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# Alberta Family Histories Society

Volume 25, Issue 2      Spring, April 2005      www.afhs.ab.ca

**Annual General Meeting Notification**

Monday, May 2, 2004 at 7:15 p.m. MDT at  
 First Christian Reformed Church,  
 3818 14A Street S.W.,  
 Calgary, Alberta

# Chimook

*Celebrating 25 Years*

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

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
<b>MAIN PROGRAMS</b>		
May 2, 2005	History of the AFHS	Sheila Johnston
June 6, 2005	Dr Robert Westbury Memorial Night	David Bly
Sep 12, 2005	The National Archives of England	Chris Watts *
<b>BASIC SESSIONS</b>		
May 2, 2005	White Museum Resources	TBA
June 6, 2005	Correspondence/Interviews	TBA
Sep 12, 2005	Some Under-Used Sources for English Genealogy	Chris Watts *
<b>Special Sessions</b>		
May 24, 2005	Irish/Scots Research	Dr Trainer * Mr Mullan *
October	Canadian Genealogical Center	*

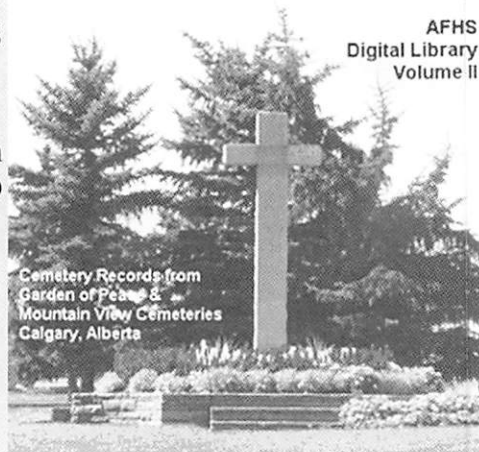
\* Visiting speakers

### AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME II -

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# Chairman's Message



*The Alberta Family Histories Society is  
25 Years young on May 6th, 2005*

I can not believe a year has almost gone by and in May we will be back to the A.G.M. and Board elections. You can find the nominations on Page 19. But if you were missed and have a burning desire to serve on the Board you have until the 17th April to present your nomination to the Chair of the Nominating Committee George Lake. The guidelines are also on page 19.

The Nominations committee has done a tremendous job in recruiting not only Board members but also various committee members. The people who have stepped forward for all these volunteer positions are warmly welcomed and can only enhance the ability of the Society to provide quality services to the membership and public at large.

They have come up with members for the Editorial committee for the Chinook and the Breeze, Website committee members, Program committee members and Membership committee members.

The Society continues to remain with approximately the same number of members from year to year but to face the challenges of rising costs we need to increase our membership. If you are bringing new members into the Society remember to advise the Membership Secretary so your name can go in the hat for the grand prize.

The Budget and Finance committee and the Board have had to make some hard decisions and many of the core activities have not had an increase in funding for a couple of years. We have been fortunate to have some offers from speakers passing through Calgary between now and October but these still cost us money. Where we can fit them into the normal speaking schedule we have done so but some will be an extra monthly talk.

The talk in May by the Ulster Historical Foundation during their North American lecture tour 2005 will have a door charge but it is only \$15. Details are on the website but we will have information sheets available at the Library.

One of the more pleasant duties I have is receiving emails and letters from around the globe. We have had a request to take part in an online survey from a Phd in Australia, the Federation of Family History Societies has asked us to participate in the Elizabeth Simpson Award again. I received a letter from a lady in Lincolnshire and it is reproduced in this issue and I also received a letter from a lady in Ontario who saw our magazine and asked for help in tracing an ancestor in Lloydminster when she visits in early April. I managed to find an genealogist/archivist in Lloydminster who is going to help her.

On May 6, 1980 the Alberta Family Histories Society was incorporated in the Province of Alberta. To celebrate the Alberta Centennial and the Society's 25th anniversary I would ask that anyone who can provide Alberta articles for the Chinook to please do so.

# Cold Case

by Ken Rees

**Abstract:** *From record verification through the use of Internet resources, the search for the missing husband of Therese Gertrude Kingenberg Rees is described. Lessons learned are presented.*

The case began innocently enough. I was born (December 1949) into a family where keeping accurate records was important. My mother's mother (Grandmother Wheeler) had inducted me into the family history effort on her side of the family relatively early. (I was 12 at the time.) My father's family had likewise been keeping records. I married (December 1973) a family historian, who was convinced that I needed to be active in tracing my family history – because she would be too busy tracing her own to worry about mine. Life was good. The records were in order, and I could just concentrate on extending them into the past.

Or so I thought. During 1974, I made contact with several of my Rees cousins. From one of them, I got access to some letters that Grandpa Rees had written to his brother Thomas Rees in 1909 and 1910. These letters showed that he had been out of the country at the time that he was supposed to have married my Grandmother Rees. That marriage was supposed to have taken place on 24 October 1909 in Salt Lake City, Utah. But he was traveling in Africa, England, and the eastern United States at the time, and had been embroiled in a scandal.

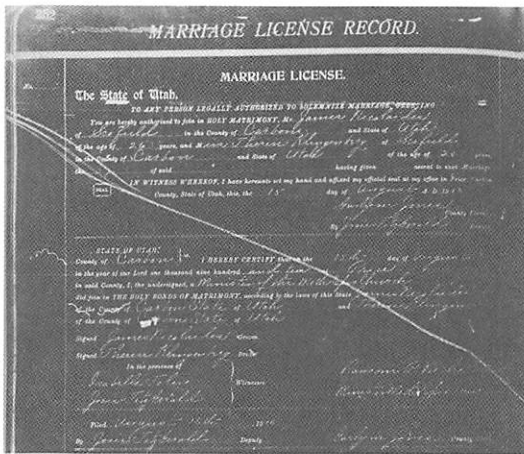
I was confused. During the course of an American Thanksgiving family dinner in 1974, we started talking about the Rees family history. Everybody knew the date that Grandma (Therese Gertrude Klingenberg) and Grandpa (William Heber) Rees had been married. My father (their youngest child) had been told that all his life. Every family group record that I had ever seen had enshrined that information. Now that was called into question.

I needed to verify the marriage date and place. With the marriage data verified, I could make the reasonable assumption that the rest of the information was correct. So off I went to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to verify a marriage that had occurred in 1909. A simple search in the Salt Lake County marriage licenses would do the trick. It would take just a few minutes work, as I already had the date. I knew that the date was correct – in spite of those letters!

*“Murphy was an optimist.”* (O’Toole’s corollary) The simple search through the Salt Lake County marriage records did not turn up the marriage of Therese Gertrude Klingenberg and William Heber Rees. I searched 5 years either side of the (supposed) date. There was no record of the marriage in Salt Lake County. Now I had a mystery on my hands. Since Grandma Rees had died in October 1974, I could not ask her. Nor did I want to upset Grandpa Rees by questioning the information that Grandma and Grandpa had given to the family. Thinking that no one else could possibly have the information, I continued by searching in the Utah County, Utah marriage records. There was still no record of the marriage.

Thoroughly baffled by this time, I made a list of the counties that bordered Salt Lake County, and searched their marriage records. I still could not find a record of the marriage. I was seriously considering searching the marriage records of the surrounding states (Could they have eloped to Nevada? Unthinkable!) after I finished with the marriage records for all of the counties in Utah. But before continuing with the search in the marriage records of Utah counties, I looked in the records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to see if there was a record of the family.

There was, but that record only deepened my confusion. William Heber Rees and Therese Rees (his wife) were recorded in 1915 as having a living daughter Mary Nicolaides (born 1910), a deceased daughter Olga Nicolaides (born 1912), and a living son Waldemar Rees (born 1914). Where did the name Nicolaides come from, I asked myself? It sounded Greek, but William Heber Rees was Welsh, and Therese Gertrude Klingenberg was German. Not Greek. (As a side note, Olga N. Rees was buried in Salt Lake City. I had visited her grave fairly often with my parents. Dad told me that the “N” stood for Nora.)



So back to the marriage records. In process of time, I came to the marriage records for Carbon County, Utah. The Klingenberg family had lived in Scofield, Carbon County just after they emigrated from Germany, before moving to Salt Lake City. (The Rees family had never lived in Carbon County, so far as I knew.) Sure enough, there was a marriage for Therese Klingenberg.

But the husband was James Nicolaides! And the marriage date was 16 August 1910, just a few short months before Mary was born on 10 November 1910. The mystery of the strange surname for Mary and Olga were resolved by this marriage record. The Nicolaides name came from the husband. But still the question remained: when and where were William Heber Rees and Therese Gertrude Klingenberg married? And a new question had to be asked: what had hap-

pened to James Nicolaides?

Matters remained at this state, until in the course of (relatively) casual conversation a few months later, we mentioned to one of my cousins on the Rees side (Mary-Jo Lloyd) that we were searching for the marriage date for Grandma and Grandpa Rees. She was surprised that we didn't know about that – she had asked Grandma about the matter a few years before. They had been married on 24 October 1913 in Paris, Bear Lake County, Idaho. A search of those records indicated that this information was correct.

In order to try to determine what had happened to James Nicolaides, I searched the death records for Utah between 1912 and 1915. I did not find a death for James Nicolaides. There didn't seem to be much point in spending a lot of time searching for his death, or for a divorce. I had what we had originally set out to find, and I left the matter there. But it didn't feel right, and I continued to wonder what had happened to James Nicolaides.



It seemed clear to me that Therese Gertrude Klingenberg had found herself with child and had married James Nicolaides. (I assumed that he was the father.) At some point after the conception of the second child, they had parted company – either through divorce or death. The Klingenberg family had moved to Salt Lake City into the home they had purchased on Mansfield Avenue. (The Rees family had owned property on Mansfield Avenue since the 1890s.) Therese followed sometime between May and September 1912. William Heber Rees was living there as well. Grandfather met grandmother. She was pretty; he was handsome. Because of some opposition from either or both families, they had eloped to Paris, Bear Lake County, Idaho to be married. (I did not know what the source of this opposition was, but I did recall that my grandmother was very sensitive about her background and she did not feel accepted by her husband's family – even during my lifetime. From the Rees side, I assumed that it had something to do with the fact that Therese had a little girl, and had just buried another little one – with no husband. From the Klingenberg side, I assumed that it had something to do with the scandal that had surrounded William in 1909 and 1910.) When this conjecture was given to my father, at first he would not accept it. He was certain that I was wrong. It was only after he saw the records that he accepted that this might be what had happened.

Over the years since then, I didn't spend much too much time worrying about James Nicolaides. When the 1910 United States Federal Census was released, I searched it and located James Nicolaides (he was a boarder with several other miners), and the Klingenberg family. But there was no real effort to find out what had happened to him. If anything, I assumed that he had died before my grandmother had married my grandfather. Divorce in Utah in this period was not particularly common.

Then, in October 2004, I decided to see how much could be discovered in a single night of on-line searching. (This was just before Family Roots 2004.) I got out the photocopied records, the family group sheets, and my notes and went to work. It was my turn to volunteer at the Family History



Centre, so while I was there I started searching the Utah State Death indices – just to see if there was a death registration for James Nicolaides. Imagine my surprise (and delight) to learn that there was an entry. James A. Nicolaides had died 13 May 1970 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and was buried in the Price City Cemetery in Price, Carbon County, Utah. Knowing that he had been alive when my grandmother married my grandfather made me want to find out more about this man.

After my return home, I continued searching in the Utah death indices. These searches revealed a number of Nicolaides entries. Could they be linked together? Perhaps the United States Federal Census records could help. The 1920 and 1930 census records had been released since I had last been active in searching. (Using the death records and the census records in this way is a common technique for putting families together.)

By using both types of records one after another (and since the Internet was making it possible to do this in short order), I learned that James had a brother John. They had both come from Greece – James in 1903, and John in 1906, and had both married and had families in the United States.

James had married in Greece in 1912 (the year that his second daughter Olga had been born and died). His new wife Helen was born in Greece. They had come back to the United States some time after 1914 and had raised two sons in Utah. Helen had died in 1945. The eldest son, Thomas, had been killed in 1945 in France during World War II. His body had been returned to Utah for burial in 1948. The second son, George, had lived in Utah and had not died until 2002.

John had married a Greek immigrant named Constandia in 1921. They had raised a family of five children – two daughters, and three sons. John had died in 1965; his wife had died in 1950.

That is what I found in five short hours on a Thursday night in October 2004. And that is where matters stand at the moment.

What went wrong here? There are several problems, but perhaps the most glaring is the failure to follow proper research technique. Had I worked with the home sources first, including asking my Grandfather, and my cousins, I would not have had to waste time searching the marriage records of several of the Utah counties. A second problem is the failure to question assumptions early enough. Had I asked the proper questions a year or two earlier, perhaps I could have approached my Grandmother for the information I needed. (As Mary-Jo's experience demonstrated, Grandma was able and willing to give that information – at least to her.) A third problem occurred because I was firmly attached to my premise. I knew that the date was correct, so I set out to prove it. Had I approached the problem with an open mind I might have saved myself some time and perplexity. Another problem was letting go of the search too early. I could have completed this research several years ago, and thus had the opportunity to contact James Nicolaides' son George before he passed away.

What have I learned? First, work with home sources first. The best information is usually closest to you. Second, verify the information. Verify as much as will give you the confidence to go on. Verify it early. Third, in any family there will be secrets – and you might not be privy to them. Fourth, keep your conjectures to your self – until you have evidence to back them up. Fifth, no matter how old or cold the trail, it is possible that additional resources have become available since you last actively researched a particular family or locality. And sixth, modern technology is making it possible to search more records in a shorter period of time than ever before.

I still have more that I want to do. I want to locate and contact descendants of James A. Nicolaides to see if they are as unaware as I was about the connection between our two families. I would like to have a picture of the man who married my grandmother. I would like to know more about this man and his family. If possible, I would like to understand the conditions around the separation of James Nicolaides and my grandmother Therese Gertrude Klingenberg Nicolaides Rees.

Case closed? Not hardly. No confirmed family historian will ever say that the case is entirely closed. Merely waiting for more records, and more time to pursue them.

# A Beginning Genealogist

By Lorraine Jacksteit

Genealogy is a great pastime for many people including my mother but I never had much interest. I enjoyed reading the stories of the pioneers in the local history books but it ended there. Then, a cousin gave my father a book detailing his family tree for eight generations. What a treasure! This piqued my interest but I still did not take any action. Then my mother passed away suddenly from a severe heart attack and everything changed.

My bereaved Dad did not want to live in the farmhouse any more so we four children (no spouses allowed) got together to help Dad distribute or discard the "stuff" that accumulated over the fifty years they had lived in our family home. As we came across all the family history materials and family photos that Mom had diligently gathered over the years, we had to decide who wanted to carry on with this job. My sister and two brothers said, "You're it!" The family Bibles, the boxes of photos, old postcards, the family tree forms, the stuffed briefcases, the boxes of slides, and the bits and pieces of paper with dates of births, marriages, deaths were packed into my car. My poor husband cringed when he saw this coming into our house.

Where do I begin? I went through all the materials and tried to start filing them into families. Oh how I wished I could ask Mom all the questions that arose after doing this. I had taped Mom and Dad's history one Christmas when they came to visit but this was not enough to fill in the blanks. **Lesson learned: Get as much family history and stories from your parents, grandparents and family members while they are still with us.**

After going through the materials once, I decided to start with the photos. The slides were dated and still in boxes so they did not present a problem. However, the old loose photos in boxes were a challenge. Most of these were not labeled or had words such as "Mother and me" on the back. **Lesson learned: Always label and date every picture you own.** I matched up those named photos to some unnamed ones where I could recognize the people in both. Then I set the rest of the photos on the dining room table and got my family to examine them to see if any were connected. I had pictures of a family of five daughters and their parents as they aged through the years but I did not know whether they were relatives, friends or the milkman's family! Next, I got Dad to look through the photos but he never recognized anybody. Then I took them to my

two aunts, Dad's sisters, but they weren't much help either. Some pictures had the photographer or studio name on them so I could narrow the area or approximate date but not much else.

My next step was to get all this data into a computer program of some kind. I got caught in the hype of Family Tree Maker, which seemed to be the predominant software program available at the time and I bought the program. **Lesson learned: I've surmised that people are passionate about whatever software program they are using, so pick one and go with it.** I typed in as much information as possible from Mom's notes only to be informed at numerous workshops that I should be putting in the sources for each detail and that I should have primary sources or proof from originals for this data. **Lesson learned: Put in the source for the information as you go along rather than after you have entered 300 names into the program!** I may never get the primary sources of everyone in my program in this lifetime but it gives me something to work on!

Another problem was where to draw the line on the branches of the family. I started including my aunt's in-laws, my son-in-law's family and so on. After I ran off a standard family tree outline, I had so many extra names that it was very confusing, to say the least. The extra information was interesting but I needed to narrow my focus. **Lesson learned: Stick with the direct descendants on the family tree.**

Family history to me also means getting information from the living. I have phoned and emailed relatives of the family to bring the present history up-to-date. If I had an address, I would write letters asking for information and would make a copy of what correspondence was sent and received so that I could keep my records straight. Several relatives doing their own history have supplied me with information from their branch of the family tree so this is a great resource. Nearly everyone has been so helpful but sometimes a divorced person may not want to give information about a former spouse who may be about as popular as road-kill. **Lesson learned: Tread softly with living relatives and ask what they would be willing to share with you.**

In order to further my education in genealogy, I joined the A.F.H.S. where I have attended the beginner's sessions and the meetings. I always learn something from both. Next I decided to attend the Computer SIG to get the most benefit from my computer. The first few sessions sailed over my head because I didn't know a cookie from a pop-up, Gedcom from HTML, a Jpeg from PAF. However, with each session, I am learning as some of this is going in by osmosis. If I feel a question is too dumb to ask during the session, I run to someone at break time and ask. Everyone has

been wonderful about answering my queries and offering help. Also I found volunteers very accommodating on my many trips to the Family History Centre as well as the A.F.H.S. library. In addition, The Family Tree Maker SIG provides valuable assistance as I venture into the new 2005 edition. Also being on Dist-gen has been a highway of information for me. I have found that fellow genealogists are superb about sharing their knowledge and helping others in their family search. **Lesson learned: Take advantage of all the resources that are available in your genealogical journey.**

These are the lessons I have learned along the way. I am well aware that experienced genealogists may have much more advice for me but I am learning. In summary, I have concluded that working on the family history is a never-ending process so I will continue on my journey. Yet in the back of my mind, I am thinking about which one of my children, my nieces or my nephews will carry on with my boxes, briefcases, CD's, photos, software programs, papers....

## DONATIONS to the AFHS LIBRARY

February 2005

### AFHS Projects Group

Queen's Park Cemetery Calgary, Section P and PC  
AFHS Family Roots 2004

Family Roots Syllabus 2004

### David Ballard

The life and times of .....friendly servant, biography of Cannon Allayne George Bradshaw.  
Malcolm H. and Shirley I. Bradshaw

### Patricia Child

A history of Alberta. Revised edition. James G. MacGregor  
Genealogy Online – Researching Your Roots.  
Elizabeth Piwell Crowe  
Alberta Business Who's Who & Directory 1985-86. Lorne V. Silverstein

### Maps and Atlases – from the collection of Robert Westbury

Reprint of the First Edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey of England and Wales: Cheltenham. Sheet 60  
A-Z Birmingham Street Atlas  
Birmingham and district: Premier Street Map with Index  
The Hockley Flyer November 1992 Issue No. 93

Hunterdon County, N.J. Street and Road Map  
Rand McNally New York City: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens & Staten Island  
Map of Denver and Surrounding Communities  
Atlantic Gateways: The Making of America.  
National Geographic Society  
Reprint of the First Edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey of England and Wales, Worcester & Stratford. Sheet 51 2 copies  
Sheet Number 51: Worcester. Reprint of the First Edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey of England and Wales  
Ordnance Survey Landranger 150: Worcester, the Malverns & Surrounding Area  
Reprint of the First Edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey of England and Wales: Bolton & Blackburn. Sheet 20  
Ordnance Survey: Preston (North) and Kirkham (Lancs). Sheet SD 43/53. Pathfinder 679.  
Pathfinder Series of Great Britain  
Preston (South) and Leyland. Sheet SD 42/52.  
Blackpool. Sheet SD 32/33. Pathfinder 678  
Geographia Street Map of Pittsburgh including 52 communities  
Pittsburgh, PA and Vicinity. 1997 by Color-Art, Inc., St. Louis, MO  
Rand McNally Pennsylvania. State Map  
Pennsylvania, 1995-1996 Official Transportation Map  
Ordnance Survey. Pathfinder 1276. Tiverton (Devon)  
Ordnance Survey. Landranger 202. Torbay & South Dartmoor Area  
A-Z Visitors' Devon Map  
Ordnance Survey. Pathfinder 1362. Newton Ferrers & Thurlestone  
Bartholomew West Country 1. Grand Touring Series  
Ordnance Survey. Outdoor Leisure 20. South Devon  
Ordnance Survey. One-inch Map of Great Britain. Cheltenham and Evesham. Sheet 144  
The Sperrins. Sheet 13. Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland  
Lough Neagh. Sheet 14. Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland  
Map Ireland. Issued by Bord Failte Irish Tourist Board  
Derry Tyrone. Suirbheireacht Ordonais  
Johnston's Road Map of Ireland. Nu-way Road Series  
Old Ordnance Survey Maps. Birmingham 1902-11. The Godfrey Edition. Warwickshire Sheet 14.05  
Boston to Washington Circa 1830. National Geographic Society  
Area 3. Midlands Shell Map 116. Shell Touring Service



Ordnance Survey. One-inch Map of Great Britain.  
Birmingham. Sheet 131  
Landranger 139. Birmingham & Surrounding Area  
Ordnance Survey  
Ordnance Survey. One-inch Map of Great Britain.  
Kidderminster. Sheet 130  
Ordnance Survey. One-inch Map of Great Britain.  
Coventry and Rugby. Sheet 132

**NEW ACQUISITIONS to the AFHS LIBRARY  
February 2005**

CD Genealogical Records: Ontario and Nova  
Scotia Settlers, 1790-1860  
Making Use of the Census of the Population 1871.  
Public Record Office (England and Wales)

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**Charlotte Alice Staples,**

b. 1880  
Camberwell,  
Surrey England;  
married **William  
Edward  
Houlton** 1898,  
England.

I believe she came to Calgary from  
Ontario sometime after 1912 and at  
some point married a **Rev. Henry  
Underhill**, Church of England  
clergyman.

She possibly had 3 children;  
Olive, Harry and Cecil - ? surname  
Houlton/Underhill.

**Amy Maria Staples**, b. 1882 Camberwell, and sister to Alice. She came to  
Calgary from Ontario about 1910, she was single at that time.

Parents of the above were  
**Frank Jones Staples &  
Margaret (Oakes)  
Staples**. She was widowed  
and came to Canada in 1905.

I can find no evidence of her remarriage in Ontario records

Dianne Johns email [gordiane@golden.net](mailto:gordiane@golden.net)  
3 Horizon Ct. Kitchener, ON, N2K 1P6

# Spotlight on England

by Ann Williams

## AN OVERVIEW OF LAND RECORDS

(Incorporating material from Diane Granger's presentation at Family Roots 2004)

### Introduction

England and Wales, for most of their history, have no 'land records' as such but references to owners and occupiers of land are found in various places. If an ancestor can be linked to a specific property (as owner or tenant), documents relating to that property may reveal relationships, occupations and economic situation i.e. whether the family was prospering or retrenching. The older records covered here pre-date parish registers and are a reliable source of information.

### Background Material

**Maps:** for an understanding of an area and the relative positions of places. Local large scale maps were produced to record manor holdings or when manor land was put up for sale.

**Gazetteers:** for information on location, size, population and administrative divisions of a place.

**Directories:** for listings of tradesmen or farmers – recent street directories list everyone. See website: "<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/>".

**Historical geography/local history books:** for descriptions of the land and its historical owners, for details of the churches and schools which may have been important in ancestors' lives.

**Wills of ancestors, their friends and neighbors:** may detail land holdings by reference to adjoining landowners and/or stating who the property was purchased from. May record an ancestor as a beneficiary, witness, overseer or executor.

### Locating Records (these abbreviations are used throughout)

**FHLC** (Family History Library Catalogue): <http://www.familysearch.org/> place search - parish name – 'land and property' category. Also that category under county name.

**CROs** (County Record Offices): Many English Record Office holdings are catalogued on Access to Archives (A2A): <http://www.a2a.org.uk/>; Welsh holdings on Archives Network Wales <http://www.archivesnetworkwales.info/>. Record Offices may also have their own websites and on-line catalogues.

**TNA** (The National Archives) catalogue and Research Guides: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>.

**GenFair** for the availability and purchase of publications of family history societies and private publishers and FamilyHistoryOnline, a pay-per-view site of indexes and records (both accessed through <http://www.ffhs.org.uk/>). Also family history societies' websites for their publications.

### Some Records Relating to Land

The following summarizes the:

T = **Time** period covered

E = **Extent**

S = **Survival**

C = **Contents**

A = **Accessibility** (abbreviations as used above); and

U = **Use** of these records

### **Title Deeds and Leases** (accessed by name of owner, parish or property)

T 1227 to present

E National

S Variable

C Names, addresses, occupations of parties; property description (possibly identifying the manor that originally held the land); dates and terms of transactions

- A Deed registry for Middlesex 1709-1940. Indexes for 1709-1800 filmed and catalogued on FHLC under “Middlesex – Land & Property – Indexes”  
Deed registries for Yorkshire ending about 1970: City of York deeds filmed 1718-1866; West Riding (from 1704) indexes and deeds filmed 1704-1900; East Riding & Hull (from 1708) indexes and deeds filmed 1712-1900 and North Riding (from 1736) indexes and deeds filmed 1736-1876 - catalogued on FHLC under “York – Land & Property”  
 FHLC; CROs, TNA, the British Library, basements, attics and solicitors offices
- U For land transactions perhaps covering many generations.

**Note:** Deed Registries contain extracts from deeds and other documents rather than original records. “Abstracts of Title” are summaries (usually typewritten<sup>1</sup>) of deeds relating to a particular property. They are an easily read and accurate record of a property’s past owners.

### **Registration of Title to Land (after 1862)**

- T 1862 to present  
 E National  
 S Variable. From 1897 compulsory registration gradually came in but it wasn’t until 1990 that it was compulsory to register changes in ownership  
 C Names, addresses, occupations of parties; property description  
 A Land Registry District Offices have Registrations of Title open for public inspection – see also the Middlesex and Yorkshire Deed Registries detailed under the previous heading  
 U To find land holdings and previous owners.

### **Electoral or Voting Registers (accessed under name of parish)**

- T 1832 to present except 1916-17 and 1940-44  
 E National  
 S Variable  
 C Name of voter, qualification (residence or property in constituency or polling district)  
 A FHLC, CROs, GenFair, British Library, public libraries  
 U To find whether ancestors met the qualification for voting and, if so, their address.

**Note:** Extensions to voting qualifications:

- 1832: men owning or renting a house with an annual rentable value of at least ten pounds  
 1867: workingmen living in towns  
 1884: agricultural laborers  
 1894: women property owners (recorded in a separate list and for local elections only)  
 1918: men over 21 and women over 30  
 1928: women over 21.

### **Land Tax and Rate Assessments (accessed under name of parish)**

- T 1692-1963  
 E National  
 S Variable. Complete survival of Land Tax Assessments 1780-1832  
 C Land Tax Assessments list owners of land with a rentable value of a pound or more and include the name of the property, description e.g. “cottage & garden” and its value. From 1780 the name of the occupier is included. Special Expense Rates, Lighting Rates etc. (approx. 1870–1932) record all property owners with the address, name of tenant (where applicable) the amount of the rent and the rate levied on the owner  
 A FHLC, TNA has Land Tax Assessments 1798, CROs  
 U Land taxes were assessed annually, rates two or three times a year and combined they can pinpoint when a family arrived and/or left an area or when a death occurred, the next assessment of the premises perhaps listing the widow or child.

### **Manor Court Rolls (accessed under name of Manor or name of parish)**

- T 13th century to 1920s  
 E National  
 S Variable  
 C Type of court, date, list of attendees and absentees, changes of tenancy, offences, regulations, election of officials

- A Manorial Documents Register <http://www.hmc.gov.uk/mdr/> (searchable database for Surrey, Hampshire, Norfolk, Yorkshire and Wales); FHLC, CROs, GenFair, TNA, solicitors offices
- U For references to family. If an ancestor is found as a manor tenant i.e. a copyholder (even of a tiny piece of land) there is a good chance of following the thread of occupancy of that land back through many generations of the family.

**Note:** The importance of a manor receded as its lands were sold off. Copyhold tenure was finally abolished in 1922 and remaining copyhold tenancies sold into private hands.

**1910 Finance Act Valuation** (accessed under name of region, district then income tax parish)

- T 30 April 1909
- E National
- S Variable
- C Various documents (including at least 183 different forms) recorded the occupier, owner, property (i.e. "house & garden") name of property (i.e. address), extent (i.e. size), annual value, extent as determined by valuer and original assessable site value
- A Records created include Valuation Books (nicknamed Domesday Books), plans and maps and Form 37-Land (extracts from Field Books) – these (where they survive) are at CROs. Valuation Books for the City of London and City of Westminster, Record Plans and Field Books are at TNA. Some plans and other records may still be at the District Valuation Offices of the Inland Revenue
- U To establish land holdings.

**Note:** Valuations were made to set a base value for the taxation of the increased value of land attributable to the site itself (excluding that from crops, buildings and improvements paid for by the owner) when the land next changed hands i.e. a tax on the increase in value that came from the expenditure of public money on such things as roads and public services. The tax, or Increment Value Duty, was repealed in 1920 but to set up the system District Valuation Offices ascribed a value to all land in the U.K. as at April 30, 1909.

**Enclosure Awards and Maps** (accessed under name of parish)

- T Mid 16th century to present but particularly from 1836-40
- E National
- S Variable
- C Maps (varying in scale and accuracy) marked with lot numbers show precise location of land. Accompanying Awards, Apportionments or Schedules list the lot numbers with such details as the owner's name, size and description of the land i.e. "cottage & paddock under pasture" and rent payable
- A FHLC, TNA, CROs, GenFair
- U For location and value of ancestor's land and identification of neighbors.

**Returns of Owners of Land** ('New' or 'Modern Domesday' accessed under name of county)

- T 1873
- E National
- S Complete
- C Lists every person owning an acre or more with parish of residence, size and value of land
- A GenFair and website: <http://www.uk-genealogy.org.uk/index.html>
- U For extent and value of holdings for land-owning ancestors.

**Note:** Compiled from rating records in response to concerns that the small number of landowners in the 1861 census reflected a harmful concentration of land ownership. The results did not completely support this but did lead to the measures taken under the 1910 *Finance Act* (described above).<sup>2</sup>

**Poll Books – County Elections** (accessed under name of county (or polling district and parish)

- T 1696-1872 (approx.)
- E National
- S Variable
- C Name and parish of voters and parish of property giving rise to qualification to vote
- A FHLC, GenFair, CROs
- U To find where a land-owning ancestor lived and how he and his neighbors voted.

**Note:** List voters and who they voted for (not a secret until the 1800s). Sheriffs compiled a record of the poll in elections for Knights of the Shire which Clerks of the Peace preserved in Quarter Sessions records. Voters had to be male, over 21 and own freehold land worth two pounds or more. Until 1774 they also had to reside in the county.<sup>3</sup>



### Registration of Title to Land (before 1862)

- T 1182-1862
- E National
- S Variable
- C Names, addresses, occupations of parties; property description
- A TNA and CROs. An A2A<sup>4</sup> search of family or property name may bring up various types of record relating to land: Marriage Settlements, Leases, and Deeds of Gift etc.
- U For land holdings, transactions and clues to whether the family was increasing or reducing its holdings; borrowing or lending money with land as security.

**Note:** Because the land laws of England and Wales made no provision for the registration of ownership (title) to non-manorial land, those who wanted to record their ownership used the courts to do so, as did those who wished to break entails (the settlement of property in a specified fashion which prevented its sale). A ploy to accomplish both these ends was **Feet of Fines** (1182-1833), covered here because many have been indexed or calendared (calendars have more detail). They were fictitious lawsuits - in their simplest form, A (the purchaser/plaintiff) started a lawsuit against B (the seller/deforçant) for possession of land which, during the trial, was settled between the parties and recorded by a written Final Agreement (shortened to Fine) confirming A's right to clear title to the land with mention of a sum of money, not the true value of the land. The Fine was written out three times on a piece of parchment, copies for A and B and the third copy, "the foot", preserved by the court as a 'Feet of Fine'. An early Fine may be the only record of a transaction but companion documents with accurate values and descriptions may exist for later transactions, the Fine being used to record the transfer of ownership.

### Inquisitions Post Mortem (IPMs) (accessed nationally or under name of county)

- T 1216-1660
- E National, for those holding land from the Crown
- S Complete
- C Name of deceased, date of death, description and value of holding, name and age of heir and possibly names of other family members
- A FHLC, TNA, Calendars in the University of Calgary library (5<sup>th</sup> Floor LT) have national coverage for the period 1216-1422 (call no. DA25.C1 C132/141)
- U For death date which may lead to finding a will, identity of heir and names of properties held.

A typical entry in a calendar of IPMs reads:

*George SHUDD yeo*  
*East Grinstead 1 Aug 15 Charles* [place and date of inquisition: date in regnal years]  
*Died 4 March 14 Charles* (regnal year = 1639)  
*Eldest son George aged 14 years 10 months 13 days* [at date of tenant's death]  
*Lands in Wisborough Green called Ushudds and Betfords.*  
*John Shudd youngest son. Brother John Shudd.*<sup>5</sup>



**Note:** Holding land directly from the Crown (tenure-in-chief) was very advantageous to the Crown. Permission (a Licence to Alienate) was required to sell the land (Licences are preserved in TNA and recorded in Patent Rolls.<sup>6</sup>) On the death of a tenant an IPM determined the next owner – without an heir the land reverted to the Crown, with an underage heir (21 for boys, 14 for girls), the heir became a ward of the Crown, the Crown took the income from the land, had the power to marry-off the ward and to sell the wardship. Further charges were extracted when the heir came of age. Wardship records are also preserved in TNA. This form of land holding was one of the grievances leading to the overthrow of the monarchy in 1650 and was formally abolished with the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

**The Domesday Book** (accessed under name of county) (Translated from Latin)

- T 1086
- E Settlements in the English counties south of the rivers Ribble and Tees (the Scottish border at the time). Many places in modern-day Wales are included with the neighboring counties of Cheshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Gloucester. London and Winchester are excluded.
- S The records for London and Winchester are missing
- C Name of manor, holder in 1066 and 1086, size in hides, number of ploughs; number of freemen, tenants, slaves; amount of wood, meadow, pasture; number of fishponds and mills
- A Libraries including the University of Calgary and Calgary Public Libraries and at: [http:// www.domesdaybook.co.uk/](http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/) which also has notes on 200 of the landowners mentioned
- U For reference to ancestral places, names of landholders (prior to the common use of surnames).

#### INTERESTING WEBSITES:

British Library: <http://www.bl.uk>

City of London: <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/> (links to Guildhall Library & London Metropolitan Archives)

Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516: <http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/intro.html>

House history: <http://www.building-history.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

Land Registration: [http://71.1911encyclopedia.org/L/LA/LAND\\_REGISTRATION.htm](http://71.1911encyclopedia.org/L/LA/LAND_REGISTRATION.htm)

Villages: Hampshire, Dorset, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Sussex and Surrey -

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~villages/> (histories and photographs of over 1,900 villages)

#### FURTHER READING:

Alcock, N.W. *Old Title Deeds A Guide for Local and Family Historians* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Phillimore 2001

Cornwall, J. *Reading Old Title Deeds* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). FFHS 1997

Gibson, J. & Rogers, C. *Electoral Registers since 1832 and Burgess Rolls*. FFHS 1989

Gibson, J. & Rogers, C. *Poll Books c1696-1872: A Directory to Holdings in Great Britain* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). FFHS 1990

Gibson, J., Medlycott, M. & Mills, D. *Land and Window Tax Assessments*. FFHS 1993

Hinde, T., Ed. *The Domesday Book: England's Heritage Then and Now*. Coombe Books, 1995

Hoskins, W.G. *The Making of the English Landscape*. Pelican Books Ltd., 1971

Massingham, H. J. *English Downland* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). London: B. T. Batsford Ltd. 1949

Nussey, J. T. M. *The West Riding Registry of Deeds: An Introductory Guide*. YAS

Palgrave-Moore, P. *How to Locate and Use Manorial Records*. FFHS

Pigot & Co. *Counties of England, 1840*. Facsimile ed. London: Salamander Books. 2000

Stuart, D. *Manorial Records*. Phillimore 1992

West, J. *Village Records*. Phillimore 1982

Wormleighton, T. *Title Deeds and the Family Historian*. *The Devon Family Historian*, 84, Nov 1997

See also archeological, genealogical and historical society journals and Victoria County Histories

<sup>1</sup> The writer typed lots of them while working in a solicitors' office in England.

<sup>2</sup> Introduction to *The Return of Owners of Land 1873: Surrey*. WSFHS Record Series No. 10, 1989

<sup>3</sup> Introduction to the *Index to the 1775 Surrey Poll Book*. WSFHS Record Series No. 15, 1992

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.a2a.org.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> Sussex Record Society Vol. 14 (fiche in the University of Calgary library)

<sup>6</sup> Calendars to Patent Rolls to 1572 are in University of Calgary library

# GenSmart Review

by Lois Sparling

GenSmart is software which works with your family history program, such as Family Tree Maker, Legacy or Master Genealogist, to make research suggestions. It hunts through your existing genealogical database to find gaps in your information and formulates both a To Do List and a check list for cleaning up your data. It can make inappropriate, even silly suggestions, when you know more about a person or relationship than it can detect. These are easily deleted when you review its suggestions. It is also very heavily oriented towards American research but does provide basic coverage of Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and some other jurisdictions.

The two great strengths of GenSmart are in handling large databases and in providing guidance to those relatively new to American research. One feature is the ability to find place names in the United States where I had either no county recorded or the town and county mixed up and provide me with the correct county. This was so helpful. With thousands of persons and events recorded in my genealogical program, this task would be terribly time consuming and tedious without GenSmart. I wish it had the same capacity to help me clean up my Ontario jurisdictions. The same is true for finding gaps in my information, especially for collaterals. GenSmart can organize its research suggestions by priority, surname, date or geographical location. When sorted by priority, the emphasis is on direct ancestors. When sorted by location, you can identify all your gaps in, for example, Massachusetts marriage records for all your lines, including the siblings and cousins of direct ancestors.

I have a subscription to Ancestry.com and wasn't making much use of it other than to search the 1850 to 1930 census. GenSmart produced a great to do list for my American ancestors based on free searches as well as my subscription to Ancestry.com. It also created a list of suggested internet searches not available to me; it is very apparent that, once my Ancestry.com subscription runs out, I should seriously consider a membership in the New England Genealogical and Historical Society so I can use its online databases. The free internet searches GenSmart found for me includes lesser known databases such as The Black Hawk War Service Records at the Illinois State Archives web site. Who knows if and when I would have found that resource on my own! It also checks out online library catalogues of major Genealogical Meccas, including the Newbury Library in Chicago, the Allen County Public Library and, of course, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Indeed, I discovered while writing this review that it produces a customized to do list for each research facility.

GenSmart has other features I have not yet explored. I only purchased it about a month ago. For American research, its usefulness is really quite spectacular. Beyond the digital world, it points the way to inter-library loans and destinations for your next research trip. For me, it was money well spent.

## Research in the Czech Republic

by Beverley A. Rees

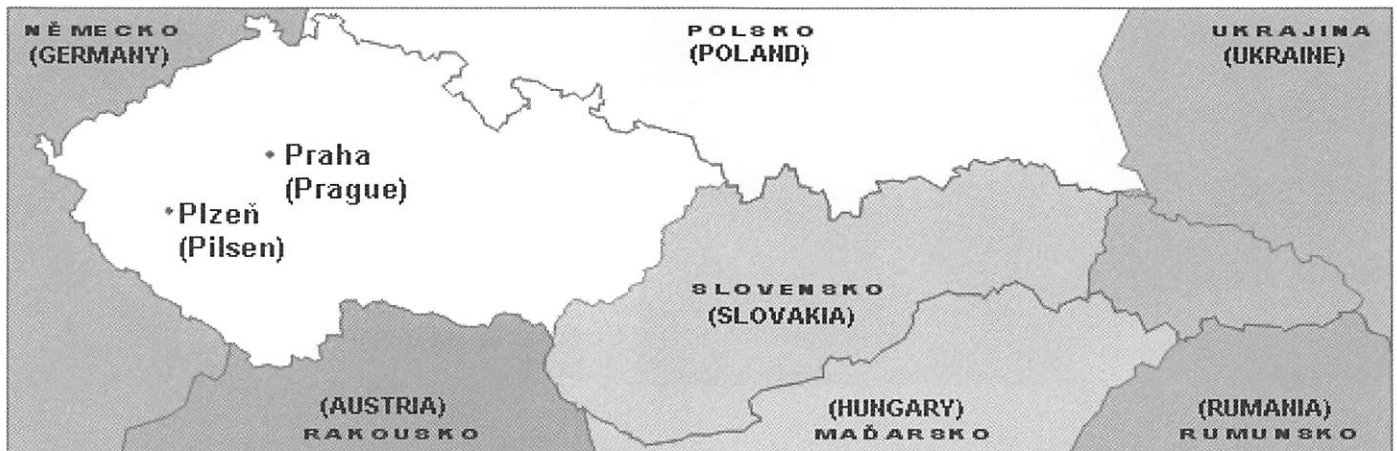


My maternal grandmother, Anna Palecekova, was born in the very small village of Lenesice, Louny, Austria [now the Czech Republic] on March 9th, 1895. Many of my ancestors were from the Prague area. In May 2002, my husband Ken and I set out on a research trip to the Czech Republic. We were successful in tracing this line back to my fourth great grandfather who was born in 1756 in Skocice, Austria-Hungary.

Words cannot explain the overwhelming feeling of “family” when we walked the streets of Lenesice. My grandmother walked those very same streets as a young girl selling milk to get money for the family. The winters were so cold she had to wrap newspapers around her legs to keep warm. The church and school remain standing and are used today. Partial stone walls still surround the old village. Villagers could be seen pulling wagons with buckets to the old town well to get water. This soil we stood on was where my ancestors were born, raised families, toiled laboriously to survive wars and famine and were buried. Their history is my history!



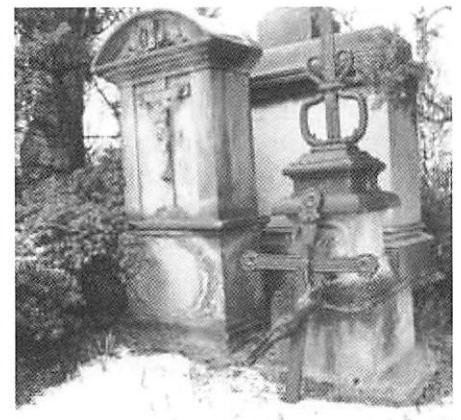
The following information may be of some help for those who are interested in Research in the Czech Republic.



First and foremost the Five Step Research Process is needed in any Family History Research. It provides a mental map to conduct efficient and effective research. It is cyclical in nature and focuses on one research objective about one ancestor per cycle.

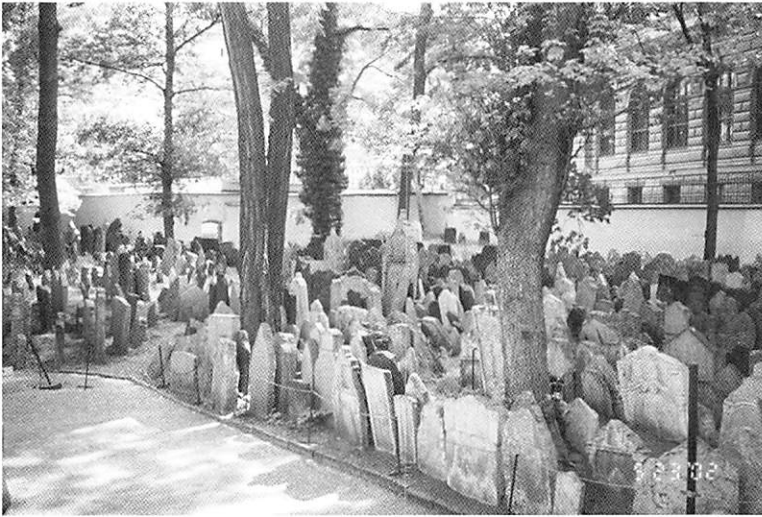
- (1) Write down what you know.
- (2) Decide what you want to learn.
- (3) Choose a source of information.
- (4) Learn from the source.
- (5) Use what you learned.

Before you conduct any family history research in the Czech Republic you should (1) determine exactly *where* your ancestor was born, married, resided or died. (2) determine *when* your ancestor was born, married or died or a close approximation. (3) determine your ancestor's *religion* - if you are not sure start by searching Catholic records as it was the dominant religion in the former Austro-Hungarian empire.



The Czech government has refused to allow the LDS to microfilm church records. This creates the situation where it's necessary to either hire someone else to do the research for you, or to personally visit the various archives. Both options can be expensive, but the latter option, personal research, is certainly more rewarding.

If you decide to personally visit the archives in the Czech Republic, it's important to be prepared before you arrive. The Czech Republic is divided into three regions; Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. Vital records, census records, and other documents important to genealogists are dispersed among over 100 Staterun archives.



Regional archives, district archives, city archives, and a plethora of thematic archives conserve an astounding amount of material.

***The following are levels of archives in the Czech Republic:***

The First Level is represented by National Central Archives (Prague)

The Second Level is represented by National Regional Archives (Pilsen)

The Third Level is represented by District Archives (Blovice, Klatovy, Zlutice)

The Fourth Level is represented by archives of towns (Pilsen)

Special or Thematic Archives can include Historic Military Archives, Archives of Universities, Archives of Ministries, Archives of National Museums, and Church Archives. You can also consult the Registry Office of towns and villages, at museums (West Bohemia Museum in Pilsen), at houses of history for towns or regions (House of History for Prestice region in Prestice), and at National Scientific Libraries.

***If you are planning a research trip to the Czech Republic*** be sure to check ahead of time the archive addresses, days/hours of operation and special holidays when the archives could be closed. Try to learn a little of the language. Have passport/visitor visas in order and carry some cash with you to pay for special privileges. Expect only to use a pencil & paper! Electronic equipment is never allowed. Take a completed pedigree chart with you to facilitate communication with the archive staff. Be prepared to write a lot as most archives do not allow photocopies to be made of their materials!

### **Czech Archives**

Although the Czech Republic is quite small (about half the size of Iowa), a large and impressive network of archives is supported by the Czech government. The seven regional archives, which are the repositories for most pre 1900 parish books, are the archives of primary importance to Czech genealogical researchers. Seventy two district archives, five city archives, and a plethora of specialized archives also contain important information about the lives of our ancestors.

When you personally visit the archives in the Czech Republic, it's important to be prepared before you arrive. Only rarely will you encounter an archive employee who speaks English. Since many of the documents in the archives' holdings are in German, the employees usually have some level of proficiency in the German language. An Englishspeaking researcher can still be successful in their quest, but it can prove to be exasperating, both for the researcher, as well as the archive employees, if Czech or German is not spoken. If you go this route, it might be helpful to get a Czech version of the LDS 'Where Do I Start?' pamphlet, and fill out the family tree on the front page. (Also get a copy of this pamphlet in English so you can compare field names.) With this in hand, you will have a mutually understandable copy of the information necessary to start your search, namely: who, when & where.



Language can also be a barrier in reading the original records. The records were recorded in a mixture of Czech, German & Latin. A collection of excellent Czech/German/Latin genealogical dictionaries was published by the Czech Genealogy & Heraldry Association in Prague. These dictionaries, along with a good CzechEnglish/EnglishCzech dictionary, will be immensely helpful in your research.

Deciphering German Gothic handwriting is probably the most difficult aspect of doing genealogical research in the Czech Republic. Most vital records in the Czech Republic were recorded in this handwriting style prior to the mid1800s. To the uninitiated, these records appear to be random scribbles. There are a number of books to help uncover the mystery of German Gothic script, but a certain amount of time staring uncomprehendingly at these chicken scratches seems inevitable. It's probably a good idea to work on this before you arrive at the archives.

### **Administrivia:**

Before you can begin your genealogical research in the archives, you will be asked to fill out a Badatelský List (Researcher's List). You are required to fill out all of the fields on this form (e.g. name, address, passport number, nationality, subject of your research, etc.). When you return the form, an archivist will check your passport in order to verify your identity. The Badatelský List is used to keep track of the documents that you use in your research. Each time you borrow a parish book (or other archive record) you must sign a space on the Badatelský List acknowledging receipt. This is as much for your protection as for the protection of the original documents.

One Badatelský List must be completed for each archive you visit. A Badatelský List is usually valid through the end of the calendar year in the year it was completed. If your research stretches over two or more calendar years, you will need to fill out a new Badatelský List each calendar year for each archive.

Requests to borrow archival materials (e.g. parish books) must be submitted well before closing time; the cutoff is typically two or three hours prior to closing. Requests submitted after the cutoff time won't be retrieved until the following morning.

Copying services vary widely between regional archives. The archive in Opava, for example, forbids the copying of any documents in its care. The archive in Brno, on the other hand, offers an extensive selection of highquality reproduction options, including: black & white and color photocopies, microfilm, black & white and color photographs, and black & white and color diapositives. A special form for requesting the reproduction of archival materials (in the archives which allow document reproduction) must be filled out each time you want to have copies made. The copies are usually ready within about 14 days and must be paid for when you pick them up.

Each regional archive has approximately 20 to 30 desks for use by researchers. In some archives (e.g. Opava) this is not a problem and a researcher can safely assume that an unoccupied desk will be available at any time during normal business hours. Other archives (e.g. Zamrsk, Brno, Prague, Trebon) are almost always full and you will most likely be turned away at the door if you have not made reservations well in advance.

The archive personnel are generally overworked and grossly underpaid, so don't expect them to do your genealogy research for you. Their main task is to help you locate the appropriate parish books (and other documents). If you need help deciphering a particularly illegible entry, ask the person seated next to you for help. Genealogists are usually eager to lend a hand.

Note: Some of the above materials were copied from the following web sites:

<http://czechcensus.tripod.com/archives.htm>;

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org); <http://genealogie.cz/>;

[www.cyndislist.com/czech.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/czech.htm)

I am trying to trace family members of a Royal Canadian Airforce flyer who was killed along with 7 other members of the crew when Lancaster bomber R5676 Squadron 1660 H.C.U R.A.F. Swinderby, Lincolnshire, crashed onto my farm 12th February 1943.

**Flt. Sgt. Gerald William (Bunny) Kennedy**  
**No. R/11632 Age 20**  
**son of John M & Scilena M Kennedy**  
**Elm Creek Manitoba**

I would like the family to know I have erected a MEMORIAL at the entrance to Lancaster Farm (named after the plane crash) situated in Sturton by Stow, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. A wreath is placed on Remembrance Day and remains there until after the anniversary of the crash. Eight crosses with each crewmembers name stays on permanently. There is also a plaque bearing all names.



My son John hand carved the bomber out of steel and mounted it on railings.

So far I have managed to contact 5 of the crews families, 3 still to go. As you can imagine it is quite a task after so many years, but I would be pleased to hear form his family or anyone who knew Flt. Sgt. Kennedy or any member of his family.

Please contact me.  
 Mrs. Jackie Gorman  
 Lancaster Farm, Tillbridge Road, Sturton by Stow,  
 Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England, LN1 2BP  
 01427 788392

## Family History Good Fortune

by Kay Jamieson

Ten years ago my first cousin gathered up three boxes family photos, documents, and letters that accumulated from our Grandmother's time. It had been added to and passed down to her by her Mother. She knew of no family member, at that time, who was interested in family history (certainly not me ten years ago). Not wanting to throw it out but needing to do something with it she made several phone calls and finally found someone from "a genealogy group" who offered to take it and possibly find a place that it could be archived.

While chatting with this cousin at a recent family reunion I mentioned my interest in searching out and documenting some of our family history. She told me what she had done with the three boxes of material and would try and get me the name of the person she had sent the boxed family mementos to. A few days later a name, phone number and address was given to me by my cousin.

Following one phone call, I was invited to come and see the collection of material that this wonderful person had saved for the past ten years. Apparently it could not be archived.

I was welcomed into her home and office and there sat a box—one box—of superbly organized binders, envelopes and smaller boxes. One binder contained Family Group Sheets all filled out with attached letters, certificates, wills, eulogies, and historical stories from older family members. The envelopes contained photos organized into families. My Scottish Grandparents, Dundas pioneers who came west to Montana via Ontario, left Montana because of the violent society of the time and traveled North to Alberta to settle in the Three Hills area. They had eight children.

I could not believe my good fortune!!!

This wonderful lady who took an interest in the "family-in-a-box" happens to be **Myrna Waldroff**, a past president of Alberta Family History Society. Myrna was happy to hand over all the well organized material and gave me a few lessons on how to continue keeping it all together and organized. She has also offered to help me learn how to start doing some of the research. I have just recently joined the AFHS.

How fortunate can you be!!

## New arrivals at Calgary Public Library



Canadian family history in the 21st century by Fawne Stratford-Devai  
Call number 929.1072 STR

Canadian ships passenger lists: Form 30A: ocean arrivals 1919-1924 (310  
reels of microfilm) Call number MICROFILM R929.371 CAN (Reference  
only)

Destination Canada: a guide to 20th century immigration records by Dave  
Obee Call number 929.371 OBE 2004

Digitizing your family history by Rhonda R. McClure Call number  
929.10285 MCC

Genealogy online for dummies by Matthew L. Helm Call number  
929.10285 HEL 2004

Locating your roots: discover your ancestors using land records by Patricia  
Law Hatcher Call number 929.1072 HAT

Marriage records of Upper Canada/Canada West Volume 17 Prince Edward  
District, 1933-1849 by Dan Walker Call number R929.3713 WAL v.17  
(Reference only)

Researching Canadian newspaper records by Ryan Taylor Call number  
929.371 TAY

Researching Canadian vital statistics records by Sharon L. Murphy Call  
number R929.1072 MUR 2003 (Reference only)

Sage brush to pivots : Bow Island and area by the Bow Island History Book  
Group Call number 971.234 SAG (Local history and circulating)

Tools of the trade for Canadian genealogy by Althea Douglas Call number  
929.1072 DOU 2004

Using maps in family history research by Fawne Stratford-Devai Call num-  
ber 929.1 STR

Wesleyan Methodist baptismal register: our of Ontario, 1826-1909 tran-  
scribed by the Ontario Genealogical Society Call number R929.3714 WES  
(Reference only)

*Did you know that the Calgary Public Library has local histories for many  
towns in Alberta? These books usually include biographies of pioneers and  
people who settled in the region.*

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Alberta Family Histories Society will be held on Monday, May 2, 2005 at 7:15 p.m. MDT at First Christian Reformed Church, 3818 14A Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta, for the following purposes:

1. to receive the Society's annual audited financial report;
2. to receive reports from various committees and special interest groups;
3. to elect officers for the ensuing year;
4. to appoint an auditor and authorize the Board of Directors to fix the auditor's remuneration;
5. to transact such other business required under the Bylaws and as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof

Dated at Calgary, Alberta this 17th day of March 2005.

G. P Lane  
Chairman

By the time you read this the following names shall have been presented to the current Board of Directors and to a general meeting.

However I wanted to bring to your attention the option the members of the Society have.

Gordon Lane  
Chairman

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From the By-Laws

An Ad Hoc Nominating Committee shall:

Present a slate of nominees for elected offices to a Board of Directors Meeting and to a General Meeting, both at least one month prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations of candidates for the Board of Directors also may be made by voting members of the Society other than The Nominating Committee. Such nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Nominating Committee of the Society not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, and must bear the signatures of two (2) members in good standing in the Society, as well as the signature of the nominee attesting to the acceptance of his/her nomination, as well as the office for which they are nominated.

## Nominations for Board of Directors for 2005/2006

### **Nominations presented to the Board of Directors**

Chair  
Vice Chair Finance  
Vice Chair Facilities  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Member at Large  
Member at Large  
Member at Large  
Member at Large

Gordon Lane  
Alan Peers  
Brad Trew  
Ronna Byam  
Linda Murray  
Mary Arthur  
Donna Kirkwood  
Freda Stewart  
Bev Swan

# History of Banking in Canada

By Adrienne Horne

## The Private Banks

The Canadian colonies were just new in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Merchants and other men with means started to form private banks in hopes of organizing the young economy. Something had to be done to deal with the lack of standardized currency, especially with the increased population. In the late 1700's American, British, French, Portuguese and Spanish currencies were all legal tender in Canada, with no standard rate of exchange into colonial money. This caused no end of chaos and no hope of a strong economy. Many banks in both Upper and Lower Canada were printing legal tender for the consumers of the colonies. Fortunately, the War of 1812 helped to standardize the currency as the legal tender Army Bills were used by the British Government. (1)

## Robert D. Wilmot on the Canadian Banking System

Robert Duncan Wilmot, a famous Maritime politician and my ancestor, was an authority on banking and currency. He felt that for a successful economy it was imperative that the government issue currency notes instead of the banks. The government was only marginally convinced of this and soon after Confederation, the banks were limited to issuing only twelve million dollars. But Robert was still not satisfied; he constantly opposed this and eventually convinced the Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald. As a result the banks were only allowed to issue small notes.

Robert had the courage not only to attack the banks on their policies regarding the issuing of currency, but he also went up against the Banking Committee of Parliament. He said the committee was composed chiefly of men connected with the banks and no matter what side of politics they were on they were only looking out for their own interests.

He then denounced the Scottish system of banking adopted by Canada. He believed that it was not only a monopolist, but was also usurping of the Royal prerogative. He felt this system was factious and an artificial addition to the essential functions of banking. In the depression of 1847, the banks were forced to collect their customer's debts; this threw trade in the country into disarray. The New Brunswick Committee of the Assembly requested an issue of government

paper. Robert "contended for an entire separation of the note issuing function from banking and he argued that commerce is not a creative agency; it only facilitates the exchange of products; banking is a function of commerce, also creates no values, but merely facilitates the exchange of commodities,". (2) In other words, banking deals in commerce, it should not be able to create it. Banks with the power to print money are in control of the economy.

Robert clearly recognized that the system of banking was not universal, as it not only excluded the farmers but actually hurt them. The branch banking system absorbed the money deposited from the private and rural banks. Rather than making those funds available to the farmers for capital, the large banks pooled the money at the head office in some large urban centre away from the farmers. (2)

## Montreal Bank

In 1792, three Scottish merchants opened a private bank in Montreal, the *Canada Banking Company*. However, in 1808 when they tried to incorporate as *Canada Bank*, their application was rejected. So the merchants tried again in 1817, and by signing the Articles of Association (with nine other men) they finally formed the *Montreal Bank*.

Montreal Bank had stiff competition because only a year later the *Bank of Canada* was formed, also in Montreal. The two banks became fierce competitors to the point that they would not accept each other's cheques.

But Montreal Bank secured the Governor of Canada as a client. This meant that the bank supplied the government departments with any money they may need while in the colonies. This connection never broke as Upper and Lower Canada developed into a dominion and finally a country.

Apparently the bank was operating illegally as it never obtained an Act of Incorporation from the British Parliament or a Royal Charter. This problem started to be resolved the year the bank opened but was not resolved until 1822 when the Royal Advisers accepted the charter granted by the Legislature. At this point the bank was renamed to the *Bank of Montreal*.



The Directors of the bank had the foresight to retain a percentage of each year's profits and put them in the Bank's Rest. On its one hundredth anniversary the Bank's Rest amounted to sixteen million dollars, an invaluable savings account which has seen the bank through times of depression.

The economy suffered a depression in the 1850's. Fortunately this did not last as the economy picked up when the American Civil War broke out in 1860. However, it did spell disaster for the Bank of Montreal. They lost a lot of money when they had to convert their American funds into gold, and at the same time stop almost all business with the States. This was added to further because all real estate held for security in the States lost substantial value and, to top it off, there were poor agricultural sales that year. Through the genius of the bank's General Manager, he turned around its falling profits so that by its fiftieth year (1867) the bank was very successful. (1)

### **Confederation; 1867**

This year was a very important one for Canada, as she became a Dominion and thus independent from Britain. This meant that the banks were now under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament, which allowed the Bank of Montreal to expand into the Maritimes.

This was a prosperous time for Canada, immigration was high and settlements extended all the way to the new "postage stamp" province of Manitoba. Agriculture sales had increased along with the production of lumber, as Canada was able to replenish the stocks of the war-struck American economy. One result of this boom was that the railroads to the west (in both countries) began to be built in the 1870's.

Needless to say the Bank of Montreal made a lot of money in this time. A branch in London, England was opened in hopes of expanding the British and foreign trade of the Dominion. Not only did they expand but "the Bank was appointed the Fiscal Agent in London for the Government of the Dominion of Canada". (1)

The year 1871 saw a *new banking act* for the banks of the Dominion. All the banks in the new united provinces were put under one system that governed and regulated how they conducted their business. Prior to Confederation the banks were under individual charters from each province, which made any form of standardization impossible and complex.

With most great *booms*, the *bust* period came hard. Near the end of 1873, a large American lumber firm had closed; agriculture, shipping, and the railroad enterprises also all stopped. The United States was in a financial crisis. Close to the end of the 1870's the

situation had not improved and the Bank of Montreal, for the first time in a decade, showed a profit below a million dollars (well below). (1)

### **CPR Opens the Country & Pacific Rim**

Fortunately, the bust did not last. The Canadian Pacific Railroad was starting to be built and the harvest of 1879 was a great one. In an attempt to fight the depression, the Bank of Montreal opened its first branch west of the Great Lakes, in Winnipeg. The west was really beginning to grow; it was about to become a *boom* situation with massive building in Winnipeg. However this was not to last long either as it all came crashing down for Manitoba in around 1885, but the railroad was coming so all did not seem lost. (1)

With the railroad complete, the Rockies suddenly became accessible. Meaning that imports from China and Japan were now accessible via Vancouver. The Bank of Montreal wanted to be first in line for the business coming from these lands and so started to open branches along the rail line as well as in Vancouver and Victoria. (1) It is in this time that the bank began to grow substantially, acquiring family banks and small banks across the country. There was a bit of a slow period in the 1890's, but the turn of the century saw great growth for both the country and the bank.

The new century saw two rail lines joining the country together, bringing thousands of immigrants and English money into the country. Harvests were abundant as too were the manufacturing plants. "Mining, lumbering, fishing and all industries based upon natural resources flourished". (1, pg. 58) The growth was overwhelming and the Bank of Montreal began to make millions of dollars.

### **From Family Banks to the CIBC**

Wilmot and Ernest Swaisland, my ancestors, opened a private family bank in Brantford, Ontario, called the Swaisland Brothers Bank. The bank was incorporated in 1882, and by the end of that decade the Standard Bank of Canada (founded in Toronto in 1871 as the St. Lawrence Bank) had bought out the brother's firm. (3) In 1924, the Standard Bank of Canada expanded again and bought the Sterling Bank of Canada. As a growing bank, the Standard became a desired business for the Canadian Bank of Commerce to acquire. (3)

The Canadian Bank of Commerce was founded in Toronto in 1867. It steadily grew over the next three decades so that at the turn of the century the bank expanded to London, England and it also acquired the Bank of British Columbia. By the 1920's the bank was expanding across the country as well into the

Caribbean. (4) So in 1928, the two banks merged, having Standard shares equalling Commerce shares. (3)

Another bank to open in Toronto was the Imperial Bank of Canada. It did so in 1875. This bank quickly acquired another firm and recorded assets of \$3.1 million for their first fiscal year. Both the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Imperial Bank of Canada independently grew over the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1961, the two banks merged and was renamed the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. With total assets of \$4.6 billion the Bank was an institution strong enough to compete with the Bank of Montreal. (4)

### The Molson's Bank

John Molson immigrated from Lincolnshire, England in 1782, and four years later he founded the Molson's Brewery in Montreal. The great success of the brewery lead the family into other businesses such as steam-boating, distilling, hotel-keeping as well as banking. (5) The Molson's Bank was incorporated under the "Free Banking Act" in 1855, and was also granted a charter so that it could conduct business in the same manner as other older banks. (6)

The bank was very successful and expanded across the country. In 1904, they opened a branch in the remote town of Edmonton, Alberta. They hired George Swaisland, son of Wilmot Swaisland, to manage their branch. (7) As the manager he lived in the apartment above the bank, at 55 Jasper Avenue. The street was only mud at the time. Jasper Avenue was a sea of mud, all the way down to the Golf Course and across the Saskatchewan River. In 1910 the bank moved to 13 Jasper Avenue East. There was also a branch in Calgary on Steven Avenue.

### Bank of Montreal Expands

In 1906, the Ontario Bank failed and the Bank of Montreal picked up the pieces. Two years later some small banks in Quebec failed and the Bank of Montreal was also there to acquire those institutions. (1) Between 1900 and 1905 the bank had doubled its agencies and branches (from forty-eight to a hundred), by acquiring smaller banks and building branches across the expanding country.

Then the Great War began and this only meant more money for the Bank. The new wealth the Bank had acquired meant that they could expand and acquired several mid-size banks in the years following the war. In 1918, the Bank of Montreal absorbed the Bank of British North America. The Merchant's Bank of Canada was taken over in 1921 and finally the Molson's Bank in 1925. (8)

Today, Canada's banking system is made up of a few large institutions, all of which expanded and merged in a similar fashion to the Bank of Montreal and the CIBC. Mergers still happen as the Toronto Dominion Bank of Canada and Canada Trust recently joined, and the Canadian government is still closely involved and monitors these ventures.

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# The Lure of Alberta

by Bill Mumford

What would cause a 48 year old man with eight children ranging in age from 17 to 3 to abandon his farm and guide business and move lock, stock, and barrel to an unknown future in the newly minted Province of Alberta? To find an answer to this question one must examine both the character of the man and the circumstances having a bearing on the decision.

Suddie Paul Mumford was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 1859 on the farm his father, John, was renting in Brighton Township, Northumberland County, in the Province of Ontario. Named for his two grandfathers, he was the second of four children, three of which were boys. The farm was located hard by the Trent River and, at the time, was covered with white pine and mosquitoes. John had worked hard to open a few acres to sustain his family and taught his sons the use of the axe as soon as they were big enough to swing one.

By the time he was 15 Suddie had matured into a full-grown man. He was nearly six feet tall, weighed about 170 lbs, and could swing an axe with the best of them. While his father's farm was providing a living for the family the winters were a time of concern so, following the custom of the day, in the fall of 1875 Suddie packed his "turkey" and ventured north to the new Provisional County of Haliburton where he hoped to find work with one of the many lumber companies operating in the area.

For the next fifteen years Suddie would spend half the year working on his father's farm and the balance in the bush as a lumberman. Possessing both size and strength along with a trace of foolhardiness he soon gained a reputation as one of the top river log drivers. In the spring, when the winter's production was to be sent down the river to the mills, a few men would volunteer to ride the logs in order to prevent and break up log jams. For many this would prove to be an occupation that required no retirement plan.

In 1875, the Ontario government, at the urging of the lumber companies who required roads, advertised land grants in the Cardiff Township. Suddie's father, tired of mosquitoes and renting, asked his son to locate a suitable piece of land. This area, located in the Canadian Shield, is best described as a gravel pile looking for a crusher. Nevertheless Suddie located several decent farm sites. With his father settled in the area Suddie's yearly commute became much shorter.

Now nearing thirty, Suddie decided it was time to marry. As a tall, handsome man, with a thick shock of curly hair and a reputation as a man among men, he had no trouble finding a bride. He selected the petite, quiet daughter of one of his father's former neighbors in Brighton Township, Sarah Wilson. Little did he realize what grit and determination lay under her quiet demeanor. The first hint came when Sarah "suggested" it was time to provide a proper home for his soon to increase family. Suddie picked a piece of land adjacent to his father's land but in the neighboring County of Harcourt. The land was owned by the Canada Land and Emigration Company. Suddie squatted on the property while he negotiated its eventual purchase in 1896 for the princely sum of \$141.

The following year the Irondale, Bancroft, and Ottawa Railway purchased several acres of his land for a right of way and station. The hamlet that soon sprang up around the station would become the village of Mumford. The Harcourt post office was established in the hamlet in 1903 and when the railway was shut down in the 1960's the town name would be changed to Harcourt.

In 1889 Suddie's father suddenly passed away and while his mother, Angeline, and younger brother maintained the farm for another ten years the day came when his brother decided to marry. No longer able to carry on by herself Angeline moved in with Suddie and Sarah. To find additional income Suddie was now offering a guide service to Toronto businessmen who were just discovering the joys of what would eventually become "cottage country". His most prominent customer was one Timothy Eaton, a dry goods store owner, who in addition to the fishing loved Angeline's cooking, most notably the frogs legs she served.

By 1907 Suddie and his family were comfortably established in nice home, complete with running water piped from a spring located high on the hill above the house. In March of 1907, Angeline died. Sarah's parents had moved to the new Province of Alberta two years earlier and Suddie's oldest daughter, Susan, had joined them. Letters were arriving telling of the fertile soil, the endless sky, and the glorious climate. Land was available and free for the taking. Surely, they asked, wouldn't Suddie be happier in Alberta than living on his gravel pile?

By May of 1907 an arrangement for the sale of his land had been finalized and thousands of board feet of maple lumber had been cut and planed. Suddie rented a boxcar, loaded his cows, Chubb and Daisy, his horses, Bill and Deck, the lumber, his eldest son Cecil, himself, and began the two-week odyssey to the Promised Land. Sarah and the rest of the children would follow by regular passenger train. That one-week trip is a story in itself with Sarah having to cope with her brood on a Colonial coach. The twisty doughnuts she produced from her stash in the big crockery jar are legendary in the family.



Arriving in Mannville, Suddie was to learn that while land was free there had been a problem with his application and nothing was available in the Mannville district. Disappointed, but not discouraged, Suddie cast about for other opportunities. The new town of Holden, forty miles to the southwest, had just been established on the next rail line to the south. He would build a livery stable.

Arriving in Holden he found that another early arrival had already setup a livery stable. Suddie evaluated his assets, he had two horses, and he had a wagon. Hadn't his older brother Horatio made a decent living carting goods up the Hastings Road from Trenton to Cardiff? He would start a dray service. In time this would be expanded to include a taxi service and mail delivery.

The first order of business was to build a house for his family. While his family waited in Vegreville, Suddie, with the aid of Cecil, a few townsmen, and that boxcar full of prime lumber, soon had a habitable dwelling. It was located just a few yards from what would become the main intersection in the town. It was a large two-story affair with seven bedrooms. A porch and other little luxuries would be added later.

Ad for Holden House Thursday Dec 29 1910

The  
**Holden House**

S. MUMFORD, Prop.

---

The Place to Eat  
The Place to Live

---

Special Attention to the  
Travelling Public.

There was no hotel in Holden at the time so Suddie seized the opportunity and opened his home to fill that need. It quickly became known as Holden House and was advertised in the Holden Herald in 1910 with the proprietor listed as S.Mumford. Only the family knew to which S the ad referred. Whenever extra rooms were required the children were bundled into one of the large bedrooms or sent up to the attic where a few straw mattresses were available.

Suddie, Sarah, and her daughter Susan soon became active in local affairs. Sarah and Susan were instrumental in forming the Ladies Aid Group. Suddie served on the town council for a number of years. When the Orange Lodge was organized in Holden in 1914 both Suddie and Cecil became members. One of his children said he did so simply because he wanted an excuse to beat his snare drum in another parade. Suddie also loved sports and took every opportunity to become involved at some level, usually as team manager. He loved children, as one might expect of a man with nine offspring, and was called "Grandpa" by every child in town.



In 1911 Suddie welcomed his first grandchild. He also was surprised to learn he was to become a father... again, much to Sarah's embarrassment. Shortly thereafter his second son, Clarence, became very ill. Doctor Farrell could not help and the priest was called to administer the last rites. Somehow Clarence recovered but the illness left him with chronic health problems.

Back row Susan, Myrtle, Cecil, Mildred (Mame)  
 Center row Suddie, Teresa, Sarah  
 Front row Gladys, Annie, Clarence

When War was declared in 1914 Cecil decided he would offer his services. He was already a militia member so he was quickly sworn in as a Trooper in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles in January 1915. By June he was in Flanders. By December he was dead, just another bit of "trench wastage". He was buried in Belgium and his name is the first one listed on Holden's Cenotaph.

Suddie's girls all married local Holden men. Susan married Frank Mohs, the confectionary storeowner and farmer. Teresa married Herb Wilson, the elevator agent. Myrtle married Robert Emond, watchmaker, optician, and later publisher of the Holden Herald. Annie married Joe Mair, the telegrapher. Gladys would marry Ben Harris, the future Imperial Oil agent at Wetaskiwin. The exception was Mildred who would remain single. As the family correspondent Mildred, better known as Mame, kept track of all the family members and those relatives remaining in Ontario. She even convinced Suddie's brother, Ervine, to visit Holden, hoping to induce him to join them. Clarence married Nellie Barron, a schoolteacher at Sedelia. Ralph married Vera Becker, the sister of his cousin Lawrence Mohs' wife.

In 1929 Suddie sold his cartage business and retired to Edmonton. Some of his children now lived there as well so his home soon became the center of family activities. Suddie became quite proud of his garden where his specialty was growing popping corn. He also passed many hours playing "pick up sticks". Every grandchild could expect to join him every time they visited. In April of 1940 Suddie was taken ill. After a few days in the hospital he demanded to be sent home. Hospitals were where people went to die he told family members. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Suddie passed away peacefully at home.

Oh!, the answer to the question. Suddie moved to Alberta simply because Sarah told him she wished to be near her parents. And the proprietor of Holden House, Sarah Mumford, of course.

Clarence Suddie Ralph

Suddie with his two boys circa 1930 Edmonton.  
 Clarence on left





# A TRAIL OF TWO FAMILIES

By Joyce L. Metcalfe

I certainly wasn't contemplating family history when I married the love of my life one blistering hot Alberta summer day - I was, of course, focused on our dreams. As time has slipped by, though, and many of those dreams have been transformed into fond memories, my interest in genealogy has grown. The quest began a few years ago and the search for my husband's ancestors has put me on the trail of two Alberta pioneer families. During Alberta's centennial year, many of us are reflecting on families who, focused on dreams of their own, came to Alberta more than 100 years ago and risked - everything. With their blood and sweat and tears, they transformed this Province of dreams into a wonderful reality. This is the story of two of those families - the Butcharts and the Metcalfes.

## Boom, Bust and Recovery - The Butchart Story

I had many engaging talks with my husband's maternal grandfather, W. Ralph Butchart, over the years, but he passed on several years ago - before I loaded my first genealogy program into my computer. Of course, I had written nothing down and, with a notoriously poor memory, had trouble recalling the stories he had related. Fortunately though, a distant cousin of my husband had become interested in genealogy several years ahead of me and had corresponded with him before he died. This cousin-in-law was kind enough to provide me with copies of the letters Ralph had written. As I read them, I could almost hear his steady, quiet voice, reacquainting me with the recollections of his childhood. I also learned that my husband's great-grandfather, Peter E. Butchart, had been one of Edmonton's lesser known leading citizens.

Peter Butchart was born October 8, 1859 in Carrick Township, Ontario. He married Fanny Wilhelmina Welch in 1890 and originally settled in Mildmay, where Peter worked as an insurance agent. They relocated to Brandon, Manitoba around 1897, and the family can be found on the 1901 Census in that location. A short time after the Census, though, the family

moved to Edmonton, where Peter established a real estate brokerage known as the Great West Land Company. One of his business associates was Peter T. Butchart, a cousin; and apparently, Peter adopted a middle initial, *E*, only to differentiate himself from Peter T. - the *E* had no other significance. A couple of Peter E.'s brothers, Edward and Alexander, were also involved, as was notable Edmonton businessman, W. T. Henry.

As the Great West Land Company grew throughout Edmonton's famous land boom of the early 1900s, Peter E. rose to a secure and respected position within the community. He became active with the MacDougall Methodist Church and served as secretary on their Board for several years. He was one of the five founding individuals of Alberta College (now integrated with Grant MacEwan College), and Peter served on the college's first constituted board in 1904. He considered his involvement in the project one of his greatest achievements. His devotion to the development of higher education in Alberta also earned him the position of Chairman of the Edmonton Public School Board from 1910-1911.

However, the prosperity of the Great West Land Company ended when the bottom fell out of the Edmonton real estate market in 1913. News of the bust came to Peter as he was relocating to fulfill his retirement dream in California. His personal losses were heavy and he was required to cancel his plans and reroute the family back to Edmonton. His son, Ralph, later recalled: "He never did recover in a financial way, and as a result we became rather hard up." It seems that the remainder of Peter's life was spent in Edmonton in rather quiet obscurity. However, in 1931, Peter E. Butchart can again be found listed as a member of the Board of Trustees for MacDougall United Church. He died on November 14, 1947, a scant three days after the death of his wife Fanny.

The Butchart legacy to Alberta, though, is an enduring family interest in education. Many of Peter's descendants, as well as those of his cousin and brothers, became teachers or were otherwise involved in the administration of Alberta's education system. Ralph became a school teacher, eventually becoming principal of the Round Hill School, in Round Hill, Alberta in 1934.

## Mystery, Tragedy, and Tenacity - The Metcalfe Trail

My husband's paternal grandfather, Russel Metcalf, died before I had an opportunity to meet him. From the outset, the Metcalfe quest has presented more than



*Peter E. Butchart*

its fair share of intriguing mysteries. The first one starts with, you guessed it, the letter *e*. Metcalfe historians have long debated whether the *e* at the end of the name has any significance and most agree that it is a somewhat random thing with no meaning. However, in Russel's case, it had a world of significance, as I was to discover.

Russel's father, John James Metcalf (note, no *e*) was born in Raglan, Ontario on February 19, 1862, and married Annie Mabel Couch in Bowmanville on October 17, 1887. For a few years, John and Annie stayed in Ontario, and Annie gave birth to two children there: James Russel in 1892 and Leta in 1893. John worked as a carpenter in and around Raglan, but it wasn't long before the lure of the West caught his attention and he decided to move the family to Alberta.



*John James Metcalf(e)*

On September 21, 1894, he obtained a homestead entry for a quarter section of land near Spruce Grove; and through obvious hard work, he had erected his house and moved onto the property by October 19<sup>th</sup>. He then set about clearing and breaking the land. Over the next two years, he managed to break 15 acres of the treed 160-acre quarter and had established a small herd of cattle. The little family's dreams were shattered though on June 12, 1896, when Annie, who was only 26, died of blood poisoning.

Annie is buried in the Edmonton Cemetery, but mysteriously, her headstone is that of a one-year old infant who died late in 1898. According to the cemetery records, there does appear to be a double burial in that plot, although another plot purchased by John Metcalf on the same date remains empty - again, according to their records. The age of the infant, the name, and the date of death negate the idea that the baby was possibly Annie's. My best guess at this point is that John gave up the remaining plot to someone else and that there may be an error in the cemetery records. My nagging question though has become - Who was Milton Roy McCray?

Confronted with the prospect of raising two small children alone on the unsettled prairie, John made a decision that would literally split his family in half - He sent his children back to Ontario to live. The children were placed with relatives and John returned to Alberta to make good on his homestead entry. He received title to his land on June 9, 1899.

On the 1901 Census, John J. Metcalf was found alone, right where he should have been, at Spruce Grove. The neighboring household, though, was that of a cousin and there was a young boy by the name of "McQuaig" boarding with them. After the 1901 Census was placed online in a searchable format, I did finally locate both Russel (listed as James B. Metcalf) and Leta Metcalf, living, as expected, with relatives in Ontario. Unexpectedly, they were in two different households - both John's sisters, as I later confirmed through marriage records. My hopes of solving the McCray mystery were dashed though, because neither one was a McCray or McQuaig. However, John still had two other sisters I haven't yet been able to trace and ... genealogy is always a work in progress.

On April 14, 1902, John James Metcalfe (note, *e*) married Louisa Jane Eccles in Edmonton, and had two more children: Marjory, born in 1904, and Cecil, born in 1906. John and Louisa sold the homestead and bought a general store in Spruce Grove that they ran for a number of years. Russel came back to Alberta and worked in the store for awhile, taking off on his own when his dad sold the store in 1912. Leta apparently stayed in Ontario and never returned to live in her father's household, although she did visit Russel from time to time. John James Metcalfe died on May 3, 1943 at Spruce Grove, Alberta.

The use of the *e* does not appear in this family until John began using it at the time of his marriage to Louisa. John and Louisa's family consistently used it, as did Russel - for awhile. All of Russel's descendants still use it; however, Russel, in protest, eventually reverted back to the original *Metcalf* spelling.

John James Metcalf(e)'s legacy to this Province can be found in the tenacity and perseverance of his descendants. Russel never accepted retirement and, at age 74, he began an entirely new career. Described in one news article as "cigar smoking and salty tempered," he was elected mayor of Valleyview, Alberta, in 1966.

The Butchart and Metcalfe legacy to me is my husband, who remains still the love of my life. The trails lead farther still...

*Two roads diverged in the woods, and I -  
I took the road less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

(The Road Not Taken, by Robert Frost)

# Alberta Family Histories Society

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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.

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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;
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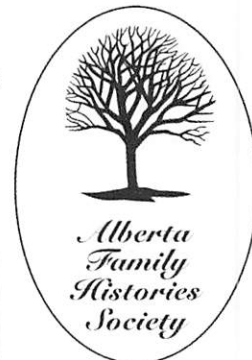
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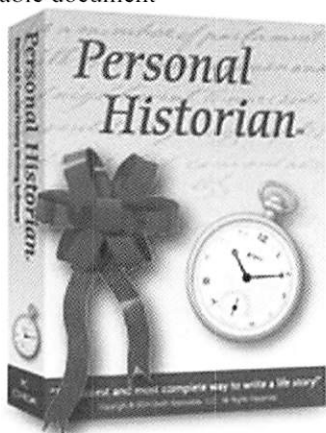


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