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Alberta Family Histories Society

Chinook

Volume 26, Issue 1 Winter, January, 2006 www.afhs.ab.ca



Nathalia

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ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

DATE	TOPIC
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

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

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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	
April 2006 Issue	15 February 2006	Kenneth W. Rees	Chinook Editor
June 2006 Issue	15 April 2006	Beverley A. Rees	Serendipity/Events Column Editor
October 2006 Issue	15 August 2006	Velma Boyer	Beginner's Column Editor
January 2007 Issue	15 November 2006	Amy Fripp	Copy Editor
		Judith Doyle	Copy Editor
		Lorna Stewart	Library Column Editor
		Susan Butler	Breeze Editor

On the Front Cover: Wedding picture of Henry Ohlhausen and Nathalia Koenig, who were married in Crossfield, Alberta on 5 March 1917. Picture courtesy Wayne Fuller, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Used by permission.

AFHS Digital Library Volume V

“Queen’s Park Cemetery, Calgary Sections P and Other Military Records” is now on sale. Volume V of the AFHS Digital Library contains nearly 5,000 records from sections P and PC of Queen’s Park Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Photos of most of the markers are available.

Printed by Unicom Graphics

4501 Manitoba Road SE Calgary AB, T2G 4B9,
403.287.2020

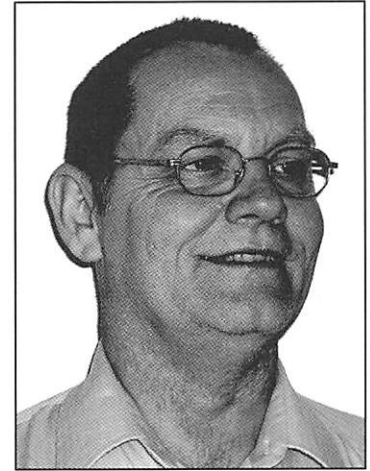
CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

by Gordon Lane

As we start into a new year I hope everyone had a wonderful time over the Holiday period. With some diligent research and pure blind luck I have managed to increase the family circle over the past year and I hope that many of you have also increased your family circle as well.

We have seen a number of changes in the meeting locations, much to the better for our comfort and space requirements. The monthly meeting location, I believe, has been a vast improvement from our previous location downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. It has dramatically reduced the number of volunteers required for set-up and take-down but we do still need some help in the main entrance way for the tables.

We now have both the main floor and the basement for the Library and meeting rooms at our 16th Avenue location and look to move some of the Library administrative equipment downstairs. There have been some plans talked about for the basement, one of which is to increase the number of computers with access to the Internet and another is as an additional meeting room. This would enable both the SIGs and committee meetings to take place at the same time.



The Internet, though very useful for accessing certain records, has given the perception that all people need is the Internet for genealogical research. This is not just a local phenomena but it is being more consistently reported in many genealogical journals and federation magazines. One effect, that has been noted, is that it does affect the number of people joining or re-joining genealogical societies and this can be seen by the reducing number of people in the A.F.H.S.

The work by the volunteers carrying out the cemetery inscriptions is important, not only for the data, but by making the Society more visible to the public. Another important public relations exercise is in collaboration with the Calgary Public Library and the monthly genealogical camps that take place in the William Castell Library downtown. The Library has been well pleased with the result and has asked for us to continue the collaboration this year. I personally enjoyed the session that I took part in but the Internet phenomena was well in evidence during these sessions.

One of our major public facing activities will also take place this year and that is Family Roots 2006. Work started on this last summer. We are holding it in the same location and around the same time. A link from the A.F.H.S website is in place and the Family Roots website will be updated appropriately. I hope that all of you will support the Society and the hard work of the volunteers who make this seminar such a success.

Regards
Gordon Lane

EDITOR'S TABLE

by Kenneth W. Rees

Our cover celebrates the life of an immigrant ancestor. Wayne Fuller tells us about his feisty grandmother named Nathalia, and the trials and tragedies she overcame.

Philip Thorpe brags about his New England Planter Ancestry, and explains how a Planter genealogy should be constructed. For those of use not fortunate enough to have Acadian family, reading this explanation is a real treat.

We have an extended report from the Celtic Special Interest Group on Wales and the Welsh connections. Bev Swan profiles Irene Oickle, and Bill Campbell tells us about his adventure in Finding Sarah. Bill Campbell is also represented by a short report about the Calgary Public Library Connections. (We are printing more information about the library and their holdings as well.)

I'm certain you won't want to miss the family history event of the year – FamilyRoots 2006: Genealogy, Genes, and Gigabytes! It will be held on October 13 and 14, 2006 here in Calgary.

One of the hard problems in family history is making the jump back to the “home” country. We'd like to start a new semi-regular feature about how you have accomplished this. Was it luck? Was it serendipity? Was it simple persistence? Or perhaps it was a combination. No matter – please send us your stories about how you bridged the gap and found the origin of your ancestors.

As always – I'd like to hear from you. Email, or write, and tell me what you like best, what you like least, and what you think ought to be changed. Your feedback and contributions can help make *Chinook* better than it is today!

Ken

ALLIANCE WITH CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

by Bill Campbell

Last Spring, at the suggestion of Ann Fordham, Volunteer Resources Manager at the CPL, a new trial programme was initiated. It involves inviting the public to come to the Main Branch of the Library on the last Saturday morning each month for a free Coaching Session and introduction to the genealogy/family history resources of the Library. The programme of course needed volunteers who have some experience in genealogy and so Ann turned to AFHS for help.

Diane Granger, our ever-alert Education Chair, jumped to the opportunity and soon organized a group of knowledgeable members. It first required that these members become intimately familiar with all of the resources in the genealogy area of the Library. Then, teams were formed and scheduled to work each of the designated Saturday mornings for two hours. Most of those who so generously agreed to help also benefited in that they learned more about all of the many holdings of our renowned CPL.

In a recent message from Ann she says "Everyone involved in the program feels that it has gotten off to a great start and that is indeed a valuable partnership between the Public Library and AFHS. We would love to continue the program in the New Year and when I spoke with the AFHS volunteers they were very keen to continue and to see the program grow.

The AFHS volunteers have been spectacular and we have received so many wonderful comments from our customers about the high level of expertise and guidance that they offer. The following volunteers have participated to date:

- Kelly Mitchell
- Diane Granger
- Kay Clarke
- Lorna Laughton
- Heather Jaremko
- Claire Neville

- Lois Sparling
- Gordon Lane
- Freda Stewart
- Tara Shymanski
- Barbara Thorpe
- Callie Reid

The following people have also attended a training evening and have made themselves available as substitutes if we need them. It would be great to thank them as well:

- Ronna Byam
- Glenn Clarke
- Sheila Johnston
- Norma Lendrum

The next dates that we would like to see included in our winter 2006 Program Guide would be Saturday January 28th, Saturday February 25th, Saturday March 25th and Saturday April 29th."

Needless to say AFHS is delighted with this new alliance. Thank you volunteers! Once again you have shown what great people we have as members in our Alberta Family Histories Society.

FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

by Bev Rees

Genealogy & Family Heritage Jamboree.

Dates: Feb. 10-11, 2006. Place: Dixie Convention Center in St. George, Utah. *Go someplace warm!!!* Tell a friend. Bring a friend. And be ready to enjoy the time of your life in St. George, Utah! Sponsored by My Ancestors -- Volunteers from the Washington County PAF User's Group. This two-day event has drawn speakers and vendors from all over the U.S. It will feature 101 terrific classes to choose from, more than 60 vendors and exhibitors, and the latest genealogy products and technology. Many free drawings and prizes each day! (<http://www.myancestorsfound.com/jamboree/jamboree.htm>)

Brigham Young University's Annual 2006 Computerized Genealogy Conference. Dates: March 10 - 11, 2006. Place: Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. This conference promises to introduce you to the newest ideas in genealogical research. The featured presenter is Cyndi Howells. (ce.byu.edu/cw.cwcompu)

Gene-O-Rama 2006. Dates: March 17 - 18, 2006. Place: Ottawa, Ontario. Sponsored by Ontario Genealogical Society, Ottawa Branch. (www.ogsottawa.on.ca/)

From Buggy Whips to Micro Chips. Dates: May 26 - 28, 2006. Place: Oshawa, Ontario. Sponsored by Ontario Genealogy Society. (www.ogs.on.ca/events/first.html)

2006 National Genealogy Society Conference: They Passed This Way. Dates 7 - 10 June 2006. Place: The Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Chicago. 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 38th Annual Genealogy and Family History Conference Dates: August 1 - 4, 2006. Place: 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)

East European Genealogical Society and Federation of East European Family History Societies Joint Conference. Dates: August 4-6, 2006. Place: Winnipeg, Manitoba. <http://www.feefhs.org/>
<http://www.eegsociety.org/EEGS.aspx>

**AFHS (Alberta Family Histories Society)
Family Roots 2006**

Genealogy, Genes and Gigabytes

Dates: October 13 - 14, 2006

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

**Society for German Genealogy in Eastern
Europe Conference.** Dates: August 11-13,

2006. Place: Edmonton, Alberta.

More information will be available soon.

<http://www.sggee.org/>

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.** Dates: September 6th to 13th, 2006.

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)

**Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Annual
Conference** Dates: October 27-29, 2006. Place:

Moosomin, Saskatchewan

http://www.saskgenealogy.com/events/sgs_event_s.htm

**Ottawa, The Nation's Capital for 150 Years;
The Peopling of Canada.** Ontario Genealogical

Society Seminar 2007. Dates: June 1-3, 2007.

Place: Ottawa, Ontario. www.ogsottawa.on.ca/

**XXVIIIth International Congress of
Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences**

Dates: June 23-28, 2008. Place: Quebec City,
Quebec.

www.sgq.qc.ca/congres_2008/welcome.htm

**CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEW DATABASES**

The Calgary Public Library has added two new databases to its E-Library.

The Times Digital Archive, 1785-1985

Researchers can search through the complete digital edition of The Times (London), using keyword searching and hit-term highlighting to retrieve full facsimile images of either a specific article or a complete page. The entire newspaper is captured, including announcements of births, marriages and deaths.

The Toronto Star - Pages of the Past

The Toronto Star - Pages of the Past is a full text online archive which includes over a century of regional, national and international events, including "all news stories, images, advertisements, classifieds, political cartoons, birth, death notices and more". Search for key words (including names), phrases and subjects from The Star and to see the results highlighted in the colour yellow on the page image of the newspaper as it was originally published.

Both of these databases are available from the Calgary Public Library website at www.calgarypubliclibrary.com [<http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com/>](http://www.calgarypubliclibrary.com/). Click on "E-Library", enter your library barcode and PIN and scroll down to the heading "History and Genealogy". Check out some of their other subscription databases on your way through the list.

Have you considered... what will happen to your records and research when you are not able to be actively engaged in family history research? Many researchers have made a "family history codicil" for their last wills, leaving directions concerning their family history material.

NATHALIA

by Wayne Fuller

Our family knew little about my grandmother's earlier life until we started researching her past, some twenty years after her death. This is her story. She was born Nathalia Koenig on 24 Nov 1898, in the North Caucasus town of Rostov in Russia¹. Her ancestors were part of a group of Germans invited by the Czar of Russia to set up German settlements in Bessarabia in the early 1800's. The objective was to populate, colonize and farm this newly acquired virgin land. As the settlements grew, established farms were handed down to the youngest son. This meant that other sons had to find a trade in the village, marry a widow with a farm, or move to a new area under the Russian agreement. Nathalia's grandparents moved to the North Caucasus where her parents, married and had two children prior to emigrating in 1899.

New Land, New Life

Gottlieb Koenig, his wife Justina (Wonnenberg), their two children Daniel and Nathalia along with Justina's parents and several siblings, left the North Caucasus in the spring of 1899. They most likely boarded a train in Woronzovka (presently Salsk) Russia and traveled to Odessa and on through Warsaw, Poland and Berlin, Germany to Bremen, Germany². We know they boarded the ship Kaiser Wilhelm de Gross in Bremen on 13 May 1899 and arrived at Ellis Island on 31 May 1899³. The ship's manifest obtained through Ellis Island shows Gottlieb to be 28, Justina 21, Daniel 3 and Nathalia 18 months old. Justina's parents were Ludwig

¹ This was on a hand written note on one of the small pieces of paper where she wrote certain facts in a journal style. In fact she kept a daily journal of family activities later in her life. This journal has been very useful in rebuilding the family history.

² From an article "Travel Routes for Germans leaving Russia to North America", written by Arthur Flegel, Menlo Park California.

³ The Ellis Island website revealed the passenger list with all three families listed.

Wonnenberg⁴ 54 and Wilhelmina (Bauch) 50. Several other members of Justina's family also traveled at the same time including her older brother Daniel 28 and his wife Maria (Hoffman) 20 along with their two children Karoline 2 and Gustov 1. The last of the traveling group were Justina's younger brothers Martin 16, Johann 14 and Ludwig 12.

Tragedy Strikes

These three families journeyed to Oklahoma where they each took out Homesteads. Daniel soon moved his family to Colorado, Ludwig sr. died of consumption and Gottlieb Koenig was advised by his doctor to move to a dryer climate because of a chest condition. Gottlieb, Justina, and their children Daniel, Nathalia, Dorothy, Lydia, Willie and Christopher moved to Granada Colorado in 1907 and rented a sugar beet farm. Before the first crop of beets was harvested, Gottlieb died and Justina's brother Martin came to help with the harvest and selling the crop. While Justina was away from the farm arranging their affairs, Nathalia, age 9 and her sisters were left at home with Willie who was about 2 years old. During the afternoon the youngster wandered off and a search party was formed with tragic results as the neighbor found him in an irrigation ditch. The family had one more funeral before leaving Granada and the USA forever.

The Move to Canada

Nathalia was on the move again, this time to Canada in October 1908 with her mother Justina, 4 siblings and Grandmother Wihelmina Wonnenberg. This group was part of a larger family contingent of three other families who homesteaded in the Hanna area. Justina settled in

⁴ Ludwig's father was Friedrich Heinrich b. 1817 in Politz, Poland and grew up in the town of Tarutino, Bessarabia, His mother was Anna Louisa Markus.

Calgary, Alberta where she took in laundry and did housework for various people in town. Nathalia was 10 and helped out by babysitting after school. I remember her recalling a time when she was given money to take the child in her care to the cinema and how it was such an exciting event as she had never been to a cinema before.

More Tragedy

Nathalia moved again in 1910 when her mother, Justina, married Phillip Keim of Acme, Alberta. Phillip was a strong Seventh Day Adventist, who had just lost his wife leaving him with seven children. The new combined family of 12 children was lively and fun as told by Nathalia, and there was lots of food. What started out as a new beginning of new life in Acme for this little family soon turned to tragedy again when less than one year after the union Justina died, leaving Philip Keim with twelve children and no wife. He could not maintain his newly acquired family, so he decided to keep and raise only Nathalia's oldest brother, Daniel. Nathalia was 'given' to Philip's brother John Keim, and her three youngest siblings were taken by grandmother Wilhelmina Wonnenberg, who had stayed with the family and tended Justina during her very sick days.

Wilhelmina distributed each of the three children to one of the 3 family members who were homesteading near Hanna. The John Quast family (Justina's sister Dorothea) raised Lydia; the Ludwig jr. Wonnenberg family (Justina's brother Ludwig) raised Dorothy; and the Samuel Littau family (Justina's sister Louisa) raised Christopher. In each case the 'adopted' child was treated like one of the family members and was expected to carry their share of the hard farm work whether it be inside or outside. During this time it was normal for children to work long hours on the farm as schooling was considered a luxury that they could not afford. Each of the two 'adopted' girls worked on the farm and lived with their family in the Hanna area until they were married at age 18. Christopher never married and worked as a farm hand throughout

the country and eventually with heavy machinery in many backcountry areas. His life must have been lonely and ended in tragedy in Calgary at the age of 55.

It must have been traumatic for this little family to lose a father, a little brother, a mother and then be split apart. Yet, amazingly, each of the remaining children lived to marry and raise families of their own with no apparent sign of the hurt that must have been inside. John Keim was Nathalia's surrogate father, who had a large farm near Acme, Alberta where she said "there was lots of work but also lots to eat". At age 13, she was expected to do a full day's work included milking cows, feeding calves, helping in the fields and with the harvest as well as cooking and cleaning inside. This hard work prepared her well for her future life. Her brother Dan worked and was raised with the other Keim children on the Phillip Keim farm and eventually married and had two children in southern Alberta.

Nathalia Marries

Nathalia married Henry Ohlhausen in 1917. Henry was born on June 29 1894 in Upper-Albota, Bessarabia and immigrated to Canada in 1902 with his parents and siblings. They homesteaded in the Medicine Hat area south of Irvine. We are not sure how Henry in Irvine knew about Nathalia in Acme, but it must have been an arrangement by a common acquaintance. As the story goes, Henry and John Keim had a conversation at the Keim farm in which Henry expressed, "I hear you have a daughter of marrying age". My mother Elma, who was Nathalia's daughter, told me the story many times, how her mother was in the house peeking through the three little holes that were part of storm windows in those days, just so that she could get a first look at her future husband. Apparently, the two men shook hands and the deal was done. Henry Ohlhausen and Nathalia Koenig were married in Crossfield, Alberta on 5th of March 1917⁵.

⁵ Looking at her in the picture on the front cover taken on 5 March 1917 (her wedding day) tells you that this feisty

Nathalia moved with her husband to Henry's parents' farm south of Irvine. Henry's father and mother, Wilhelm Ohlhausen and Louisa (Tetslaf) retired to Medicine Hat at that time. During the eight years on this farm the family grew with the birth of 3 girls, Irene b. 1918, Elma b. 1919 and Francis b. 1923; all born on the farm with a midwife present. Life was tough in the early years as there was little rain and in spite of putting up Russian thistle for feed they still lost 2 cows, but saved the 4 cows and seven horses. From 1922 to 1924 there was more rain and the farm produced good crops. Every two weeks they drove 25 miles to Medicine Hat to sell butter and eggs and buy groceries.

In 1925 the family made a big move north to the Acme district and bought ½ section of land from Nathalia's surrogate father John Keim, where they farmed for three years. Their son Edwin was born the 26th of December 1927 in an upstairs bedroom of the two-story house on this farm. In 1928 they moved to the present location of the family farm, 15 miles east of Carstairs, where Henry found a section of land in one square block. It was important to get land in one block as they worked the land with 15 workhorses. They used up to nine horses on a three-bottomed plow to turn the sod. In the beginning, Nathalia worked along side of the men in the fields, but as time went on and they had hired men to help. In harvest time she baked 10 loaves of bread every other day and served it with home made sausages and other homegrown goodies.

Francis died at the age of 13, on the 25th of June 1933. Her health had been poor as she had a leakage of the heart and finally died of kidney failure. In 1941, lightning struck the metal cloths line connected to the house close to where Nathalia was cutting bread on kitchen counter. The current splintered a cupboard in the kitchen and went through the knife and burned along her arm, her hip and down one leg creating a hole in one shoe and jumping from nail to nail across the floor before exiting to the basement. Everything in the cupboard was sprayed around the room

18 year old is ready for the next challenge.

including the bottles of food colouring which sprayed all over Nathalia. She was knocked to the floor unable to move and a small fire had started around her as there were kerosene lamps on the cupboard. Luckily the hired man was in the house and pulled her to safety and put out the fire. Their son Edwin was on his way into the house carrying his cap full of freshly gathered eggs. When he saw his mother laying in the entrance unable to move and covered with red food colouring, he thought the worst and dropped the cap with the expected omelet result. Although shaken, this event was taken in the stride of this tough German immigrant.

Life on the Farm

They milked 10 to 15 cows by hand, and the kids were on milking duty after the age of ten. As the family grew and there was a little more money, Nathalia would order things for the house from the Eatons' catalogue including material she needed to make all the children's clothing. There was no work done on the Ohlhausen farm on Saturdays. Although her husband Henry was brought up in the Lutheran faith, Nathalia was influenced by the Seventh Day Adventist faith from her grandmother Wonenberg and during her time with the John Keim family. During this very busy time of her life with farm duties and raising three children, Nathalia taught herself to read and write English. My mother, Elma, told me how she would practice every chance that she could get with the bible, Eatons' catalogue and even the children's books from school. Nathalia was a hard worker and I remember she kept her home meticulously clean and taught her girls to do the same. The farm was a well run 'German organized' operation. I remember my father telling the story that he arrived early in the morning on 2 June 1940, their wedding day, to be married on the Ohlhausen farm and relieved my mother Elma, of her milking duties that morning.

(Continued on page 28)

NEW ENGLAND PLANTER ANCESTORS AND THREE GENEALOGY BRAGS

by Phillip P. Thorpe CG(C)

Introduction

Significant historical events that affected my ancestors occurred several centuries ago. During early European settlement of North America, regions along the Atlantic seaboard experienced various controlling interests. The ebb and flow of French and English interests were most evident in *Acadie*, or the present regions of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Conflicts between France and England in Europe spilled over into North America. What was most disturbing was, when resolution treaties were negotiated, areas that had been secured by one party in North America were traded back to the other country, with little consideration of the effect on North American residents.

In the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, the British acquired Newfoundland and peninsular Nova Scotia, but control of *Ile Royal* (Cape Breton) and *Ile Saint-Jean* (Prince Edward Island) was left with the French. The French Fortress of Louisburg in Cape Breton was a thorn in the side of all English people along the east coast of North America. On more than one occasion it was under siege by the British, together with troops from the Colonies that are now the New England States. Having completed a successful capture of that Fortress, only to see it ceded back to the French by European politicians, was always disappointing to officials and residents of the New England Colonies.

Between 1739 and 1744 (over 260 years ago) France and England became allies on opposing sides in conflicts related to sovereignty and commerce in the West Indies, and the *War of the Austrian Succession*. France had sided with Spain in the 1739 *Anglo-Spanish War*, over shipping superiority in the West Indies. They also became opposing allies to the British in continental European conflicts in the *War of the Austrian Succession*. On 15 March 1744 France finally declared war on Britain. News of this

declaration was slow to reach North America, but set the stage for a number of significant conflicts that played out over the next 16 years.

Louisburg was captured by the British in 1758, and returned to France by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1763. In 1749 Halifax was founded by the British in Nova Scotia, and in 1750 they built Fort Edward in Piquet (Windsor) Nova Scotia. In 1750 the British secured the isthmus to peninsular Nova Scotia. This was achieved by (forcefully?) encouraging the French to abandon their settlement of Beaubassin, and creating Fort Lawrence nearby (near present-day Amherst). In 1751 the French countered with the construction of Fort Beausejour nearby, and other forts to protect trade routes. The posturing continued, and heightened hostilities between imperial powers led to new areas of concern.

The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht that ceded peninsular Nova Scotia to the British, had provided for *the Acadians* (the French residents) of the area. The Acadians could stay on their lands in Nova Scotia provided they swore an oath of allegiance to the monarch of Great Britain. They did not hasten to comply for several reasons, including an awareness of the frequent change of sovereignty in the past, and encouragement from religious and other leaders. For many years they existed as *Neutrals* or *the neutral French*. Thus, renewed hostilities between the imperial powers, and awareness of alliances between the French and Indians, gave the British authorities in North America serious concerns. With encouragement and transport support provided by Governor Shirley of Massachusetts the *Deportation of the French Acadians* began in 1755. I will reflect more on that event later.

Before leaving the historical review of significant events, there were a few more that should be highlighted. They seem to be well documented in a brief note in *The Acadians of Nova Scotia Past and Present*, by Sally Ross &

Alphonse Deveau, Nimbus Publishing, 1992, p 73. "The French empire in North America gradually crumbled. The fall of Louisbourg in 1758 meant that France no longer controlled Ile Royal (Cape Breton) or Ile Saint-Jean (Prince Edward Island). The fall of Montreal in 1760 signaled the end of the French regime in the Colony of Canada." The British offensive in gaining control of North America was given support in the form of money, troops, ships, and strategic support. Louisburg fell in 1758 but a prolonged siege of the fortress delayed the capture of Quebec until 1759 when Wolfe and Montcalm met and were mortally wounded on the Plains of Abraham.

New England Planters

As one whose ancestors and their relatives participated in the Louisburg sieges, I have mixed reactions to the many cruel acts of ethnic cleansing in 1755-63. Deporting upwards of 10,000 people, with ensuing drowning, family separation, and other hardships was a black mark in our historical record. Many well researched historical accounts of that event exist, and should be encouraged reading for all Canadians.

ORIGINS, Canadian History to Confederation, by R. Douglas Francis, Richard Jones and Donald B. Smith, printed by Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada Ltd., Toronto, 1988 offers many references for that and other interesting events. Perhaps we all recall earlier reading of the poem *Evangeline* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It has been reported that Longfellow probably never visited Nova Scotia. Written long after the event his, apparently, fictional romantic poem was based on stories carried through oral traditions. The poem and the statue of Evangeline in Grand Pre, Kings Co., NS, serve primarily as symbols of the wrongs done to a people who loved the land.

Like the Dutch in Holland, the French Acadians in Atlantic Canada (then *Acadie*) dyked the marshlands. They developed fertile areas for growing feed for their livestock. These lands lay vacant following the expulsions, and became bargaining tools for future settlements. The

British authorities had removed a people who had refused to take an oath of allegiance, and wanted loyal replacements. They had intimate contact with the New England colonies, and turned there for recruits. Some early proclamations were issued even before the French conflicts ended. However, with growing families in New England and a need for new lands, a New England Planter migration was born. These settlers had various educations and skills, but were labeled *Planters* because they planted new settlements across the land. In 1758 and 1759 some advanced parties visited officials in Halifax and scouted out the areas that later became Planter Townships. Led by some former colonial servicemen who had seen lands in Nova Scotia, and others appointed as leaders, they sailed northward, with many Townships formed in 1760. Between 1760 and 1774 some 8000 Planters arrived in Nova Scotia (which then included New Brunswick).

Planter Records

Genealogists today owe many thanks to the New England Planter system of records. Having been organized into upwards of 40 Townships, their record keeping included:

1. Township books, for vital records of births, marriages, and deaths.
2. Land Registers for land transactions, land grants, land sales, mortgages, Quit Claims etc.
3. Probate Records for wills, probates, administrations, etc.

Beside these it is helpful to search for church records, cemetery lists, and, especially after 1864, official government registers of b. m. d., census data etc.

I was born in Wolfville, and attended Acadia University in that town, some 50 years ago. It is located a couple of miles from Grand Pre, and the Acadian heartland of the Minas Basin. Reminders of the earlier French settlements, and especially the subsequent Planter townships, abound in the area. This might be considered one of my brags, but I have reserved them for last.

Three Brags

This report evolved from three brags that use the preceding historical background. Since a large portion of my ancestors were New England Planters, or soon after married their descendants, I have focused my genealogical research on the complex intermarriage of the many Planter families in Kings County, Nova Scotia. It is true that some descendants now have very watered down Planter ancestry, but I now rarely enter a Kings County family without connecting to another family in the area. I have sometimes checked an individual's ancestral record and am not surprised to find several lines that span the 245 years since the Planters arrived in Nova Scotia in 1760. Specifically, my first brag is that I now have over 100,000 interrelated people entered into my Brother's Keeper Database.

My second brag is about the little backup system that I use. The tiny penknife sized USB Flash Disk on a necklace has a 512 megabyte capacity. I currently alternate between two folders on the Flash Disk for my nightly Brother's Keeper backups. Many of the 100,000 people have page size comments with obituaries and notes, vital data has been sourced, detailed event locations were entered, etc., and still the 2 copies fill just over 50% of the disk. Perhaps I will tire of the exercise before the disk is full.

My third brag involves recently contacting a distant Planter cousin. Using the various record types that I mentioned earlier, assisted by the History of Kings County, Nova Scotia, I had recorded the family of my Planter ancestor, Simeon Porter. The history, and Cornwallis Township book, listed most of his children. His will and probate records included an obvious older child, born between his 1755 marriage in Connecticut, and arrival in Nova Scotia as a Planter in 1760. That son, David, was listed first in the will. There were 8 other children that grew to adulthood and had families. All of the 9 descendant families remained in Kings County, NS, except the oldest two sons.

Besides Simeon Porter's will and probate, land records were very helpful. They recorded transactions that Eber, the third son, made in buying out the inheritance of the two oldest sons. These 1801 and 1800 Quit Claims listed the residence of David and Simeon Jr. (Bridgton, Lincoln Co., MA - really Bridgton, Cumberland Co., ME, and N.B respectively). Some earlier land records when David sold some dyke lots in N.S. proved that he had also initially removed to N.B. Through the internet, my wife Barbara first established the true location of Bridgton, Cumberland Co., ME, and then located a contact in Maine who has since exchanged information on David Porter, and his children, born in Burton, Sunbury Co., N.B. and in Bridgton, Cumberland Co., ME.

In 1833, the third son, Eber Porter, died intestate, without children, and his widow and others were involved in administering his estate. The widow was granted her 1/3rd dower. After paying debts, the balance was distributed as 1/8th shares amongst his 8 siblings, or their heirs. The consolidating of interests in the families of the 8 siblings was extensively documented in the land records, especially in those where Eber's siblings had predeceased him. In some cases a dual transaction occurred, where all the other children quit claimed for 5 shillings, to one son, and then that son sold the 1/8th inheritance to his cousin, or another relative.

On 25 April 1835, a letter of distribution of the balance of the estate was filed, in which each of the eight received 10 pounds and 15 shillings. All eight siblings were named, or in some cases, listed as "heirs of". The 6 younger local siblings were listed first and their shares totaled, then David and Simeon Jr. were listed as: Simeon Porter Heirs Stephen & David; and Heirs of David Porter, each with the same 1/8th share. It was especially significant that Simeon Jr. had heirs Stephen and David, because the beneficiaries had signed the distribution. From the land records it was possible to identify

(Continued on page 25)

REPORT FROM THE CELTIC SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: WALES AND WELSH CONNECTIONS

Ann Williams, Chair of the English/Welsh Special Interest Group (SIG) joined us at our June meeting to add some history and background to the topic. Lois Sparling added much to the discussion, drawing from what she has learned from researching her Welsh ancestors.

History

The first people to experience the fierce defenders of Wales were the Romans whose energies were fully engaged for many years before the Welsh were finally conquered. Conquered but not subdued, Welsh tribesmen and their guerrilla tactics necessitated the country remaining under military occupation sustained by a network of roads and Legionary encampments. The Romans finally left the area. The next invaders were the Saxons and it is in this period that Arthurian legends appear in the writings of the Welsh bards. The age of the Christian missionaries followed, with the Welsh patron saint St. David preaching his austere faith, but Wales became religiously isolated after the well-received St. Augustine arrived in England from Rome and at this point Welsh hopes of influencing England died and it became a matter of protecting national independence and the westward expansion of the English.

In 851, Danish Vikings attacked the west coast of Wales. Under the leadership of Rhodri Mawr – Rhodri the Great – the Danes were driven out leaving the country in peace until the successful Norman conquest of 1066 progressed to the borders of Wales. The Normans encroached into Wales, but only held territory by an intensive program of castle building. The Welsh withdrew further and further into their forbidding mountains only beginning to drive these invaders out in 1135 when the English were distracted by the wrangling over the throne by Stephen and Matilda. Stephen's successor, Henry II, endeavoured to snuff out Welsh resistance for all

time and a couple of times his army marched into Wales and were defeated before Henry finally decided that the attempts to conquer the Welsh had failed and a period of calm came to the country. It was during this period (1177) that the first gathering of bards took place.

Wales remained strong and many Welsh rights were enshrined in the Magna Carta of 1215. Henry II's son, Edward I, then took on the task of subjugating the Welsh. In 1277, he led a successful army into Wales and began a new era of castle building. Several times the Welsh attempted to throw off these English invaders. Finally in 1402, under the leadership of Owain Glyndwr (with the aid of the French navy), English strongholds fell to the rebels in every part of Wales. Yet the revolt failed and the castles of Wales were retaken one by one, leaving the Welsh with only a new spirit of nationalism. Welsh pride was finally fulfilled in 1485 when a son of Wales, Henry Tudor, triumphed in the War of the Roses and assumed the English throne.

Culture

The oldest poem in Welsh literature dates from about 615. The language used in those early writings is understandable by the Welsh-speakers of today, unlike the earliest English writing (Chaucer say) which generally has to be translated in order to convey its meaning to current English speakers.

Following on from the first gathering of bards in the 10th century when poets and musicians competed for the honour of a chair at the host's table, an annual Eisteddfod (a "sitting together" or "gathering") is held in Wales. These Eisteddfodau (the plural term) are eight-day cultural festivals, entirely in Welsh, attracting 6,000 competitors and 150,000 visitors. Competitions in music, drama, poetry and the fine arts are held. The winner of the competition

for strict metrical poetry is still awarded a chair – a hand-carved throne – with the award ceremony called “chairing the bard.” Robed bards are the keepers of Eisteddfod traditions, some of them past winners of competitions, others awarded the honour in recognition of their services to the Welsh nation, language and culture. Robed bards include politicians and rugby stars.

Language

Welsh and Gaelic both have Celtic origins, but are no more mutually understandable than, say, Spanish and French.

Celtic Languages of Continental Europe	
Q Celtic Gaelic Spoken in Ireland, Isle of Man, and Scotland	P Celtic British Spoken in England, Wales, and Southern Scotland before the Roman invasion. Now remains as Welsh, Cornish, and Breton

The Welsh language holds a position between Munster Irish on the side of Gaelic, and Cornish on the side of the British division of Celtic, but much nearer the latter. It is not as soft as Irish and Cornish, yet very musical. Its gutturals and aspirate lls sound strange to foreign ears, and an English writer has picturesquely described Welsh as "a language half blown away by the wind". But there can be no question as to its richness in pure vowel-sounds or its masculine force.

Welsh is still used by about half a million people within Wales and possibly another few hundred thousand in England and other areas overseas. In most heavily populated areas of Wales, such as the Southeast (containing the large urban centers of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea), the normal language of everyday life is English, but there are other areas, notably in the Western and Northern regions, (Gwynedd and Dyfed particularly) where the Welsh language remains strong and highly visible.

The Strathclyde Britons spoke a version of Celtic similar to Welsh. The Gaelic speaking Scots were descended from migrants from Ireland.

Despite its formidable appearance to the uninitiated, Welsh is a language whose spelling is entirely regular and phonetic. Once you know the rules, you can learn to read it and pronounce it without too much difficulty. For young children learning to read, Welsh provides far fewer difficulties than does English, as the latter's many inconsistencies in spelling are not found in Welsh. In Welsh, all letters are pronounced.

The Welsh Alphabet (28 letters):

A, B, C, Ch, D, Dd, E, F, Ff, G, Ng, H, I, L, Ll, M, N, O, P, Ph, R, Rh, S, T, Th, U, W, Y

This sentence is in English but written using the Welsh alphabet:

Gwd lwc. Ai hop ddat yw can ryd ddys and ddat yt meiks sens tw yw. Iff yw can ryd ddys, dden yw ar dwing ffaen and wil haf no problems at ol yn lyrnyng awr ffaen Welsh alffabet.

Translation:

Good luck. I hope that you can read this, and that it makes sense to you. If you can read this, then you are doing fine and will have no problems at all in learning our fine Welsh alphabet.

Ann had a handout with translations of “tombstone” relationships, and landscape features (next page). The handout also touched on mutation (i.e. certain initial consonants undergoing regular changes.) “Root” words beginning with letters p, t, c, d., g, m, ll and rh; nouns and adjectives, mutate depending on the function they perform in a sentence. Note that our words “Dad” and “bride” seem to be of Welsh origin.

The Family					
Brawd	= Brother	Mam	= Mother	Priod	= Spouse
Cefinder	= Male cousin	Mam-gu	= Grandmother	Tad	= Father
Chwaer	= Sister	Merch	= Daughter	Tad-cu	= Grandfather
Cyfnither	= Female cousin	Nai	= Nephew	Taid	= Grandfather
Gwr	= Husband	Nain	= Grandmother	Wyr	= Male grandchild
Gwraig	= Wife	Plant	= Children	Wyres	= Female grandchild
Mab	= Son	Plentyn	= Child		
Maban	= Baby				
Landscape Features					
Allt	= Wooded Slope	Bryn	= Hill	Pant	= Hollow
Afon	= River	Mawr	= Big/Great		
Mutation in Action					
Their son	= Eu mab	His son	= ei fab	Her son	= ei mab
Their loving son	= Eu hannwyl fab	His loving son	= ei annwyl fab	Her loving son	= ei hannwyl fab
Their daughter	= Eu merch	His daughter	= ei ferch	Her daughter	= ei merch
Their child	= Eu plentyn	His child	= ei blentyn	Her child	= ei phlentyn
		His spouse	= ei briod	Her spouse	= ei phriod
		His father	= ei dad	Her father	= ei thad

Patronymics – Not Just Wales

Ann touched on the difficulty when reading parish registers from Wales of determining whether a name includes a hereditary, fixed surname, a patronymic, or no form of surname at all. From 1813 (with the introduction of parish register pages with a distinct column for the surname) it was no longer necessary to make that determination.

The system is based on the fact that everyone is the son or daughter of their father – the words “ab” or “ap” meaning “son of” and the words “ferch, vch, vz or ach” signifying “daughter of” were simply inserted between a string of given names, going back up to nine generations to make an “official” name. Two or three name patronymics were in everyday use. The same man could be known as Edward ap Griffith ap Thomas or Edward ap Griffith

Once the small words began to be dropped (to make names English sounding), the same man could be known as: Edward Griffith Thomas or Edward Griffith(s). If patronymics were followed, his son Griffith could be either: Griffith Edward(s) or Griffith Edward Griffith

When a Welshman became King of England and appointed his countrymen to positions in

London, the Welsh saw the advantage of having a fixed surname and were adopting them by 1550 – the more remote parts of Wales, however, did not adopt fixed surnames until the 1880s. Generally one of the patronymic names was chosen as the fixed surname but there are cases of brothers adopting different surnames.

Ann is of the view that very few researchers will be successful in tracing their ancestors back to the time when patronymics were in use.

As in Scotland, Welsh married women retained their maiden surnames.

Welsh Surnames

The Surnames of Wales by Rowlands and Rowlands lists the 10 most common surnames from 1813 to 1837 as:

1. Davies
2. Evans
3. Griffiths
4. Hughes
5. Jones
6. Lewis
7. Morgan
8. Roberts
9. Thomas
10. Williams

Lois checked her own Welsh surnames of interest and discovered the following:

- Davies = son of David. Davis is more likely to be of English origin. Its main concentration was south Cardiganshire, but it was common all over Wales.
- Gittins, Gittoes come from pet versions of Gruffydd, Guto and Gutyn. These surnames were most common in Montgomeryshire, and largely confined to the English border areas north of Painscastle in Radnorshire.
- Jones = son of John. It began as an English surname and filtered into Wales, replacing many of the John surnames. It was by far the most common surname in the 1813-1837 survey, especially in north and mid Wales. It was not very common on the coast of south Wales.
- Morgan from the first name Morgan that was popular for centuries. It is common in south and mid Wales.
- Williams is an English as well as Welsh patronymic surname.

Welsh Naming Patterns

Ann described the naming pattern used in Wales as:

- First son – after the father’s father
- Second son – after the mother’s father
- First daughter – after the father’s mother
- Second daughter – after the mother’s mother

Books on Surnames

Surnames and Genealogy: A New Approach by George Redmonds. His primary thesis is that English surnames changes a lot more than is generally realized right into the 19th century. Contrary to established historical belief, there was significant instability to hereditary surnames after c. 1540. He studied the surnames of Yorkshire to test his theory. Reasons he suggests include:

- Changes in pronunciation leading to changes in spelling.
- A gentry family changing its name to the name of its new estate.
- Adoption and illegitimacy, particularly in the lower social classes.
- Regional use of nicknames and by-names.

He notes patronymic by-names were a parallel or alternative surname in some areas of Yorkshire before the 20th century and these became hereditary surnames in some cases relatively recently.

Scottish Surnames by David Dorward (Collins Publishing). The nature of Scottish social structure in the middle ages was feudal in the Lowlands and tribal in the Highlands and always patriarchal; thus the relatively few surnames compared to England. The 20th century surnames of Scotland are: 35% Old English/Scots; 21% Scottish Gaelic; 11% Irish Gaelic; 7% Norman French; 4% Norse; and 14% other. First names used during the Middle Ages were remarkably small. In Gaelic speaking areas, saints’ names were used with a prefix such as maol which means “devotee” or gille which means servant – Malcolm, Gilchrist, Gilbride. In the feudal Lowlands, vassals, serfs, tenants and retainers often adopted the name of their Duke or Earl, e.g., Hamilton, Crawford, Lindsay. Highlanders would adopt clan names.

Patronymics were not as widespread a source of surnames as in Wales, but still are more widespread than most places. Mac is (usually) the start of a patronymic name all over Scotland. Son at the end of the surname also indicates a patronymic common in the Lowlands, e.g., Thomson, Robertson, Wilson, Anderson. Pet forms of names also form a significant number of surnames, e.g., Robbie, Dickie, Aitken. Scottish diminutives are different than English

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PROFILE: IRENE OICKLE

by Bev Swan

Irene Oickle first belonged to the Alberta Genealogical Society. When the Alberta Family Histories Society started she was membership secretary and was able to assign her own membership number which is # 124. She has been an active member in family research since her mother Dora started writing letters to family members about 1937 for family information. At the time, her mother lived on a mountain top in Rock Creek near Osoyoos, BC. She wanted very much to be part of the family. She didn't have relatives who came to visit and she was missing the connection with family. She wrote to anyone, family related, who would write back to her.

Her Mother told her a story about Grandfather Oliver Johnson being at the signing of Treaty Number 7 with Indians, and other historical happenings. Irene's mother was an Irish Catholic who married a Presbyterian Scot. Her father's nationality was Norwegian. Other family members included Irish Catholic. Irene said that with many religions mixed in the family, you either went to the United Church, Presbyterian Church or Catholic Church. Other family religions and nationalities on her Father's side are Swedish Lutheran and German Lutheran.

Irene enjoys the basic education sessions separate from the main sessions at the General Meetings. She first started working with Willy Hambly who was with the School Board putting on basic sessions. Irene had the basic family information from her Mother to get started for herself. The last Family on her Mother's side came to North America in 1867. Irene traced her father's French line back to 1651. She is stuck with her Mother's side in 1830. She has completed to date her husband's line in Nova Scotia back to 1752. Irene has expanded her research to 11 counties so far. Irene says the further back you go the harder it gets to do research. She is still continuing to trace her father's Scottish line in the USA.

Her husbands' family, who were foreign Protestant, was brought over by Cornwallace to establish the English people in Nova Scotia. England wanted to have enough people to keep it as the French people, who already occupied Louisburg, Nova Scotia, would not give a pledge of allegiance to King or Queen of England at that time.

When asked whether it was better to follow a particular person, country, or religion, Irene noted that it depends on the country which way is easier. In Quebec, the French Canadian Catholic records are wonderful to help with research.

Irene first started with handwriting. Then she used a typewriter, and now uses a computer to record family records. She had the Brother's Keeper program. Then a friend recommended Legacy, so she has been able to compare the two programs to two different sources. Irene believes citing your sources first is important. This will keep the family lines going.

Her next project is to organize her research with relating a grandmother to child. She wants to make photo album (a grandmother's book) for her grandchildren who may not get to Nova Scotia and know family before their birth.

Do you know...about the Canadian Genealogical Projects Registry? The Canadian Genealogical Projects Registry is a free electronic resource for the genealogical community. (See www.afhs.ab.ca/registry)

The Registry hopes to help eliminate duplication of work by providing a central place where small and large genealogy projects can be listed. This Registry will be a site where you can find out which extraction/transcription projects are planned, underway, or have been completed.

FINDING SARAH

by Bill Campbell

If you know of anyone who is perhaps 70 years of age and who has yearned to meet his/her mother for many decades, read on! You may find this an interesting story - a journey of discovery.

It all started in 2002 when my second cousin (once removed) living in Devon, England mentioned that she had learned of another cousin (a fifth cousin once removed) now living in Utah. It seems this cousin, Mary, was born in Calgary in 1934 and had moved to Utah in the '50s where she married and raised a family of three daughters and a son.

When I contacted her she responded enthusiastically that she would like to meet me on her next trip to Alberta when she planned to meet her sister then living in Fort McLeod. A few weeks later we met and she then disclosed that she was a cousin by adoption. She had been adopted as a year-old baby by my cousins John and Emma Sheppard living in Calgary. Mary then told me that she had always wondered who her birth mother was and what her life circumstances were. Thoughts of her mother had haunted her for years and years. She produced a letter from the Province of Alberta providing the name of her mother. It advised that she was of Danish descent and her name was Sarah Jensen.

Then the real surprise came. Mary sadly revealed that her son had died at the age of 33 of a very unusual brain cancer. She and her daughters have lived for several years with the concern that this same malady might strike them. She produced another letter written by her family doctor suggesting that she try to learn more about the health concerns of her birth family and her true ancestors. He indicated that the information could be helpful in diagnosis of any future ailments the three women might acquire. So, Mary asked if I would see if I could help her find her mother, if she was still alive. And so the quest began.

Sometimes you are better to be born lucky than smart - the old adage goes. It so happened that I was then researching information for a story I was writing about the closing (in 1945) of the No. 2 Wireless School of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan which was located on the present day SAIT campus. This work involved reading several years of microfilm copies of Calgary's daily newspapers, The Herald and The Albertan. In those years they were 6-day-a-week publications with the traditional Obituary and In Memoriam columns. So it wouldn't be much of a task to roll along each day to the page to look at those often-revealing death record resources. Why my reading of microfilms went on as late as 1960 is another story.

Day after day, hour after hour, I refreshed my memory of what it was like to live in Canada in World War II. As part of my routine reading I would go on to the Obituary column and then on to the shorter In Memoriam section looking for the name Jensen to pop off the page. Fifty years ago these columns were not arranged alphabetically so it was essential to read every entry carefully. As the history rolled by and my eyes became more swollen and tired I decided one day that I had done enough newspaper research and was about to terminate the work for Mary. For some unknown reason I had a second thought and decided to read just one more days' Herald.

Now we come to the really unusual part - call it the luck of the cards or even divine intervention. But in the very next day's Herald, as I rolled past the obituaries to the In Memoriam, the first name that appeared was Jensen. It was a tribute to a Sarah Jensen who had died just two years before. That was just too close! Back I went and lo and behold there was the record of the death of Sara Jensen that I had somehow previously missed. Fate had intervened. But this could not be Mary's mother. This woman who died in 1958

was too old to be Mary's mother. The obituary revealed that she had three daughters whose married names were provided there. The question – could one of them be named after her mother? The age could be just about right. Oh yes, the spelling irregularity (Sarah/Sara) could likely be chalked up to a typesetter's error –no computers with spell check in those days. It might have thrown us off the trail. It told of Sarah being born in Rotterdam, Holland and of her emigration to Seven Persons, AB. But, Mary's adoption record showed she was of Danish descent. It did not suggest that she had married a man of Danish ancestry. There are many 'snares' along the family history highway it seems.

Fortunately, Sarah's Dutch maiden name was sufficiently unusual in Alberta that the road then widened. The obituary revealed that her brother lived in Alberta. Armed with this information Mary eagerly went to the internet yellow pages and found addresses for all of the families with the same maiden name as Sarah's. The highway widened even further as Mary made phone calls and soon it was revealed by relatives that Sarah who had died in 1958 had three children still living in Calgary. One of them, Carl, it was suggested, should be contacted for further help.

Carl was reached by phone and he quickly confirmed that he had a sister Sarah then living in a nursing home in Calgary. He agreed to meet Mary and I. Mary soon divulged that she felt that she was the born-out-of-wedlock daughter of his sister. He was shocked because the family had always been very close and over the 70 years or so no mention had ever been made of his sister having a child before she was married. However, he was fortunately extremely cooperative and said he would help Mary find out if there was any truth to this speculation. Two days later he called to advise that his sister, now 88 years of age, confirmed that she had another child. She admitted that she had kept the secret for 70 years and that she did have a daughter who was born when she was not married and at her age of 18. She said that the baby had been given up for

adoption in Calgary in 1934. The shock to Carl, his wife and to his other sister is hard to imagine.

The culmination of this most interesting adventure came to pass the next day when Mary and I accompanied by Carl and the other sister met Sarah for the first time. To have the privilege of witnessing this reunion is something I will never forget. After decades of wondering about her mother Mary finally met her. There were instantly tears flooding the room. Seen side by side there was no doubt whatsoever that Mary and Sarah were closely related. For many days after this remarkable occasion we talked about the unbelievable good fortune of the events that had passed.

Had Carl not been willing to open the discussion with his sister the matter would still likely be a mystery. Mary returned to Utah a new woman.

Subsequently, Mary brought two of her daughters to Alberta to meet their 'new' grandmother. They then went on to meet others in the Jensen family. Fortunately, they did not discover evidence of brain cancer. However, they did learn that many of the Jensens had been afflicted with heart disorders and several had died prematurely of that cause. Mary now tells us that there has been a very significant change in their diets and lifestyle habits. They focus much more attention on regular medical check-ups, cholesterol levels and exercise than ever before.

The moral of this fascinating story is, of course, that genealogy and family history can be more than a pastime, more than fun, it may be life-saving.

Bill Campbell is a retired Chemical Engineer who worked in the petrochemical, protective coatings and corrosion fields for over 40 years. He still carries on some consulting engineering work as clients require. He is married to June, and their four children live in the Calgary area along with nine grandchildren and one great grandson. He and June embarked on family history research only about 13 years ago and are now 'smothered' in over 5000 ancestors, with new-found cousins across Canada and overseas. He currently fills the Public Relations role on our AFHS Board.

GRANDPA'S READY-MADE FARM: HENRY WARNER GOTHARD

by Ed J. Firth

Genealogists who are researching their family history will encounter records such as Passenger Lists, BMD records of foreign countries etc. No matter how far back we search, we sooner or later run into the immigration of an ancestor. Ever since 1492 this continent has known the migration of peoples from other parts of the world.

The 19th century in particular was the busiest time for the settling of North America. There are many stories about the hardships of sailing from Europe to the Americas. Immigrants suffered miserably from the long voyages across the Atlantic in sailing ships. Time on the ocean could be as long as 30 days. Accommodation, particularly in what is known as "steerage" was deplorable, food was terrible by today's standards; sickness and death, cruelty to passengers and crew were commonplace. Upon arrival in The Dominion of Canada, immigrants faced more hardships in settling the land, not only problems in getting started in making a comfortable living, but problems of customs and language. To help solve some of the problems, settlers arrived in groups and settled in communities of like customs and language.

The CPR over the previous years had been charged by the Dominion Government to encourage settlement of the west; therefore, large tracts of land were designated for sale to the new settlers. Land sales began in 1881 at prices as low as \$2.50 per acre with conditions that the settler had to farm the land and set up the necessary buildings.

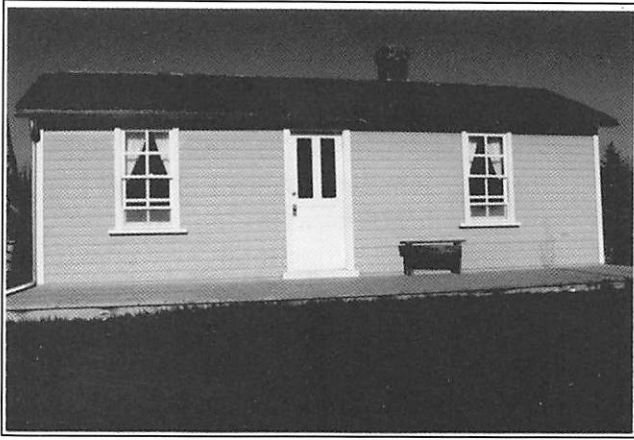
Turning to the 20th century, specifically the early part, we note that getting here from Europe was much improved with the advent of ocean liners and relatively comfortable rail transportation. My Grandpa Henry Warner Gothard, (HWG), his wife Mary and two children departed from Liverpool on March 25, 1910 aboard the Empress of Britain arriving in Saint John N.B on April 1st at 17:30 hrs. The

ship's manifest shows that they left the port on a CPR special train at 19:25 hrs, the destination to be Nightingale, Alberta (12 miles NE of Strathmore) to take up their new life on a "ready made farm". There were 405 ready made farms set up in Western Canada by the CPR in the period of 1909 to 1911. HWG and family purchased 80 acres near the village of Nightingale along with 23 other settlers. The land location of HWG's property is the south east 1/8th of Section 30, Township 25, Range 25, West of the 4th Meridian. The extent of "ready-made-farm" was clearly the 80 acres, a three room house, a barn suitable to house four horses, and one other out building. The land was tilled and seeded by the CPR, in oats and wheat so that the settlers could have a crop started for them. Some machinery was provided but records are not clear as to what machinery and what furnishings were provided. The price paid is not clear either, but in one case it was \$2800 and in another case it was \$3500.

This must have been an exciting time for the new settlers. For weeks and maybe months in their home country they were exposed to the campaign prepared and delivered by agents of the CPR encouraging them to immigrate to Canada. Glorified posters were seen in various locations in England that lauded the benefits of moving to the colony. Pictures of golden grain fields must have stirred the imaginations of future immigrants.

The settlement as designed by the CPR did not last long and enthusiasm waned as it became evident that farming 80 acres did not provide an adequate income, so within three years many of the settlers moved on to greener fields, leaving only four farms. The house was totally inadequate by modern standards, particularly for raising a family. Some settlers sold out to neighbors, some went to other parts of Canada and some just went back home. The H. W. Gothard family moved 10 miles west and settled

on a larger farm near Ardenode (12 miles north of Strathmore.)



Ready-made Farm House

Shown above is the last remaining home that was donated to Calgary's Heritage Park in 1975. It measures 30' x 12' and is open for viewing in the summer months.



Kitchen

Also shown is the kitchen which would have also been used for the family room, rumpus room, parlor, and perhaps an extra bedroom.

Further Reading:

Building the Canadian West by James B Hedges
The English Colony – Nightingale and District
(Both books are available at the Castell Public Library.)

Ed Firth was born at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary in the year that the population of Calgary was about 65,000. A long-time member of AFHS, Ed's genealogical research on his mother's side, involved studies of documents lodged in Littleport (near Ely, near Cambridge, near London), Bolton, and Bootle (near Liverpool) and ending up with a picture taking trip to these locations. Ancestors on his father's side were from Czechoslovakia and Austria. Retired from the work force in 1980, Ed has kept busy with family history research of other related families and also has volunteered for several entities in the Calgary area.

(Wales and Welsh... continued from page 16)

ones. In Scotland they are ie and mannie. Aitken is an exception to the rule.

Not all Mac names are related to a clan. On the fringes of Gaelic speaking areas, Mac has been added to a Lowland first name or the pet form of first names to form surnames, e.g., MacFadzean (son of Paton), MacRobbie, MacWattie (son of Walter), MacGibbon (son of Gilbert). A few Mac names are actually occupational, e.g., MacIntyre = son of a carpenter, MacPherson = son of a parson, MacIntosh = son of a chief, or a reference to a personal characteristic, e.g., MacCall = son of a warrior, MacQuarrie = son of the proud one.

A very large number of Irish immigrated to Scotland from the late 17th century, peaking in the 1850s. This had an impact on surnames now found in Scotland.

Again, Lois checked her Scottish surnames of interest.

- Aitken is a double diminutive of Adam. The kin ending is not Scottish but Aitken is a surname of Scottish origin only. In fact, it is among the 100 most common Scottish surnames.
- Cumming likely comes from the French town of Comines. The earlier form was Comyn, found in England. The Comyn family was extremely powerful until Robert the Bruce murdered Red Comyn in 1306. It is a surname found all over Scotland.
- Fleming is a surname adopted by many people from Flanders who came to Scotland during the Middle Ages as wool traders. They formed a community on the Upper Clyde valley. The surname is now common everywhere in Scotland except Aberdeen and is one of the 100 most common surnames in Scotland.
- Hill was a common surname all over the Lowlands by the 17th century. As in England, it is a location name meaning that one lives on or by a hill.

- MacFadyen/MacFadzean, the “z” is pronounced “y.” The name means “son of Paton.” Paton = the Irish Paddy. The local spelling in Ulster is MacFadden. This is a Lowland name.
- Stewart/Stuart is an occupational name from the Old English stig = house + weard = keeper. Stuart is the form based on the lack of the letter “w” in the French language. Descendants of the Great Stewart, Walter FitzAlain, acquired a lot of lands in the 13th century. It was, therefore, assumed as a surname by Gaelic speaking tenants of the Stewart family in Kintyre, Arran, Cowal and Buteshire. It also has independent origins amongst the descendants of other stewarts.
- Wylie is likely a characteristic surname, i.e., wily or crafty. It was a common first name in Scotland and as a surname almost exclusively Scottish in origin.

The All New Surnames of Ireland with 200 Maps: Origins, Locations and History of Irish Families from Ancient Times to the 20th Century by Edward Neafsey. This covers 203 surnames; 28% of households in Ireland. There are 3,800 other surnames in Ireland which means there are a lot of surnames in Ireland and many Irish surnames are rare (based on the 1991 census). Many surnames are very localized. Ireland in general and Ulster in particular has a lot of Scottish and English surnames. The south of Ireland has fewer surnames. Southern surnames tend to be based on virtues of high regard from “the heroic era.” As one moves north, there are more surnames and a wider range of surname origin such as trades and saints. Mul means “devotee.” Gil means “servant of.” The O prefix is more common in the south. O, Mc and Mac prefixes were dropped and then picked up again (or not). Mc and Mac mean “son of” and O means “descendant of.”

These are Lois’ Irish surnames of interest:

- Kenny - the Gaelic origin is O Cionnaoith = fire sprung. The main area of origin is said to be parts of County

Galway and County Roscommon. Long established Kenny in County Down is likely from a minor sept of O Coinne. By coincidence, an English Kenny family settled in the same area as the O Cionnaoith origin Kennys. The English Kennys are descended from Nicholas Kenny who was Queen Elizabeth I’s Escheator General for Ireland. It is suggested that the English origin Kennys would not be numerous. Now there are 2,900 Kenny families spread all over Ireland.

- Moreland is derived from one who lives near or on moor land. Land which is called moor is barren due to excessive dryness or wetness. It would be of English or Scottish origin. Today there are 140 Moreland families living mostly in Counties Down and Antrim, strongly suggesting a Scottish origin.

Irish Family Names by Patrick Kelly. This book assigns Irish language origins to many Irish surnames, perhaps more so than is realistic, given the waves of immigration into Ireland. Ua or O prefixes were generally added to the paternal grandfather’s personal name. Later Irish surnames added Mac or “son of” to the father’s personal name. The feminine equivalent was Ni. The Norman-French prefix fitz also meant “son of” from the word fils. Kelly believes most Irish surnames had patronymic origins.

A Genealogist’s Guide to Discovering Your Scottish Ancestors by Jonas and Milner. “The use of patronymics persisted in the Scottish Highlands until the late eighteenth century and in the Shetland Islands until the mid-nineteenth century.”

Welsh Migration to Ireland

Lois spoke about Welsh migration to Ireland, providing overviews on books and web sites.

The Normans brought Welsh retainers with them to Ireland. Their surname often became Walsh. More settlers came from Wales as well as

England and Scotland under the Tudors and Stuarts. Walsh did not originate as a surname but rather the name given to all the Welsh people who came as the retainers of the Anglo-Normans. Now it is one of the most numerous surnames in Ireland (10,900 families).

A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Irish Ancestors by Radford and Betit. Large numbers of Irish immigrated to the industrial areas of south Wales at the beginning of the 19th century through the Irish Famine years of the 1850s. Many Irish immigrated to British cities, including Merthyr-Tydfil, Cardiff and Swansea in Wales; also the industrial Rhondda Valley. They went where the jobs were so did not tend to settle in one place.

The Irish port of Rosslare, County Wexford was connected directly by ferry with Fishguard, Pembrokeshire in south Wales. The ferry connection with north Wales was Dublin to Holyhead in Anglesey.

<http://www.tartans.com/modules.php.srl.op+modload,name+News,file+article,sid+13,mode+thread,order+0,thold+0.html> "In later centuries, much of the migration to Ireland was a result of English influence. During the era of Elizabeth I, many attempts were made to make Ireland more amenable to English rule, with limited success. To this end, the English set up plantations of Welsh and English in Ireland. It was hoped that these "planted" families would intertwine with the native Irish and "breed out" their animosity for England. The plantations failed to have the desired effect, however, as the settlers often ended up liking the Irish, adopting their religion, and intermarrying with them – in effect, becoming Irish themselves."

Fianna web site,
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna> Irish and Welsh folk traveled back and forth a great deal. For that reason, the web site provides a smattering of help to get one started tracing in Wales. There is no attempt to be complete. This is just a starting spot.

"The Cambro-Norman Invasion of Ireland, Pre-Invasion In the 5th century AD, Roman Britain collapsed and the Anglo-Saxons invaded and settled the East, eventually to establish Germanic-speaking England. They pressed the native British groups, whom they called 'Welsh', ever westwards, into the land which would become Wales, and Cornwall. Being just across a short expanse of sea, Wales and Ireland shared an ancient connection. It was common for the Welsh to trade with the Irish and to colonize in Irish lands, and vice versa. When the Norsemen arrived in the 7th century, alliances were formed between the Irish, Welsh and others to wage battle against the Norse (Vikings). By the 11th century the Normans (Norsemen from northern France) under William the Conqueror invaded Britain and conquered the Anglo-Saxon lands. The Normans met stiff resistance with the Welsh, who by this time had formed alliances with both the Irish and the Norse, particularly from Leinster province in Ireland. In the 12th century, the Welsh chieftain Rhys ap Gruffydd was holding his own among the Norman barons in South Wales, who were by now intermarrying with the Welsh. Rhys held the Cambro-Norman baron Robert FitzStephen prisoner after overrunning his estates in the 1160s. Robert, who was a cousin of Rhys through his mother Nesta (Rhys' aunt), later came to play an important role in the Invasion of Ireland."

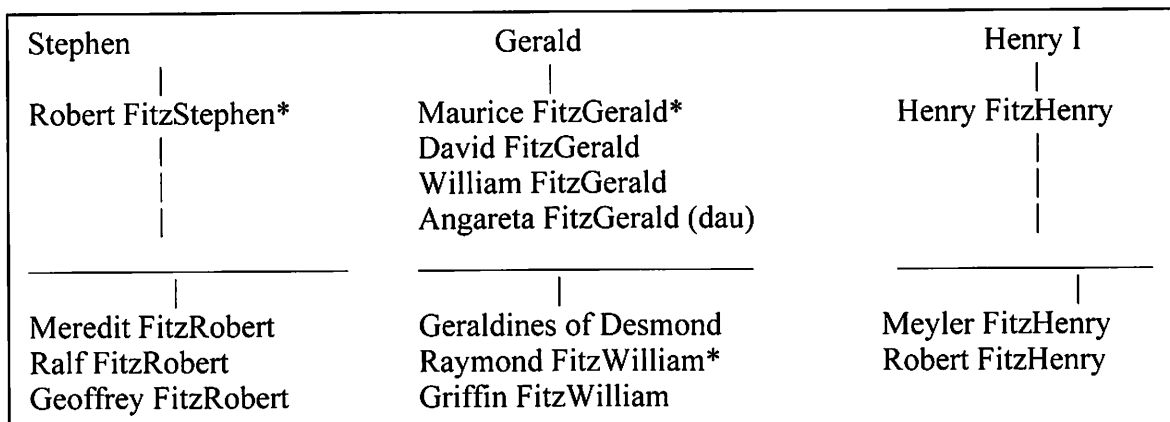
"In Richard Roche's book, *The Norman Invasion of Ireland*, he points out other Cambro-Norman-Flemish family names prominent among the early invaders and the settlers who soon followed. Pembrokeshire families include: Barry, Bryan, Barrett, Carew, Caunteton (now Condon), Hay, Keating, Mayler, Roche, Russell, Stackpoole, Scurlock, and Walsh."

"Many of the early Cambro-Norman invaders were related, as indicated in the

descendant chart of Nesta, a Welsh princess. Nesta was known as one of the most beautiful woman in Wales. Her father was Rhys ap Tewdwr Mawr, Prince of South Wales (1081-1093). She had children from (at least) three relationships: Stephen the Castellan (of Cardigan), Gerald FitzWalter (of Windsor) and Henry I (King of England).”

To conclude her remarks, Ann provided the following websites as sources for Welsh material:

www.archivesnetworkwales.info/ (or link from National Library of Wales’ web site) Archives Network Wales: Online catalogue of deeds, church registers, etc. held in Welsh repositories with summaries of the contents of the material.



“The descendant chart above shows the relationship of Robert FitzStephen, leader of the 1st landing; Maurice FitzGerald, leader of the 3rd landing; and Raymond FitzWilliam le Gros, leader of the 4th landing. Robert and Maurice were half-brothers (through their mother Nesta) and Raymond was a nephew of both.”

“Begley (1994) cites Keating’s claim made in a passage in *Forus Feasa or Éirinn*, ‘Ireland was a place of refuge for the Welsh whenever they suffered persecution from the Romans or Saxons.’ Many Welsh people came to Ireland in the 9th and 10th centuries following the Viking harassment of Wales. The Cambrian aspect of the Anglo-Norman invasion mostly accounts for the arrival of the Welsh in Ireland. Chief surnames in Ireland of Welsh origin are: Walsh, Barrett, Joyce, MacHale, Wallace, Tomlin, Hosty and Lawless.”

County Wicklow has many surnames of Norman, Welsh, Manx and modern English Origin.

A Quick Search of a name or place provided good access to the records.

www.mdr.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/ (or link from the National Library of Wales’ web site) Manorial Documents Register identifies the location of Welsh manorial records. Choose your Welsh county from the drop-down menu beside “County” in an Advance Search.

www.llgc.org.uk/ National Library of Wales: Some searchable databases under “Catalogues & Electronic Resources” from list on right-hand side of page.

www.rcahmw.org.uk/ (or link from the National Library of Wales’ web site) Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales: Catalogues material in their holdings (mainly photographs) filed geographically. Enter the site and choose “Search NMRW Archives Catalogue and Databases” from the menu on the right-hand side of the following page. Register by clicking on the word REGISTER in the second line. Their database can then be accessed either by completing the search screen (the less detail given them the better), or, the fun way,

clicking on the button “Coflein Mapping” which leads to a map of Wales and ever larger scale maps as a place of interest in narrowed down, finally identifying the sites on which they have material. It’s necessary to contact them through the web site to have copies of material identified mailed out.

Welsh Biography Online: from the National Library of Wales’ webs site, choose:

- Digital Mirror.
- Click on description for the top left-hand page entry.
- At the end of the “Warning to Users”, click on “View the Welsh Biography Online.”
- Choose “English” in blue writing at the top.
- After (or instead of) reading the information screens, go to the drop-down menu at the top (set at “Introduction”) and choose “Dictionary of Welsh Biography Online” and Enter.
- Put name in search box – a few entries may come up, but more will be found by choosing Search Full Text (blue writing) and inserting name in new search screen that comes up. Scroll down to click “Search.” Entries termed “WBO” are in English.

www.tidza.demon.co.uk Peak District Mines 1896: The Peak District Mines Historical Society maintains this website which has a great deal of information on the history of mining. They also provide a list of British mines in 1896.

www.cmhrc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk National Database of Mining Deaths in Great Britain: This is the Coal Mining History Resource Centre, home to the UK’s national database of mining deaths and injuries.

Sources:

The Castles of Wales by Alan Reid, George Philip & Son Limited (1973)
Collins Spurrel Picket Welsh Dictionary, HarperCollins Publishers (1993)

(New England Planter... continued from page 12)

those consolidated inheritors signing for the younger local six sibling families. It has not been determined if the inheritor of David’s 1/8th share was represented, but the signatures of a Stephen Porter 3rd and wife Ruby (Thorpe) Porter was likely Stephen son of Simeon Jr.

Ruby Thorpe, wife of Stephen 3rd, is another story, since she was a granddaughter of Stephen Porter Sr. and his wife Ruby (Kinsman). Stephen Sr. was another brother of Eber Porter, and they also signed the distribution list as another couple named Stephen and Ruby. And then Stephen Jr. (son of Stephen Sr.) and his wife also signed, since he had purchased the consolidated 1/8th interest of his uncle Simon (my ancestor). At first, it appeared strange that a third generation Ruby (Thorpe) Porter was involved in signing with those of the first and second generation. It was known from her marriage record that her husband was Stephen Porter. Because of the two Stephens who had a wife Ruby, the land records were carefully checked and there was no evidence that Stephen 3rd had purchased any estate rights. Only when the light came on that he was likely son of Simeon Jr., and a second-generation heir, did it make sense. He held an interest in the 1/8th share of his father Simeon Jr. Using all of the various kinds of Planter records is essential in the development of a Planter genealogy.

Phillip Thorpe and his wife Barbara are identified as member # 206 of AFHS, and have been actively involved in the society from the beginning. Phillip was born in Wolfville, Kings Co., NS and graduated from Acadia University there in 1958. He obtained his Electrical Engineering degree from McGill University in 1960. Phil was married in 1960 and has a son and a daughter, both married with two and three children each. In 1987, Phil became a Certified Genealogist CG(C) following completion of the requirements of the Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes. He has researched his ancestry in New England and Nova Scotia for about 40 years. Numerous New England Planter ancestors settled in Kings County, NS in 1760. Having intermarried in that county for 245 years, they have become the focus of an ongoing study by Phil to establish the ancestry of many people living and dying in that area today.

FOUR BOOK REVIEWS

by Lois Sparling

Celebrating the Family: The MyFamily.com Guide to Understanding Your Family History. From the editors of MyFamily.com/Ancestry Publishing. ISBN 1-58663-592. Published in 2002. (This book is in the AFHS library.)

Celebrating the Family is an attractive and nicely illustrated book about celebrating the family – just like the title says. Genealogical research takes up only one of the nine chapters. However the entire contents are loosely related to family history and this book is worth a look.

This is a book to consider giving relatives with a passing interest, at best, in genealogy. It not only makes the case for the importance of family history, but it goes on to link a range of topics from scrapbooking to family reunions. It may also give you ideas to help sell the concept of preservation of family traditions, heirlooms and papers to relatives who might otherwise toss all that old stuff out before you can get there to rescue it from oblivion.

Celebrating the Family starts out with a chapter on here and now family traditions and promoting the unity of the family. Who could disagree with that? It then moves on the family photographs, including the preservation of old photographs. Chapter three is on scrapbooking. This has become a very popular hobby and is so different from family history research (at first). Scrapbooking is all about creativity, colour and shapes; and telling the story of the pictures. Perhaps a scrapbooker will contact the family genealogist for help with the story behind the old pictures she neglected to tell you she had.

There is one chapter on “Digging for Roots” and then on to writing the family history. Even people who think their ancestors are limited to their parents and grandparents may be inspired to produce their autobiography with a generous portion of their book devoted to what they remember of their own childhoods and family stories told by their elders.

For the hypochondriac in the family, the next chapter deals with the family health history and taking precautions once one uncovers potentially inherited “Conditions”. Not that could spark some real interest and active assistance with your research! Then the book goes back to family values and teaching children about their family’s past.

I have noted that there are two types of people who are really keen on family history. There are those like me who love the research and the scholarly pursuit of history on the micro scale of individuals and their families. Then there are those like my grandmother who enjoyed keeping in contact with all her and her husband’s relatives. For her, the whole point to genealogical research would have been to discover more and more living cousins. The last two chapters in *Celebrating the Family* are for the sociable family historian – keeping in contact with the extended family and how to put on a family reunion.

I recommend this book for a very broad perspective on family history which includes the present and near past, as well as the previous centuries and which includes people with a wide range of interests in celebrating family history.

How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland’s Heroic Role from the Fall of the Roman Empire to the Rise of Medieval Europe. By Thomas Cahill. ISBN 0-3854-1849-3. Published in 1996. (This book is in the AFHS library)

How the Irish Saved Civilization is about how the Christian community of Ireland preserved not only the religion but also the Greek and Latin literature while continental Europe plunged into the Dark Ages. Irish monks re-introduced Christianity and literacy to Great Britain and Europe. These Irish missionaries boldly went where the few remaining “civilized”, that is, Romanized Christians feared to tread with their

Gospel of hope. They also zealously copied every book they could get their hands on, including the pagan classics, which were being neglected and even destroyed by their more priggish continental colleagues.

This is an exciting story of our own early culture balanced on the knife's edge. It does not help us Irish researchers pierce the genealogical "black hole" of the later eighteenth century, but merits reading anyway.

This is an example of some of the charming language used by Cahill to illustrate his points:

"The word *Irish* is seldom coupled with the word *civilization*. When we think of peoples as civilized or civilizing, the Egyptians and the Greeks, the Italians and the French, the Chinese and the Jews may all come to mind. The Irish are wild, feckless, and charming, or morose, repressed, and corrupt, but not especially civilized.

"And yet Ireland, a little island at the edge of Europe that has known neither Renaissance nor Enlightenment--in some ways, a Third World country ...

"Not for a thousand years--not since the Spartan Legion had perished at the Hot Gates of Thermopylae had western civilization been put to such a test or faced such odds, nor would it again face extinction till in this century it devised the means of extinguishing all life. As our story opens at the beginning of the fifth century ..."

How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World and Everything in It. By Arthur Herman. ISBN #606352609. Published in 2001.

How the Scots Invented the Modern World deals with the belated Renaissance in Scotland starting with the harsh but democratic Calvinist

Presbyterianism of John Knox. Herman deals not only with the influence of Scottish education and philosophers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but with the Scottish Diaspora to Ireland, North America, Australia and New Zealand. The many schisms and reformations within the Church of Scotland are covered as well. His "Sources and Guide for Further Reading" is 18 pages long. Note that the list he presents is a list of other history books, not primary sources.

The Great Ancestor Hunt: the Fun of Finding Out Who You Are. By Lila Perl. ISBN 0-89919-745-0. Published in 1989. (This book is in the AFHS library.)

This is a charming motivational book encouraging people to join The Great Ancestor Hunt. It covers elementary principles and steps to begin research, covering topics such as origins of surnames, interviewing elders, immigration, and family heirlooms.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME V

Calgary Queen's Park Section P and other Military records

Section P and PC are the military sections in Queen's Park. The earliest burials in these sections date from January 1970 when the military section of Burnsland Cemetery became full. Section P has 3600 burials in full burial lots and Columbariums and Section PC has its almost 1400 burials in cremation lots. Most of the recording was done in the fall of 2003. Photos of the tombstones were taken in the fall of 2003 and the early summer of 2004 with retakes up to October 2004. Additional burial data from the Cemetery office was retrieved and included in the database before the final editing in the fall of 2004. A CD with the full records and photographs plus other military markers throughout the cemetery and other military information is now available.

(Nathalia continued from page 9)

In July 1950, when their son Edwin, married and took over the farm, Nathalia and Henry moved to a small acreage in Hubalta, close to Calgary where they raised chickens and sold eggs for the next three years, retiring to Calgary soon after. I enjoyed staying with them during my first year of university and was able to sample some of that good German cooking. Nathalia made a German specialty 'Flaume Kuchen' (plum pie) that was to die for. In 1974 the couple moved back into their old farming district and to a house in Didsbury. In 1975, after her husband passed away at the age of 80, Nathalia moved for the last time to Dr. Crystal Manor in Carstairs, where she could do her own cooking.

"Dolly"

Nathalia, known affectionately as "Dolly" by her family and friends, died 17 November 1982 and was buried alongside her husband, Henry Ohlhausen in the Didsbury cemetery. Her passing left a hole in the family that will only disappear when the generation that knew her is gone. One looks back on her 83 years in wonderment at all she endured with the sad times and happy times as a child and in a marriage, which was certainly part of the good times. In the 'Acme Memories' history book, which was published in 1979, Nathalia wrote "When we got [electric] power on the farm in 1947 we thought we were high living people."⁶

Wayne L. Fuller B.Comm., B.A., CMA, was born and grew up in small town Alberta; is married with 3 children and 2 grandchildren; is recently retired after 36 years (of which 6 were in Germany & The Netherlands) in the accounting and joint interest departments of one company in the oil industry. Recent genealogy research has taken him to Salt Lake City, Colorado, Idaho and France.

⁶ Much of the last part of Nathalia's life was taken from hand written notes that she left and small write-ups in local history books. Discussion with her brother and sister's families has filled in certain facts.

SASKATCHEWAN HOMESTEAD INDEX NOW ON-LINE

The Saskatchewan Homestead Index is a file locator database to the homestead files at the Saskatchewan Archives. It contains 360,000 references to those men and women who, from 1872 to 1930, under the terms of the Dominion Lands Act, took part in the homestead process in the area now known as Saskatchewan. Also included are those who bought or sold North West Métis or South African scrip or received soldier grants after World War One.

The database may be searched by name, by land location or by additional remarks, for example, about name changes or the name of the legal representative should the applicant have died. Special grants, such as the Métis scrip can also be identified by searching the remarks field.

Search the Index

Using the file number found in the index, the researcher can access the original homestead file; this file may contain information about the settler such as nationality, place of origin and family makeup, although names of other family members are seldom given. There may also be various sworn statements and information about the homestead itself including required agricultural improvements on the land before ownership was granted; in some cases, correspondence about matters concerning the homestead may be included.

The original homestead files are among the holdings of the Saskatchewan Archives Board in Saskatoon; microfilm copies are held at the Saskatchewan Archives Board Regina office. Copies of the files are also available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah and its Family History Centers world wide.

The Saskatchewan Homestead Index Project (SHIP) may be accessed via
<http://www.saskhomesteads.com/search.asp>

SERENDIPITY IN GENEALOGY

Coincidence in Researching Your Family History

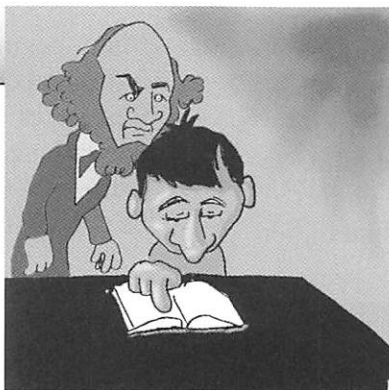
SERENDIPITOUS EVENTS IN MY FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

by Clare Westbury

There have been several strange coincidences in my research; only one really made a difference, but the others were so unusual and unexpected that I would have to call them serendipitous.

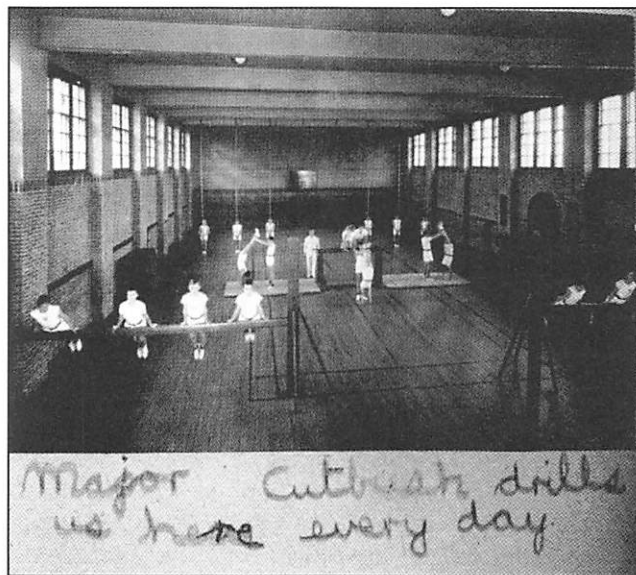
In 1998 we were on a trip to England, and I spent the last day in the Local Studies Library in Uxbridge as I researched my paternal Watkins family who lived in nearby Hayes, in the nineteenth century. I went through the parish registers, and found many details. I sent a postcard to my brother from the airport, telling him that I had sorted out the family, except for Benjamin. He appeared to have been born in 1819, and died, an infant. However, in the 1851 census there was another Benjamin, who also seemed to be related. Imagine my surprise when we got home and found a letter waiting for me, which started "You don't know me, but I am descended from Benjamin Watkins". This led to the discovery of a third cousin, with whom I have corresponded and visited since. But there was another connection – I sent a list from the parish register, apologizing for the fact that members of the Peek family were also listed. You may have guessed by now, that we were related through the Peek family, too. It was not until my maternal grandparent's marriage in 1905 that the Peek family came into my family tree. Some fifty years later and on the other side of the family!

One of the paternal families I am researching is the Cutbush families. They originated in the East Sussex/Kent area of England. Over the years, I have gathered various family trees from different branches, and am slowly piecing them



together, with the help of other people interested in the family. One day, my husband said casually that he had been taught gym by a Major Cutbush when he was at school in Montreal. Robert had been evacuated from England to the US and Canada during the war, and spent the last year of the war at

Lower Canada College. He had kept a scrapbook at the time, and found a picture of the gymnasium, and he had written a comment underneath "Major Cutbush drills us here every day". We now know he fits onto my family tree. This was all fifteen years before I even met my husband!



Gymnasium (Lower Canada College)

The third story is my husband's family. Robert's Clifton family came originally from Lancashire. One branch went to Maryland as recusants in the early 1600's. Some returned to home, to Lytham Hall, near Lytham St. Anne, but others stayed in America. My husband's mother was descended from the American branch, and although the name Clifton was lost as a surname along the way, it was the middle name of both my mother-

in-law and my husband. Fast forward a few centuries. Some years ago, we visited Lytham Hall, and as we were driving home we passed Clifton Corner – a sharp bend in the road from Preston. The coincidence was that my husband's paternal grandmother had been killed in a car accident in 1926 on that very corner. Bertha Westbury had died a short distance from the family home of the daughter-in-law she never met – her son being a teenager at the time of her death.



Lytham Hall, Lancashire, England

Finally in 1989, another coincidence was a chance discovery in the 1902 British Medical Register. Researching my husband's maternal M(a)cGeagh family, we found Dr. Robert Thomas McGeagh living in a house called Gransden Hall in rural Bedfordshire. Thirty five years later, just before the Second World War, and before he even knew of the MacGeah connection, my father-in-law bought that very house.

The Oxford Dictionary describes serendipity as "the faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident". This is one of the things that make family history fun!

I'm helping a neighbor with her genealogy. I asked her to learn where her great-grandfather was living at the time of the 1880 U.S. census. This is an excerpt from her e-mail reply:

"I will also try to find out where William lived at the time of the 1880 census. What year was it done?"

BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Many beginning family historians are intimidated by the sheer size and immensity of the task of producing a well-researched and documented family history. But by following a well-defined process, every family historian can be successful.

The research process may be listed in five steps:

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

Write down what you know

Starting with yourself, write down what you know. Remember to document your sources.

Decide what you want to learn

Focus on one ancestor at a time. Then, choose and focus on one objective at a time about a life event or background topic.

Choose a source of information

Select a person, object or record that may contain the information for which you are looking.

Learn from the source

Investigate the source for the information for which you are looking.

Use what you learn

Evaluate the results of your inquiry and share your information with others.

Next time, we'll investigate in more detail what it means to write down what you know.

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, bequests 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			
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\$55.00	Family	\$55.00	Family
\$35.00	Senior individual	\$35.00	Senior individual
\$45.00	Senior family	\$45.00	Senior family
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\$55.00	Family	\$60.50	Family
\$35.00	Senior individual	\$40.50	Senior individual
\$45.00	Senior family	\$50.50	Senior family
\$50.00	Institutional	\$55.50	Institutional

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Canadian Publication
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Sales Agreement # 40011408
Calgary, Alberta



Volume 26, Number 1
January 2006,
Winter,
www.afhs.ab.ca

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