

Alberta Family Histories Society

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Alberta Family Histories Society Board 2004-2005

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Chimook

CHINOOK is a quarterly publication of the Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS), 712-16th Avenue N.W. Calgary, AB, Canada T2M 0J8, Tel: (403) 214-1447. Published in October, January, April and June, it is distributed to all members of the AFHS Society and is sent to over 130 different institutions around the world. Articles from members, friends of the Society, or anyone interested in genealogy, family history or regional history are welcomed.

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A.F.H.S. Program Schedule 2004 - 2005

DATE	TOPIC	PROPOSED SPEAKER
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Main Program

Sept 13, 2004
Oct 4, 2004
Nov 15, 2004
Dec 13, 2004
Jan 3, 2005
Feb 5, 2005*
Mar 7, 2005
Apr 4, 2005
May 2, 2005
June 6, 2005

Basics Program

Sept 13, 2004
Oct 4, 2004
Nov 15, 2004
Dec 13, 2004
Jan 3, 2005
Feb 5, 2005*
Mar 7, 2005
Apr 4, 2005
May 2, 2005
June 6, 2005

***Saturday Program 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

Picture Front Cover:

Rear Row - Left to Right

Gordon Lane(Chair), John Holladay(Volunteer Coord), Heather Jaremko(Projects Committee), George Lake(Past-Chair), Alan Peers(Vice Chair - Finance), Alan Cassley (Vice Chair - Facilities), Don Park(Membership Secretary)

Front Row - Left to Right

Caroline Phillips(Education/Program), Helen Backhouse(Library Committee), Mary Arthur(Information Technologies), Gordon Hulbert(Seminar Committee), Ronna Byam(Treasurer), Freda Stewart(Finance and Budget)

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Chairman's Message

We had our Volunteer Appreciation night at the June meeting and we had a reasonable turn out even though we were competing against the Flames. The list of all our great volunteers is in this issue of the Chinook so those who were honored but were unable to make it can still collect their certificates or cards.

The Society has been advised by the Gaming Commission that our application to hold a Casino has been approved but, it will not be until 2006. George Lake will be chairing the Casino group which has yet to be formed and we will provide more details closer to the date. The Budget and Finance committee has started to formulate plans for the future use of the money.

One of the main ideas to come forward is to purchase a building for the Library and SIG meetings, this may be the current building we are in or it may be another building. Though the money is substantial we will most probably not be able to afford our own monthly meeting hall.

The calendar for the upcoming year's meeting is not available at this time as our Program Chair managed to find a new birth certificate - she is now a proud Mum and has extended her genealogy by another generation. The plan for this upcoming year is to make a theme of Alberta and Western Canada due to the centennial celebrations. We will also be celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2005 and as such we are in the process of scanning in all the old Chinooks and will hopefully produce a cd. I was looking through some of the early editions and there is still some great information in them that still applies today.

September will see the intensification of the publicity for Family Roots 2004 and once again the Calgary Herald, CMKX and West Canadian Graphics are providing us with a large amount of sponsorship. In fact CMKX is providing over \$10,000 worth, David Bly will be presenting on the Friday night as well as writing articles. The Family Papers initiative (see the Family Roots website) will provide a unique "brand" to the program this year. Yet again we have excellent speakers I do not believe there is a repeat subject and speaker from 2002. Some of the subjects may be similar but are by a different speaker or a speaker from 2002 is talking on a different subject.

This year may be the last for some of the long time members of the Seminar committee so please think about volunteering for the core group as they are always looking for new members and fresh ideas. We are always looking for volunteers to spread the work load so please think seriously about it. The Volunteer press gang will be around with various means of persuasion.

Whilst writing this I have not got to England yet but I hope to bring back a pretty rare document, my Mother and Father's telegram from the Queen for putting up with each other for 60 years. Well it may only be a copy depending on how hard they fight me off. Do you have any unusual documents you want to record for posterity - don't forget the Family Papers initiative.

We are always looking for articles for the Chinook so please think about your summer vacations and what genealogical tips you can pass on to the readers. If you have an idea for regular articles and are willing to write them this would be great. Ann Williams is going to do a regular article called "Spotlight on England" and Bev Swan has started to interview long time members and these articles will start to appear in the Winter edition.

Regards

Gordon Lane

Going Home: Family History Research in Sunny Saskatchewan

By Lois Sparling

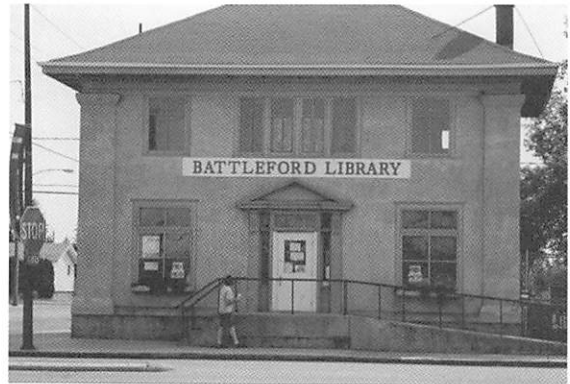
Part 2

My summer vacation in 2003 was centred on the Battlefords and my father's ancestors. Both his parents moved to Battleford as young adults in 1906. Since my mother was a first-born child and my father was a very late surprise addition to his family, my paternal grandparents were considerably older than my maternal grandparents. Both my father's father and mother died before I was born. My father remembered his Gramma Kenny, but not little details like her first name or where she was raised. Fortunately, my aunts knew more.

A cedar chest in my parents' basement holds my grandfather Sparling's B.A. from Wesley College, now part of the University of Winnipeg, his copy of the New Testament in Greek, three Masonic aprons and a few small souvenirs from my father's army days during World War II. In their bookshelf is a collection of poetry that belonged to Gramma Sparling. In their china cabinet is the Sparling silver service and second best china. Aunt Helen got the best set. I have the old photograph albums. My mother told me that my father kept every letter he ever received from his sisters - after she had thrown them out. However, overall we have a pretty good collection of heirlooms, documents and memorabilia from that side of the family. My father collected stamps as a boy so we even have envelopes bearing stamps from the earliest days of Grampa Sparling's law practise. What we do not have on my father's side is any relatives buried in Saskatchewan. Every one of us has moved away.

I obtained Gramma Sparling's registration of death from the Saskatchewan Department of Health. It contains the names of her parents and the number of years she resided in Saskatchewan as Grampa Sparling recalled at the time of her death. He did not recollect all that well, apparently, because he got the name of his father-in-law wrong. I wrote the Battleford Court House for a copy of Grandpa's will. The Battleford Historical Society sent me a copy of their entire newspaper clipping file on the Sparlings. The Battleford Historical Society approached us for a family history. There is no guarantee that they would copy a portion of their clipping files for genealogists approaching them, but at least you now know that this resource exists. The Battlefords Public Library copied a history of Third Avenue United Church for me since the library only has one copy that is not made available through inter-library loan. From historical tour brochures of Battleford and North Battleford, I learned that my

grandfather's law office is now the Battleford Public Library and the history of the house the Sparlings bought in North Battleford in the late 1920s.



Correspondence with the librarian and the Battleford Historical Society did not help with locating their first home in Battleford - a white house by the golf course. No one was aware of any golf course in Battleford.

Both the Glenbow Museum Library and the University of Calgary library have material on Battleford, including microfilm of early Battleford newspapers. The Glenbow also has Battleford and North Battleford local histories.

If either of my paternal grandparents were "out West" at the time of the 1906 census, I have not found them yet. I have found Herbert Sparling's elder brother, Dr. W.R. Sparling, in North Battleford, and the paternal uncle of Herbert's future bride, Nicholas R. Kenny, in Battleford. [Late breaking news: Herbert Sparling is recorded in the 1906 census in residence at Wesley College in Winnipeg!]

I was born in North Battleford. My family moved to Saskatoon in 1958. I remember a lot from my early childhood but a little girl's world is very small. My parents provided addresses and where I might find old family friends. Thus armed, we set out by car (the one with air conditioning) and maps, camera, film and sunscreen.

29. The Battleford Court House is located at 291 - 23rd Street West, Battleford. The mailing address is Box 340, Battleford, SK S0M 0E0. This was the first court house opened in the area now in the Province of Saskatchewan.

30. The Battleford Historical Society has been in existence and publishing a valuable journal since before 1926.

31. The Battleford and North Battleford Public Libraries are part of the Lakeland Public Library Region.

The main web site is:

<http://www.lakeland.lib.sk.ca/llr/default.htm>.

Its directory to the branches includes pictures of the buildings. The North Battleford Library is located at 1392 - 101st Street, North Battleford, SK S9A 1A2. Its catalogue is online at http://www.lakeland.lib.sk.ca/webpac/_battleford.html

We drove northeast from Calgary, stopping at the Trochu Arboretum and the natural prairie reserve at the Rumsey Ecological Reserve adjacent to Secondary Highway 589. There is a re-creation of a sod house at Morrin that could make an excellent photograph for your family history if the ancestral home was ever a "soddy". We reached the Battle River at Big Knife Provincial Park in Alberta and again at the Koroluk Slide, north of Wainwright, still in Alberta. We recommend the A - 1 Restaurant in Kellum, AB; but I digress.

Battleford expected to be a much more important place than it now is. It was once the capital of the Northwest Territories and a more likely location for prosperity than "Pile of Bones", as Regina was originally called. The architecture of the public buildings reflects these expectations. Despite some modern residential areas, the main shopping street looks as if it is largely unchanged since my father's family moved across the North Saskatchewan River to North Battleford in 1928. I took some pictures of the Court House, Land Titles Building and the Public Library (where my father resided as a baby). I would be back.

I started my research at the North Battleford Public Library. It is a lovely, modern building across the street from my first home, sharing the block with a park and my first church, Third Avenue United Church. (Note that Third Avenue United Church is not on Third Avenue. I had been previously warned about this.) The steps from the sidewalk up to the park were not nearly as high as I remembered and the flowerbeds seemed to be much diminished. However, I did not need an address to recognize the up and down duplex that had been my first home.

Inside the library was a framed photograph of King Street Elementary School, since burned to the ground. This was the school my father attended, so we paused to take a picture of this picture. I asked the staff about the local history collection. After some hesitation, the head librarian was called away from her lunch to attend to me. It seems that, despite the lovely building, the Battleford Public Library system

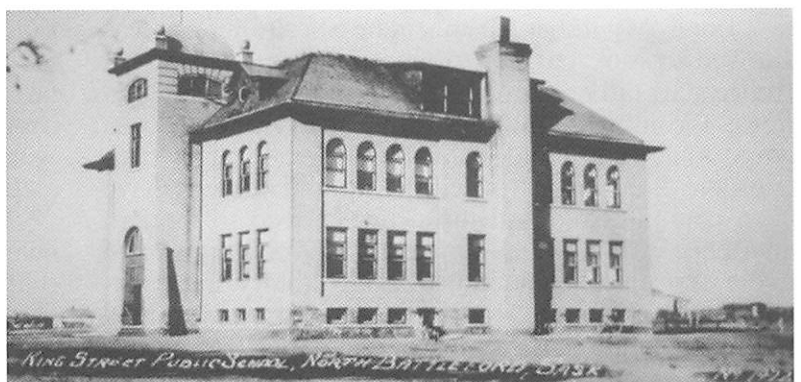
is strapped for funds. The irreplaceable items in the local history collection are therefore kept locked up in the Board Room. After I browsed through this material, I asked about the white house on the golf course in Battleford. I also asked about the Battlefords City Archives. The librarian made some phone calls for me. We discovered that the first Sparling house in Battleford is now called the Guido House after the current owners who rescued it from potential ruin and lovingly fixed it up over the last 30 years or so. I was given the address.

Next the librarian set me up at the microfilm reader/printer to review microfilm of the Battleford and North Battleford newspapers. There are a lot of reels of this microfilm so I tried to pick periods of time when there were likely to be relevant reports. All those reels of microfilm are also available through inter-library loan from the Saskatchewan Archives Board. Interesting and previously unknown tidbits from this plunge into different local papers for several different time periods included the fact that my grandfather was the principal of the North Battleford High School in 1906 - likely his first job after graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Classics. He quit after a few months to article for R.R. Earle to become a lawyer. (Would-be chartered accountants and lawyers article just as would-be carpenters apprentice.) This was in the days when one did not need a law degree from university to become a lawyer. Herbert Sparling's Bachelor of Arts plus three years of article sufficed.



Herbert must have met his bride-to-be, Blanche Kenny around that time. Her uncle, Nicholas R. Kenny, was a land agent with his office in Battleford. He was also named in newspaper notices inviting other masons to attend the monthly Masonic meetings.

In 1912, there was a series of reports about Herbert G. Sparling visiting Battleford from Grenfell and then becoming partners with R.R. Earle. By this time, Mr. Earle was the mayor. Mrs. H.G. Sparling and child (my aunt



Ruth) joined Herbert in Battleford a month or so later. This told me when and partly explained why they left Grenfell.

The big house across the street from the North Battleford Collegiate where my father grew up was only a few blocks away from the library. I had no idea this house was so close to where I had lived until age 3 ½. I also had no idea it had been converted into a bed & breakfast. If I had only known, we could have stayed there. Feeling bolder than usual, I went up to the front door and rang the bell. The proprietress let us in, gave us a tour and spent a good hour talking with us about the history of the house and mutual friends.

The Sparling/Guido House in Battleford is now surrounded by a relatively modern subdivision. Since the house faced the golf course and the river valley, it is at right angles to the current street. Mr. Guido noticed us taking pictures of the house and invited us in. My grandfather had had this house built for his family. Being a classical scholar, he had a Latin motto placed in the mantle of the parlour fireplace: "Sember Tibi Splendet Locus". Mr. And Mrs. Guido have preserved as much of the original house as possible including lead paned glass in the windows and the wooden staircase and banisters.



The next day I stopped at the North Battleford Library again. Our librarian friend had made an appointment for me to see the North Battleford City Archives with one of the Archives trustees. It is still being organized by volunteers.

Back to Battleford to visit the Court House and Land Titles Office. These are grand buildings, side by side. The Clerk's office and the Sheriff's office are on the first floor. My father was once the Sheriff here. I was allowed to look but not to take pictures. The Court House staff did not know why photographing the interior is forbidden but it is. I was, however, treated to a grand tour. The Land Titles building no longer contains the Land Titles office. The land records have been computerized and the office moved to modern quarters. The building has been tastefully connected to the Court House and holds the law library and meeting rooms. An early "Tariff of Fees" has been framed and hung on the library wall. It is a list of fees agreed

to by the local lawyers of the time. Herbert G. Sparling's signature is on it along with those of his colleagues. The main court room is on the second floor of the Court House. Judges' Chambers take up the third floor. Every inch of space is used for chambers applications, mediation and meetings. I assume the basement and other areas behind the scenes are equally stuffed.

I was looking for the will of my great grandfather, John W. Kenny, of Wilkie, Sask. The Wilkie/Scott Judicial District has been closed and the records sent to Battleford. The Battleford Surrogate Clerk (the person who manages applications for probate and letters of administration) explained that all the files from the Wilkie/Scott Judicial District had been sent to Regina to be microfilmed by a Family History Library team

and never been seen or heard of again. She was concerned because she receives inquiries for those records from time to time and had no information to offer about how they could be accessed. Later I learned that the Wilkie/Scott surrogate files have been completely microfilmed and

are available through the Family History library. The originals are presumably still in document limbo somewhere in Regina. I also later discovered that my John Kenny sold all his property in Saskatchewan and moved back to Ontario shortly before he died. Therefore, there is no Surrogate Court file on him anyway.

The Battleford Public Library was not open when I finished at the Court House so I visited the Fred Light Museum. This is a well laid out museum that takes up three floors of the former Roman Catholic High School. I was particularly taken with a display of old trunks and luggage on a vintage railroad station wagon (a matter of personal taste). One room contained pictures of the Battleford Public High School with students and teachers posed in front. I could pick out my Aunt Ruth as well as Grampa Sparling in one of these pictures. Grandpa was a high school trustee.

Due to temporary insanity, I forgot to go back to the Battleford Public Library. The building served as the Sparling Law office for years.

Next morning, we met the trustee of the City Archives at the Don Ross Centre, where the collection is kept. The collection is mostly photographs. Everything is in archival folders but indexing has just begun. The trustee found a couple of interesting photographs for us and mailed copies. There was no time to dig deeper.

On our way out of town, we stopped at the North Battleford cemetery in case any relatives were buried there. An index of graves is on site. We did not recognize any names. Our next stop was Wilkie.

32. The Battlefords Historical Society maybe be contacted c/o Walter Kostyna, 592 - 100th Street, North Battleford, SK S9A 0T4.

33. The Battlefords Public Libraries are part of the Lakeland Library Region. The main web site is: <http://www.lakeland.lib.sk.ca/>. The Battleford branch library is located at 201 - 22nd Street. The North Battleford Library is located at 1392 - 101st Street.

34. The Bed & Breakfast in the old Sparling house in North Battleford is the Turn Stone Manor located at 1391 - 97th Street North. See: <http://www.bbcanada.com/4804.html>.

35. The Battleford Court House is located at 291 - 23rd Street West. The mailing address is Box 340, Battleford, SK S0M 0E0.

36. The Fred Light Museum is located at 11 - 20th Street East, Battleford.

Wilkie was a bit of a disappointment. I already knew from reading the first year or so of the Wilkie Press that my great grandfather Kenny was elected as one of the first Town Councilors. The two volume local history Wilkie Saskatchewan 1908 to 1988 is in the AFHS library. It contains a copy of an ad by J. W. Kenny, agent for Deering farm equipment. I knew he was a mason (we have his Masonic apron) and an active member of the Methodist Church (his only son became a Methodist minister). I had a copy of his homestead application and the location of his land from the 1922 Cummins map. The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society provided these when I hired them to do their basic research on the John Kenny family. The SGS basic research package is a very reasonable price.

The Wilkie and District Museum was celebrating its annual open house when we arrived. This meant that the staff was too busy with all their guests to give us a lot of personal attention. It also meant that everybody interested in local history was there. The historic town tax roll book was on display, open to a page naming J.W. Kenny. This was a good start! Nearby was an old Town Council minute book. Unfortunately, it started after Grandpa Kenny was on the Town Council. Even more unfortunate was that, after consulting with all the local history buffs present and searching around, it was determined that this was the earliest Town Council

minute book they had. By implication this means that the minute book for the first Town Council is missing and presumed dead. Several people discussed the legal land descriptions I had for J.W. Kenny and showed them to me on the large map on the wall. And that was it. The Kennys lived in town but I did not know where. There was no longer a Methodist or United Church building. The display of vintage farm machinery did not include any Deering products. I was able to take a picture of the original Wilkie Press building.

37. The Wilkie and District Museum is located at 209 - 1st Street East, Wilkie. It is open during June, July and August. The town website includes pictures of the museum and its displays: http://www.townofwilkie.com/main_frame.html

38. The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society basic research service now costs \$35 per family searched. For details see: http://www.saskgenealogy.com/gener-al/sgs_research.htm. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1894, Regina, SK S4P 3E1.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board office in Saskatoon is tucked away out of sight on the University of Saskatchewan campus. It contains much of the collection for the northern 2/3 of the province. I found Battleford church records. They were old enough so that the privacy rules permitted me to review them without the prior consent of church officials. I was startled to see Mr. And Mrs. H.G. Sparling confirmed as members of the Presbyterian Church. I thought that they were Methodists all their lives, as were two or three generations of their ancestors. However, union of the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists was strongly supported in the West long before the official formation of the United Church in 1925. Perhaps they liked the Presbyterian minister best.

I spent many hours reviewing the microfilm of the Wilkie Press. This was how I discovered that my Kenny great grandparents sold their land and bulkier belongings during the fall of 1924. The news of their departure and reports of their farewell parties went on for several weeks. I was left with the impression that John had been in poor health and less active in the community than his wife for several years. One tribute to John Kenny stated that he had picked up the mail at Battleford and delivered it on horseback before the arrival of the railroad.



The Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room was packed with good stuff. I arrived with a list of my paternal grandparents' friends, some of whom had been fairly prominent citizens in their day. The librarian worked through my list while I rummaged in the photograph collection and clipping files. There was a lot on John Kenny's two first cousins because they had been early Saskatoon settlers. One of them was a key witness in the trial of Louis Riel. The librarian found a transcript of his testimony for me. The YWCA where my widowed maternal grandmother worked for fifteen years has been torn down.

We found a number of pictures of it and the United Church she attended during that period. I found a picture of little girls attending Sunday School. There was my sister, age 3; and, by God, there was me age 4! It is amazing what one may find in these repositories. The librarian was pleased to be able to identify two of the children in that photograph, too.

39. The Saskatchewan Archives Board web site has detailed instruction on how to find its Saskatoon branch: <http://www.saskarchives.com/web/about-where.html>.

40. The Saskatoon Public library Local History Room is located in the Frances Morrison Library downtown at 311 -23rd Street East on the second floor. It has a web site at:

http://www.publib.saskatoon.sk.ca/morrison_lhr.html, which includes guidance for genealogical research in its collection.

My husband was born and raised in Saskatoon. Our first family history road trip was to take our young sons to visit ancestral graves and the house where Daddy grew up. We also took pictures of father and sons on the steps of Dad's high school.

Our visit to Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Saskatoon began with assurances from the surviving elders of the family that most everybody was buried there. This is a modern cemetery, which only allows flat metal grave

markers. We did indeed find parents, grandparents and cousins in one area of the cemetery. My husband had me take pictures of the plaques of everyone whom he thought might be related.

Woodlawn Cemetery is older and more atmospheric. My youngest son was totally creeped out by walking over the graves. This cemetery has its burial index online and also has an office on site. At the office, we were given a map and directed to great grandfather William Aitken's grave. His wife is memorialized on his gravestone but is likely buried elsewhere. I ordered a copy of her death registration to get her precise date and place of death. She died in Moose Jaw on 4 November 1922. The Moose jaw Public Library found and copied her obituary for me in response to my letter. Her parents were named in her death registration along with the number of years she had resided in the province and other useful bits of information.

My husband's family was vague about the dates of marriage of both sets of his grandparents. I therefore ordered copies of their marriage registrations - and, yes, both couples were married more than 9 months prior to the birth of their eldest child.

Grandfather Tharp immigrated from Oklahoma when he was 18 years old. It is unlikely that he rode his horse all that way, but he did pack a side arm. His six-shooter is on display in the F.T. Hill Museum in Riverhurst, Sask. My husband's Uncle Lawrence took us to his father's original homestead. He hadn't been there in fifty years. The men had a great time

deducing why Grandfather Tharp had chosen this hilly site and happily posed for me in the dip in the ground where the house used to be. Later Uncle Lawrence showed us a quarter section of his own land that had never been tilled - prairie wool. He told us that prairie chickens held their mating dance there each spring.



Lawrence's wife, Irene Tharp, is the caretaker or sexton of Vera Cemetery near Lucky Lake. It is on open prairie, close to their farm. Aunt Irene showed us this pioneer cemetery, still in use, where more relatives are buried.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship

41. Hillcrest Memorial Gardens and Crematorium may be contacted at #303, 3301 - 8th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 5K5 (306)477-2236.

42. Woodlawn Cemetery is located at 1502 - 2nd Ave North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2G1 (306)975-3308. The online index to burials is at:
<http://www.city.saskatoon.sk.ca/org/parks/cemetery/default.htm>.

43. The F.T. Hill Museum is located at 324 Teck Street in Riverhurst, SK. It is open June to August from 2 to 5 PM and from 7 to 9 PM.

The many local newspapers on microfilm dominate my "ToDo" list for further Saskatchewan research. I need to review these newspapers for clues about the twentieth century lives of the grandparents and great grandparents I never knew. I am also curious to see newspaper reports on how my parents did in school. Perhaps I will find articles about my Dad and father-in-law coming home at the end of World War II. I would also like to visit the City of Saskatoon Archives to look for old fire insurance maps of my husband's childhood home. His brother and he are convinced it was built as a house of ill repute. Both my parents attended the University of Saskatchewan and one of my grandfathers sat on the Board of Governors. A visit to the university archives is also on my list.

44. The City of Saskatoon Archives has fire insurance maps from 1911 to 1963. It is located at 88 - 24th Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0K4. It has an excellent web site with an online reference service at:
http://www.city.saskatoon.sk.ca/org/clerks_office/archives/archives.asp.

45. The University of Saskatchewan Archives is on campus in the Murray Building, which is the main library. Its web site is: <http://www.usask.ca/archives/>.

Further Reading Online and Off

Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors: A guide to the Records and How to Use Them by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society ISBN 1-895859-14-x

In Search of Your Canadian Roots by Angus Baxter, 3rd edition ISBN 0806316268

Historical Directory of Saskatchewan Newspapers, 1878-1983 by the Saskatchewan Archives. We have a copy in the AFHS library.

Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History by Katherine Scott Sturdevant ISBN 1558705104. We have a copy in the AFHS library.

Saskatchewan Archives Board online guide to genealogical research:

The Alberta Family Histories Society is pleased to announce the availability of the Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship. The Scholarship is made available through the generous endowment of Brian W. Hutchison, professional genealogist, founder and proprietor of Gen-Find Research Associates of Nanaimo, BC and a long time member of AFHS.

The Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship will be offered annually to a candidate undertaking formal study toward accreditation as a professional genealogist. The scholarship will pay tuition or registration fees up to a maximum of \$500 for a qualified candidate.

Please direct any enquiries to:

Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship
Committee

Alberta Family Histories Society
712 16th Avenue, NW
Calgary, AB, T2M 0J8

or: scholarship@afhs.ab.ca

Details of eligibility conditions and procedures for application will be published soon.

<http://www.saskarchives.com/web/services-pub-family.html>

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society online guide to research: http://www.saskgenealogy.com/research-tools/sgs_research_hints.htm

GenForum Biography Assistant:
<http://genforum.genealogy.com/my/>

Canadian Oral History Association web site has a bibliography of how to books for interviewing and otherwise doing oral history projects:

<http://oral-history.ncf.ca/index.html>

Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs by Maureen Taylor
ISBN 1-55870-527-9

Saskatchewan Gen Web:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cansk/Saskatchewan/>

Spotlight on England

by Ann Williams

TAXATION RECORDS

[Symbols used in the text: 'd.' = penny; '/-' = shilling or 12d.; '?' = pound or 20/-]

England's long history of taxation (Wales included from 1536) has resulted in some useful material for the family historian. There have been many taxes in the past that were short-lived for finding things to tax which were easy to collect and profitable was not easy. Most repeated taxes raised less in the second year than the first, and less in the third year than the second as people found ways around them. In 1799 there was a one-off income tax collection, annual income taxes became the government's tax of choice in 1842.

The following, working back from the most recent, is an overview of *some* of the ploys national and local governments have used to raise money and the records generated.

STAMP DUTY and REGISTRATION FEES

These forms of taxation have not generated records but are included here as examples of what may be found in family papers (and stamp collections):

Businesses signed "Received with Thanks" over postage stamps – in 1883 a 1d. stamp - by the 1950s a 2d. stamp – these receipts were provided to the customer.

Document registration fees were recorded directly on the document. These are from an inventory of 1706 (7d.) and a deed of 1947 (Five Shillings).



LAND TAXES (1693-1963)

Introduced to off-set the repeal of the hearth tax, taxed the owner of land which rented for ?1 or more. Early returns give the owner's name, the property name and the sum assessed. From 1780 the name of the occupier (i.e. renter) was added resulting in 'head of household' listings spanning many years. Useful in pinpointing when a family arrived and/or left an area, when a son set up his own household or when a death occurred. Some assessments for 1780-1832 have been filmed and catalogued on FamilySearch.¹ Original records may be held in County Record Offices (possibly in Quarter Session records)², those for the 1798 national land tax assessment are at the National Archives³ (formerly the PRO) at Kew (London). Note that:

Between 1744 and 1780 the land tax assessment served as electoral registers.

Until 1792 the amount payable was doubled if the taxpayer were Catholic.

In 1798 for a payment of 15 times the annual charge, a life-time exemption from further land taxes could be purchased – the word "Exonerated" then appears against their name in the records.

Here's how I found these records useful -

Priscilla Janaway (22) was listed as owner of two cottages in Dorking in 1792, a puzzle because no one else in the family owned anything. The previous owner of the cottages was shown as James Poulter so I found his will, proved May 1791, which contained two clauses that began: "*I give and devise unto my servant Priscilla Janaway all that my messuage or tenement and garden ...*" - puzzle solved (except perhaps why?)

SPECIAL EXPENSE RATES and LIGHTING RATES (c. 1870 – c.1932)

Local authority rates levied at the local level. Records may be in the County Record Office and those for some parishes are catalogued on FamilySearch. These rates were assessed on land and the records show the amount of rent paid by the occupier and the rate levied on the owner. This is an 1885 entry:

<i>Occupant</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Size</i> ⁴
<i>Acres – Roods – Perches</i>	<i>Rent</i>	<i>Rate</i>		
	<i>Holmes, George cottage & garden</i>	<i>E. Adams</i>	<i>adj. Ashtead Lodge</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>?6/14/- 4/7d.</i>	<i>Alderson, Mrs. house & land</i>	<i>Mrs. Syms</i>	<i>North Fields Cottage 11</i>	<i>3 1</i>
<i>?11/3/1d. ?2/15/-</i>				

Like the land tax records these assessments netted a large portion of the population and had the advantage (to us anyway) of having been levied two or three times a year.

POOR RATES (1601-1930)

A tax collected at the parish level from landowners according to the amount of land or property owned. In the early years fines for parishioners' misdemeanours were added to the fund and noted in the Poor Rate Book e.g. Aaron Wyeth's 1735 fine for "Tippling during Divine Service" went into Basingstoke's poor rate coffers. The fund was used to directly assist the poor of the parish or, from 1834, the local Poor Law Union. Some Poor Rate Books are catalogued on FamilySearch and record (in addition to the misdemeanor fines):

The name of a property and it's owner,

The taxation rate (the rate varied depending on the predicted requirements for the following year).

Names of "Overseers of the Poor" – two local men who collected and distributed the funds - an unpopular job often held only for a year or two.

DEATH DUTIES (1796-1903)

Began as a tax (paid into the national coffers) on certain assets owned at death (i.e. estate) and certain bequests, although bequests to spouses were exempt. The categories of assets and types of bequests expanded over the years and changes were made to the threshold value over which estates were assessed for the tax. In 1853 that value was £100.

If the value of an estate reached the limit then in force, the name of the deceased was recorded in a Death Duty Register. If tax was payable on that estate further details were added to the entry (again, the amount of detail varied over the years) but could include the deceased's name, address and occupation, date of the will, date and place of probate, names, addresses and occupations of executors, details of legacies, (including the legatee's relationship to the deceased) and the amount of tax paid. If, on examination, the estate was found not liable for tax no details would have been added to the initial entry.

Some entries had notations added later such as death date of a spouse; death or marriage dates of beneficiaries; births of posthumous children and grandchildren; change of address; references to lawsuits, cross references to other entries etc.

Death duties were not required of people who died in the service of their country.

Death duties were not payable by foreign residents – even on their property in England.

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My Favourite Ancestor: Minnie Georgina Pidgeon Nixon

By Robin Nixon

Minnie Georgina Pidgeon was born in King's Norton, Worcestershire in 1868. On July 3, 1900, Minnie married widower Robert Nixon, a Birmingham City Councillor and self employed butcher. He was 15 years her senior and had three children by a previous marriage. . Robert's youngest daughter from his first marriage, 11-year-old Ethel Maud, lived with them. After Minnie had two daughters, Gwendolyn Berril, born in 1902 and Nancy Mary, born in 1903, Robert's business collapsed so they decided to emigrate to Canada, as the promoters enthusiastically represented Canada as a country of untold opportunities and fertile soil. As Minnie was pregnant, Robert went first and Minnie stayed until after James Robert was born.

In 1905, Robert purchased 160 acres of land on the North Saskatchewan river, south of Brada, about eight miles east of North Battleford. Not being a farmer, Robert purchased the land because of its scenic beauty situated by the North Saskatchewan River, and not because of its fertility.

In 1906, after pawning most of her possessions, Minnie and four children set sail from Liverpool, on the Southwark. During the voyage, the children all caught whooping cough. By the end of the voyage Jim was so emaciated that Minnie carried him on a pillow. Many years later, Minnie gave a friend, who was traveling to England on holiday, some money and he bought all her possessions back for her.

Minnie and children finally arrived at their new home, a log cabin with a sod roof and dirt floor. This was quite different from the privileged life she had in England. She managed to bring a Brussels carpet with her which she put on the dirt floor. She sold her tailor made suits and her daughters' dresses to buy a pig and some chickens.

In the fall of 1906 Minnie took a job as a night nurse at the North Battleford Hospital. Minnie had no nursing experience, or degree, but took the job and eventually became Matron. She gave anesthetics, delivered babies and assisted in operations. The Indian patients often referred to her as the "White Mother." On July 11, 1918, Minnie received her diploma from the Chicago Correspondence School of Nursing. During this time Minnie managed to save enough to rent a cabin on Six Mile Lake every summer, where she and the children went for holidays.

In 1926, Dr. Garriock asked Minnie to help him open a new hospital in Turtleford, Saskatchewan, so Minnie and Robert moved to Turtleford. Robert died at Turtleford in 1929 and Minnie retired in 1931. She lived in Vancouver alternating between daughters until 1952. She died in Calgary while visiting her son and his family.

Minnie was truly a pioneer. An article written by Vi Loscombe about the Battleford Hospital states, "Mrs. Nixon was of the old school insisting there was a right way of doing things, everything had its place and there was no time for nonsense. Mr. Nixon spent a great deal of time in his garden and viewed life on a happy plane with little regard for rules and regulations."

Minnie Georgina was my grandmother. I admire her pioneering spirit and her determination. Even though she had the money to return to England, she stayed in a totally foreign environment and worked hard to raise her children with dignity. She was a truly remarkable woman.

Death duty registers are held by the National Archives at Kew and those for 1796-1811 and 1812-1857 have been filmed and catalogued on FamilySearch. With a known probate date a Film/Fiche Search of #1818033 for the earlier set, #2111666 for the later set, following the link and clicking on “View Film Notes” will bring up a listing from which the appropriate film number can be found. Without a probate date consider ordering an index (filmed for 1812-1903) by searching film #1368444. Death duty registers for Administrations (1812-1857) are found by searching film #1502140 and these registers might – unless everything went to the spouse - be particularly useful as little information is provided in Letters of Administration. (Note: Administrations come into play where there is no will (or a technically incorrect will) but assets have to be transferred into other names).

TITHE RECORDS (Tithe Maps & Apportionments made 1836-1841)

Tithes (one-tenth payments) began as payments in kind (crops, wool etc.) for the support of a parish church and its clergy. When Henry VIII broke up the land holdings of monasteries, some land and its right to tithes passed into lay ownership, naturally causing resentment. Tithe payments (and lists of farms with their acreages of crops: peas, wheat, oats, barley and beans in Surrey) may be included with other parish records catalogued on FamilySearch.

Eventually a way had to be found to simplify and get rid of the obligation to pay tithes. The enclosure process of the 1800s whereby awards (either of land or fixed money payments) were made to tithe-holders was a step towards this. The lands involved were mapped and attached to Enclosure Awards on a parish-by-parish basis.

In 1836 the government stepped in to commute all remaining tithes (j.e. substituting money payments for payments in kind) and calling the resulting payment a “rent-charge”⁵. Tithe Commissioners made assessments and produced Tithe Maps and Apportionments. Three copies of the map were made: one for the Tithe Redemption Commissioners, one for the Diocesan Registrar and one for the local clergy. Tithe Maps vary greatly in scale, accuracy and size. This is part of the Dorking Tithe Map⁶. Lot numbers on the map correspond to numbers in the related Apportionment or schedule to form a snapshot of the parish, its buildings and inhabitants around 1836 – just perfect for comparison with the 1841 census.



Extract from the Tithe Apportionment for Dorking, Surrey (lot numbers from bottom right corner of the map)

No.	Occupier	Owner	Description of Property	Cultivation	Quantity
<i>Acres – Roods – Perches</i>					
86	Late Lansdell	Philip Cooke	house, stable & garden	-	37
69	Robert Hutton	— do —	cottage and garden	-	6

Original maps and apportionments are held by the National Archives at Kew and usually by local Record Offices too. Some tithe maps and apportionments are catalogued on FamilySearch.

APPRENTICESHIP TAX (approx. 1710-1814)

Legislation passed in 1563 made it necessary to serve an apprenticeship to enter a trade but no formal records were kept until apprenticeships attracted a tax in 1710. From 1710-1811 names, addresses and trades of masters, names of apprentices and dates of their indentures and, prior to 1752, names of apprentices’ parents were recorded in Apprenticeship Books. The tax was not due until one year after the expiry of the apprenticeship so lengthy searches may be necessary for particular apprenticeships. Indexes to the 1710-1774 Apprenticeship Books are catalogued on FamilySearch (Films 477624-637).

Apprenticeship formalities were later abandoned in common trades and as it was ruled that the 1563 statute did not extend to trades not existing at that date many industries such as the cotton industry were excluded.

Apprenticeships arranged by a parish or a public charity were exempt from tax and thus not recorded in Apprenticeship Books. Records of these apprenticeships may have survived in the parish poor law papers and be catalogued on FamilySearch.



**THE BRIAN W. HUTCHISON
GENEALOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Purpose of scholarship

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide funding for the winning candidate to pursue serious study in the field of genealogy at a recognized institution.

Eligibility

All residents of Canada are eligible, except for current members of the Scholarship Committee.

Selection criteria

The application must be completed in full and mailed before the deadline. Candidates will be judged on their proposed course of study as well as on the quality of a four-generation genealogy and a short essay, as judged by the Scholarship Committee.

Conditions of award

The winning candidate will receive an amount up to \$500 toward the cost of genealogical courses (tuition, books) at a recognized institution. The award will be remitted upon presentation of receipts for the above costs. If there is no acceptable candidate in any given year, the scholarship will not be awarded.

Submission of applications

Completed applications are to be mailed to the Scholarship Committee by 31 December 2004, and the winner will be announced in May 2005.

Submit applications by post (NOT by courier) to:
The Brian W. Hutchison Scholarship Committee
c/o The Alberta Family Histories Society
712-16 Avenue N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2M 0J8.

You are encouraged to keep a copy of your application and attachments, which will not be returned. Receipt will be acknowledged by e-mail or post, and the winner will be informed by post. The Scholarship Committee's decision is final.

Deadline for application is 31 December 2004

THE BRIAN W. HUTCHISON GENEALOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ms Surname _____

Mr
Given Names _____

Year of Birth: _____

Permanent Address:

Apt / Number / Street _____

Town / City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone: Home _____ Business _____

E-mail Address _____ Fax Number _____

Optional: Where did you learn about this scholarship? _____

Note: For the categories below, please attach additional sheets if space is not sufficient.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

High School from which you graduated:

Name	City / Town, Province	Year
------	-----------------------	------

Post-Secondary Institutions which you have attended:

Name	Place	Program	Degree / Diploma	Year
------	-------	---------	------------------	------

GENEALOGICAL EXPERIENCE

Note: The following section is intended to provide general information about your genealogical experience and has no particular weight in awarding the scholarship.

Education: List any genealogical courses you have taken or are taking.

Name	Place	Program	Degree / Diploma	Year
------	-------	---------	------------------	------

Employment and Volunteering: List any past or current genealogical work experience, volunteer activities, lecturing, or teaching.

Description	Place	Date
-------------	-------	------

Publications: Please list any genealogical works that you have published or printed.

Title	Description	Date
-------	-------------	------

Memberships: Please list any genealogical societies of which you are a member.

PROPOSAL

Briefly describe the program of study that you propose to undertake.

Institution: _____

Address or web address: _____

Course(s): _____

Your objectives (e.g. area of specialization, skills to be acquired, desired result, application of new knowledge, time frame):

GENEALOGY AND ESSAY

Candidates are required to submit a four-generation genealogy and an essay with their application. Detailed instructions are given below. The Alberta Family Histories Society reserves the right to publish the genealogy and / or essay of the winning candidate.

Genealogy

The genealogy is to be a report on four generations: a single early progenitor, and three generations of descendants in one direct line (i.e. one family in each generation). All siblings in the fourth generation must have been born before 1900. The report is to be a complete genealogical narrative, with appropriate footnote or endnote source referencing, using either the New England Genealogical Society's **Register System** or the National Genealogical Society Quarterly's **Record System** (also called Modified Register System) of formatting and presentation. For information on format, you may refer to:

Pence, Richard A., "Numbering Systems in Genealogy" (1995) at <http://www.saintclair.org/numbers/>

Pence, Richard A., "Numbering Systems in Genealogy" (March 1996) at <http://www.acorn.net/gen/numbering.html>

Curran, Joan Ferris, **Numbering Your Genealogy: Sound and Simple Systems** (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 1992), Special Publication #59

Devine, Donn, "How to Number People in Pedigrees and Genealogies", **Ancestry Newsletter**, Vol. 4 No. 1 (Jan-Feb 1986, p.1).

The submission should be in print form, but the A.F.H.S. may require the winning candidate to provide it in computer-readable form.

Essay

The essay is to describe, in 500-750 words, one type of genealogical record (e.g. parish records, probate records) used in the applicant's research. It should address the following questions:

What is the nature of the record?

How was the record accessed?

Why and how was it used in the submitted genealogy?

What are its benefits and limitations?

How does it compare to other types of record as a source of the desired information?

The essay should be submitted in well-written English and include endnotes and bibliography, if applicable.

The submission should be in print form, but the A.F.H.S. may require the winning candidate to provide it in computer-readable form.

DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

The information on the application form is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. It is required to determine your eligibility for the Brian W. Hutchison Scholarship and will be used only for that purpose.

Declaration of Applicant

I have read the instructions, and hereby make application for the Brian W. Hutchison Scholarship, and I declare:

that I have answered all questions applicable to me, that all information is true and complete, and that the genealogical narrative and essay are my own work;

that if I receive the award, in order to recognize my achievement, pertinent information may be released to the appropriate media and / or organizations;

that I grant the A.F.H.S. the right to publish my genealogy and / or essay if I am the winning candidate.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

THOMAS NORTON WEBSTER 1850-1912

by Ruth Hansen

Thomas Webster was born April 23, 1850, in Haldimand Township, Northumberland County, Ontario. The son of William Webster and Sarah Ann Hare. His mother died when he was six years old, and he was raised by an aunt. Sometime shortly after Sarah's death, William bought a farm and built a brick house using bricks from the brickyard on the property. A drawing of this house and farm where Thomas spent his early years can be viewed on the Internet at:

<http://imago.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/showRecord.asp?personID=22675>

This house was also featured in the book "Under This Roof, Family Homes of Southern Ontario" by Terry Boyle (p82), and also in another book about outstanding homes of southern Ontario. Thomas was married March 29, 1877 to Emma Jane, the daughter of G. Almond Richardson, who, according to the Historical Atlas of the Counties of Northumberland and Durham, 1878, owned 17 properties in Haldimand Twp. He was also on the Haldimand Township Council. Thomas and Emma rented property until 1880 when they purchased and build onto a house near Eddystone. In 1882 Thomas was elected to the township council, replacing his father-in-law. A composite photograph of the Northumberland County Council labelled 1885 includes Thomas. Sometime between 1886 and 1894 something must have occurred that dramatically affected their lives as they moved to Marmora in Hastings County where their last child E. Ann was born. By 1900 Thomas was a butcher in Toronto and Ann was attending school there.

We can only speculate how they celebrated the start of the 20th century. A family group photograph from 1901 is labelled "Richardson House". We think that it is probable that the Webster and Richardson families would have been together. Maybe they also shared the event with other relatives like Emma's Massey cousins who had also moved to Toronto by this time. It would likely have had religious content as they were devout families. They likely celebrated the occasion with music, songs and games and by talking about the past, and also about moving to Alberta in the coming years. Perhaps this was a long held wish as Thomas wrote in his diary on Feb. 5, 1880 "Went with Emma to lecture in Methodist Church - Subject - Manitoba and the North West". Emma's brother Clayton and his son Ernest Richardson came to Alberta about 1901. They were followed in a few years by Thomas and Emma's sons Albert and Charles and then about 1907 by Thomas, Emma and Ann.

When Thomas Norton Webster died suddenly at his homestead at Lake Thelma, near Coronation, Alberta, in 1912, a news item in a Calgary newspaper read, in part:

"Thos. N. Webster, one of Calgary's best known and most highly respected residents, died Thursday ——— and then : " The late Mr. Webster was widely known throughout the province and in Eastern Canada. He superintended the Alberta government's exhibits at the A. Y. P. Exhibition at Seattle, at the Dry Farming Congress at Spokane and at the Toronto exhibition." Souvenirs from these exhibitions now in our possession confirm his attendance at these exhibitions.

The Globe, Toronto, newspaper of Sept 2, 1908, reporting on the CNE says: The exhibits of the various Provinces are attracting considerable attention. The most novel of these is the Alberta exhibit." A headline in the Spokane Chronicle for Oct 5, 1910 reads: "Alberta Captures First Prize for Best Collective Exhibit at Congress". One would assume that there should be lots of information available about Thomas. However, a request to the Alberta archives drew this response from the reference archivist:

"I checked the following:
annual reports for Department of Agriculture. Nothing
main entry cards for Canadian Nation Exhibition. Nothing.
main entry cards for Thomas N. Webster. Nothing."

Further research at the Glenbow Archives of the annual report for the Department of Agriculture for 1908 found a refence to the CNE and a picture of the exhibit corresponding to an original photo by Galbraith of Toronto, which we have. The report also described a similar exhibit from the Dominion Exhibition which was held in Calgary earlier in 1908. The poster advertising that exhibition shows in part, a cowboy astride a horse. By comparison with family photographs, that cowboy is almost certainly Thomas Webster. From the annual report: "The credit of designing and superintending the erection of this exhibit belongs to Mr. E L. Richardson, of Calgary."

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HOW AN AUSTRALIAN FOUND LIVING KIN

by Ann Williams

This tale unfolded a few years ago and is a success story in finding living people. This particular happy ending relied on three prongs:

Prong one was my receipt of a letter from Australia, directed to me as I am listed to the surname ASTRIDGE with the Guild of One Name Studies. The letter asked whether I had a Mrs. Priscilla Astridge in my records – the enquirer gave me Priscilla's maiden name and the date that she had married Tom Astridge.

Prong two was that a Mrs. Cilla Astridge had responded to my mail-out to English Astridges and indeed Cilla and I had exchanged a few letters as she told me all she knew of Tom's family adding that Tom had died shortly after their marriage and they had had no children.

Prong three was that I had extracted Astridge marriages from the civil registration indexes at the Family History Library thus I could confirm from the maiden name shown in the indexes that the Priscilla being looked for in Australia and my correspondent Cilla were the same person.

I speedily forwarded a copy of the letter to Cilla, she responded to it and when she heard why she was being sought a tearfully delighted Cilla phoned me and as her story unfolded I was nearly in tears myself as she talked of growing up as a fatherless only child. She remembered her father but he had left home when she was quite young, all contact had been lost and Cilla grew up wondering about her father and whether he ever thought of her. The Australian correspondent was able to complete the history of Cilla's father revealing that he had emigrated to Australia, married and had children of which she was one. The father was now dead but he had talked fondly of his daughter Priscilla prompting the second family to initiate a search for her. No more was Cilla without family, the Australian branch paid for her to go out to them a couple of times and they've kept in close touch.

Approaching someone doing a one-name study can, therefore, be another avenue to pursue in the quest for living kin. Registered surnames are listed on the Guild's website at www.one-name.org.

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The Glenbow has lots of information about Ernest Richardson and the Calgary Stampede. There is also some information at Glenbow that Ernest's father Clayton M. was in Calgary at that time and was involved with the early exhibitions. We also have some information about Albert and Charles Webster. Charles was a commission broker and also was secretary to the Board of Trade. He started and promoted the "Hundred Thousand Club", in anticipation of the time when Calgary would have a population of 100,000.

We have been unable to find any documentation of Thomas Webster's contributions to Calgary and Alberta agriculture between 1907 to 1912. Why? What happened to Emma's share of the Richardson land holdings? Why would they move to the hardships of pioneer life in Alberta from the apparent comfort of their life in Ontario? Why have we found so little information about the key member of a prominent family in Calgary's early history? Although we know the vital statistics about Thomas and his family, we are still trying to find more information about their involvement in these agricultural exhibits and early Calgary life.

Philip Doyle

born abt 1776, Wexford, Ireland.

Married Mary Murphy

They had a son William John who married a Mary Anne Aheron on 12th Jan 1829, at St. Peter's Church, Halifax, NS, Canada. (Catholic). Mary Anne was born abt 1808, St. John's Newfoundland.

I am looking for any information on Philip and Mary.

Leslie Charles Cooper Doolan

born abt 1880-1882 Dublin, Ireland.

The Cooper name may not be correct. He was born on 5th Dec. 1880? He had two sisters. Barbara was the oldest and Mary was older than Leslie. Mary married a Mr Reed and she came to South Duham, Quebec, Canada. Mary was born on 29th Oct 1875. On Leslie's War record he named his next of kin as a Mrs. G. Hudson of Montreal Quebec.(sister). On another War record his next of kin is a Mrs. H. G. Sheppard of (Kilcimanahbeg?), Shinrone, King's County, Ireland (sister). He came to Canada in 1899 and in the 1906 Census his age is given as 24.

I am looking for my Uncle's parents and siblings.

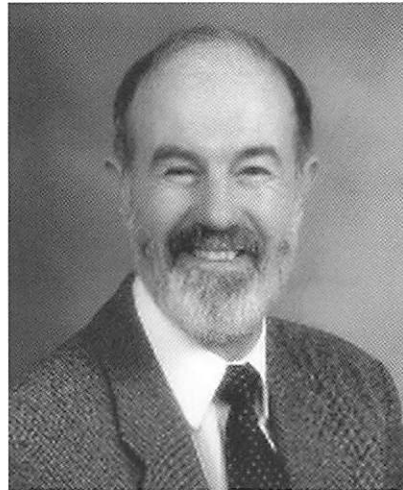
Gloria Moore

gloriamoore@shaw.ca

44 Deerview Pl. S.E.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada. T2J 5Y3

In Memory
WESTBURY - Dr. Robert Clifton
1936 - 2004



Dr. Robert Clifton Westbury died peacefully at home on Friday, June 4, 2004 at the age of 68 years, after a long illness faced with dignity and good humour. He is survived by his loving wife Clare; four sons and their wives, Tim and Mary Anne, Chris and Elena, Jamie and Pamela, and Eric and Julie; and six grandchildren of whom he was so proud, Grace, Jasper and Finnian of Bragg Creek, AB, Nicholas and Zoe of Edmonton, AB, and Ethan of Vancouver, BC. Robert is also survived by a brother Donald and his wife Robena; three nephews and a niece, all of England. Robert was born in London and educated at Westminster School, Peterhouse, Cambridge and Guy's Hospital, London.

He came to Calgary with his wife and eldest son in 1962, and interned at the Holy Cross Hospital. He joined the Cambrian Clinic in 1963 and worked there until his retirement in 1991. As a family physician Robert was widely recognized for his interest in research and teaching. He was a member of the National and Alberta Research Committees and was chairman of the Library Services Committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and was instrumental in the foundation of the Canadian Library of Family Medicine at the University of Western Ontario in London, ON. He was also chairman of the international classification committee which standardized the classification of disease world-wide. Robert was a part-time associate professor of Family Medicine at the University of Calgary and won several awards for his published papers. He was awarded the Queen's Jubilee medal in 1977 and was named Family Physician of the Year by the Alberta Chapter of the College of Family Physicians in 1986. He was granted a Doctor of Medicine degree by Cambridge

University after writing a thesis in 1979 on the effect of medicare on his practice.

After his retirement, Robert had more time for his hobbies of family history and bookbinding. He was an active member of the Alberta Family Histories Society until his illness, and was also a member of the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild.

Funeral Services will be held at Holy Cross Anglican Church (2828 - 19 Street N.W.) on Thursday, June 10, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. with the Rev. Brian D. Way officiating. It was Robert's wish that his cremated remains be interred in the family vault at Tonge Cemetery in Bolton, Lancashire, England. To forward condolences go to www.mcinnisandholloway.com. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Alberta Cancer Foundation, c/o Tom Baker Cancer Centre, 1331 - 29 Street N.W., Calgary, AB T2N 4N2 (Telephone 403-944-2433). Please designate donations to Melanoma Research. Donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Alberta, 1825 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 3Y6 (Telephone 403-264-5549. www.heartandstroke.ca), would also be appreciated by the family. In living memory of Robert Westbury, a tree will be planted at Nose Creek Valley by McINNIS & HOLLOWAY FUNERAL HOMES, Crowfoot Chapel, 82 CROWFOOT CIRCLE N.W., CALGARY. Telephone: 403-241-0044. 024271

Merchant ships carried apprentices whose names were recorded by local customs officials. Indexes of Apprentices in the Merchant Service 1824-1953 are held (as are the Apprenticeship Books) by the National Archives at Kew.

BURIAL DUTY (1783-4)

On October 2, 1783 a duty of 3d. became payable on burials (except for paupers). The duty was lifted a year later but while it was in effect burial entries in parish registers include the notations "Duty Paid" or "P" (signifying pauper).

WEALTH (OR ASSESSED) TAXES (1770s and 1780s)

These have included:

Hair Power Tax (1795).

Silver Plate Tax, payable on 100 ounces or more silver plate – records for 1756-62 are at the National Archives at Kew as are lists of 'suspected defaulters' 1757-68 and 1776 which sound interesting.

Carriage Tax levied on horse-drawn conveyances excepting farm vehicles and trade carts and wagons - records for 1754-76 are at Kew, arranged (as are those for the Silver Plate Tax) by areas of collection and not necessarily by county.

Other wealth taxes have included taxes on servants, dogs, horses, armorial bearings, horse dealers and soap. Those recorded at the parish level may be included with filmed parish records (see example given under Window Tax).

WINDOW TAX (1696-1798)

With land taxes, this tax replaced the unpopular hearth tax (and obviated the need for someone to actually enter the house to count fireplaces). The house rate was 2/- with a surcharge of 4/- for 10-20 windows and 8/- for more than that. Householders were resourceful in evading this also unpopular tax and it never produced the expected revenue. Records simply give the owner's name, number of windows and amount of tax payable.

An elusive ancestor, Anthony Stone, was assessed for window tax 1756-1777 in the filmed Malden records. The film also contains assessments for house, male servant, carriage, horse, dog, armorial bearing, hair powder and horse dealer taxes 1823-1831 and land tax assessments 1751-1830.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH TAXES (1695-1706)

A tax of 1/- per year was payable by bachelors, widowers and childless couples. Also at this period there were charges (collected in the parish) for births (4/-), marriages (2/6d) and deaths (2/-). Any records that survive will be in the local County Record Office.

HEARTH TAX (1662-88)

Introduced by Charles II at a time of fiscal emergency, a national tax levied on occupiers of houses. One shilling per hearth (or stove) was payable every six months (at Michaelmas - September 29th and Lady Day - March 25th) on houses worth more than ?1 a year occupied by payers of church and poor rates. Bakers and smiths also paid on their working hearths.

Surviving hearth tax returns (basically 1662-1666 and 1669-1674) are organized by county of residence (broken down into the hundred then parish), give names of householders, perhaps their status or occupation and the number of hearths - some returns identify both those eligible for the tax and those exempt. Exemption certificates were issued for those who fell below the requirements and these and surviving returns are held by the National Archives at Kew. Transcripts of some returns have been published by the British Record Society, local record or family history societies and the University of Surrey, Roehampton plans to post the Hearth Tax Returns for 1662-89 on their website when funding and volunteers are in place – progress on this project can be tracked at www.roehampton.ac.uk/.

Ironically the Hearth Tax Office burned down in the Great Fire of London in 1667⁸.

LAY SUBSIDIES (1290-1625)

A national tax (levied irregularly) on income from freehold land, the capital value of moveable goods and income from wages. So named because the tax was paid by the laity and not the clergy. The returns list individuals and record on what they were assessed. The most useful are those for 1524-27 (which list almost all the adult population) and 1543-47. Later returns record only a minority of the population. Surviving Certificates of Residence (mainly 1558-1625), issued to prevent double charging of those who resided in more than one county, are indexed alphabetically by personal name and held (as are the lay subsidy returns themselves) at the National Archives at Kew. Some of the records have been filmed and catalogued on FamilySearch.

POLL TAXES (1377, 1379 & 1381)

A tax levied on all males except beggars and monks recording name, amount and parish. The Poll Tax Lists of 1377-81 record all men and women over 14 but unfortunately not all counties' lists survive. Any surviving records for this period are at the National Archives at Kew. The poll tax was again levied 1660-1698 and surviving records for those years will be in city archives or County Record Offices.

Alphabetical counties up to Westmorland (1377, 1379 & 1381) have been published in two parts by The Oxford University Press (ISBN 0-19-726186-8 & 0-19-726228-7). A reviewer⁹ concludes his review of these books, and I conclude this article, by saying

“Of course, your ancestor may well be a successful tax evader and so not be in the lists. The lesson is to pay your taxes since you never know when your descendants may be trying to find you.”

Sources:

Information Leaflets from the website of the National Archives relating to Apprenticeship Records, Death Duties, the Hearth Tax, Taxation Records before 1660 and Tithe Records
Family History Library Research Outline for England
Land and Window Tax Assessments, Gibson et al, pub. FFHS (available at the AFHS library)
Dr. John Beckett *I've Got a Little List*, Buckinghamshire *Origins* Vol. 8. No. 4, Winter 1984

- 1) www.familysearch.org/ Family History Library Catalogue: Place Search - parish name – ‘Taxation’, ‘Land and Property’, ‘Poor houses, Poor Law etc.’ categories. Search also the same categories under county name.
- 2) Many Record Offices have their own website and searchable catalogue. English Record Office holdings are catalogued on Access to Archives at www.a2a.org.uk/; Welsh holdings on Archives Network Wales at www.archivesnetworkwales.info/. Mail and e-mail inquiries are also welcomed by Record Offices.
- 3) Holdings of the National Archives are catalogued on the PROCAT website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.
- 4) A perch measured 16½ ft. and there were 40 perches in a rood. A rood (or rod) was ¼ of an acre.
- 5) *The Tithe War* pub. 1978 Clwyd Record Office.
- 6) Published and sold by Allan Brigham 1989.
- 7) Signifying Mr. Lansdell had moved from the property or died – the new occupant will be identified in later entries
- 8) Journal of the East Surrey Family History Society Vol 23, No. 3 – September 2000.
- 9) M.L. Bierbrier *New Developments in Medieval Genealogy*, *Genealogists Magazine* (Journal of the Society of Genealogists) Vol 27, No. 10, p. 467.

Volunteer Appreciation Night
7 June 2004
Books and Certificates



Lorna Laughton Book

Volunteer Work

Former Board Member, Library, Projects, Program &
Education

Presented by Mervie Beattie



Judie Riddell Book

Volunteer Work:

Former Board Member, Queries, Photographing, Editing,
Newspaper Transcription, Sales of Publications

Presented by Mervie Beattie

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Aubin, Charles	Cert/Pin	Programs & Education, Legacy SIGlet
Beatty, Mertie	Cert/Pin	Former Board Member, Volunteer Coordinator, Cemetery Recording, 1906 Census
Cassley, Alan	Cert/Pin	Library, Programs & Education, Public Relations
Clarke, Kay	Cert/Pin	Education Committee, Cemetery Recording, Data Entry, Newspaper Transcription
Cushman, Janice	Cert/Pin	Programs & Education, Scholarship Committee
Doyle, John	Cert/Pin	Family Roots 2004, Set up & Take down
Field, Spencer	Cert/Pin	Cemetery Photographer, Cemetery Recording, Set up & Take down, 1906 Census
Franko, Peggy	Cert/Pin	Former Board Member, Cemetery Recording
Granger, Diane	Cert/Pin	Programs & Education, Scholarship Committee
Jaremko, Heather	Cert/Pin	Cemetery Photographer, Data Entry, Newspaper Transcription, Queries, Nominating Committee, Greeter
Kiessling, Mabel	Cert/Pin	Queries, Nominating Committee, Coffee, Set up & Take down
Kirkwood, Donna	Cert/Pin	Library, Library Committee
Knott, Marlene	Cert/Pin	Cemetery Recording, Data Entry, Editing, Queries, Newspaper Transcription.
Lindrum, Norma	Cert/Pin	Programs & Education
Parent, Lillian	Cert	1906 Census
Peers, Alan	Cert/Pin	Library Moves, Cemetery Photographer, Family Roots 2004, Set up & Take down TMGUG SIGlet
Reese, Ken	Cert/Pin	Program & Education, Family .Roots 2004, Breeze Editor
Rempel, Judith	Cert/Pin	AFHS Webmaster, 1906 Census, Queries, Newspaper Transcriptions
Rodier, Elizabeth	Cert	1906 Census
Rundquist, Ken	Cert/Pin	Former Board Member, Membership Sec., Cemetery Photographer, Nominating Committee.
Sparling, Lois	Cert/Pin	Programs & Education, 1906 Census, 1911 Census
Taylor, Lynn	Cert/Pin	Programs & Education, Family Tree Maker SIGlet
Williams, Ann	Cert/Pin	Former Board Member, Secretary, Memberships: Buddy Program, Library

Volunteer Appreciation Night

7 June 2004

Appreciation Cards

Allen, Candace	Card	Newspaper Transcription
Allen, Nancy	Card	Library
Allen, Penny	Card	Data Entry
Armstrong, Janice	Card	Cemetery Photographer, Data Entry, Editing, Newspaper Transcription
Arthur, Alison	Card	Memberships: Buddy Program
Barr, Blair	Card	Cemeteries, Family Roots 2004, Set up & Take down
Belford, Kathy	Card	Newspaper Transcription
Boyer, Velma	Card	Library
Brewster	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Brisby, Liz	Card	Data Entry
Browne, Jill	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Butler, Susan	Card	Library
Carlin, Olive	Card	Library, Library Committee
Carter, Jean	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Clarke, Glenn	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Cormack, Ishbel	Card	Library
Coulter, Donna	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Crowle, Bob	Card	Public Relations, Buddy Program
Debert, Margo	Card	Library
Doyle, Judith	Card	Greeter, Set up & Take down, Buddy Program
Drinkwater, Millie	Card	Library
Duclos, Willa	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Duncan, Jackie	Card	Newspaper Transcriptions
Dussome, Rene	Card	Programs & Education
Elliot, Mary	Card	Program Committee
Embury, Dave	Card	Library

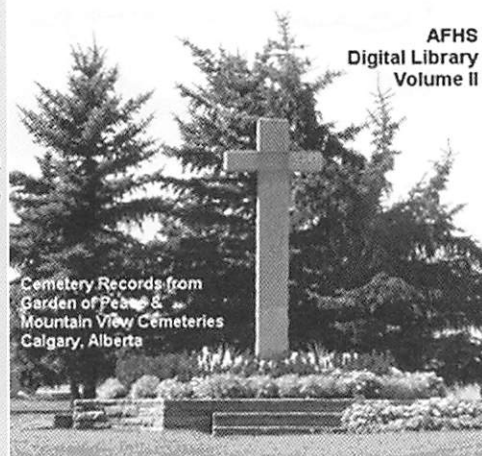
Firman, Marion	Card	Library, Cemetery Recorder
Gluting, Hazel	Card	Data Entry
Haasdyk, Ulrich	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Hall, Karen	Card	Library
Hansen, Charlie	Card	Program & Education, 1906 Census
Haslam, Ross	Card	Programs & Education, Family Roots 2004
Hausegger, Barb	Card	Cemetery Recorder,
Hauswirth, Bob	Card	Set up & Take down
Hauswirth, Colleen	Card	Cemetery Recorder, Set up & Take down
Hay, Doug	Card	Programs & Education, Family Roots 2004
Hill, Diane	Card	Data Entry
Holdaway, Linda	Card	Library, Cemetery Recorder, Buddy Program
Horwood, Alison	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Hutchinson, Brenda	Card	Data Entry, Editing
Jacobsen, Fern	Card	Set up & Take down, Coffee
Jacobsen, Heather	Card	Set up & Take down
Kent, Doug	Card	Cemetery Photographer,
Kent, Laurie	Card	Cemetery Recorder,
King, Shirley	Card	Library
Kinnear, Eva	Card	Newspaper Transcription, Family Roots 2004, 1906 Census Transcription
Kinnear, Roy (The Late)	Card	Newspaper Transcription, 1906 Census Transcription
Kry, Rosemary	Card	Data Entry

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Lee, Carol	Card	Programs & Education, Family Roots 2004
Logan, Bill	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Lylyk, Carol	Card	Cemetery Recorder, Data Entry, Editing, Newspaper Transcription
MacCrimmon, Amy	Card	Library
Maitland, Keith	Card	Set up & Take down
Manthorne, Gary	Card	Library
Maret, Ray	Card	Former Board Member, Education Committee, Buddy Program



McAlpin, Leota	Card	Library
McCready, Marge	Card	1906 Census Transcription
McDonald, Ethel	Card	Library, Library Committee
McKenzie, Bruce	Card	Buddy Program
McKenzie, Wayne	Card	Cemetery Photographer, Newspaper Transcription
McKeon, Karen	Card	1906 Census Transcription
McLean, Don	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Metcalfe, Joyce	Card	Library
Mills, Bill	Card	Library, Scholarship Com.
Morey, Pat	Card	AFHS Raffle, Set up & Take down
Muise-Benner, Alan	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Mumford, Bill	Card	Programs & Education, Family Roots 2004

Murray, Linda	Card	Board-Secretary, AFHS Lottery
Myers, Lil	Card	Cemetery Recorder,
Neville, Claire	Card	Cemetery Recorder, Family Roots 2004, Buddy Program
Nicholson, Lois	Card	Library, Library Committee
O'Brien, John	Card	1906 Census Transcription
O'Brien, Kristie	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Oicle, Irene	Card	Library
Pannenbecker, Louise	Card	Cemetery Recorder, Data Entry,
Parks, Jacquie	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Philips, Caroline	Card	Library, Cemetery Recorder, Buddy Program
Pomeroy, Janet	Card	Library
Portelance, Vi	Card	Data Entry
Ramsay, Marjorie	Card	Programs & Education
Reese, Bev	Card	Family Roots 2004
Riddell, Bob	Card	Cemetery Photographer, Data Entry, Editing, Newspaper Transcription
Rondeau, Evelyn	Card	Library
Rossum, Gail	Card	Data Entry, Editing
Roy, Marlene	Card	Library, Cemetery Recorder,
Salmon, Monta	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Samuels, Donna	Card	Newspaper Transcription
Shannon, Arlene	Card	Cemetery Photographer, 1906 Census Transcription
Snowdon, Lloyd	Card	Data Entry
Snowdon, Susan	Card	Cemetery Photographer, Data Entry, Editing, Newspaper Transcription
Sorenson, Sarah	Card	Library
Sparrow, Judy	Card	Newspaper Transcription, Set up & Take down, Greeter, Elevator Operator
Sparrow, Stan	Card	Newspaper Transcription, Set up & Take down, Nominating Committee, Elevator Operator
Spate, Rosemary	Card	Library
Stanford, Xenia	Card	Programs & Education, SIGS

Stewart, Freda	Card	Family Roots 2004
Stewart, Jim	Card	Set up & Take down, Elevator Operator
Stewart, Lorna	Card	Publications, Data Entry, Elevator Operator
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Taylor, Kelli	Card	Cemetery Photographer
Taylor, Marilyn	Card	Newspaper Transcriptions
Taylor, Peter	Card	Cemetery Recorder, Newspaper Transcription
Telang, Janet	Card	Library
Theroux, Lorna	Card	Cemetery Recorder,
Thorpe, Barbara	Card	Programs & Education, 1906 Census
Tremblay, Gisele	Card	Library
Vermeulen, June	Card	Library
Wake, Dave	Card	Buddy Program, Mail out Chinook
Waldroff, Myrna	Card	Mail Queries
Warner, Bunny	Card	Library, Newspaper Transcription
Whitfield, Truda	Card	Cemeteries
Williams, Heather	Card	Cemetery Photographing, Data Entry, Sales, 1906 Census Transcription
Williams, Val	Card	1906 Census Transcription
Wilson, Elenora	Card	Cemetery Recorder
Zawalsky, O.J.	Card	Buddy Program
Ziajka, Phyllis	Card	Library, Buddy Program

Volunteer Appreciation Night Letters of Appreciation

Arthur, Mary	Board-Director, Computer SIG, Buddy Program
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Horne, Adrienne	Board-Chair, Program & Education Committee
Hulbert, Gordon	Board-Chair, Family Roots 2004, Program & Education

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 1st September each year. If a new member joins on or after 1st 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:

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

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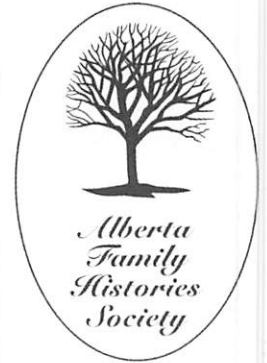
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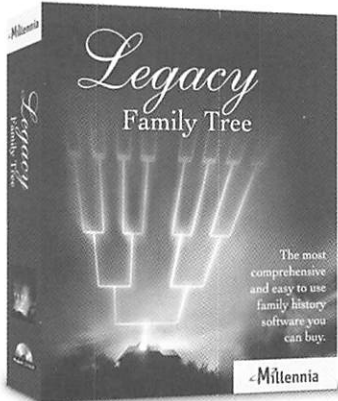
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