS basic lectures series mostly on Western Canadian Research.

My original research was in only England and Ontario but I now have broadened my research to include all the western Canadian provinces, Scotland and Ireland. A great find was to discover that my husband's great aunt was the first white child born in what is now Vancouver. I have discovered that my earliest Canadian ancestor arrived about 1796 and many more of them arrived or were born in Ontario in the first half of the 19th Century. I have my Norfolk family back into the 1500's but prefer to work in the 19th century building family histories. England, Scotland, and Ireland have been my main focus for the last few years. In the years to come I want to pursue my Germans From Russia and Austrian heritage. The number of families to be researched always continues to grow especially when I add in the families of my Sons-in-laws.

## How Alice got a new surname

After several years of working alone on the WAY/HAMILTON family, I was delighted to find a query, on a genealogical message board, concerning the WAY family into which two HAMILTON sisters had married.

This query showed Walter C. WAY married to Jennie [Mary Jane] HAMILTON and William WAY married to Unknown.

The 'cousin' who wrote the query had a great deal of information on the WAY family that was new to me. The most important name to us, of the WAY in-laws, **Unknown** needed to be changed. I sent him my information including the fact that Walter WAY and William WAY had married sisters, Jennie [Mary Jane] HAMILTON and Alice Elizabeth HAMILTON, respectively, daughters of William George HAMILTON and Sarah Ann MORTON. Birth, Marriage and Death places, written in full, were included in this information.

Months later I found that the 'cousin' had published all his information in on-line and CD Rom genealogical databases. It was a wonderful way to make contact with others searching the extensive WAY family. In exploring the on-line information I found that that William WAY was now married to Alice MORDENMAN.

Initially I thought that Alice's mother's maiden name, MORTON, had been altered and used as Alice's surname. Then I noticed that while Jennie was shown with a birth place, Alice had no birth place. Alice had lost both her surname of HAMILTON and her birthplace of Morden, Manitoba. The words Morden, Man., in the on-line records, had lost a comma, the capitalization of Man. and a period then had been merged giving her the new surname of MORDENMAN.

Morden and Manitoba were written in full in the information I had sent the 'cousin'.

My mission is to see that Alice is remembered as Alice HAMITLTON born in Morden, MB.

### Descendants of William George Hamilton

1 William George HAMILTON b: 1 January 1855 Ontario  
.. +Sarah Ann MORTON b: 22 April 1864 Ontario  
.... 2 Mary Jane HAMILTON b: 24 March 1885 Morden, Manitoba  
..... +Walter Cawsey WAY b: 19 October 1879 Blyth, Huron County, Ontario  
.... 2 Alice Elizabeth HAMILTON b: 27 July 1886 Morden, Manitoba  
..... +William Henry WAY b: 23 December 1880 Blyth, Huron County, Ontario

### Descendants of Walter Cawsey Way

1 Walter Cawsey WAY b: 27 March 1840? Ontario  
\*2nd Wife of Walter Cawsey WAY:  
.. +Ann Jane MCELROY b: 23 November 1859 Ontario  
.... 2 Walter Cawsey WAY b: 19 October 1879 Blyth, Huron County, Ontario  
..... +Mary Jane HAMILTON b: 24 March 1885 Morden, Manitoba  
.... 2 William Henry WAY b: 23 December 1880 Blyth, Huron County, Ontario  
..... +Alice Elizabeth HAMILTON b: 27 July 1886 Morden, Manitoba

*Submitted by Adele Goa  
afgoa@telusplanet.net*

### Leister/Lester/Lister William B

B. 29 March 1824, England  
M. 22 March 1855, New Brunswick

He was married to Edna Ann Saunders in a Church of England. Family lore has it that the family came to Canada when William was small and sailed from Bristol England. The death records of 4 of his children indicate that he was born in England. There is a family history of naming the first son William. His middle name may be Boyne, or Boyd.

I am trying to find the location and or parents of William.

Kay Clarke  
R.R. # 7  
Calgary, AB  
T2P 2G7

# 1906 Census

## Losing Battles and Winning the War for Access to the 1906 Census

Extracting the 1906 census returns of the three prairie provinces from our very reluctant Chief Statistician was no easy feat. Our National Archivist demanded these records. A five star government appointed Expert Panel reported that there were no legal or policy reasons to withhold them. Several very determined Members of Parliament and a Senator tried Private Member's Bills explicitly directing that the 1906 census returns be made public. Waves of petitions and vast numbers of letters and emails got attention but no action from the government. Some of us got tired of beating our heads against the political brick wall and sued the Federal Government for the release of the 1906 census returns. The federal Information Commissioner did a very vigorous (if slow) investigation, publicly concluded that this census material must be released to the National Archivist and prepared to commence his own court action to force its release. Our court date was set for May 8, 2003. The pro-release lawyers were smelling blood. Then I received a phone call from the lawyer in charge of the "no-release" government forces telling me that there was about to be an announcement. He said he would let the content of the announcement be a surprise for me. It was no surprise that the Feds finally conceded rather than face humiliation in court. However, I was astounded and thrilled that the 1906 census returns were released online at high noon (Ottawa time) the very day the announcement was made.

Within hours our transcription of this irreplaceable historical resource was underway. I found my Wilder ancestors on their homestead in Assiniboia East and my Gettins ancestors on their homestead in Assiniboia West. When a television crew came by my office at 5:30 that afternoon for an interview, I was able to show them my grandmother, Reta Gettins, age 3, with her family recorded in the census taker's handwriting online. I have not found my grandfather Sparling in Battleford, Sask. or his future father-in-law in the area that would become Wilkie, Sask. They must have come west a month or two after the 1906 census was taken.

At the time I am composing this little article, our efforts are focussed on shaking loose the 1911 census, due to be released this summer. The government sponsored Bill S-13 proposes holding back unconditional access to the 1911 census returns for an additional 20 years. After pausing to roll our eyes in disgust, we have presented written and oral submissions to Parliament politely explaining that this is a stupid idea. I wrote the joint submission of the Alberta Family Histories Society, the Alberta Genealogical Society and the Jewish Genealogical Society (southern Alberta). Gordon Watts of Port Coquitlam, B.C. flew to Ottawa to appear before the Senate Committee studying Bill S-13 representing the interests of the genealogy/family history community. By the time you read this, we should know the outcome of this latest round to protect unconditional public access to the historic census after 92 years. We will not lose because we will never give up. If there are problems with the census release legislation that is passed in Parliament this spring, we will just keep after them until they fix it.

*Lois Sparling*

**OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OPEN DAY 2003** will take place on Saturday 4 October 2003, commencing at 10.00am and finishing at 4.00pm. This year's Open Day will be at our usual society meeting venue :- *Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1AB*

Full details of the Open Day are still being formulated at the time of writing, but it is likely to feature :-

1. a demonstration and workshop on the scanning of old photographs.
2. an assortment of visiting societies, dealers in second hand books and postcards, sales of microfiche readers and the like.
3. the society's library and search services.
4. a beginners' helpdesk.
5. computing demonstrations giving advice on such things as which genealogical software package to choose, and the use of the internet in family history.

As the arrangements for the day begin to take shape, updates will be placed on the society's website at :- [www.ofhs.org.uk](http://www.ofhs.org.uk). Admission to the Open Day is free, whilst light refreshment will be on sale at reasonable prices. The venue is situated on a frequent bus route, and is easily reached by public transport. Those travelling by car will find Kidlington close to the main A34 and A40 trunk roads. There is adequate free car parking on site.

Paul Gaskell, Publicity Officer, Oxfordshire Family History Society, E-mail : [publicity@ofhs.org.uk](mailto:publicity@ofhs.org.uk)

## Wasył Hawrelak, 1906 Census Enumerator

*By Mertie Beatty*

Wasył Hawrelak, together with his brother Andrew came to Canada in April 1899. Twentyyearold Wasył and his 17yearold brother worked at various jobs until they were joined by their father & mother in the spring of 1900. Wasył had received some education in the Ukraine and quickly learned to speak, read and write Ukrainian.

Wasył's greatgranddaughter, Diane King Stuemmer\* in her book detailing the life of her Grandfather, Edmonton's Mayor William Hawrelak tells of how Wasył was appointed census enumerator:

*"Wasył to his considerable delight, was appointed census enumerator and given six townships to enumerate. Frank Walker, Wasył's Member of Parliament, had recommended him for the job, knowing that Wasył spoke English better than almost anyone else in the area.*

*"Wasył was summoned by telegram to Edmonton for an interview to test his skills and knowledge of the English language. Upon arrival in Edmonton Wasył nervously went to the census office in the Alberta Hotel. The Census Commissioner asked him questions such as whether he had gone to school and for how long. Then he gave Wasył a pencil and paper for a short spelling test. The first two words were "daughter" and "acre." Wasył laboriously spelled out DOUTER and AKER. When the commissioner saw how he spelled the words, he laughed and said, "I thought you said that you attended school!"*

*"The Commissioner scratched his head, chuckled, and said that since Wasył had come so highly recommended, he would be given a chance. He gave Wasył some booklets and brochures with instructions, along with a bundle of census questionnaires, and gave him two weeks to study. If Wasył decided that it was too difficult, he was to return all the material not later than June 1; otherwise he would start enumeration in his township on that day.*

*"Wasył's next two weeks seemed like a nightmare. He desperately wanted to prove that he could do the job. He hardly ate or slept, spending all his time with a dictionary studying spelling and the questions on the forms. He read everything over and over again and as the time drew near, he felt that he knew enough to proceed with the task. He was determined not to give up and besides, the pay was quite good and he needed the money.*

*"On June 1 he started by taking the census of his own family and their property. From there he went among the Romanian farmers in the area. Here he had to take an interpreter with him who could speak Romanian and English, since most of the farmers, who could generally communicate in English, were out working and the women at home knew only their own language. It took Wasył two months to complete his allotted six townships. During that time, he met many people and gained fluency in the English language. Finally, he took his census results back to the commissioner in Edmonton. Taking Wasył's papers away to check them over, the commissioner told him to come back in four hours.*

*"When Wasył returned, he was elated to find his work had been accepted. The commissioner gave him a congratulatory pat on the back and said that the work was well done. Wasył returned home feeling very proud of his worthwhile accomplishment. Later, he found out that he was the only Ukrainian in Alberta who had been chosen to carry out this task on behalf of the Canadian government."*

Wasył did indeed do a fine job that summer in 1906. You can look at his work in the Edmonton 20, Sub District 7, 1906 Census records. Wasył went by the anglicized version of his name, "William" and that is what he signed on each page of the census record. Also, he spelled their surname "Hawreliak" which was later shortened by one letter.

I have looked at the records of my family and other relatives who were in Canada in 1906 and were living in at least eight districts in all three provinces. I have found that Mr. Hawrelak's records were easy to read and transcribe. And he spelled Daughter correctly each time! Furthermore, the Ukrainian and Romanian names were carefully written and accurately spelled

\*Quote taken from *Hawrelak. The Story* by Diane King Stuemmer. William Hawrelak who was Edmonton's mayor for 3 terms was the youngest son of enumerator Wasyl Hawrelak, and Diane's grandfather.

Diane King Stuemmer very recently (March 15, 2003) lost her battle with cancer. She was the daughter of Frank & Jeanette (Hawrelak) King (Frank King of the '88 Calgary Olympics). She, her husband, Herbert Stuemmer and their three sons circumnavigated the globe in their fortytwo foot ketch for four years. Diane authored "The Voyage of the Northern Magic, A Family Odyssey" which is a Canadian bestseller.

Diane King Stuemmer, *Hawrelak. The Story* Published by Script: the writers' group inc., Calgary, Alberta, 1992.

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First off, I want to thank everyone who worked on this index. I used the online census before without the index and it was very time consuming. This was much faster and is most appreciated.

Unfortunately, the families I am researching were both transcribed incorrectly. I know this is not an easy task and hope you are not insulted with corrections being forwarded. Keep up the good work

Carol ELLIS Burlington, ON

My name is Chris McVety & I'm in Montreal. I'm not affiliated with any organization, I'm just researching my Dad's family. Doing a few pages of transcription seemed a fair way to repay your organization for all the info I've learned from you.

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## Board Member Bio's

### ADRIENNE HORNE - Program Chair

I am an Anthropologist, having recently graduated with my Master of Arts from the University of Calgary. My thesis was on the pursuit of genealogy, looking at why people take up researching their family history and what they get from it.

This study led me to the AFHS in 2001, as I was on a search for volunteers to interview. Of course, I received a warm welcome by all, and had no problem getting the number of volunteers that I needed. I shortly joined the Atlantic SIG, and have enjoyed the goodwill and sharing. I welcome the position of Chair for the Program Committee. I am excited to have the opportunity to continue with the wonderful programs offered by this society.

I began my family history in 1996. I was fortunate in that my Grandfather had started much of the work, and all the families I am related to seemed to value family and kept everything! This led to an exciting and interesting trip to England and Scotland in 1997. Coincidentally, during time surrounding the tragic death of Princess Diana.

My other interest besides genealogy is the culture of the Plains Natives of this area. My focus during my undergraduate degree was on the Blackfoot and I now enjoy a career at the Glenbow Museum, where I have the opportunity to work with the local Native community. A possible research project is to record the genealogies of the Native communities, to assist them as they rebuild their cultural identity.

Genealogy seems to affect all aspects of my life. I love the learning curve I am on and doubt that I will ever lose interest.

Good Day

Would you please give a great big Thank you to  
TRANSCRIBER: Elizabeth Rodier

I have been searching for some years for the address of my Grandfather's ranch CA 1906. He moved his family from Olds to a ranch south east of Olds, but I could not find where.

Now I know Thanks to Elizabeth's work on the 1906 Census.

GordonBecker  
Red Deer

Mr. McBride of Ontario kindly sent a correction for the Calgary 1906 census and additional information about Alex McBride who was mayor in 1896. Mr & Mrs McBride were living with a daughter in the same block WH Cushing (mayor in 1900) and his son-in-law FF Higgs. Belonged to Central Methodist Church, too. Page 26 of downtown Calgary 26b was one of the first pages of 1906 census transcribed.

Elizabeth Rodier

# Bannock

2 cups		all purpose flour		500ml
1 teaspoon	baking powder		5ml	
1/2 teaspoon		salt		2ml
2 tablespoons		sugar		30ml
6 tablespoons		shortening		90ml
1 cup		raisins		250ml
1/2 cup	milk		125ml	
1		egg, slightly beaten		1

1. Sift flour, baking powder, sugar and salt together. Add raisins and mix well.
2. Blend egg and milk together and mix into the flour mixture. Add shortening and knead for 3 to 5 minutes. Make into round flat dough and design with fork patterns.
3. Grease baking sheet, and put into 400F (200C) oven for about 30 minutes.

The recipe is taken from the cookbook is called *Loyalist Foods in Today's Recipes*.

# Toad-in-the Hole with Onion Gravy

1 lb pork sausages  
4 tablespoons beef dripping  
2 medium onions, skinned and sliced  
1 tablespoon flour  
1/2 - 3/4 beef stock

## Batter

4 oz flour  
1/2 level teaspoon salt  
1 egg  
1/4 pint milk  
1/4 pint water

Batter: Put the flour and salt in a large bowl, make a well and add the egg. Whisk, gradually adding milk and water and drawing in the flour. Beat until smooth. Leave batter to stand for at least 30 minutes. Set oven to 425 deg F or Mark 7. Put half the drippings into a small roasting pan and place in oven until hot. Place sausages in the hot fat and return to oven for a further 5 minutes. Pour batter over the sausages and cook for 40 minutes until well risen and golden brown.

While Toad-in-the-Hole is cooking prepare the gravy. Put remainin dripping into a saucepan, add onions and cook gently until soft. Stir in the flour and cook until slightly browned. Remove from heat and gradually add beef stock, stirring well. Return to heat and bring to boil. Simmer for 10 mintues and serve hot with the Toad-in-the-Hole.

# Alberta Family Histories Society

## Membership

Membership in the Society is open to those interested in family history and genealogy, and may be obtained through the membership secretary of the Society at P.O. Box 30270, Station B, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2M 4P1. Membership fees are due 1<sup>st</sup> September each year. If a new member joins on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April then that membership is valid until the September of the following year.

Meetings are held the first Monday of every month (second in the case of a holiday) at Southminster United Church, 3818-14a St., S.W., Calgary, Alberta.

## Objectives of the Society

The Society is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote and encourage an interest in family history research worldwide. The activities of the society are funded by membership fees, fund-raising projects, donations, bequeaths and corporate sponsorship.

The objectives of the "Alberta Family Histories Society" are as follows:

- To promote the study of family history and genealogical research;
- To encourage and instruct members in accurate and thorough family history research;
- To assemble, preserve, print and publish information relevant to family history study;
- To raise funds for any of the foregoing objects, and to accept donations, gifts, legacies and bequests;
- To use any profits or other accretions to the Society in promoting its objects without material gain for its members.

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## Special Interest Groups (SIG)

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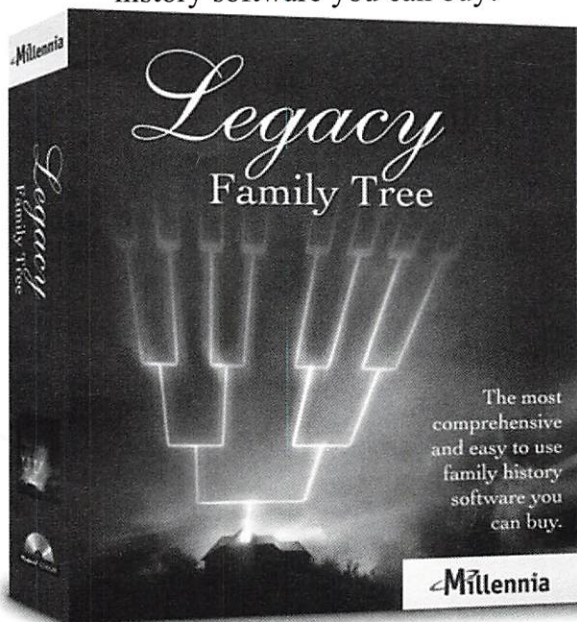
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