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Chinook

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**Hans and Maria Moe circa 1911
Delisle, Saskatchewan**

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ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

DATE	TOPIC
October 2005	Local History - Lougheed House and Bar U Ranch
November 2005	Researching the Female Line; Trolling for Evidence; Legal Rights
December 2005	What I'd Like to Find in my Christmas Stocking
January 2006	University of Calgary Digitizing Project
February 2006	Repositories - Hudson's Bay, United Church, Allen County Library
March 2006	19 th Century American Migration
April 2006	Funerary Art
May 2006	Identify Theft
June 2006	Genetic Genealogy

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Articles should be typewritten (double spaced with 2 inch margins), or submitted electronically in text format from a word processor program. Typeface should be Times Roman 12 point. Photographs, graphics, and art work should be scanned at 300 dpi (minimum), and sent separately in TIF format. *Chinook* assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions, or opinions of the authors. Materials submitted to the editors will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope of the appropriate size, unless previous arrangements have been made. Detailed information for authors may be obtained by emailing the editor at chinook@afhs.ab.ca.

Submission Deadlines		AFHS Publications Committee	
January 2006 Issue	15 November 2005	Kenneth W. Rees	Chinook Editor
April 2006 Issue	15 February 2006	Beverley A. Rees	Serendipity/Events Column Editor
June 2006 Issue	15 April 2006	Velma Boyer	Beginner's Column Editor
October 2006 Issue	15 August 2006	Amy Fripp	Copy Editor
		Judith Doyle	Copy Editor
		Lorna Stewart	Library Column Editor
		Susan Butler	Breeze Editor

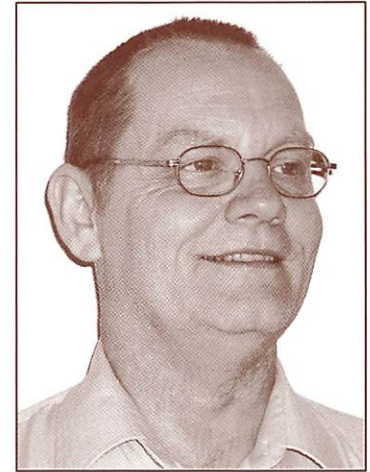
On the Front Cover: Maria (Nustad) Moe with her husband, Hans Moe on their homestead in Delisle, Saskatchewan circa 1911. Photo courtesy of Beverley A. Rees and used with her permission.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

by Gordon Lane

As we move into our new season we have had great news with the release of the 1911 Census and with it being posted on-line at the Canadian Genealogical Center. Now comes the large task of transcribing the information. We decided to transcribe the Alberta portion of the census and host it on our website, similar to the 1906 census. The Society approached the Alberta Genealogical Society to see if they wanted to collaborate as a whole but it is going to be left to individual members of the AGS. The AGS is still working on the Homestead records and there are still more to be completed at the Provincial Archives.



We have also been awarded a casino at the Stampede Casino on Thursday & Friday, February 2 & 3, 2006. George Lake is leading the Casino committee and will be looking around for volunteers. This has become a very timely opportunity for the Society to gain some extra revenue. The Society now has both the ground floor and the basement of the Library and money is becoming scarce due to the increase in cost of having the property. We also have an increase in cost from our monthly meeting as, with the renovations/rebuilding at the First Christian Reformed Church, costs have gone up there as well. The new meeting area has much more to offer; it has very comfortable chairs, all the sound system we would ever need, multimedia equipment and a large gathering area outside the door.

We will not get any money from the Casino until the second Quarter of 2006 so we may have to present to the Society a Special Resolution to obtain a loan to tide us over to cover operating costs in the first Quarter of 2006. We do have money in GICs but under Casino financial rules we may not bank money for the future but we can pay off debts. The Budget & Finance committee is studying the regulations and will be approaching the various committees so at least a two year plan can be presented to the Gaming Commission for their approval. Please assist the Budget & Finance committee when they approach you.

If we get the money expected it will be more than 4 times what we make in membership fees and donations in a year. One cautionary note is that this money may not be available in the future so we should not grow to rely on this money and we still need to look to creative ways for the Society to survive in coming years. One of the magazines in our Library asked some leading genealogists in the USA on the survivability of Genealogical Societies and Seminars over the next 10 years. When you go to the Library ask Helen where the article is as it is interesting reading.

Regards,
Gordon Lane

AFHS Digital Library Volume IV

“Queen’s Park Cemetery, Calgary Sections A-F” is now on sale. Volume IV of the AFHS Digital Library contains over 9,000 records from 6 sections of Queen’s Park Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Photos of most of the markers are available.

EDITOR'S TABLE

by Kenneth W. Rees

Our cover celebrates two of the themes explored in this issue – the 1911 census and photographs.

This month's issue celebrates one of the significant events of 2005 - the release of the 1911 and subsequent censuses! We have an article by Lois Sparling who is uniquely positioned to report on just how this was accomplished, and what it will mean to the family history community.

Velma Boyer's article on the people behind the photographs reminds us that the goal of all this research is to know the people we find - connecting generations.

Just in time for us to pause and remember those who served in World War I, Ann Williams (with contributions from Gary Gautier, Carol Lylyk, Keith Maitland and Bob McNarry) gives us an intensely interesting article about Canadian soldiers in the Great War. As she puts it "this article is an introduction to Canadian bases in Britain, Anglo-Canadian connections made and the trouble a few Canadians got into while kicking their heels waiting for a ship back to Canada."

It is easy to think that the world wide web holds all the answers to our family history riddles, but as Clare Westbury points out, there is much to be said for humble parish registers - including the clues that make this ancestor hunting business so rewarding and interesting.

A new column launches with this issue - one that deals with serendipity in family history research. Have you had these kinds of experiences? Bev Rees reports on just such an experience when she found an important missing document - one that came very near destruction.

We conclude the excellent article on funeral records from last issue. And there is more! Please enjoy.

As part of an effort to attract new writers (every family has a story and ever experience contains something valuable for others!) and assist our existing authors with a different perspective on what they have written, we offer editing services to our current and would-be authors. If you have never put pen to paper (or fingers to keys) but have a story to tell, contact us and we will help you put that story into the pages of the Chinook! You can do it!

I look forward to your input. Write to me at chinook@afhs.ab.ca.

Ken

DONATIONS/ACQUISITIONS

to the AFHS Library

NEW ACQUISITIONS by the AFHS LIBRARY
August 2005

More Brickwall Solutions to Genealogical Problems

Researching Scots Irish Ancestors, The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster 1600 1800 William J. Roulston

DONATIONS to the AFHS Library
August 2005 (Donor's name)

Naming Edmonton City of Edmonton (Ishbel and Doug Cormack)

Tracing Your Mayo Ancestors Brian Smith (Alanna Brown)

Out of Old Nova Scotia Kitchens Marie Nightingale (Ethel McDonald)

From Danaview to Standard Standard Historical Book Society (John Banach)

Unsung Heroines, the Women who Won the War Vera Lynn (Gloria Moore)

Index aux Mariages des Reponses a la Boite aux Questions "Memoires" de la Societe Genealogique Canadienne Francaise 1949 1992 Gisele Philbert Tremblay (author)

Master Data Bank Files for Alberta Cemeteries, updated 06 Jan 2005 Alberta Genealogical Society (author)

Queen's Park Cemetery Calgary Section I and Section AFHS Projects Group (author)

German Migration to the Russian Volga 1764 1767, Origins and Destination Mai, Brent Alan and Marguardt Dana Reeves (Rodger Mellow)

German Colonies on the Volga: the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century Igor R. Pleve (Rodger Mellow)

Handbook for Archival Research in the USSR Patricia Kennedy Grimstead (Rodger Mellow)

German Colonies on the Lower Volga Gottlieb Beratz (Rodger Mellow)

East of London Family History Society Members' Interests 2003 CD (Rosemary McLean)

Ontario 1858 1869 Marriages Index CD (Ontario SIG)

Villages of Glasgow South of the Clyde and Villages of Glasgow North of the Clyde (Billy Bravaal)

The following were donated by the Federation of Family History Societies:

Dating Nineteenth Century Photographs Robert Pols

The Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll Richard Ratcliffe

Methodist Records for Family Historians Richard Ratcliffe

British History and Heritage on the Web, a Directory Stuart A. Raymond

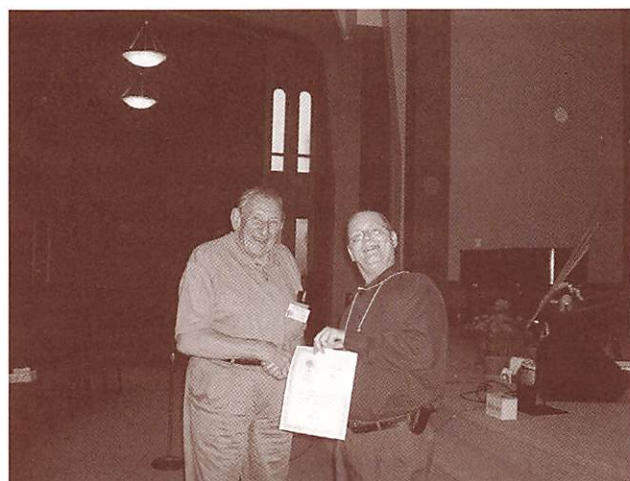
Irish Family History on the Web, a Directory Stuart A. Raymond

Tracing Your Nineteenth Century Family History Stuart A. Raymond

Henderson Directories

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

June 6, 2005



Gordon Lane recognizing George Lake for extensive contributions, including past Chair of the Society.



Gordon Lane recognizing Spencer Field for extensive, quiet contributions to the Society over a long period.

THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN BRITAIN (WW1)

by Ann Williams

(with valuable contributions by Gary Gautier, Carol Lylyk, Keith Maitland and Bob McNarry)

Over 600,000 Canadians enlisted in the WW1 Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) and those sent overseas broke their journeys in Britain and returned there for medical treatment. The CEF personnel files (held by the National Archives of Canada) generally record where in Britain a soldier was hospitalized or waited for a ship, east to France or west to Canada and this article is an introduction to Canadian bases in Britain, Anglo-Canadian connections made and the trouble a few Canadians got into while kicking their heels waiting for a ship back to Canada.

The Library and Archives Canada website¹ has a searchable index to CEF personnel files and Attestation Papers (which have identifying information) from those files can be downloaded without charge. Complete files (costing up to \$20 depending on thickness) can be ordered from the address on the website. The same website has images of WW1 War Diaries (searchable under unit name) which detail the unit's part in the war (naming names and medals awarded on occasion). An example is to search 'Princess Patricia's Light Infantry', at the next screen check the entry for 1918 page 17.

These abstracts from typical personnel files illustrate Canadians' very different war experiences - their British postings are underlined:

Astridge, John Thomas

1914: Enlisted 3 Nov Pvt. #33 21st Battalion; 30 Dec discharged Kingston, Ont. medically unfit;
1915: Enlisted 19 Aug Barriefield. Ont. Pvt. #113064 8th Infantry Brigade (later 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Central Ontario Regiment); 9 Oct sailed SS Missauqfie; 5 Nov Bramshott;
1916: 30 Jan arrived France; 21 Feb sent to field; 12 May killed. Memorial Maple Copse

Gordon, Alfred (provided by Carol Lylyk)

1916: Enlisted 7 Apr Pvt. 155th Overseas Battalion; 16 Oct discharged; 20 Oct enlisted

Barryfield Pvt. #637024 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Central Ontario Regiment; 25 Oct sailed SS Mauretanic; 31 Oct arrived England; Bramshott; 16 Nov arrived France; **1917:** 10 July gunshot wound to hand; 26 Oct killed. Memorial Tyne Cot

Lifford, William Henry

1915: Enlisted 9 Sep Hamilton, Ont. Pvt. #174628 86th Battalion (Machine Gun) "B" Coy;
1916: 19 May sailed from Halifax SS Adriatic; 29 May arrived England; 13 Oct arrived France;
1917: 13 May gunshot wound to shoulder - hospital LeTeport; Oct injured knee in fall in trench - medical aid at No. 6 Clearing Station and No. 18 General Hospital Camiers; 26 Oct invalided to No. 2 West General Hospital Manchester ("Moorlands" Vine Street, Kersal); 5 Nov admitted Seaford; 20 Dec admitted No. 4 Canadian General Hospital, Basingstoke; **1918:** 30 Aug arrived France; 16 Sep in field; 10 Oct wounded - hospital Etaples; **1919:** 12 May arrived Bramshott; 16 Jun demobbed.

Astridge, Charles

1916: Enlisted 7 Mar Barrie, Ont Pvt. #142630 76th Battalion (#2 D.D.) & 24th Battalion; 23 Apr sailed from Halifax SS Empress of Britain; 4 May arrived England; 29 Jul arrived France; **1917:** 15 Aug gunshot wound to shoulder - medical aid at Gas Clearing Station and General Hospital Calais; 27 Aug gunshot wound to chest - invalided to 1st Scottish General Hospital, Aberdeen, Scotland; Shoreham; Canadian Convalescent Hospital Bromley and Bramshott; 15 Dec returned to duty; **1918:** 2 Mar Canadian General Hospital Bramshott; 2 Apr 1st Quebec Reg. Depot, Shoreham, 27 Apr Bramshott, 14 Jul arrived France; 9 Aug in field; 31 Aug gunshot wound to left hand - medial aid at 56th General Hospital Etaples invalided to Bramshott; 12 Nov Military Convalescent Ward Epsom; **1919:** 13 Jan Kimmel Park; 1 Feb sailed from Liverpool SS Carmania; 8 Feb arrived Halifax, hospitalized for tonsillitis; 11 Mar collapsed left lung; 24 Mar demobbed Toronto medically unfit.

¹www.collectionscanada.ca/index-e.html

Astridge, William George

1916: Enlisted 12 Oct Toronto Pvt. #513051 No. 2 Training Depot Canadian Army Service Corps; 24 Nov Sailed SS Maurantia; 30 Nov arrived England Shorncliffe; 1917: 1 Feb arrived France; 9 Feb in field; 1918: 5 Jan 14 days leave; 1919: 25 Jan given permission to marry; 9 Feb granted leave U.K.; 9 Feb posted to Rgt. Depot Witley; 15 May attached to Canadian Discharge Depot Buxton; sailed SS Scandinavian; 21 May demobbed Quebec.

Maitland, George (provided by Keith Maitland)

Enlisted Pvt. Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry; 1918: 15 Aug arrived Seaford; served on security duties at a hospital base in southern Eng; camps in England were: 18th Reserve Battalion, Seaford; C.A.M.C.- P.P.C.R.C. Hospital Bexhill, Shorncliffe and Witley; 1919: 13 Aug left London; sailed SS Saxonia; 23 Aug arr. Halifax

In October of 1914, 32 ships brought 33,000 men of the CEF (and their horses) on the first stage of their journey to **Salisbury Plain** where camps of bell tents, marquees and kitchen shelters set up by British and New Zealand troops awaited them.²

Excerpt from a letter from Charles Roy BAILEY from Salisbury Plain, October 23, 1914:

Dear Mother,

Arrived here after 21 days aboard ship. We had fine weather all the way over and a great voyage.

This place is sure pretty. We landed in Devonport and marched to Plymouth, where we got the train to Salisbury. By the time you get this I will have seen London as we get a few days off.

Gee it is a funny country, hedges, roads and little villages. The Canadian soldiers are getting a great welcome here. When we were waiting for our trains at Plymouth, there were thousands there cheering us. One old

lady came over and talked to me. When I left she threw her arms around me, kissed me and said "God Bless you my little man."

They were so glad to see us that they were giving us fruit, cigarettes and everything. The girls come up to you and beg for a button or a badge for a souvenir, some of the boys landed in camp with all the buttons off their coat. But of course I am too bashful so naturally I had all my buttons on.³

Divisional headquarters were established at *The Bustard* near Shrewton which still operates as a hotel and pub. Bustard Camp where the **1st Infantry Brigade**, the **divisional mounted troops** and the **Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry** had their tents was nearby. Two miles to the north-west, the **2nd and 3rd Brigades** were in West Down South Camp; a mile beyond the artillery and divisional supply columns were in West Down North Camp; Two miles further north the **4th Brigade**, cavalry, **17th Battalion** and the **Newfoundland contingent** were in Pond Farm Camp. Later the **2nd Battalion** trained here for four months before embarking for France.

Newfoundland contributed 27 ship-loads of men of the **Royal Newfoundland Regiment** and **Newfoundland Forestry Corp** who crossed the Atlantic for further training on Salisbury Plain (Pond Farm Camp). Concerns about being taken for Canadians and losing their separate status led to their move to Scotland.⁴ The website <http://142.163.45.205/nfarchives/default.asp> has a searchable index of soldiers and Royal Naval Reserves of Newfoundland.

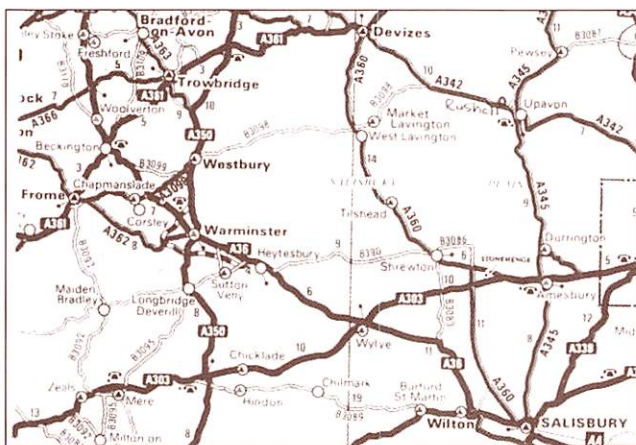
As the last of the 33,000 troops arrived on the Plain it rained and rain fell on 89 of the next 123 days. The area became a quagmire. Temperatures fell; high winds pierced the fabric of the unheated tents and even blew some away. An impervious layer of chalk under the soil prevented water drainage and scraping the mud

³ withlove.homestead.com/veteranmemorials/crbailey.html

⁴ The Royal Newfoundland Regiment first to Fort George, Inverness then Stobs Camp, Hawick and in August of 1915 to Ayr. Also that August, four companies of the regiment passed through Aldershot on their way to the front.

² *Canada's Soldiers The Military History of an Unmilitary People (3rd)* by G.F.G. Stanley pub Macmillan of Canada

only exposed slippery chalk. The soldiers were promised huts and by mid-December, two-thirds of them were in huts but 11,000 still under canvas. With both rain and temperatures continuing to fall, British authorities billeted Canadian soldiers (and their horses) in local towns. The villages between Wilton and Tilshead housed the **Royal Canadian Dragoons**; those between Upavon and Pewsey housed the **Lord Strathcona's Horse**; to the north the **artillery** was billeted in Market Lavington, Rushall and Devizes and the **Royal Canadian Horse Artillery** was billeted between Bratton and Erlestoke on the road to Frome.



Salisbury Plain, England

Nearly 4,000 Canadian soldiers on Salisbury Plain were admitted to hospital that first winter and a plaque in Durrington Cemetery, across the road from where Canadians camped reads:

On the 14th of October, 1914, the first contingent of 33,000 Canadian troops arrived at Plymouth from Gaspé, Quebec, and encamped in the area west of the cemetery. They suffered extreme hardship during the exceptionally severe winter of 1914-15 and many thousands were taken ill with influenza and related diseases. Many died and were buried in local cemeteries.

In the spring of 1915 the surviving Canadian troops were deemed ready for the front and were razor keen. Nothing, they believed, could be worse than Salisbury Plain!

More men of the CEF arrived late in 1914 and tents for the **14th Battalion, Canadian Mounted**

Rifles were set up at **Shorncliffe**, Kent (later to be replaced by huts). The primitive conditions, mud and mire created by hundreds of men and horses led one of the Mounted Rifles (Billy Bishop) to transfer to the **Royal Flying Corp** (RFC). Billy was taught to fly in England⁵ and was one of the 24,095 Canadians who joined the RFC in WW1, the first war that took the fight into the skies. In 1917 the British, American and Canadian Governments agreed to joint training of aircrew and one of these training bases was at Camp Borden, Ontario where instruction in flying, wireless, air gunnery and photography was provided. Pilots were given additional training at British airfields on arrival in England. On April 1, 1918 the RFC amalgamated with the Royal Naval Air Service to form the Royal Air Force. No personnel records as such have been preserved but there is a database of traceable Canadian airmen of WW1 containing names and awards for many of the 13,411 Canadians who served with the Royal Flying Corps. Bob McNarry at "rmcnarry@telus.net" is willing to do searches in his copy of the database.

Nurses too were part of the CEF and this is from a letter written by nurse Helen Lauder FOWLDS who left Canada on the SS Zealand in February of 1915 and was sent to France within a month of her arrival in England:

London Feb. 27, 1915

Dearest Mother,

I am sitting in the writing room beside a lovely coal fire thinking of our last evening by the fire – and wondering what you are doing to-night. Writing to some of us I suppose. There's one blessing we all have heaps to write about these days.

I am so glad I'm here - though as yet we haven't been very active. There seems to be a lull at present – they are closing up most of the hospitals as all the troops have gone. The impression here is that we'll go on to France.⁶

⁵Life of Billy Bishop: www.constable.ca/bbishop.htm

⁶www.trentu.ca/library/archives/flettswnoframes.htm

In 1917 Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden visited Canadian troops in Europe and this is part of his report made to the House of Commons in Ottawa on his return:

... I visited eight camps: Shorncliffe, Crowborough, Shoreham, Seaford, Witley, Bramshott, Hastings and in Windsor Great Park, a camp of the Canadian Forestry Corps. I found the men in good spirits, in good physical condition and undergoing careful and effective training; at least it seemed to me excellent. I visited hospitals in Great Britain and France and everywhere I found our men receiving, so far as I could see, the best of attention.

He also commented on

...the very, very great kindness of the British people to all our Canadian troops. I have been among them in camps and hospitals and elsewhere, and there was hardly a place I visited where I did not find visitors at the hospitals giving great care and attention to our wounded. The troops themselves realize with the greatest possible gratitude and appreciation the kindness and attention of all those among whom they are thrown.⁷

From the day of his enlistment until discharge, the Canadian soldier was under Canadian control. Canadian hospitals, supply depots and reinforcement training units were established throughout the land. Wherever a base was established the YWCA tried to set up a Recreation Hut where the men could play cards, billiards etc. Wounded and convalescent soldiers retained their regimental headgear but wore royal blue suits that in some areas earned them the nickname 'blue boys'.

Here are notes on a few of the Canadian bases in Britain:

Bramshott, Hants: Set up in late 1915, the Canadian Training Centre on Bramshott common became one of the largest training areas for Canadian troops in the U.K. On the other

⁷ *Debates of the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada.* J. de Labroquerie Taché, 1918 (May 18, 1917)

side of the road stood **No. 12 Canadian General Hospital** (the camp and hospital site now marked by a double row of maple trees on the A3).

From a letter by David McLEAN, B Coy, **134 Battalion**, Bramshott Camp Aug 23, 1916:

... We have a fine place here and are so comfortable. We all have straw beds (mattresses filled with straw) and pillows. We have such a fine quiet place it is just like home. We have our bed room tables and chairs and all conveniences just like a house and all lit up with electric light.⁸

The graves of Canadian soldiers who died there (many from the flu epidemic in late 1918) are in Bramshott churchyard, their Catholic colleagues at St Joseph's, Grayshott. A stained glass window, a Priest's Stall (decorated with the arms of the Dominion of Canada and carved beavers), a desk and a lectern were presented to Bramshott Church to commemorate the Canadian Forces' association with the town though two world wars. To the left of the door hangs the Canadian Red Ensign that was flown over the last Canadian Camp (Huron) in 1946.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey: Here 326 Canadian troops from WW1 lie beneath maple trees sent from Canada and the names of 199 Canadians are carved on the panels of a memorial to the missing. Veterans Affairs Canada at their Canada Remembers website (www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/) has a search feature for Canadians commemorated on war memorials in Britain. Their listings include brief biographies.

(continued on page 24)

⁸ web.mala.bc.ca/davies/letters.images/D.McLean/letter.Aug23.1916.htm

PEOPLE AND PLACES BEHIND THE PHOTOGRAPHS

by Velma Boyer

We have access to many different sources of information about our ancestors. This may be statistical information, family stories passed down from one generation to another, or actual photographs of our ancestors or of the places that they inhabited.

The first pictures consisted of drawings or paintings created by a person with artistic capabilities. These artists produced a picture of what they saw in front of them. This changed in 1839, with the invention of the photograph. The photograph consisted of actual images, not the personal interpretation of the artist creating the image.

To our ancestors around 1839, who experienced the introduction of the first type of photographs, this invention was a marvelous and unbelievable experience for them. If they lost a loved one, they had a photograph as well as their memories of that person.

As with any new technology many changes have taken place since the first type of photographs were developed. Actual images of people and places have been transferred onto many different types of material. Here are some of the ways in which images were transferred:

1. **Daguerreotypes** – images transferred onto metal, used from 1839 to 1860
2. **Ambrotypes**-images transferred onto to glass, used from 1854 to 1900
3. **Tintypes** – images transferred onto iron plates, then coated with varnish, used from 1856 to 1900.
4. **Paper prints and Negatives**-images transferred onto paper, and a negative produced that the person could make another copy of the photograph. Since the first paper prints, we have seen many different ways of processing paper prints.
5. **Digital images** – images transferred onto digital memory for further processing or printing.

Do you have photographs of your ancestors that have been dated and identified as to who is in the photograph or at what place the photograph was taken? If so, these photographs change your ancestor from a statistic to a person you can envisage and give a personality to them. As well, you may see family resemblance from one generation to another. Perhaps the photograph background or style of clothing they are wearing can tell you more about them. Do you know the reason for the photograph being taken? Was it for a birthday, graduation, a group photograph or wedding in the family?

Or, are your photographs unidentified and you would like to know more about the photograph? Perhaps you do not have any old photographs. This could be due to uncontrollable situations in your families' environment such as the area that your family lived in; poverty, fire, war or that the ancestor lived prior to photographs being invented.

As photographs of individual members of your family or where they lived brings our ancestors to life and gives our ancestors personality, so can unidentified photographs. Even an unidentified family photograph can add to your family history. It may not always be unidentified, as you may be able to identify it by writing down and setting yourself some goals in trying to identify the photograph as follows:

1. What do you know about the photograph?
2. Who did you get the photograph from and what did they know about it?
3. What type of photograph is it?
4. What styles of clothing are the people wearing and are they sitting or standing in the photograph?
5. Is there anybody around today (family or neighbours that lived near the family) that could identify the person or persons in the photograph?

6. Is there a photographer's name or studio name on the photograph? Could you find information on this photographer in local archives that could lead to identifying the photograph?

As well as setting goals, there are many books written on identifying old photographs that you could review. These books could help to identify the period of time of the photograph by clothing styles and characteristics of the photograph. Perhaps you could give your photograph a timeframe date range by using your statistical data to identify a younger child or older person in a family group photograph.



Edna and Alice

Up to a year ago, I had three old photographs of my ancestors. One was a group photograph of my father's grandmother and some of her children. My parents had inherited the photograph from one of my Dad's first cousins.

On the back of the photograph somebody had listed the names of each person in the photograph, only not as to who was who from left to right. There was no record of the date the photograph was taken, either. As asking immediate family was unproductive, I extended my research to distant cousins. At this point, I learned of a lady named Irene, who was married to one of my Dad's second cousins. She has been doing family research for many years and is involved with the local history centre and archives in the area that my ancestors settled and lived during their lifetime.

On my next trip to that area, I set up an appointment to see Irene in hopes she could help me match the names I had to each individual person. She had the very same photograph as I did; only each person was identified by name. Her mother-in-law, my Dad's first cousin had identified them for her. As well as this photograph, she had many other photographs and clippings from the newspaper of births, marriages and deaths of other family members within the community.

Among her photographs, she had a photograph of two ladies. One she felt was the daughter of the first settler, Alice. The other lady was unidentified. Again I made some inquiries, only this time with a neighbour of my parents, who was a schoolboy when Alice was an elderly lady of the community. Ned was unable to help me, but suggested that he would show the photograph to his older sister the next time he saw her. His sister confirmed that the lady was Alice, and that the other lady was her niece Edna. Ned's family actually had the same photograph and sent it to me along with his reply. Not only did I confirm who was who in the group family photograph, but also, I now have other photographs of my ancestors - changing them from data on my pedigree chart and family group sheets to actual people whom I can envisage.

(continued on page 14)

CLUES FROM THE FUNERAL HOME AND BEYOND (part 2)

by Jacqueline Alford

Okotoks and District Genealogical Society President

(Concluded from last issue)

Medical Examiner's Office Records

The Medical Examiner's Office deals with deaths of unnatural causes. This would include deaths caused by violence, accident and sudden death. Not every death has a complete autopsy done on the body, as sometimes what is referred to as an external examination is all that is required.

Before requesting any records, the family needs to know if an autopsy was performed. If you are unsure if an autopsy was performed, you may contact the Medical Examiner's office in the area where the death occurred. If an autopsy has not been done, then you would have to try to find other sources for your information.

In Calgary, the Medical Examiner's Office is located in the northwest part of the City. Records available from them may include the autopsy report, the external examination, any toxicology reports or a certificate from the office which outlines the cause of death, the manner of the death and the circumstances of the death. They hold records back to 1927, some in paper file, some on computer and some on Microfilm. There is a fee to request these reports.

To access these records the Medical Examiner's Office asks that you write to them outlining the information on the deceased, such as surname, first name and approximate date of death, if the exact date is not known. The reports are available to next-of-kin family members, which would include spouse, commonlaw spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister, or spouse of either of these relations. You must also include in your letter the reason you are requesting these records. For family historians it's simply a matter of letting them know you are doing Family History research.

After receiving your request the ME's office will look through their files to see what, if anything, they have on their records. They will send you a form indicating what records they have and you must send back payment in advance for them to send you the reports.

You can write to the ME's office in Calgary at:
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
4070 Bowness Road NW
Calgary, AB
T3B 3R7

The fee to request reports:
Autopsy report - \$40.00 (includes any toxicology reports)
Toxicology report - \$20.00
External examination report - \$15.00

Funeral Prayer Cards

Another great source of information is the funeral prayer card. These cards were generally used by Catholic families when their loved ones died. One side would have a beautifully painted picture, usually of a saint, Jesus or Mary. On the back side would be printed the person's name and any other information the family requested. The prayer would be included under the personal information.

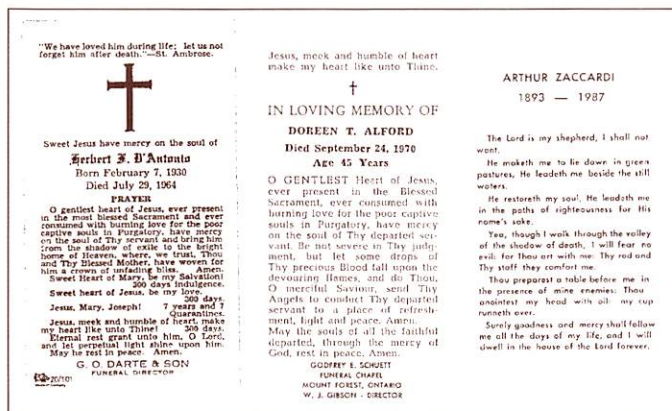
From these three different prayer cards I was able to extract information in varying degrees. My maternal grandfather immigrated to Canada from Italy in 1912. He died in 1987 at the age of 93 years. His funeral prayer card gives me little information except for his Anglicized first name and his year of birth and death.

The funeral prayer card for my mother gives me a little more information. It tells me her first name, her middle initial, and the exact date of her death – September 24, 1970. This card also tells me the age she was at her death (45 years).

Included at the bottom of this card is the name and address of the funeral home which conducted her funeral service. Unfortunately this funeral home is no longer in business, and it is unsure at this time where these records may be found.

The death of my Uncle Herbie, found on the third example, coincided with the dates that our farmhouse was broken into. We were attending his funeral when this happened, and now I know for sure it was late July or early August of 1964. I can say this for sure because his funeral card includes his full first name, second initial and the exact dates of his birth and death. At the bottom of the card is listed the name of the Funeral Directors. If I wanted to I could request his funeral home records.

These cards are beautiful to look at and can be a wealth of information. If you have inherited cards that you are certain are not family members, consider posting that information to one of the many GenWeb pages available on the internet. You could also consider donating the actual card to the local historical, genealogical or provincial society, or the library, museum or archives. Someone else may benefit from the information the card contains



Memorial Record Books

These are the books you find located at the entrance to a funeral service or wake in the funeral home. This is where people who have attended the service sign their names. I came across the Memorial Record Book from when

CONTACT INFORMATION

All requests must include any information you already have including name, dates of death, ages, any other identifying information

Certificate of Registration of Death
Vital Statistics Office in Province death occurred
Provincial Archives in Province death occurred

Funeral Home Records
Contact the funeral home directly via phone or letter

Cemetery Records
City of Calgary – Cemeteries Office
221-3660
email: calgarycemeteries@calgary.ca

Medical Examiner's Records – City of Calgary
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
4070 Bowness Rd NW
Calgary, AB
T3B 3R7

my sister died in 1969. Inside on the “In Memory Of” page I discovered that my mother had the strength and courage to fill in the information on the daughter she had just buried. There is information on her birth date, death date, age, and internment. The neatest thing for me though is that it is in my mom’s handwriting, one of the few samples I have. There is also a list of the family where all of us have signed our names, including mother, father, grandparents and siblings. The Services page tells me where and when the funeral mass for her was held, and who it was that helped my parents to arrange this mass.

The next page includes the name of all the pallbearers who carried her casket from the funeral home to the hearse, from the hearse to the church to the graveyard. Relatives who attended the services were also listed. Floral tributes and friends who called were also listed. Recently I found the newspaper clipping that outlined the tragic circumstances surrounding my sister’s death. At the back of the Memorial Record Book I have placed a copy of the newspaper article and the obituary.

These books can be helpful if you are looking for people who your ancestors would have known. It is always amazing to me to look through this book and realize the support and love that was in our community at the time.

IN MEMORY OF		
TERESA DORRLEN ALFORD		
BORN		
PLACE	HAMILTON ONT.	
DATE	AUGUST 29, 1950	
ENTERED INTO REST		
PLACE	BATHUR TOWNSHIP	
DATE	MARCH 18, 1969	
AGE		
18 YEARS	6 MONTHS	17 DAYS
INTERMENT		
PLACE		
LOT	BUCK	SECTION
DATE		

Genealogists consider any record worth looking through in order to extract any kind of information. Death leaves a long paper trail in the obituary, death certificate, funeral home and cemetery records and family records. If you're unsure if the information could be available to you don't be afraid to ask. You may be pleasantly surprised. These official records and personal papers are one more source of information to help you discover your past.

Sources

Hamilton Public Library - Hamilton Spectator, 1937
 Ontario Archives – Toronto, Ontario
 Alberta Funeral Services Newsletter – January 2005 –
www.afsrb.ab.ca

Family Chronicle – January/February 2004
 McInnis & Holloway Funeral Homes – Calgary
 South Calgary Funeral Center – Calgary
 White Chapel Cemetery – Ancaster, Ontario
 Lorne G. Wallace Funeral Home – Hamilton, Ontario
 Personal Family Collection of the article's author
 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner – Calgary
 City of Calgary Cemeteries Office – Calgary

(People and Places... continued from page 11)

How can we bring our ancestors to life if we do not have old photographs of them? We can learn about them by finding out where they lived, went to school, worked or about the church they attended. Instead of their photograph, would the following information change them from just another statistic in our family information?

- Do you have or could you get a photograph of the area, church they attended or house that they lived in?
- Are there maps of the area, maybe even of the time period they lived in that area?
- Are there local histories available that could tell you about the culture of your ancestor, the economic conditions they lived in and how it affected their way of life?
- Are there legal documents on which they obtained land or a will with their signature on it?

If you set your goal to learn more about your ancestor that you do not have a photograph of, who knows what is out there awaiting your search. Maybe, they were a part of some historical event that you were unaware of and their photograph is in a history book.

The thrill of having a photograph of an ancestor today is just as amazing and thrilling to us as it was to our ancestors at the time of the invention of photographs. The invention of photographs gave our ancestors and future generations a way to remember our ancestor, not only by name but also by an actual vision of that person or of a place that an ancestor inhabited prior to images being transferred and kept over time.

(continued on page 27)

A SUBJECTIVE REVIEW OF THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE CANADA'S HISTORIC CENSUS: WILL IT EVER END?

by Lois M. Sparling

1901 census

Soon after I became involved in researching my family history, the 1901 national census of Canada was released to the public. The Calgary Public Library purchased the entire set of microfilm for its main brunch. I was very happy to have access to these crucial records. Even though all my ancestors were in North America by the time of the 1891 census, this was an opportunity to see the family units at the turn of the last century and to discover or confirm exact dates of birth, religious denominations, occupations and family income. It was at a seminar or conference that I learned that the Chief Statistician had been very, very reluctant to release the 1901 census and had declared that it would be the last Canadian census to ever be made available to researchers.

1906 census

The call went out to the family history community to encourage our federal government to release the 1906 census after the 92 year waiting period specifically stipulated by law for census records. For those with weak arithmetic skills, $1906 + 92 = 1998$. This was essentially a power struggle between the new National Archivist, who wanted to make the 1906 census available to the public as an important historic record of the Nation, and the well ensconced, internationally respected and very stubborn Chief Statistician. The Chief Statistician insisted that if census returns were ever made public, even after 92 years, people would be less honest when completing their census returns now. The National Archivist was able to muster enough public support to attract the attention of his Cabinet Minister. The Chief Statistician's position seemed both silly and contrary to the relevant legislation and regulations.

Let me back up at this point to give the reader more background. The same conflict over releasing historic census had already been fought out in Australia and the United States with the government statisticians opposing release. The statisticians in both countries lost. Australia had always destroyed its census returns. Now Australian census returns are preserved for eventual release to researchers and the general public. The American census returns have been preserved by its federal government since the first one was taken in 1790. That country continues to release each census after 72 years. Congress held hearings on the subject and was unmoved by the statisticians' concerns. The British censuses are made public after 100 years.

Canadian legislation and regulations clearly contemplated the preservation of census returns because of their obvious historic significance. Decade after decade the official instructions to the enumerators specifically stated that the census returns were to be kept by the Dominion Archivist. The privacy and access to information laws which were passed by Parliament in the 1980s include regulations that specify that census returns are to be released after 92 years. The legal issues turned out to be much more complicated, but these are the fundamentals and the makings of a pretty good argument that, unless the Chief Statistician could get new legislation passed enforcing his position, census returns have to be made public after 92 years. However, the Chief Statistician refused to do so.

Finally, the 1906 census was a special census taken just of Manitoba and the two new provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, plus the British Columbia railway belt. However, the 1911 national census was taken under identical legislation and regulations. Therefore, if the 1906 census could legally be released, the 1911 census had to be released, too – or so we thought.

The Alberta Family Histories Society received the call to press the federal government to overrule the Chief Statistician so the 1906 and subsequent census returns would be made public by the National Archives 92 years after each had been taken. I was on the AFHS Board at the time. With strong encouragement from Doug Stobbs, Judith Rempel and Robert Westbury, I agreed to take charge of our part in the debate. We started by meeting with Senator Hays and Jason Kenny, M.P. during the fall of 1998. We circulated a petition amongst our membership and friends. We talked to the media.

Private Member's Bills to pry loose the 1906 and later census were introduced by our allies in both the Senate and the House of Commons. Friends of Liberal Senator, Lorna Milne, organized the Census Release Campaign mailing list. In addition to signing petitions, the family history community wrote lots of letters – thousands of letters, and emails, too. A small number of academic historians took an active interest as well. Professor Waiser of the University of Saskatchewan wrote a couple of articles advocating the release of historic census returns for the Globe and Mail. Then the Minister of Industry referred the question to an Expert Panel.

The Expert Panel was made up of five men and women with very, very impressive credentials. Mr. Justice La Forest had recently retired from the Supreme Court of Canada. Prof. McCamus had taught me in law school. Dr. Marston was President and Vice-Chancellor of York University and a sociologist. Professor Gaffield was a historian. The panel was chaired by Dr. Van Loon, a political scientist and President of Carleton University. The public was invited to make submissions to this august group but given little time to do so. Robert Westbury and I wrote two separate submissions on behalf of the AFHS. My submission on the legal aspect of the controversy was slapped together quickly without nearly enough research in order to get something to the Expert Panel in time to make a difference. Gordon Watts and Don Nesbitt of B. C. and Muriel Davidson each prepared important

submissions. Don Nesbitt's comments seemed to have had the greatest impact.

The Expert Panel submitted its report to the Minister of Industry on June 30, 2000. We waited eagerly to see their report – and waited and waited. Obviously, someone powerful did not like the Expert Panel's findings and recommendations. Gordon Watts made an application for a copy of the report under the Access to Information Act. December 15, 2000, at the very last moment, just before an answer to Mr. Watts' request was required, and on a Friday afternoon, the report was released.

Surprise! The Expert Panel favoured release of the historic census after 92 years. It also found that there was no legal impediment to the release of the 1906, 1911 and 1916 census returns but suggested that it might be prudent to pass legislation clarifying any ambiguity about the release of the 1921 and later census after the same waiting period.

The Minister of Industry responded by claiming:

- a) the general public had not had a fair opportunity to make submissions on the issue, and
- b) the Expert Panel were not asked to give and had not given a formal legal opinion on whether the 1906 or any other census was or was not subject to any legal impediment to its release.

It boggled my mind that anyone in a position of public trust could appoint a law professor and a retired member of the Supreme Court of Canada to a five member panel and then claim that that panel was not asked to give a legal opinion. This display of utter gall still causes my blood pressure to increase. If any of us had doubts before, it was now crystal clear that the Chief Statistician was a very powerful civil servant. Furthermore, he was willing and able to have his Cabinet Minister spout nonsense in order to resist the release of any further census returns.

Some of us were fed up with the political process at this point. A small meeting was held in Calgary at the home of Mr. Joudre at the end of 2000. Mr. Watts, Dr. Westbury and I were in attendance. We decided to cut through the bafflegab and simply take the federal government to court; so I did.

The Census Release Campaign continued through 2001 on four fronts. Our champions in Parliament continued to present Private Members Bills to compel the release of census returns after 92 years. The Alberta Family Histories Society and other genealogical groups across the country gathered thousands more names on new petitions in support of those Bills.

Statistics Canada set up "Town Hall meetings" across the country to get the "real" opinion of the general public. The Chief Statistician presumably hoped to generate some support for his position from those who value privacy. In fact, a civil liberties activist was specifically invited by Statistics Canada to speak at one of the first town hall meetings. This was a tactical error. The civil liberties activist not only announced to the meeting that he had received a personal invitation; he also expressed his opinion that the release of 92 year old census returns was fine with him.

Thanks to the Census Release Campaign mailing list, we all had access to detailed, same day descriptions of what happened at each Town Hall meeting. Aside from some statisticians who attended a few of the meetings, the hard cold truth was glaring; the only members of the general public who give a damn about old census returns are family historians. No one else cares whether they are released or not.

The Third Front was my Application in Federal Court relying on the ancient legal remedy of *mandamus* to compel the Chief Statistician to do his duty under the law by unconditionally releasing custody of the 1906 census to the National Archives for unfettered access by the public. I chose Applicants from across the

country as well as from our membership. They were:

- Mertie Beatty of AFHS
- Muriel Davidson of Brampton, Ontario; backbone of the Census Release Campaign mailing list
- David Obee of Victoria, B.C.; journalist, professional genealogist, owner of InterLink internet book store, author
- Bev Rees of AFHS; also a professional genealogist and shopkeeper
- Louise Sauve of AFHS
- Jean Stanley of Combermere, Ontario
- Marilyn Taylor of AFHS
- Bill Waiser of Saskatoon, SK; history professor and prolific writer
- Sheila Ward of Toronto, Ontario
- Gordon Watts of Coquitlam, B.C.; a major force in the Census Release Campaign
- Tom Worman of AFHS.

Lined up against us were the Justice Department, acting for both the National Archivist and the Chief Statistician but arguing the Chief Statistician's position and the Privacy Commissioner. The Information Commissioner asked to be left out of this Application so he could bring his own, separate Application under the Access to Information Act once he had carried out his investigation and made his own attempts to pry loose the 1906 census.

In order to cover court costs and to protect our Applicants in the event we lost and costs were awarded against us, I posted a message to the Census Release Campaign mailing list asking for donations. I asked for a total of \$8,000. The first cheque arrived on Jan. 4, 2002. I had received \$8,000 by mid February. I posted another request for people to stop sending money. I commenced our Application, Beatty, et al versus the Chief Statistician, et al, in Federal Court in Calgary on March 5, 2002. By April, I had received over \$13,000.

Opening the daily mail and writing up the receipts for our many, many supporters that winter was the happiest, most rewarding aspect of my involvement in this whole thing. It was touching that so many people had confidence in both our case and my skills as a lawyer. The truth is that I have spent 23 years practicing in a completely different area of the law. These Federal Court Applications for Orders in the nature of *mandamus* in order to force the government to give us access to the 1906 and, later the 1911 census returns, are Administrative Law. Administrative law is a specialized type of law with which I have almost no experience. I dearly hoped other lawyers would step forward to help me before I got into too much trouble. My friend and colleague, Paul Clark, did come to our rescue during August, 2002. He did the balance of the necessary legal research and wrote most of our legal argument while I was too sick to walk unassisted, let alone read or think.

The Information Commissioner was our Fourth Front. He and his Chief Counsel, Daniel Brunet, were quietly working on investigating the formal complaints made to them by our own Professor Waiser and others when Statistics Canada refused their written requests for access to the 1906 census. A report was carefully written finding that there was no legal impediment to the public release of the 1906 census and that their complainants should be given access to the microfilm of the census returns. (The paper census returns were destroyed long ago after being microfilmed.) We included the Information Commissioner's recommendations in our written argument to the Court along with the Expert Panel's Report and a favourable Justice Department legal opinion first obtained by the Senate Committee. The Information Commissioner had to follow procedure, give Statistics Canada time to respond, try to mediate a solution, and keep an eye on which way the political winds were blowing before selecting the time to commence his Application in Federal Court under the Access to Information Act.

On January 24, 2003, Patrick Bendin, lead Counsel for the Justice Department on the census

release issue, telephoned me to say that there was going to be an announcement. He declined to tell what was up because he did not want to spoil the surprise. At about the same time, Daniel Brunet, Chief Counsel for the Information Commissioner, was filing his Federal Court Application to compel Statistics Canada to give his complainants access to the 1906 census returns. At noon, Ottawa time, the 1906 census returns were released on the internet. Thanks to Judith Rempel, the AFHS transcription of the 1906 census started within hours. By the time a TV team arrived at my office for an interview at 5 PM MST, I was able to show them the census return of my own ancestors on their homestead in Assiniboia West District.

We won without having to argue our case in Court. We were granted costs as the victors. The Privacy Commissioner's lawyer called to ask that I not try to collect any of those costs from the budget of the Privacy Commissioner. I suggested he take his problem to Mr. Bendin of the Justice Department. (Those who follow these things may recall that Mr. Radwanski, the then Privacy Commissioner, had his use of government funds questioned and was relieved of his position.) The Justice Department paid the costs. I sent out a lot of refund cheques to our eager and faithful donors.

I thought my job was over. If the 1906 census had been released, this was an admission that there was no legal impediment to the release of the 1911 and 1916 census returns after 92 years, either.

An Application can only be brought to compel the release of one census at a time. Only after the 92 years has passed since the census was taken and after the federal government does not then release the census returns for that census to the public can I seek an Order in the nature of *mandamus* or the Information Commissioner start going through his process, culminating in an Application under the Access to Information Act. The release of the 1921 and later census returns remained a potential problem. However, I firmly believed that the 1911 census could be released

in the summer of 2003, and that the release of the 1916 census returns would follow 5 years later. Silly me.

Meanwhile, our political allies on Parliament Hill had been able to demonstrate enough public support and pressure, including our Federal Court Application, to get the attention of the Cabinet. Unfortunately, the Chief Statistician was successful in convincing one or more very powerful members of Cabinet that the eternal secrecy of the historic census was a privacy issue. Our champions in Ottawa felt forced to accept a compromise:

1. the 1906 census was released unconditionally, ending both Federal Court Applications;
2. the government would sponsor a Bill to release the 1911 to 2001 census to bona fide genealogists and historians with nuisance conditions;
3. starting in 2006 the census return forms would ask the person filling in the return for the household to consent to the release of that census return to researchers after 92 years. This was supposed to be informed consent to such a release so that perpetual secrecy would be provided to those who wanted it.

Choke! I don't think so!

Senator Milne arranged a conference call with a select group which included me to discuss the Bill and explain her strategy. It was a private briefing so we did not pass on what she told us. This ill-fated Bill S-13 was presented to the Senate on Feb. 5, 2003. I'm afraid that Senator Milne was not prepared for the general outrage expressed by the family history community.

Another call went out to get petitions signed by as many people as possible to help ensure Bill S-13 got through the Senate and the House of Commons. Senate Hearings were held and submissions invited from interested parties. Again, we had little time to prepare. I wrote up our position and submitted it on behalf of the

Alberta Family Histories Society, the Alberta Genealogical Society and the Jewish Genealogical Society (southern Alberta). It was a much better researched and written document than the "Memorandum of Law" I had patched together for the Expert Panel in January of 2000. Gordon Watts was selected to testify in person before the Senate Committee, along with Dr. Terry Cook of the Association of Canadian Archivists.

Our hope was that Senator Milne and our other allies in the Senate would be able to amend Bill S-13 to delete the temporary restrictions and conditions on access to historic census returns. The Bill passed through the Senate without amendment – oops. It was then necessary to ensure that Bill S-13 did not get fast tracked through the House of Commons without being sent to Committee for a second chance at the amendments we wanted. Senator Milne made her arrangements with her colleagues amongst the Members of parliament. I made my own arrangements, just to be safe. This was all very awkward. If we were successful in getting the amendments in the House of Commons, the Bill had to go back to the Senate where our amendments were not acceptable.

Meanwhile, through the Census Release Campaign mailing list, the full power of the family history community was unleashed on our Senators, Members of Parliament, relevant Cabinet Ministers and anyone else who stood in our way. Letters were sent. Emails were sent. When an ill-considered remark was made by the Statistics Canada official offered up to me for cross examination, both Statistics Canada and the National Archives were inundated with written requests for access to the 1906 census. Each request had to be accompanied by a \$5.00 cheque or money order. The National Archives sent the cheques back with letters stating it had no power to grant us access; please ask Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada cashed the cheques, kept the money and wrote back saying no. Once we received those replies, we sent written complaints to the Information Commissioner. We obliged the National Archives when it was

suggested that they had received enough letters from us. No one else was spared.

We received feedback from a number of sources who shall remain nameless, if only because I never asked for names and heard it all second or third hand. I was found to be less than “warm and fuzzy”. The Chief Statistician continued to assure his staff that the 1911 census would never be released. The Conservative Party in the House of Commons was 100% behind us. The Liberal Caucus begged Cabinet to do something to make our letters and emails stop.

1911 census

I thought we had won access to the microfilm of the 1911 and 1916 census returns when the 1906 census returns were released to the public. I was most annoyed that the federal government had a different opinion. June 2003 arrived. No 1911 census. I asked for donation for another court case. This time, I decided to commence a Federal Court Application to compel public access to the census returns for 1911 with just one Applicant – Mertie Beatty of Calgary. This second Application was filed June 5, 2003. I did not expect to have to actually argue the case.

Many of us also went through the process of sending \$5.00 and a written request to see the 1911 census returns to Statistics Canada. When we received the refusal in letter, we sent written complaints to the Information Commissioner.

Then Parliament was prorogued in November, 2003. This means that the Parliamentary Session was concluded and the much reviled Bill S-13 died on the Order Paper. The processing of our complaints under the Access to Information Act continued. So did Beatty #2, as my secretary and I dubbed Beatty versus the Attorney General of Canada, et al, our court case for access to the 1911 census.

Much to my surprise, Beatty #2 was heard in Federal Court on June 8, 2004 by Mr. Justice Gibson. The hearing was held in Calgary and Mertie Beatty attended Court with me. Mr.

Brenin of the Justice Department demonstrated his much more sophisticated understanding of Administrative Law but I had a reasonable argument and Mr. Justice Gibson expressed sympathy for Mrs. Beatty and the rest of the family history community and our desire to see the 1911 census returns. He reserved his judgment to give it all some thought. Unfortunately, he found that public access to the census returns was conditional on the Chief Statistician and the National Archivist coming to an agreement on the transfer of legal custody of the microfilm and that it was up to Parliament to resolve the dispute. Even though we lost, costs were not ordered against us. I was therefore able to send out refund cheques again. The summer was spent deciding whether or not to appeal Mr. Justice Gibson’s decision. In the end, I decided not to do so. It was better not to risk a loss in the Federal Court of Appeal which could have a negative impact on the Information Commissioner’s anticipated Application.

Once things settled down after the 2004 election, Senator Milne and her supporters resumed lobbying and arm twisting to convince the government to sponsor a better Bill to ensure public access to census returns 92 years after the census was taken. The result was Bill S-18. The nuisance provisions imposing temporary conditions and restrictions on access were gone but Statistics Canada was still allowed to ask the person completing the census form for each household to consent to its release in 92 years. This “opt in” condition is to be reconsidered after the 2006 and 2011 censuses have been taken. Choke!

It is no secret that I, personally, considered the nuisance provisions to be silly but a fair compromise in order to ensure the release of the 1991 and subsequent census returns. It was also no secret that I am strongly opposed to debasing the integrity of the 2006 and later censuses as an historical record of the entire nation by allowing some people to neglect or refuse to give consent to the release of their household’s census return

(continued on page 22)

IN PRAISE OF PARISH REGISTERS

by Clare Westbury

With all the wonderful lists and indexes available to us now, it is easy to get swept along in the enthusiasm of adding "names" to our data and concentrating on quantity and not on quality. I was recently going through a parish register on microfilm and could not help thinking that it was a lot more fun than copying and pasting a list from the World Wide Web.

Some parish records are much more interesting and legible than others; it all depended on the incumbent or clerk who was filling them in. St. Andrew's Holborn is a church on the edge of the City of London where my ancestors lived in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The film I read recently was the baptismal register from 1781 to 1792. I could have got these baptisms from the IGI but seeing them in the register added a new dimension. The clerk had included the addresses, so I was able to see which families were living near each other, and which parents had had children baptized the same day as possible connections. The birth date was always given if the person was not an infant, and often the place of birth, if it had not taken place in the parish. A baptism example follows:

*Dec. 15 1794
Catherine Mary daughter of Joseph and Mary Lovelock.
Said to be 12 years of age. (Address) Saffron Hill.*

Apart from the obvious, the record above also shows a side of the clerk that one would not have known without looking at the register. He was a snob! Entries for any cleric or physician who had a child baptized were written in large letters and styled as "son of John Smith, M.D. and Mary, his wife." This also applied to anyone the incumbent thought was a gentleman; all other entries were simply "son of John and Mary Smith." On May 1, 1800 the daughter of an Alderman was baptized and got the full treatment.

*Emma daughter of Nathaniel Newnham, Esq.,
Alderman of the City of
London and Ann his wife, born April 24th 1798
in Greenwich in Kent.
(Address) Gray's Inn Garden's.*

At the other end of the social scale, there were two workhouses in the parish and the children were brought to St. Andrew's for baptism. There were a number of abandoned children; these were entered in the register as "dropt," or later as foundlings. We all remember Mr. Bumble deciding on Oliver Twist's name, chosen alphabetically at that institution. In Holborn, there were several female foundlings given the name "Angel." Boys, on the other hand, seemed more likely to be named after where they were found; presumably John Hatton was found in Hatton Gardens, and one unfortunate child was given the surname of Union! I would admit this does not impinge on my family history, but it does add a new dimension and interest. A more practical entry, which would not be learned from the IGI, is shown in the following example.

*Jan 15th 1801
Baptized John, son of Joseph Hopwood
(deceased) and Mary his wife.
(Address) Shoe Lane*

One could be forgiven for expecting from this entry that Joseph Hopwood had died in the previous nine months, so one could narrow down the span of time to look for a burial.

One of my family names is Pit(t)man. On the IGI I found a James Pittman baptized on the 29th June, 1801. I wondered where he fitted onto my family tree, and so was anxious to see the entry in the original register. This is what I found:

*June 29th 1801
James Shaw Pittman a native of Barbados about
29 years of age.*

Not mine!

I also looked at a film of marriages for the same time period of time at St. Andrew's. An obvious interest here is whether the couple was married by banns or by license. If by license, the parish of the "stranger" was listed; there were entries from as far away as Cambridge. The witnesses were also listed. The weddings of the upper class had up to five witnesses, while others were obviously witnessed by the verger and one other, as one man witnessed many marriages. Another advantage is that one can see who was literate, and who signed with a mark.

I have to admit that searching the parish registers can be very frustrating. Some are poorly written, faded, or damaged by water or mice. However, those that are legible are a treasure trove of information. Many incumbents recorded extraordinary weather and some wrote trenchant remarks about their parishioners, sometimes describing their capacity for alcohol and subsequent reprehensible behaviour. If you are researching in England and have not ventured into the realm of parish registers, give it a try. As I used to say to my children, "You'll like it when you get there".

(A Subjective Review... continued from page 20)

in due course. I would rather see the waiting period increased to 150 years in order to make all census returns available for research. Therefore, I received personal telephone calls to convince me to keep quiet if I could not support Bill S-18. Senator Milne said it was the best we could do – but she had said the same thing about Bill S-13. In the end, I decided to be a team player, turned my attention to the transcription of the 1906 census returns and kept quiet about the tragic flaw in the new, improved Bill to secure the unconditional release of the 1911 to 2001 census returns after 92 years. You may have heard me gagging but I did receive a Christmas card from the Prime Minister last year.

Bill S-18 had its roughest ride in the Senate but made it through without amendment. A

Conservative M.P. presented a motion for an amendment in the House of Commons Committee. That motion was defeated. All Parties supported Bill S-18 when it squeaked in for third reading before parliament recessed for the summer even though much more exciting, controversial legislation and scandal absorbed the attention of our elected representatives during June, 2005. The Bill received Royal Assent, becoming law, on June 29, 2005. The National Archives, by now restructured and renamed the Library and Archives of Canada, released the 1911 census online and on microfilm on or about July 21, 2005 (that's legal talk for I forget exactly which day).

Most of the family history community is too busy looking for their families and organizing the transcription of this latest major primary source to give much thought to history in the making. The 2006 census will be taken with the individual who completes the form for the entire household deciding whether to tick off the box, consenting on behalf of everyone in his or her household to the release of that census return to researchers 92 years hence. Some will not bother. Some will decide to keep the information on their return secret forever, especially if it is the long form and there are intrusive questions about sensitive subjects. The 2006 census will be lost forever as a complete record of all of Canada.

The integrity of the 2011 and later censuses

The campaign to save Canada's census is still not over. It appears that less than 100% of the 2006 census returns will be available to researchers of the future. We will not know how much of the 2006 census will be lost as a historical record until Statistics Canada takes the census and tells us what proportion of those who filled in their forms ticked off the box opting in to release that return to the public in 2098.

Notwithstanding the compromise which resulted in short term gains, I am not willing to give up on the 2011 census without a fight.

THE WHOLE KIT AND CABOODLE - PACKED!

by Lois M. Sparling

I have been asked about how I physically store and carry the Kits described in the article of the same name published in the summer 2005 edition of *The Chinook*.

1. My Correspondence Kit is permanently located in a largish letter folder with a zipper closure.
2. My Research Kit lives in one of my old brief purses. "What is a brief purse," you ask? This is a small briefcase or large purse which holds my files and which I use as my purse during the work week. Some of you may have seen me toting one around at meetings. Brief purses have pen holders and other built-in features useful to the business or professional woman. Similar gender free bags are now available for carrying laptop computers. Some of the contents change with the family I am researching and the library, archives or other record repository I am visiting. In particular, I have separate research logs and duo tangs of reference material for each line or sub-line or sub sub-line of my ancestor hunt. I do not actually carry around a mini stapler but many people do.
3. My Cemetery Kit is an actually an adaptation of my day trip bag. I developed my day trip bag long ago when a two day weekend was a long time and summers stretched on into the distant future. Add the information about the cemetery, the notepad on a clipboard and other specialized, cemetery excursion tools and go. Some of the items I suggested may need some further explanation. The reflective surface I recommended along with the camera is to shine sunlight onto the gravestone. Inevitably, I arrive at the cemetery to find the sun behind my gravestones of interest. For eroded gravestones, a light spray of water will often make the inscription more visible. In more extreme cases, rubbing the face of the gravestone with white (never coloured) chalk will bring out the letters and ornamentation. I added the knife, gloves and soft brush to my Cemetery gear after discovering an important and old marker broken, lying on the ground and mostly covered in turf. The large sheets of paper, non-fusible interfacing and oversize crayon are for taking gravestone rubbings. I have never actually attempted to take a rubbing but many think they are great souvenirs.
4. My Interview Kit is put together for each planned interview. For me, this is a checklist. I recommend black and white film for at least some shots because black and white photographs last a lot longer than colour photographs. I am referring *real* black and white film, not the pretend kind which can be developed using colour film processing equipment.
5. The Preservation Kit is actually scattered around my house. Some materials are with my scrapbooking things. Some are attached to or part of my computer. Some are in boxes under my bed.
6. My Field Trip Kit is really my day trip bag adapted for a field trip. This bag has a large central storage area and many pockets on the front and sides. It is permanently packed with such necessities as waterproof matches, a small flashlight, 2 first aid kits, a small bag containing sunscreen, insect repellent and a wide tooth comb (for wet hair), guides to rocky mountain flora and fauna, binoculars, can and bottle opener, a bag of dried cranberries, a tin or two of tuna, a small

plastic cutting board, a few plastic cups in a bag, a container of wet wipes and a fork. When my children were small, it also contained a blanket for naps, a spare soother and those tiny story books to keep little ones amused.

(The Canadian Expeditionary... continued from page 9)

Epsom, Surrey: Military Convalescent Ward at Horton Hospital and from August 1916 the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Woodcote Park. Woodcote Park housed 3,000 men in huts and was a self-contained village with a post office, barbers shop, theatre (where concerts, silent film shows and celebrity visits took place), a YMCA Recreation Hut and a sports ground where baseball was introduced and a league formed which included London Americans, Canadian Pay and Record office (London), Taplow, Canadian Hospital (Uxbridge) and the Canadian Hospital (Orpington). New patients were received regularly as the Canadian forces received heavy casualties in Northern France. The casualties not only swelled the number of patients within the camp but also the growing discontent. During April 1917 the stationmaster at neighbouring Ewell was assaulted by a convalescent soldier but the event did not seem to harm the convalescents' popularity with the local girls who hit the headlines of the local newspapers by descending on Epsom Station to give some Canadian soldiers a special send off. It was such stories that continued to hit the headlines right up to the end of the war when the Canadians stormed Epsom bars on Armistice Night.⁹

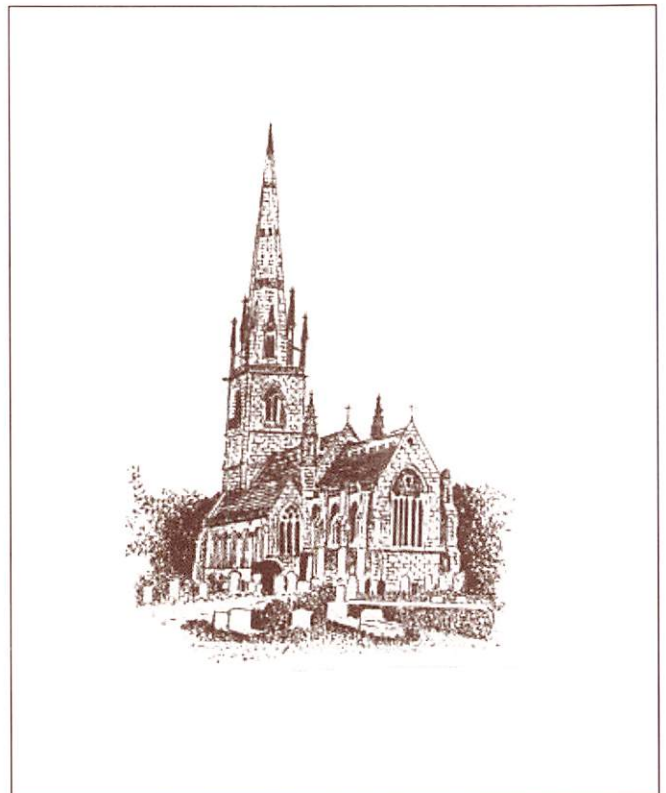
Kinmel Park, Rhyl, North Wales: In 1918 the **9th Canadian General Hospital** was set up here and a repatriation camp added in 1919 being convenient for sailings from Liverpool. Together these camps held 19,000 Canadians. Those who died here (largely from influenza) are buried here in the nearby churchyard of St. Margaret's, Bodelwyddan.

⁹ *Epsom's Military Camp* by R.I. Essen

London, Clarence House (the home of the late Queen Mother) a Canadian Convalescent Hospital was set up here.¹⁰

Roffey, Near Horsham, Sussex: Canadians from PEI were stationed here, including Jack TURNER.¹¹

Seaford, East Sussex: 10th Canadian Stationary Hospital. In August of 1917 Ralph BALL of F. Coy., **1st Canadian Reserve Battalion** wrote to his uncle from South Camp, Seaford saying: "*Some nights we can hear the guns from France, when there is a bombardment on, and it makes me shiver to think what the boys are going through out there*".



St. Margaret's, Bodelwyddan

This is from a letter to his mother written from Seaford in January 1917 by Gordon MACKAY of **B Company 196 Battalion**.

¹⁰ www.trentu.ca/library/archives/ffowldswelcome.htm

¹¹ Jack Turner's War: <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/turner/>

*The weather is colder this last few days than I have seen it yet. Of course it is nothing like you have but it is damp & more disagreeable. The spring will set in here soon though & I would like to be here to see it. It sure must be swell for there are hedges all over the place. All the roads are lined with them & the lawns are fixed up something dandy. Still with it all I can't get to like the place. The people are so terribly dead & alive sort. It takes at least four in a shop here that one would handle easily in Canada. I actually waited one hour & fifteen minutes for a plate of ham & eggs down town the other night. There were three waitresses & only nine of those little small restaurant tables in the place. I decided that in future Army rations would suffice.*¹²

In March of 1917 he was posted to **Bramshott** and this is from a more cheerful letter he wrote to his mother from there:

We arrived here at 6 p.m. & saw the best part of England into the bargain. ... We had all day yesterday to roam around the neighboring villages. We visited a nice little burg called Hazelmere. There is a nice little museum there but we were too late to get inside of it. By the way we got on the wrong trail going over & when we noticed it we cut across the fields (quite English eh) but we finally landed up on a private preserve & nearly got pinched for trespassing We didn't mind that though for honestly it was the swellest place I ever set eyes on & would have been worth getting pinched for the chance of seeing it.

Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, Kent was the home of the **11th Canadian General Hospital**. In June of 1915 it became the temporary home of the **49th Battalion (Loyal Edmonton Regiment)**. Private Charles Davis from Winnipeg, served in the **12th Canadian Field Ambulance** also stationed here and wrote these lines in his poem 'Shorncliffe Camp'.

¹²web.mala.bc.ca/davies/letters.images/MacKay/letter.Jan14.1917.htm

*What soothing hours and happy days so dear does
memory recall;
The walk along the Leas, the leafy undercliff, and Oh,
that changing sea,
When the rich red sunset sparkles on thy face,
Such are my thoughts of thee picture of grace.*

*Those verdant meads of Shorncliffe Plain,
Bright green as emeralds after rain.
Deep down in mist of blue lies sleeping Sandgate
town,
Whose twinkling lights shine like some fairy's crown.*

*Not even the mists of Passchendaele and its blood
strewn duckboard track
Can blot from out my memory the charm of Radnor
Park,*

*Who would not fight for thee, dear land,
For every flower and Kentish maid's fair hand.*¹³

Before returning home, the Canadian Army presented eight stained glass windows to Shorncliffe Station, one with a maple leaf in the lower panel.

Local people did not quickly forget their Canadians. On June 9, 1920 three thousand school children of Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate and Cheriton made a pilgrimage to Shorncliffe Military Cemetery and laid flowers on the graves of the 300 Canadian soldiers buried there.¹⁴ On November 11, 1920 shrubs (grown at a local school from Canadian seeds) were planted on those graves.¹⁵

Windsor Great Park, Berkshire: As mentioned in Sir Robert Borden's speech, men of the **Canadian Forestry Corps**¹⁶ camped here and at nearby Virginia Water an avenue of Canadian trees was planted to commemorate their work.

¹³ www.sandgate-kent.org.uk/shorn.htm

¹⁴ *The Times* June 10, 1920 p. 13, col E

¹⁵ *The Times* November 12, 1920

¹⁶ Used for various forestry tasks in the UK and France i.e. clearing airfields, preparing railway tie, and lumber for use in trenches, barracks, hospitals, road surfaces, crating ammunition, etc., as well as occasionally acting as infantry. (<http://www.regiments.org/regiments/nacanada/corps/forest.htm>)

Witley, Surrey: Canadian soldiers who had camped here donated the oak paneling now in the nave of the Church.¹⁷

On May 7, 1919 the Prince of Wales visited the camp and in an exchange of speeches the Prince said "*Whether in attack or defence, in trench warfare or raids, you won renown. Future generations will recall your noble deeds in the battles of the Somme, on Vimy Ridge, around Lens, Passchendaele, Amiens, and Arras, and will jealously treasure the noble traditions you hand down to them*".¹⁸ Three days later soldiers from Witley resumed the fight, the enemy this time being inhabitants of nearby Guildford.

The 1919 Rioting

Canadian troops were angry at being trapped in England at the end of the war (rumoured to be official policy to keep them out of the ranks of the unemployed) and officially blamed on a shortage of ships. The Canadians knew that U.S. soldiers were being shipped home directly from France, that Victory Parades in Canada were honouring soldiers who had never left Canada and that the first soldiers back would be taking their old jobs. Frustration led to the 1919 demonstrations and rioting - the major ones described below:

On the evening of March 4th rioters at **Kinmel Park** met no resistance when they took over several camps and the stores but guards were set up to protect Camps 19 and 20 and the Records Office. The next afternoon two men carrying a large red flag and three men with smaller red flags led rioters towards Camps 19 and 20. The guards captured some of the advance party and put them in the Guardhouse. The mutineers tried to release them but the attempt was beaten off and the mutineers retreated to nearby Camp 18. Men from Camp 20 charged the rioters (now armed with a few rifles), gunfire was exchanged and five Canadian soldiers lay dead - Cpl. Joseph YOUNG, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Rgt.); Gunner William Lyle HANEY, Canadian

¹⁷ *The King's England - Surrey* by Arthur Mee pub Hodder & Stoughton 1950

¹⁸ *The Times* May 8, 1919, p. 7, col E.

Artillery; Sapper William TARASEVICH, Canadian Railway Troops; Pvt. David GILLAN, Canadian Infantry (Nova Scotia Rgt.) and Signalman Jack HICKMAN). Arrests were made by the Canadian authorities who conducted a Court of Inquiry and courts-martial of 50 men charged with mutiny and other offences: Thirty-three men were found guilty and served sentences of from 90 days to 10 years.

The witnesses statements of Lt. G. GAUTHIER; Jack MERRITT, Driver Canadian Field Artillery; Major E.V. COLLIER; Lance Cpl. Robert BOWIE, Royal Engineers; Sgt. W. H. BREMMER; Cpt. Douglas FORBES-SCOTT; Sgt. Henry ROBERTS and Major C.W. MACLEAN form part of the record of the Coroner's Inquest of March 20, 1919¹⁹, and are fully reported on the website: <http://www.tactic.org/~grafikatak/mutinies.html>.

On May 10th fights broke out in a dance hall in Guildford when Canadians from nearby **Witley** and **Bramshott** gave vent to their anger. The next night anti-Canadian feelings were high and British soldiers attacked Canadians on the streets of Guildford, badly injuring one Canadian. Both the Mayor and the Chief Constable deplored the violence and praised the Canadians.

On the night of June 14/15 **Witley** troops, sparked by the arrest of some soldiers for gambling, began a full-scale riot but damage was limited to the camp.

On June 17th at 11:15 p.m., led by a bugler, 400 Canadians from Woodcote Park, Convalescent Hospital, **Epsom** attacked and tried to set fire to the local police station to free two Canadian soldiers arrested for creating disturbances. During the attack 13 policemen were injured, Police Sergeant Thomas GREEN died of his injuries and damage was caused to the police station, nearby courthouse and neighbouring houses. The next day the town was put out of bounds to Canadians and shortly after they received their 'marching orders'. They left, marching through the town and past the Police

¹⁹ Held at the County Record Office, Hawarden, Clwyd

Station to board a hospital train, whistling as they went.²⁰

A Coroner's Inquest was held followed by a trial which found seven Canadians [Bugler Robert TODD, Pvt. James CONNORS (13th Canadian Highlanders), Pvt. David YEREX (Canadian Forestry Corps), Pvt. Allen McMASTER (3rd Canadian Reserve), Pvt. Frank Harold WILKIE (102nd Battalion Canadians), Pvt. Alphonse MASSE (CAMC) and Pvt. Robert Alexander McALLAN (CAMC)] guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 12 months hard labour.²¹

A fund was organized, to which the Canadian Red Cross contributed 200 Pounds, to pay for a tombstone for Thomas Green (a Celtic cross in Epsom cemetery inscribed "In memory of Station Sergeant Green who found death in the path of duty"), cash for his invalid widow and awards to the policemen of Epsom who were on the side of law and order on the night of the riot. The Canadian Government paid the fares for Thomas Green's widow and 18 and 19-year old daughters to allow them to begin new lives somewhere in Canada.²²

Despite the bitterness between soldiers and civilians at that time, lasting friendships had been formed with the townsfolk and were revived when ex-servicemen passed through Epsom in 1936 on their way to the unveiling of the Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge.²³ For many years Woodcote Park was still remembered affectionately by the locals as the 'Canadian Camp'.²⁴

The English in general had great affection for Canadian soldiers and for 30-odd years after WW1, on the Sunday nearest July 1st a memorial service was held in **Bramshott**: members of the Liphook Women's Own placed a posy of red, white and blue flowers on each Canadian grave

²⁰ *Epsom's Military Camp* by R.I. Essen

²¹ *The Times of London* June 21st, June 30th and July 1st, 1919

²² *Fatal Odds!* Article from *The Epsom & Ewell Advertiser* June 15, 1989

²³ *Around Epsom in Old Photographs*, Patricia Berry pub. Alan Sutton Publishing Limited 1992

²⁴ *Epsom's Military Camp* by R.I. Essen

and wreaths were laid at the cross in the Canadian section of the churchyard. In 1985 the congregation made new needlepoint kneelers for the church, many of them include the Canadian flag or the names of Canadian Provinces and the flowers associated with them.²⁵

Sources and Further Information

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www.militarybadges.info/canada/
www.canadiansoldiers.com/divone.htm - bibliography WW1 Canadian regimental histories etc.
www.johnowensmith.co.uk/books/lipcan.htm - details of book: *Liphook, Bramshott and the Canadians*
www.johnowensmith.co.uk/flora/florwalk.htm#grayshott - Flora Thompson and the Bramshott area
www.tactic.org/~grafikatak/mutinies.html - the rioting of 1919
www.aftermathww1.com/index.asp - a comprehensive WW1 site
www.hants.gov.uk/museum/aldershot/faq/canada.html
www.firstworldwar.bham.ac.uk/qanda.htm - Centre for First World War Studies - a good place to ask questions
www.cwgc.org/cwgcinternet/search.aspx - Commonwealth War Graves Commission Website
<http://1914-1918.org/forum/index.php?showtopic=187>: Forum dedicated to military hospitals
<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/adami/camc/camc.html#XIII>: War Story of Canadian Army Medical Corp.

(People and Places... continued from page 14)

Little did I realize that by setting a goal of placing each person with their individual name in my group family photograph would I unfold so much information on my ancestors and more photographs of them. A year ago, I was very happy to have three old photographs of my ancestors. Today, I have double that number of old photographs and possible leads to others. If I had not set a goal, made inquiries and started networking with others; I would not have these photographs and more information on the life of my ancestors. I sincerely hope that my experience can help you to find out more about your ancestor's photographs or even photographs of where they were born, raised, worked, and played.

²⁵ www.johnowensmith.co.uk/books/lipcan.htm

References

I have found the following two books to be very informative on researching and identifying your old photographs:

- *Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs How to Identify, Interpret and Preserve your Family's Visual Heritage* by Maureen Taylor
- *More Dating Old Photographs 1840-1929 (A Family Chronicle Publication)* Introduction by Maureen Taylor

FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

in the near future

Saskatchewan 100: Our People, Our Heritage

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Annual Seminar. Hosted by the Regina Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society and in partnership with the College of Certified Saskatchewan Genealogists.

Dates: October 21 - 23, 2005.

Place: Ramada Hotel and Convention Centre, Regina, Saskatchewan.

(www.saskgenealogy.com/seminar/events)

Brigham Young University's Annual 2006 Computerized Genealogy Conference

This conference promises to introduce you to the newest ideas in genealogical research. The featured presenter is Cyndi Howells.

Dates: March 10 - 11, 2006. Place: Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

(ce.byu.edu/cw/cwcompu)

Ontario Genealogy Society Genealogy Conference

From Buggy Whips to Micro Chips

Dates: May 26 - 28, 2006

Place: Oshawa, Ontario

(www.ogs.on.ca/events/first.html)

2006 National Genealogy Society Conference

The Hyatt Regency O'Hare will be home to the NGS June 2006 conference and what a fabulous place. It is going to be a remarkable week for family historians. All self contained, the convention centre is part of the hotel - no catwalks, no shuttles, just an easy way from your room to lectures, luncheons, and exhibit hall. The speakers will excite you, the topics will ignite you, the food will delight you!

(www.ngsgenealogy.org)

Brigham Young University's Annual Genealogy and Family History Conference

The 38th annual BYU Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held August 1 - 4, 2006 in the BYU Conference Centre. Eight information tracks will be available: Beginning Family History, Family History Centre Support, Computers, Europe/Nordic Research, British Research, U.S. Research, Methodology, and Publishing Family Histories.

(ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen)

Association of Professional Genealogists

Date: August 30, 2006

Place: Boston, Massachusetts (www.apgen.org)

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference

Dates: August 30 - September 2, 2006

Place: Boston, Massachusetts (www.fgs.org)

Legacy Genealogy Cruise Inside Passage to Alaska

Informative genealogy classes taught by the experts will be offered on the days out to sea. Learn the powerful features of Legacy 6.0 that will really help you advance your genealogical research and have a great time doing it. Seven day glacier route from Vancouver to Juneau, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Ketchikan, and back to Vancouver. (www.legacyfamilytree.com)

AFHS Family Roots 2006

Dates: October 13 - 14, 2006

Place: Carriage House Inn, Calgary, Alberta (www.afhs.ab.ca)

LESLIE LATTA-GUTHRIE: PROVINCIAL ARCHIVIST

by Ken Rees

Profile

Leslie Latta-Guthrie was born in Kansas in 1960 to American parents. The family moved to Canada in 1965 when her father took a teaching job at the University of Saskatchewan in Regina. The family then moved to Lethbridge in 1967 where her father taught English at the University of Lethbridge. He retired from teaching while still at the University of Lethbridge in 1990.

Leslie has two brothers and a sister. Her brother Bill, who was born in 1953 in San Antonio, Texas, is now living in Nebraska. Her sister, Linda, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and now lives with her family in Calgary, Alberta. Her second brother, Tom, was born in 1970, in Lethbridge, Alberta and is also living in Calgary. Her family became Canadian citizens in 1971.

Leslie attended Canadian schools, except for her grade 6 year, which was spent in Kansas. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French (minor in History) from the University of Lethbridge. Leslie then moved to Edmonton in 1983 to pursue a Masters degree in Library Science at the University of Alberta. She obtained that degree in 1985.

Her work experience includes:

- Academic libraries throughout her university studies
- Collection libraries in private sector legal and management consultant firms (1985-1990)
- Collections Program Manager at University of Alberta Museums and Collections Services (1990-2002)
- Edmonton City Archivist (2002-2004)
- Provincial Archivist (2004-)

Leslie met her husband, Rick Guthrie, immediately after completing her MLS in 1985, and so remained in Edmonton. They have a daughter, Emily. She is 13 and attends the Victoria School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Vision

The broad vision can be summed up in a few statements:

- Open the doors a lot wider, build awareness, and encourage new levels of audience.
- Make the new facility warm and inviting, in order to ensure that all researchers and other visitors have a good experience during each and every visit.
- Make the archives accessible physically and virtually via the Internet.

Because the Provincial Archives is a public facility, it must live within certain limits. These limits include human and operational resource limits, and legislative requirements. The good news is that there was an increase in resource funding during the 2005-06 budget cycle, including two permanent full-time positions.

Leslie sees a huge role for partner communities in reaching common goals for the Provincial Archives. Some of the common goals include:

- Making the homestead records available.
- Greater access to government records such as land titles.
- Greater help in the reading room.
- Potential provision for Web access to records such as Vital Statistics. Alberta has different legislative requirements than other provinces. The Archives will keep to community abreast of any developments in this regard.

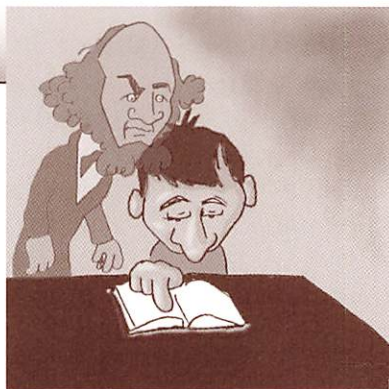
Leslie is pretty well a “door’s open” kind of Provincial Archivist. She doesn’t believe that the Provincial Archives should have too much in their holdings if they can’t work at providing access to the information at some point in time. She wants ideas from the family history community and encourages impromptu visits to her office.

SERENDIPITY IN GENEALOGY

Coincidence in Researching Your Family History

Salvaged Treasure

by Beverley A. Rees



Twenty-five years of searching for family history records in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Romania had become tedious and costly. In particular, I had almost given up hope of finding the marriage record for my paternal great-grandparents, Thomas Palecek and Marie Levorova.

My children contributed, when they could, to our family genealogy fund. However, shortly before my husband passed away on July 9th, 1991, he suggested that I not ask our children for any more money. They were struggling through university and raising young families. He did not want to burden them financially. He promised me that if I continued researching our family history I would be guided.

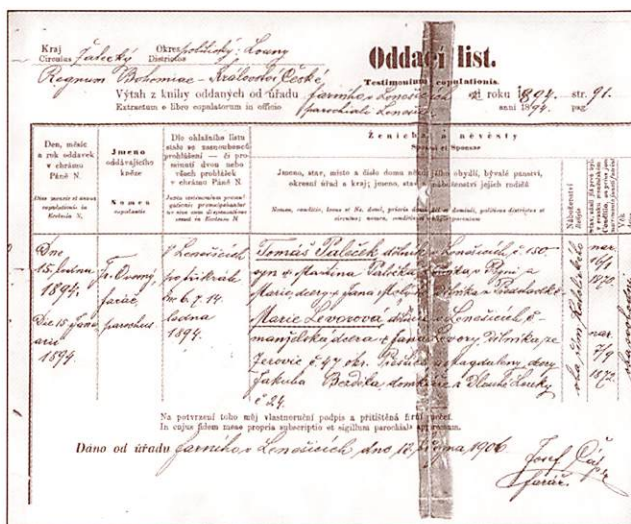
After his death I worked diligently and fervently. Being a widow my finances were limited; at times I did not know how I would continue my research.

A family visit to an aunt in British Columbia was planned for June 12, 1993. When I called my aunt to let her know we were coming I was in for a surprise!

The previous week one of her uncles from Idaho had come for a visit and left with her an old suitcase. Several years previously, I had corresponded with this very uncle and asked for family history information but this effort proved fruitless. After he had left, she examined the contents of the suitcase and decided it was just a lot of old papers and pictures of people she didn't recognize. She proceeded to tear up the documents and pictures and threw them in the trash.

Shortly after, my aunt received a phone call from her son who lived in the same city. He was shocked to hear that she had just thrown all that "junk" away. He knew that I was coming for a visit and that I was interested in genealogy. He drove to her house right away and salvaged what he could from the trash can.

As my sister and I pieced all the torn documents back together we were elated when we found that not one piece was missing. Tears welled up in my eyes as the first document we pieced back together was the marriage certificate of our great-grandparents in Lenesice, Louny, Austria, in 1894. Numerous other documents, including birth, marriage and naturalization certificates, tax records, visa applications, obituaries, photographs, old letters and post cards were all a welcome and overwhelming sight!



**Thomas Palecek – Marie Levorova
Marriage Certificate**

The priceless contents of the suitcase enabled me to extend our family tree back several more generations. All this time these documents had been only a few hundred miles away.

Alberta Family Histories Society

Membership

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

Objectives of the Society

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

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

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

Canadian Membership fees are			
When paid in Canadian funds using a money order, cheque on a Canadian account, on-line banking or cash		When paid using PayPal (Payment is in US funds and includes an administrative fee.)	
\$40	Individual	\$40	Individual
\$55	Family	\$55	Family
\$35	Senior individual	\$35	Senior individual
\$45	Senior family	\$45	Senior family
\$50	Institutional	\$50	Institutional
USA Membership fees are		Overseas Membership fees (US funds) are	
\$40	Individual	\$45.50	Individual
\$55	Family	\$60.50	Family
\$35	Senior individual	\$40.50	Senior individual
\$45	Senior family	\$50.50	Senior family
\$50	Institutional	\$55.50	Institutional

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