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Chinook

Volume 26, Issue 2

Spring, April, 2006

www.afhs.ab.ca

Alberta Family Histories Society



High Street, Littlebury, Essex, circa 1900.
(See "How to Succeed as a Genealogist without Really Trying.")

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ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

DATE	TOPIC
April 2006	Funerary Art
May 2006	Identify Theft
June 2006	Genetic Genealogy
13, 14 October 2006	FamilyRoots 2006 – <i>The Family History Event of the Year</i>

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

On the Front Cover: Photo courtesy and in the possession of Suddie William Mumford. 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.

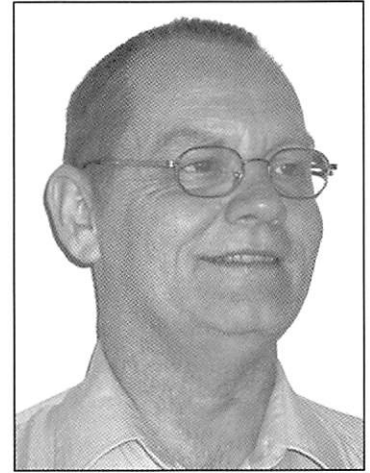
Printed by Unicom Graphics
4501 Manitoba Road SE Calgary AB, T2G 4B9,
403.287.2020

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

by Gordon Lane

Another year draws to a close and I cannot believe that I have been working on the Board for almost five years. Due to other commitments I have to step down from most of my work with the Society but I will still be maintaining the Society website.

We have had a successful casino and the application has gone in to carry out another one. Total dollar figures are not available at the moment but I shall leave the Board knowing that the finances of the Society will be good for a couple of years at least. With the dwindling membership comes a drop in income and without the casino the Society would not be able to survive in its present format. The current forecast is that we will actually spend about \$4,000 more than we have in income. Luckily the Society had some 'rainy day' money in the form of GICs that we have been able to utilize. The Library would certainly have had to go and the quality of the Chinook would have had to be decreased if we had not had the casino.



One thing with the fall in the membership is the fall in the volunteers coming forward to help out. We have some great volunteers who carry out the projects like the cemetery transcriptions but the normal day to day volunteering that keeps the Society going is dropping off.

There has been a great response to volunteering for this year's Family Roots 2006 which is being held on the 13th and 14th October at the Carriage House Inn, MacLeod Trail, Calgary. It looks to be a great program and needs your support as well as getting your friends and acquaintances out to it. With the great publicity that is and will be going on I hope that it will generate more interest in genealogy in the Calgary community and it brings us in some much needed new members.

I have enjoyed myself as a Board member over the past number of years and I think we have survived and gone forward after some significant changes. Certainly the move of the Library to 16th Avenue has been one of the bigger and better changes for the Society and it has brought us more exposure but also more cost. The change at the monthly meeting with the rebuilding of the Church has much improved our meetings, eased the load on the volunteers and given us an excellent speaking venue but once again brought more cost to our operating.

I wish the Society and all the members good fortune and good hunting in the future.

Gordon Lane

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Alberta Family Histories Society will be held on Monday May 1st, 2006 at 7:15 p.m. MT at the First Christian Reformed Church, 3818 14A Street, S.W. Calgary, Alberta for the following purposes:

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

The proposed changes to the Bylaws are:

Section 1.3

The elected members of the Board of Directors shall appoint Chairs of Standing Committees, as appropriate, annually and have their appointment ratified at the General Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. These appointees shall become non-voting members of the Board of Directors for financial decisions.

Section 1.5

The Board of Directors may create such additional Standing and Ad Hoc Committees and Special Interest Groups from time to time as it deems necessary. The additional Standing Committee shall be ratified at the next General Meeting following the formation of the said group.

No other part of the Bylaws is affected.

Copies of the proposed changes to the Bylaws may be viewed at the Society's Library at 712 - 16th Avenue N.W. during Library Open Hours from 1 April 2006 to 1 May 2006 inclusive.

Copies of the proposed changes may also be viewed on the Society's website at www.afhs.ab.ca as of 1st April 2006.

Dated at Calgary, Alberta this 12th day of March 2006.



Gordon Lane
Chairman

EDITOR'S TABLE

by Kenneth W. Rees

This issue is packed with interesting stuff. Let's start at the back of the issue with our two serendipity articles. Sometimes we don't know what will happen when we pick up a book by mistake. Al King knows what can happen, and he recounts it for us. Sometimes the chain of coincidences just gets longer and longer. Bill Mumford tells us about that in his search for the Mumfords, and how serendipity played a role.

For those of us who are trying to research our female lines, Lois Sparling gives us the legal background for England. There will be other articles in this series, dealing with the legal background for other countries and cultures.

We have an extended "my favourite ancestor" article, this time by Kay Clarke. Kay lets us in on a conversation between her mother and grandmother as they discuss the first year in Alberta. What an adventure! We tend to see our ancestor's lives in terms of high adventure, whereas they probably saw their lives very much as we see our own – pretty dull and boring. Perspective makes all the difference in the world!

How do we find the origin of our immigrant ancestor? Part of Bill Mumford's article addresses this issue, and Lois Sparling takes it a step further as she discusses her hunts (yes, plural) for her immigrants. This marks the inaugural of a series of articles about the great hunt for the immigrant. Please send me your experiences. I want to learn from you.

There is news of the society. The Annual General Meeting announcement is in this issue. There are some Bylaw changes that will be decided at the AGM in May, so be sure to be at the meeting. Bill Campbell's note on the Annual Heritage Fair lets us know about another opportunity to participate in the community and in our Society.

Our chairman's last message addresses the condition of the Society, including the declining membership problem we are facing. While this may not be pleasant news, we must face it squarely. Gordon also notes the advancement of the Society in certain areas.

One of the big events that the Society sponsors is FamilyRoots. This installment of the conference will be held in October 2006. We have an announcement of the conference, so please mark your calendar. This will be the family history event of the year, and it will be held here in Calgary.

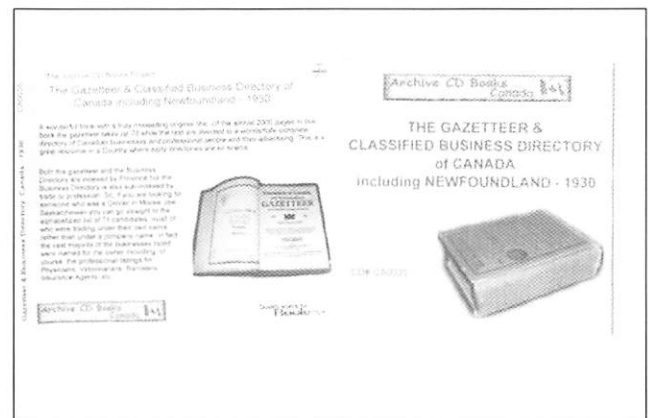
So there is a lot of information packed into these 32 pages. There is only one thing wrong with this issue – it doesn't have your story. Please submit your stories, articles, and experiences to Chinook@afhs.ab.ca. We want to turn you into a published author in your very own Alberta Family Histories Society journal – the *Chinook*.

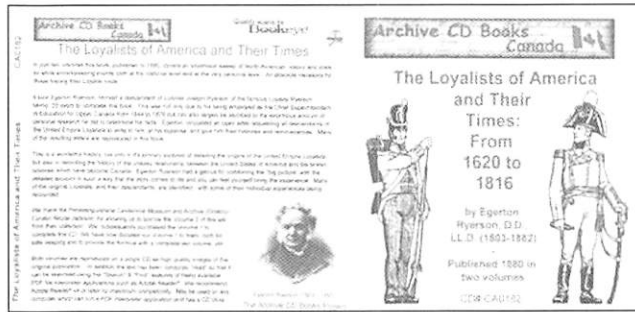
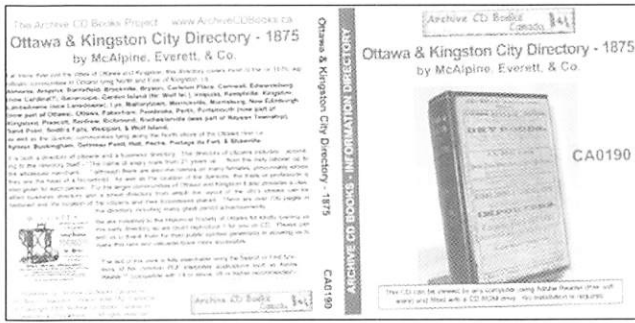
Ken

LIBRARY NEWS

by Helen Backhouse

New at the library:





Donated by Margaret Main
Snippets from Long Ago in Pennington by Joan Stephens

Donated by Clare Westbury
The Road to Nob End and Beyond Nob End
 both by William Woodruff

Donated by Carolynn Kelly
Grey County Births pre 1869 – 1874 an Index to Ontario Vital Statistics

AFHS AND THE ANNUAL HERITAGE FAIR

For the third year we are pleased to be asked to participate in the annual Heritage Fair.

The Calgary and District Heritage Fair provides a forum for young people in grades four to nine to learn about their Canadian heritage. Students choose a subject, do research and present a display or program at the Fair. Over 300 students from Calgary and District schools participated in last year's Fair.

Originated and supported in part by the Historical Foundation, heritage fairs take place in cities and communities all across Canada on the

same day. Museums Alberta and the ATA Social Studies Council have organized the program for ten years. This year the Calgary and District Fair will once again be held at City Hall on Saturday, May 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Members are being asked again to support this rewarding community endeavour, in two ways:

- Act as a judge of the displays presented by the students – only a three hour commitment.
- Provide an award/prize (a book, a CD, or any appropriate item related to history or family history) for a student who prepares an exemplary piece of work.

Once again, Kay Clarke is our representative on the Fair planning committee. If you would like to participate in either of these ways, please contact her at 279-1036 or clarkekgk@telus.net.

AFHS AT FORT CALGARY



Alberta Family Histories Society Display At Fort Calgary

Family Roots 2006



Genealogy, Genes and Gigabytes

Calgary's Family History Event of the Year

An unusual opportunity for those searching their family history. Beginners, as well as researchers, will find helpful ideas and methods. Experts will share their experience.

Books for sale and software programs will be demonstrated.

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS and MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY.

October 13 & 14, 2006

Location: Carriage House Inn
9030 McLeod Trail S
Calgary, Alberta
More Info: 403-214-1447
www.afhs.ab.ca

This is an opportunity to hear nationally and internationally recognized speakers! All will gain from attendance at the opening event on Friday evening, and the general sessions on Saturday.

ALBERTA BOUND!

by Kay Clarke

The 100th anniversary of Alberta leads us to think of those who came to Alberta in the early days. My Grandparents, Kate and John MacKenzie were some of those hardy souls who came in 1909, shortly after the formation of Alberta as a province. Many communities all over Canada prepared histories of their community for Canada's centennial in 1967. The community just to the east of Calgary was one of them. My parents were on a committee to write this book. At that time my mother persuaded her mother to write about her family and the time that they came to Alberta. Mother added to this narrative.

Grandmother was Kate Goldie Hewitson nee Lindsay born March 19 1870 at Westover, Wentworth County, Ontario. She had been a teacher in Ontario and came west to Edmonton in 1892 to help her uncle, Rev. David McQueen with his growing family. She also taught near Edmonton for a number of years. In 1900 she went to B.C. to keep house for her brothers.

Grandfather was John MacKenzie born 15 April 1871 at Malagash, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. He came west at first on a harvest excursion to Manitoba and then visited his brothers who were working in the boundary country of B.C. He built and ran a stopping house at Westbridge, B.C. It was in B.C. that my grandparents met, married and started a family, my mother Agnes being the youngest of four. It was difficult to farm there however and they decided to come to Alberta where they had heard that land was plentiful.

Here are the words of Kate and Agnes MacKenzie telling about the first year in Alberta. (Agnes' words in italics)

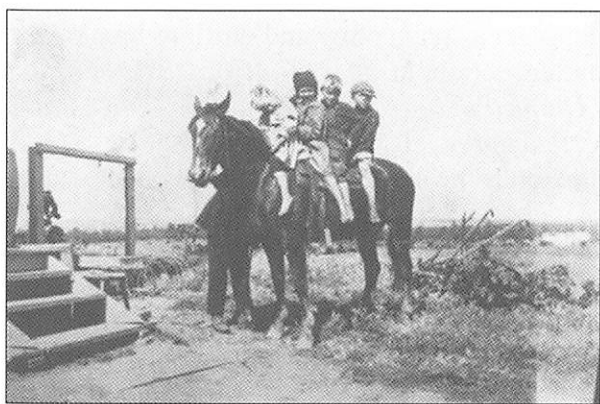
Next spring he (*John*) planned to look for land in Alberta where there was no scarcity of land. *So Kate was left on her own again with three small children and a new baby. She had another hot summer of picking and making jam and fruit.*



John and Kate MacKenzie on Their Wedding Day

She had wanted to get enough made to last a year because she knew fruit of that kind was scarce to nonexistent in Alberta. So she filled every bottle and can she could find. She also made as much as she could for her brother Jim, a bachelor. How she made time for this I can not imagine. Before Father left they had sort of talked about getting land up around Edmonton in the parkland like district east of Edmonton where she had taught school. However when Father landed in Calgary he went to see his cousin T.J. Dewar who was in the real estate business. Mr. Dewar talked Father into going to look at some land available at Chestermere Lake. The land was acceptable and when he saw the lake he decided that this was it. Perhaps he even pictured himself on the lake in a nice little sailboat and remembered some of the exciting happy times he had sailing as a boy. There was a small one room shack with a lean-to on the back of it. He bought 400 acres 12 miles from Calgary at \$16 an acre. He bought a second hand 3 box wagon, a plough, 3 full size windows instead of a stable window because I liked lots of window so I can see out if I can't go out, a new door to replace the awful looking door that was on the shack. He also bought planed lumber to insulate the walls and ceiling of the shack. Back in Calgary he bought a team of big black Percheron geldings, Tom and Prince, "Macs Blacks" as they were to become respectfully

known. On the way back to the new farm with his purchases a runaway team slammed into his load upsetting it and did some damage to the windows, boards, etc. In the mix up one of the horses in the runaway team was terribly cut. They even considered shooting him then and there. The man had no money to pay for the damages he had done to Father so he offered Father the injured horse. How Father ever got him home in the shape he was in I do not know. He lived and was a wonderful horse and a great addition to our way of life.



Horse Which Survived Being Badly Injured

He got the shack fixed up with new bigger windows and a decent door to make it more livable. He also built a small barn for the horses. While he was doing the carpenter work he scraped the skin off one finger. Then one of the horses, Tom, got a fox tail in his mouth which became infected. When he washed out the horse's mouth, he got the poison from the mouth into the cut on his finger. Then he had blood poisoning so bad in the night he got up. He remembered the fields of flax Mr. Clayton (*a neighbor*) had. He went down and felt around in the dark and got enough flax to make a poultice for his hand. He made arrangements with Mr. Prouse (*another neighbor*) to let his boys, Will and Bob, look after the horses, Tom, Prince, and Johnny, and he would pay them when he got back in the spring. He got his hand dressed in Calgary by a nurse and he was on his way home.

Father's brother George had taken up a homestead somewhere up near Westbridge. Uncle George decided homesteading was not the life for him, a bachelor, and gave it up and

turned it over to Father. Then we had to have a team to log off the timber for fear a fire would run through and ruin it while we were away. He looked at some teams, and then went across the line and got Maude and Bell, dapple grey mares. We had to pay \$70 on them

One morning when almost everyone had quit John went with the only one left to work with him. They had felled a large pine. As it fell, it struck a tree about the size of a stove pipe - *a sleeper* - as it was called in logging language which shot out from nowhere, and struck John on the head even though he had been watching for dead limbs. It knocked him out and the man had a hard time getting him roused and on his feet. I saw them coming slowly; I thought they were walking slowly enjoying the beautiful sunny day. I could not see the blood dripping down from his nose. *Mother couldn't stand the sight of blood. It almost made her faint.* This man was an old country Englishman who had first aide training in the Navy and took charge. We took him by sleigh the 30 miles to Greenwood. (*Kay's note: Grandfather was very ill and when he was released from the hospital he was warned not to do any work for 6 months. He told them in 6 weeks I will be farming in Alberta. He later said this means you can't kill a MacKenzie by hitting him over the head.*)

In this changing world we look back to the time we came to Alberta. In 1910 the trains were crowded with settlers coming to Alberta. It was the driest year ever known, not a speck of green grass. We came from Midway B.C. to Langdon, Alberta. John came in the stock car, leaving on Saturday morning, and I came on the train to Nelson, with the children, by boat from Nelson to Cranbrook.

Father with his head still in bandages gathered all their worldly possessions and loaded them into a freight car. The team of mares, the cow, their furniture, Mother's canned fruit and even a tubful of small evergreen trees she had dug up to bring. Father went in the freight car and Mother and the children came on the passenger train. The passenger train went faster than the freight

train so mother had to wait for a day or two in Calgary where she stayed with the Dewar's.

We got into Calgary at noon Monday and went to stay on 5th Ave. with Dewar's until Saturday morning when we went on the train to Langdon. *Then on March 19th, Mother's birthday, they landed in Langdon. One of the Prouse boys drove Mother and us to their place. There was one of those bitter cold March winds blowing and we were dressed for spring in B.C., not spring in Alberta. A few days later I came down with a terrible cold and Mother said if this baby dies I'll never stay here. But Mrs. Prouse came over with some good old home remedies like goose grease and turpentine and they got me slathered with that and I recovered.* John had reached there and met Mr. Prouse and his son Willie. They took Maude and Bell out of the car and hitched them to Mr. Prouse's democrat and he took us to his home. John and Willie brought two loads of our belongings including our mattresses and bedclothes to the shack. We had supper at Prouse's and came over to the shack.

The next day was Sunday (*and of course no work was done*) and in the afternoon Mr. Prouse and Mr. Clayton came to see how we had put in the night. We all sat on the mattresses, the only thing we had to sit on. It was my first acquaintance with our new neighbors but John was renewing acquaintance from the year before. They had been good friends and they were sorry to hear that he had a paralyzed arm and his head hardly healed up where the tree struck him.

On Monday he and Willie finished hauling things from the car, including our tub of fine young pine trees. The everlasting wind and dust storms combined with the alkali water soon killed them. After supper John hitched up the team to our second heavy wagon to take us to see Chestermere Lake and the half a dozen or so scrawny trees planted by the lake. The poet says "Hope springs eternal in the Human breast" and I had hope that these trees would grow, even when most of the men say it is all foolishness to plant trees here.

The children took a little while to become accustomed to our home. We put up a tent, the wind kept it flapping so much we could not hear ourselves speak. Let us go back to Rock Creek George said. We wished we could but we had to look forward instead of backward. *One day Father had a dime in his pocket. He laid it in the window sill and there it stayed for a year. It was their private joke that as long as they had a dime they were not broke.*

John tried to plough with five good horses but it was hopeless, he was only killing himself. We had to get a steam plow and outfit to break the quarter section. *Mother wrote or wired her father in Ontario to borrow some money to have it done by steam plow.* It was so dry and hard sometimes the eight plows jumped out. It was not a good job but there was no blame attached to the men, they did the best they could. One young man hauled water from the Lake with Maude and Bell and John hauled coal from Langdon with Tom and Prince. It helped to have our horses used instead of having them hire strange horses.

After the breaking was finished, John got a section on the railway grade for him to build, toward the end of summer. *Most of the crews had two men, one driving the team and one to run the scraper. Mother had been used to driving a horse and buggy or a team and democrat but Father would not allow her to even try to drive for him and we had no money to pay for a man.* John MacKenzie was working alone holding the scraper and driving the horses. The handles of the scraper struck him in the chest. When it was about four o'clock in the morning he had to get up, his chest ached so badly. *He probably had cracked ribs.*

One of the men (*at the rail construction camp*) took typhoid. It was reported that there were five hundred cases of typhoid in Calgary. It was a bad time - so hot and dry and the flies so bad. A fire got away in the foothills west of High River; the settlers were called out to fight it. Even as far away as our place the ground was covered by ashes that had fallen in the night.

Mother was never easily discouraged but the coming summer was something that would test the stoutest heart. It was probably the driest year ever on record. There was no rain or moisture of any kind from February to August and very hot and windy. Every day the wind blew. The one thing they had forgotten to bring from the house at Rock Creek was my baby buggy. I had always slept outside in B.C. even in the winter and I refused to go to sleep in the house in the daytime. So Mother tried putting me to sleep out in the wheelbarrow but she said when she went to bring me in I was so dusty and dirty and covered with trash I looked like a little Negro baby. Mother planted a big garden but it was so dry very little came up and what did the gophers got until she only had three carrots left in the fall. They planted her little evergreen trees and carried water from the irrigation ditch but all in vain what with the dryness and the continual battering with the wind they all died.

All that survived from my garden that year was one carrot. I used to run my fingers around it and say the soil is all right if we only had rain. One day when Willie Prouse brought the mail I said to him, "I sure wish we had rain." He said, "We shall be having plenty of rain presently." They were an optimistic family.

We three families had one P.O. Box 6, Langdon and usually one of the Prouse family brought the mail as there were more of them. They came from Australia, where they had gone from England. The family, Bob, Sid, Edna, Enid, and Kitsie were all born in Australia but Albert Chestermere was born here. They must have considered the name too cumbersome so they just called him Johnny.

The prairies were full of gophers. The children trapped them: they snared them, they carried buckets of water to pour down the holes, and they grabbed the gophers as they shot up even if they got a bite. One day John Jr. came with a June bug in his closed hand. As he opened his hand the June bug flew straight up and kept on going till he got out of sight. Jean came with both hands closed. She opened her hand to show

me a lanky grasshopper. "I call this one father," she said, and opening the other hand to show me a big fat cricket she said, "I call this one Mr. Bannerman" (the former Western Irrigation ditch rider).

Mr. Clayton lent us his binder to cut our first crop, it all went into a hay rack but did not fill it. We had good weather all that fall right up to the last day of December. It came a windstorm and was forty below in the morning. The rest of the winter was cold.

Jane says she can remember Father coming running carrying a new born calf (our old Whitey cow that we brought from B.C.) to the house where he made a little pen for it. Then for a day or two we had to share our already cramped quarters with a little calf. The children thought it was lots of fun to have a calf in the house to play with and relieve the boredom from having to stay in out of the extreme cold. But of course Mother would be the one who had to clean up after it so maybe she didn't enjoy it quite so much. There was no feed in the country and the price was so high stock was starving.

On March the first the water began running everywhere, it was spring. We got some Red Fife seed wheat from John Lyons to sow the small field that John worked up in 1910. It was now 1911. The oats were sown; we got our first hired man, Walter Gibbons, 22 years old from Indiana.

The immigration agent had been sent out by the government to induce settlers to come from the U.S. to Canada and from Europe. They were brought in by the car loads. The agents exaggerated so much when the settlers got here and found Canada not the paradise they had pictured it, they were sore. Walter was discontented. In the Edmonton country the settlers in a prairie schooner put up a notice "In God we trust, Nebraska or bust" and they went home.

(continued on page 22)

LAWS RELEVANT TO TRACING FEMALE ANCESTORS IN ENGLAND

by Lois Sparling

Introduction

Goals:

1. Maiden names and parents of female ancestors.
2. Details of their lives

Helpful areas of law:

1. Property rights of married women
2. Laws of inheritance
3. The Poor Laws

According to the author of *The Family Tree Problem Solver*, studies have demonstrated that kinship ties are strongest between the wife and her family. The mother – daughter tie is especially strong. Therefore in tough cases, tracing the female line will be critical to finding the families previous place of residence. Legal, economic and social relationships may well be with the wife's family of origin or her extended family. If you do not know her maiden name, these relationships will not be apparent at first. It is therefore important to watch for recurring names as witnesses to signatures, parties to contracts including land transactions, neighbours, neighbouring gravestones, marriage witnesses and baptismal sponsors or god parents for possible male relatives of the wife, that is, her brothers, uncles, father, the husbands of her sisters, second husbands of her mother, and cousins.

1. Property of Married Women

For centuries, married women could not own property. The rationale was that, upon marriage, two people became one and that one was the husband when it came to ownership of property of any kind. Therefore, any property which a woman owned at the time of marriage became the property of her husband. Any property she acquired during the marriage likewise became

the property of her husband. A married woman did not even own the clothes on her back.

Two things to remember about married women's property rights, or lack thereof:

First, these laws do not apply to spinsters or widows. Spinsters and widows had the right to own property.

Second, there were ways around allowing one's son-in-law, brother-in-law or a second husband to gain ownership over property one wished to provide to one's married daughter, sister or potential widow. The Courts of Equity, also known as Chancery, had jurisdiction over trust estates which could be set up to permit married women to own property separate from their husbands. In a trust, the trustee is the legal owner but the actual owner is called the beneficial owner because the property is legally owned by the trustee for the benefit of someone else. Through the Courts of Equity, married women could be appointed as an executrix. An executrix legally owns the property of the deceased while administering the Estate. Widows could also be appointed guardians of their fatherless children.

Married women did have the right to pledge their husbands' credit for necessities. This meant she could buy necessary food, clothing and shelter for herself and her children, and her husband had to pay the bill. For the family history researcher this means that we can find notices in 18th century and 19th century newspapers by husbands whose wives had run off warning merchants that they would not be responsible for their wives' bills.

Married women also had dower rights in their husbands' real estate. This was established law by the 12th century. Dower gave the widow a life estate in her husband's real estate. Dower did not give a married woman any ownership of

land. It gave her the right, upon her husband's death, to live for the balance of her life on any land owned by her husband during the marriage, whether he had sold or leased it or not. The result was that it gave her control over her husband's ability to dispose of his land because the new owner or holder of a mortgage or long term lease would not want to have his rights over the land encumbered by the widow's dower rights. Therefore the widow had to co-operate by giving up her dower rights to that parcel of land as part of the real estate transaction.

Note that legal concepts about land have changed dramatically since the 11th and 12th centuries. I am using modern concepts such as mortgages to explain dower to a modern audience. Medieval law recognized dower within the land law of the times.

Dower rights were effectively abolished by the British Parliament in 1833. This was in keeping with the individual freedom of property owners cherished by the liberals of the time, but rather hard on married women.

The Married Women's Property Act was passed by the British Parliament in 1882. This legislation allowed married women to own property. However, we must remember that the custom of men owning all the family property was at least 1000 years old. It was a long time before it was "proper" and "ladylike" to be involved in financial matters rather than leaving all that to one's husband or male relatives. Even when I was a child, many wives did not know how much their husband's earned or how to write a cheque.

What this means is that:

- a) Married women will only turn up in land records giving up their dower rights (barring their dower) when the land is mortgaged, sold or passed on following the death of their husband. However, if a man had land, his wife will likely be named in those legal documents.

- b) Although dower was rendered almost useless in 1833, records of married women barring their dower will often still exist for mortgages and sales of land during their husband's lifetime.
- c) If a woman turns up in land records as an owner or conducting a transaction other than barring her dower or quit claims before 1882, it means that she is either a spinster, a widow or an executrix.
- d) If a woman made a will before 1882, it almost certainly means she was a spinster or a widow.
- e) If the husband sells or mortgages his land without his wife barring her dower, it means she has died.
- f) Family could give a married woman property and still keep it out of the hands of her husband or her husband's creditors by setting up a trust. The trust may be set up in a will so the executor or another person appointed for the job would be named in the will with the provision that the trust was for the benefit of the married daughter or sister. An inter vivos trust (a trust set up during the donor's lifetime) would also be set up by a legal document. If the family has not kept the document, it might be found with land records or, if there was litigation involving the trust, it may be in the court file at the Court of Chancery.
- g) If a married woman, or more likely, a widow, had to go to court to enforce her dower rights, the court file will be in the Court of Common Pleas.
- h) It is worth looking through the newspapers of the day, not only for obituaries and marriage notices, but also for advertisement by husbands looking for runaway wives or warning creditors that they will not be responsible for their wives' debts.

- i) If a widow applied to become the legal guardian of her minor children, the court file will be Chancery. The City of London had a Court of Orphans which was gradually replaced by Chancery during the 17th century. Therefore, a widow in London might have applied in the Court of Orphans for guardianship of her children before 1700. A guardian had custody of the minor and control of the minor's estate.
- j) Husbands were unlikely to leave property directly to their wives because of the danger that she would remarry and his property would end up belonging to another man and being passed to that man's heirs rather than to his own progeny. It was more common to leave one's wife the use of property until she remarried or died. Another common provision was to leave property to one or more sons provided that they took care of the widow. The directions to take care of the widow could be very specific, including the use of the house and furnishings, a certain allowance per year, the use of particular livestock, etc. Such provisions were sometimes made in a father's will for unmarried daughters as well.

2. The Laws of Inheritance

There are two main types of property: real property and personal property. Real property is real estate or land. It is also sometimes called immoveable property. Personal property is property which is not real estate, such as money, furniture, livestock, and anything else which is not classed as real estate. Until relatively recently, wills dealt with one's real estate. Testaments dealt with one's personal estate, that is, all assets which are not real estate. The laws governing ownership of and freedom to dispose of real property and personal property have different histories. For example, dower rights relate only to real estate.

Land was inherited according to the law of primogeniture throughout England until the late Middle Ages. Under primogeniture, all the land was inherited by the eldest son upon the landowner's death. If there was no surviving son, the daughters inherited the land in equal shares. The land owner had no right to change this.

Primogeniture was the law in the Archdiocese of York until 1692 and in the City of London until 1724. In the Archdiocese of Canterbury (the south of England outside of London), primogeniture no longer applied from the late Middle Ages.

Once primogeniture was abolished, the land owner could leave his land to whomever he pleased, subject to his widow's dower rights. A widow could enforce her dower rights, if necessary, in the Court of Common Pleas.

The Statute of Wills of 1540 allowed males from the age of 14 and females from the age of 12 to make a will or testament. The Wills Act of 1837 raised the age for both sexes to 21.

The Statute of Distributions of 1670 specified that, in the case of intestacy, that is, if a person died without having made a valid will or testament, a widow inherited one third of her husband's personal estate.

Before 1837, any boy over 14 and any girl over 12 years of age could make a valid will. However, if the girl married, her will became void unless her husband approved it. After 1837, people had to be 21 years old to make a valid will.

Ecclesiastical Courts were called upon to appoint guardians for minors, i.e. boys between the ages of 14 and 21 and girls between the ages of 12 and 21. The guardians were called Curators. For younger children, the guardian was called a Tutor. The Curator or Tutor had custody of the person of the minor as well as control of the

minor's property. At age 14, a minor could choose his or her own guardian.

The good news is that testaments and wills were common amongst all classes during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The bad news is that they were usually verbal, told to the priest on one's death bed with two witnesses present. However, there were court cases to prove or Probate these oral wills.

What this means is that:

- a) Spinsters, including girls as young as 12, made wills.
- b) Widows made wills.
- c) Widows made applications to court to be appointed Tutor or Curator of the own children. Widows encouraged their own male relatives to apply to be appointed Tutors or Curators of their children. Minors age 14 and older applied to appoint or change their Curators, perhaps to their mother or aunt, instead of a miserly, dishonest or disliked male relative.
- d) Widows often applied to be appointed administratrix of their husband's estate if he died without a will. Widows also often had one of their male relatives apply to be appointed administrator in such cases.
- e) Widows were protected by law from being left destitute by a foolish or mean spirited husband. At the very least, they were entitled to their dower rights – the right to the use of their deceased husband's land for their lifetime. In the case of an unexpected death, when a man may well not have made a will, the widow was further protected by the Statute of Distributions.

3. The Poor Law

After the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII, the responsibility for providing for the poor fell on the parish. The Poor Laws tried to manage the ever present problem of widespread poverty while trying to keep things fair for the parish ratepayers. Parishes were anxious to avoid paying for the support of paupers who rightfully were the responsibility of another parish. They were also keen to make fathers pay for the support of their children.

In 1576, an Act of Parliament empowered Justices to question unmarried pregnant women as to the identity of the father and to order the father to pay the parish or the mother-to-be maintenance. These were called bastardy examinations. The woman or her family could also apply to prove paternity and obtain a maintenance order. Women found to be pregnant out of wedlock could also be punished by imprisonment or whipping.

The Poor Law Act of 1601 set up the system followed in Britain for over 200 years. Everyone had a parish of settlement. If someone became destitute, his or her parish of settlement was responsible for their care. A common cause of destitution was the loss of the household's breadwinner – often the husband and father. Destitute people were called paupers. Paupers were refused relief and ejected from the parish if they did not have legal settlement in that parish. There were several ways to acquire settlement in a parish. A woman could acquire legal settlement in a parish by marrying a man of the parish.

An amendment to the Poor Law in 1732/3 prohibited the removal of women during pregnancy and for 1 month after childbirth.

Another amendment to the Poor Law in 1743/4 provided that an illegitimate child's parish of settlement was its mother's parish of settlement, not the parish in which it was born. Therefore, it was more likely that a parish would allow a pregnant unwed woman to stay where she was to give birth.

The Ecclesiastic Courts prosecuted many, many deserting husbands to force them to return home to support their wives and children. These Courts could also grant a decree of separation “a mensa et choro” which released both husband and wife from the obligation to live together. However, most unhappy couples separated by agreement or one of them simply ran off.

What this means is that:

- a) The records produced under the Poor Laws are an important resource for researching female ancestors. If her husband died, a woman likely lost her sole means of support for herself and any young children. This could happen to most of the female population of England. Until she could find another husband, she very likely would have to seek financial assistance from the parish.
- b) Illegitimacy was surprisingly common despite the severe consequences for the mother and child. Bastardy examinations and hearings to determine an unwed mother’s legal parish of settlement were recorded and can be researched. These are found in the Parish Chest.
- c) Ecclesiastical Court records include cases against runaway husbands.

4. Miscellaneous Tidbits

From Medieval times to the 18th century, Ecclesiastical Courts were responsible for granting licenses to midwives so midwives could perform emergency baptisms. A national registration system for midwives was established in England in 1902.

The Ecclesiastical courts, commonly referred to as the bawdy courts, handled minor criminal charges such as prostitution, fornication and witchcraft.

If a husband was missing and not heard from or about for 7 years, he was assumed dead and the wife could remarry.

The common folk followed a custom of wife selling as a substitute for divorce. The husband took his wife to the common market place and ritually sold her, usually to her lover.

Divorces were by Act of Parliament until 1 January 1858 when legislation authorized court applications for divorce. A husband could obtain a divorce on the basis of adultery. A wife had to prove adultery plus extreme cruelty or one of several other marital offences. The divorce laws were amended in 1914 to make it easier to obtain a divorce.

Women who met the property requirements could vote in local elections commencing in 1869.

Cuckolded husbands could sue their wives’ lovers for criminal conversation in the Court of King’s/Queen’s Bench.

“BABA’S BISCUITS”

by Beverley A. Rees

I remember visits with “Baba” (my maternal grandmother) when I was a little girl. She always wore a cotton print dress with a clean white apron and could always be found in the kitchen cooking something scrumptious for us to eat. I remember the simple foods like warm biscuits served with butter and jam.



Annie Ukrainetz

(continued on page 29)

WWW.FAMILYRELATIVES.ORG

Reviewed by Beverley A. Rees



Welcome Page – familyrelatives.org

FamilyRelatives.org is a site you will want to peruse!!!

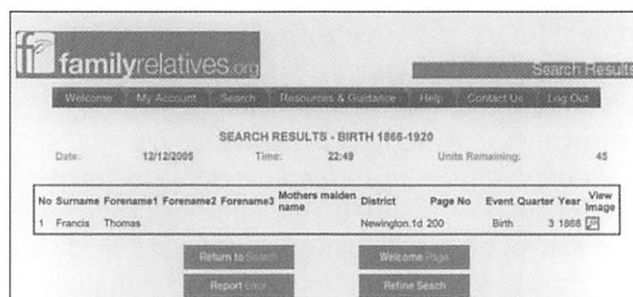
If you have ancestors from England and/or Wales, you will want to check out this new web site. It contains over 300 million records (birth, marriage and death) from 1837 to 2003 of which 150 million have been fully transcribed.

FamilyRelatives.org has fully transcribed the Period 1866-1920 & 1984-2003 for all events. However, the downside is that it does not have the period 1837 to 1865 available.

It is the largest fully searchable database of its kind available online. It not only includes the entire Civil Registration index, but also includes images of the original index register entries. Images are scanned in high quality grey scale. This provides more clarity than images scanned in black and white.

Having more data transcribed in this database than in others allows users to find their family relatives faster which offers better value for their money. After you have found your relatives you will probably want to consider ordering the original certificates. A convenient link on the Welcome Page will take you to the General Register Office Website where you can do this.

FamilyRelatives has just added a new “Marriage Match” search feature. This allows you to track down spouses! There is a web tour which is very informative. In order to make full use of the website you will need to download the Document Express viewer otherwise you will not be able to view Civil Registration Index images. It is free and takes several minutes to download depending on the Internet connection you have and will allow you to view images much more quickly than normal. However, the images still take awhile to download.



Search Results Page

There is no annual fee to use this site. The minimum charge for purchasing units is £6.00 UK or \$10.00 US or €9.00 for 60 units. These 60 units are valid for a period of 90 consecutive days from the day of purchase. There is no cost to search, however, viewing a search results page that matches your criteria is chargeable. A search result page contains up to a maximum of 20 names (depending on the number of total records found as it could be less) and costs 2 units to view. If there is more than one page of search results you can view the additional pages at a cost of 2 units each.

Unit Information Table			
Category	Description	Unit cost	Period
1.	Per transcribed Search Results page or Marriage Match	2	1866-1920 1984-2003
2.	Viewing a full image in grayscale	1	1866-1920
3.	Search results page non-transcribed pages	No Charge	1837-1865 1921-1983

Unit Information Table

FINDING PLACES OF ORIGIN

by Lois Sparling

Paternal Grandfather

Family lore My Dad knew his paternal grandfather was from County Tipperary and his paternal grandmother was from County Armagh.

Previous research Sparling genealogical research has been ongoing for at least two generations. In addition, a social geographer, O'Connor, wrote historical geography books about the Irish Palatine community centered on Rathkeale. His books include *People Make Places; the Story of the Irish Palatines*, *All Ireland is In and About Rathkeale*, and *All Worlds Possible: the Domain of the Millers of Collybrown*. *To Their Heirs Forever* by Eula Lapp is about the Irish Palatines who immigrated to Ontario from the US following the American Revolution. *The Palatine Families of Ireland* by Henry Z Jones documents 172 Irish Palatine families. There are also self-published books such as *Over the Hills and Far Away: Tracing the Sparlings* compiled by Kathleen Bryant.

Church records Most of the Church of Ireland Parish Registers was destroyed in a fire. As luck would have it, the parish registers for the area with a high concentration of the Irish Palatines, i.e., Rathkeale and Adare, survived that infamous fire. I am therefore able to access the eighteenth and nineteenth records of baptisms, marriages and burials.

Researching collaterals The marriage announcement for the marriage of my great grandfather's brother to my great grandmother's sisters (two brothers marrying two sisters) named the bride's father as "of Tullyroan". This is a townland in County Armagh, Ireland.

Paternal Grandmother

My paternal Grandmother's line was much more challenging than the Sparlings. Sometimes pure luck provides information on the previous place of residence of a family line. The marriage

registration of the eldest daughter gave the township of her birth in Ontario rather than her current residence. This took me back from Fenelon Twp., Victoria County, Ontario to Hope Twp., Durham County, Ontario.

Maternal Great-grandmother

My maternal great grandmother is also of entirely Irish origin. We of the Celtic SIG are a determined and patient lot. We have to be because Irish research is challenging.

Networking on the internet I used Genforum, the Simcoe County mailing list, queries in OGS' Families and writing to the Simcoe Archives for help to tap into a large network of researchers on the same or collateral families for two of the four ancestors of my paternal grandmother.

Family lore My father knew that his mother came from the area near Meaford, Grey County, Ontario.

Ontario Archives Land Registration Index
The Illustrated Historical Atlas of Bruce and Grey Counties

These two sources which I found at the Calgary Public Library pinpointed the land granted to male ancestors.

Obituaries The nineteenth century Methodist denominational newspaper in Ontario, "The Christian Monitor", contained many, many birth, marriage and death notices and obituaries. These have been abstracted by Rev. Mackenzie, Mr. Reid and Mr. Wilson in a series of books available at the Calgary Public Library and elsewhere. I found two very important obituaries from which I learned that two of my four 3X great grandmothers were natives of County Cavan. This is not enough for Irish research, but a start.

Through the networking with other researchers, the will of a married sister was found linking her with three brothers who also immigrated to Canada in the 1820s.

Gravestones It is common for the gravestones of immigrant ancestors to state where they came from in Europe. One of the three brothers' gravestone stated that he was born in County Fermanagh. The gravestone of a second brother stated that he was from County Monaghan. The gravestones of the third brother and the married sister do not say where they were born.

IGI Extractions from Irish Parish Registers are included in the IGI. Only 1 baptism of all the ancestors and their children of these 3 brothers and sister turned up. It is a daughter from my line and states that she was baptized in the Parish of Drung.

Maps The parish of Drung is in County Cavan on the border with County Monaghan and close to County Fermanagh. A review of a map of the area shows that it is not a great distance to move about for one son to be born in County Fermanagh, another son to be born in County Monaghan, a bride to be found in County Cavan and an infant grandchild to be baptized in Drung Parish, County Cavan.

This is still not enough for Irish research.

Naming patterns There is an Irish naming pattern, although it is followed less rigorously than the Scottish naming pattern. The relatively unusual name of Nicholas turns up repeatedly in the family.

The Irish Flax Growers List of 1796 In Irish research, what would otherwise be pretty obscure sources are of great importance. A Nicholas Willoughby old enough to be the father of the three brothers and married sister was listed as living in County Fermanagh. However, further research demonstrated that there were at least three separate Nicholas Willoughbys in the area at the same time.

In frustration I switched to American research.

Welsh Great Grandfather

I have a Welsh great grandfather amongst my many Irish ancestors, Uriah Gettins.

Family lore He told his daughters that he was born in South Wales. His mother died. He and his younger brother were raised by their young teenage sister, Alice, because their stepmother refused to take care of them. Their sister worked as a domestic servant to support them. Uriah came to Canada at age 18 and found work with the railroad.

His daughters had mangled the name of his place of birth. There was no such place. Note that this is better than if the mangled version matched the wrong place of origin.

Uriah's children kept in contact with their first cousins in Wales. My grandmother visited them in 1962 in Brecon. She was shown her paternal grandparents' graves in the church graveyard. I have the photographs she took on that trip to England and Wales.

I have Uriah Gettins' marriage license issued at Chalk River, Ontario. This marriage license is dated almost one year after the marriage registration, so clearly the year is wrong in one of the documents.

Vital Records The marriage registration gives the names of Uriah's parents.

Census If Uriah immigrated at age 18, he should be in Canada in 1881. I could not find him. I did find him in the 1881 census of Wales, working as a farm servant on the edge of Brecon. His father, stepmother, brother, step brother, half brother and his elder sister, Alice lived together nearby. Alice was recorded in the census a second time as a servant in another household. Note that none of this fits with the family stories. Uriah also changed the spelling of his surname from Gittins to Gettins.

Vital Records Uriah Gettins is a very unusual name – a lucky break in Welsh research where it seems everyone is named Mary Davies, Thomas Jones, Elizabeth Morgan or David Williams. In fact, I have both a Mary Davies and an Elizabeth Morgan further back in my Welsh pedigree. Uriah's birth registration was easy to find and clearly his. His place of birth was Troedy-rhiw, a coal mining village in Glamorganshire not all that far from the City of Brecon.

Lucky breaks such as an unusual name to research are of enormous help. As near as I can tell, there was only ever one baby named Uriah Gettins or with variations of that surname in all of England and Wales. Willoughby and spelling variations are unusual in Ireland. Sparling is a distinctive Irish name of German origin as are most of the other Irish palatine surnames, e.g. Switzer, Shier, and Doupe. The Irish Palatines are also a unique little ethnic group in Ireland and therefore has attracted scholarly interest. Furlong is moderately common in County Wexford but rare in Belfast where my ancestors originated.

Maternal Grandmother's Irish Grandparents

Which leads me to my maternal grandmother's Irish grandparents, James McMillan and Jane McGill. All my techniques for finding places of origin have failed with this couple.

Family Lore My great grandmother told her daughters that her parents came from Belfast to Ontario as newlyweds. He was a school teacher. Both of them were born in 1836. They settled near Napanee, Ontario and later moved to Chalk River, Ontario.

Census I found this family using the 1871 index to heads of households for Ontario. I have not been able to find them in the 1861 census but was also able to find the family in the 1881 and 1891 census. They were members of the Church of England in 1871 and Presbyterians in 1881 and 1891.

Vital Records I found both Jane's and James' death registrations. While searching for the marriage of my great grandmother's brother, also named James McMillan, I found a second marriage of my 2X great grandfather. This gave me the names of his parents: James McMill and Maria Furlong. While searching for the birth registrations of the children of my great grandmother's younger sister, I found a different spelling for McGill: Magill, which my 2X great aunt gave as a middle name to her first born son.

The Lennox & Addington County Archives could find nothing about this family.

James McMillan, Senior, as well as his sons, later worked for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Unlike the former employees of the Canadian National Railroad, CPR records are inaccessible.

I could not find a marriage registration in Ireland, England or Ontario.

Belfast could mean the City of Belfast or the area around Belfast.

Nothing in the 21 volumes of monumental inscriptions transcribed by the Ulster Historical Society (which I obtained through inter-library loan) was of any help.

Nothing in any directories or name lists I have been able to find online or through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

It took me ten years to find Jane Magill's gravestone. It confirms her birth and death dates but says nothing about a place of origin.

Recently I was put in touch with a distant cousin also interested in family history by the Nippissing Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. This shows the potential of joining far away societies. I hope she has some leads.

Husband's Ancestry

My husband's ancestry is more diverse than my own. He has a Scottish grandfather, English

grandmother, American grandfather and German grandmother. His grandmothers were both born in Ontario. His German grandmother had a relatively unusual surname – Christoffer spelled with two “f”s rather than the English spelling. I was able to trace the Christoffer family back through Saskatchewan and Ontario using the census, birth, marriage and death registrations and church records. The marriage registrations of some of the immigrant ancestors’ children gave their mother’s maiden name. I hoped to find something more precise than “Germany” as their place of origin in the census but no such luck. The census did give the legal descriptions of the farms.

Research into the land records uncovered a quit claim from a married daughter who was living in Cloud County, Kansas at the time of her father’s death. Since I could find no further information on her mother, I formed a theory that she had joined her daughter in Kansas after her husband’s death. Therefore, on my one and only trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, I looked for and found a local history on Cloud County, Kansas. Bingo! This local history contained a detailed story of four girls from Ontario who met four boys from Germany, followed them to Kansas and married them. The girls were Hoffman sisters and their first cousin, Dorette Christoffer. Mrs. Hoffman was Dorette’s paternal aunt. Mrs. Hoffman and her husband were from Mecklenburg.

English is generally less challenging than German or Irish research. I have enjoyed considerable success using the IGI extracts from English parish registers. However, I have had no success at all in tracing James Goodman. I have his approximate age, approximate date of arrival in Canada and the fact, gleaned from census returns, that he was born in England. His marriage and death registrations do not name his parents. He was a miller but I do not know whether he learned his trade from his father or after arriving in Canada West (Ontario). I cannot link him to any siblings, cousins or other relatives who may have immigrated with him, or preceded or followed him to the New World. He

was a Methodist but many immigrants converted after arriving in Canada, particularly where I first found him, in Ernestown Township, Lennox & Addington County. This was a hot bed of Methodism and all that meant socially and politically during the mid nineteenth century.

James Goodman is not a common name in England but not unusual enough to be much help. The surname “Goodman” derives from social standing as a respectable householder and is not linked to any particular locale. Local histories in the places he lived in Ontario and family stories provide no clues. There are no clues in the probate and land records. Most of the issues of the major local newspaper were lost in a fire. Church records and his gravestone do not mention where he came from.

Unlike my Irish dead ends, this puzzle should have a solution. Perhaps a Family Bible or letters from home will turn up. Perhaps I will be able to find him in English apprenticeship papers or a ship’s list arriving with relatives.

The Luck of the Irish Rosanna Gaylord had many names and nicknames – Rosina, Regina, and Rezina. This could have been a problem if her gravestone had not given her maiden name and her obituary had not identified her two brothers. Her gravestone was transcribed and published some time ago. This is just as well since finding that gravestone, laying in pieces just over the rise of a small hill, one third covered in sod, in a cemetery with no sign on a back road during a mosquito infested spring day might have proved discouraging if I had not already known it was there somewhere. My eldest son will no longer visit cemeteries because of that experience. The maiden name tied her in with a family line being researched by others. Those other researchers led me to her parents’ place of origin in the Mohawk Valley, New York State.

There is a saying in Scotland that it costs you nothing to find out who your ancestors are, but it costs a fortune to keep it quiet.

(Alberta Bound! continued from page 11)

The grain was coming fine. *They picked out a site for a new house and barn. In the late summer they bought a new binder on time, also lumber for granaries.* We started on the house. Walter hauled the gravel and John hauled lumber from the Crown Lumber Company in Calgary and arranged to get three big windows. (Kay's note: *She told me many years later that the man finishing the house thought it was foolish to get such big windows and said "those kids will keep you broke buying glass". The biggest window in the kitchen was never broken and still had the old glass with its imperfections when we replaced it in 1993.*) We got the basement done, shoveling it all by hand. (The "seement" as Walter called it.) Then we got up the frame of the building, the partitions, measured up stairs, the roof up and shingled, and a ladder so we could go down to the basement or upstairs on the same ladder. It was left till after harvest.

In the midst of all this the government sent a traveling car to assist the settlers to improve farming. We went to Langdon to see what we could learn and we took Walter with us. Mr. Sidney Carlyle taught us about making butter. Mrs. Gray told him I would not be bothered making butter. He talked politely but forcibly to her on the error of her ways. Partners don't always think alike, you may think it strange that after many years Mr. Gray milked cows, made butter, lots of it and sold it to private customers.

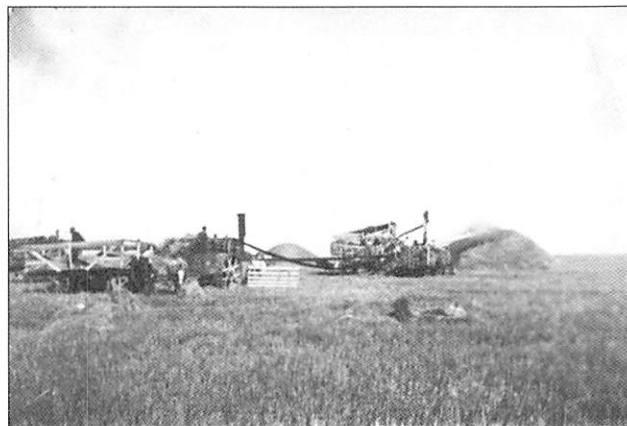
On July 11 we had a bad hailstorm, the stones bounced up over the railroad grade, then settled down to smaller ones the size of marbles. Some fields looked like summer fallow.

Walter thought it would be a good time for him to leave. The harvest was starting in southern Alberta. He would see that country and then go to Montana where he hoped to homestead.

We had to get ready for our first harvest. We had to buy our first binder, \$185. It was our first time to buy things on time, the binder and twine. The wheat was ripening. John talked to Mr. Prouse about cutting it, but Mr. Prouse was

doubtful. He said a man might lose money by cutting it too soon. John remembered back to the days when he had worked in the harvest in Manitoba, where they dreaded frost before the wheat was cut so much so that they cut after dark with a man going ahead of the team carrying a lantern. I had some misgivings but John started to cut our first wheat.

John Weiner, our neighbor 2 miles to the south of us had sent a man. We had dinner, Nels Nelson he was and Nels was a jewel. When we were having dinner, Nels took such a tiny bit of butter that John said, "Takes lots of butter, Nels. We have more butter than anything else." He explained that where he had worked in Gleichen they had to go easy on the butter. He started stooking after dinner, he was a whirlwind, every stook had a fine cap on it and he took the last sheaf off the binder as John finished cutting. Then they moved across the road to make a start on the oats, the quarter section. That very night, September 4th, we had a hard frost, so hard Percy Harridence said when the men broke the ice on the water trough for the horses it froze up again. We had something to be thankful for, that Nels capped the wheat. Cutting and stooking went along well till we had quite a heavy snow. Nels was tramping up and down the floor muttering to himself "this damned sunny Alberta".



First Threshing Crew

Percy Harridence had told John after the hard frost you would have had 12,000 bushels off that quarter but now you will find the frost has reduced your yield one third. We had 8282 bushels. John had built 2 big granaries (*lumber*

on time). When they started threshing, one of the men thought it was a joke those big granaries that MacKenzie built. They were filled to overflowing and then some. There was 427 bushels of wheat and thanks to Nels capping it, it was good. In this country in those years when it was Red Fife, there was very little grown.

Then that fall Father began the long job hauling all the oats to Calgary with team and wagon. There was a great demand for oats to feed all the dray and livery horses in the city at the time, there being no trucks. The oats had to be all sacked and carried to wherever the customer wanted them put - sometimes up a ladder to a loft or down basement stairs. Maybe the boss would be away and he would have to make another trip (or more) back to collect his money. Mother and the boys always had the cows milked and the chores done, even the feed in the manger for the horses. Sometimes it was eight or nine o'clock before he got home depending on how much trouble he had getting unloaded. Then all he had to do was water the team, put them in the barn and unharness before he had his supper. For one who has never experienced it, a ride in an empty heavy wagon on frozen ground is the most jolting, bone jarring ride ever devised by man. In the winter when the snow came he got a sleigh, had the two teams sharp shod and went across the lake and hit the road that is One A Highway now. The road was often drifted in from one day to the next or even from morning to night and horses had to flounder through new drifts on the trail. He used Tom and Prince one day and Belle and Maude the next turn about. When they did all the sacking of the grain I don't know. I say they because I am sure Mother helped. By this time we had hauled the oats steady by taking turn about with our two teams and had completed paying all that we had bought on time. We said to ourselves never again will we buy anything on time; it is such a relief not to owe anyone.

Kay's note: This is the account of the first year in Alberta. I am sure their story is not much different that many others.

Kay Clarke describes herself in these words: I was born in Calgary and have lived in or near here all my life. I am married to Glen and we have four children, six grandchildren and one great granddaughter. My grandmother told stories of her family but what got me researching was the fact that my Dad was not very forthcoming about his family and that made me curious. I have been seriously looking since I retired from twenty-two years of teaching in elementary schools.

FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

by Beverley A. Rees

Alberta Genealogy Society Conference "Genealogical Resources for 2006"

Features eight workshops on computers and 11 seminars on genealogy. Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 8:30 a.m., NorQuest College, 5502 - 49 Ave., Wetaskiwin, AB
www.abgensoc.ca

Ontario Genealogy Society Genealogy Conference "From Buggy Whips to Micro Chips" May 26 - 28, 2006, Oshawa, Ontario
www.ogs.on.ca/events/first.html

Campbell River Genealogical Society Seminar Featuring Dave Obee April 29, 2006, Campbell River, British Columbia
www.rootsweb.com/~bccrgc/

Federation of East European Family History Societies Conference June 16-18, 2006, Edmonton, Alberta <http://www.feeffhs.org/>

National Genealogy Society 2006 Conference The Hyatt Regency O'Hare will be home to the NGS June 7-10, 2006 conference and what a fabulous place. It is going to be a remarkable week for family historians. All self contained, the convention centre is part of the hotel - no catwalks, no shuttles, just an easy way from your room to lectures, luncheons, and exhibit hall. The speakers will excite you, the topics will ignite you, the food will delight you!
www.ngsgenealogy.org

Germans From Russia Historical Society Annual Conference July 12-16, 2006, Portland, Oregon www.grhs.org/grow/06convention.htm

Brigham Young University's Annual Genealogy and Family History Conference
The 38th annual BYU Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held August 1 - 4, 2006, in the BYU Conference Centre. Eight information tracks will be available: Beginning Family History, Family History Centre Support, Computers, Europe/Nordic Research, British Research, U.S. Research, Methodology, and Publishing Family Histories.
ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen

East European Genealogical Society and Federation of East European Family History Societies Joint Conference August 4 – 6, 2006, Winnipeg, Manitoba
www.feefhs.org/conferences/EEGS0609.htm
www.feefhs.org/
www.eegsociety.org/EEGS.aspx

Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe Conference August 11-13, 2006, Edmonton, Alberta. More information will be available soon. www.sggee.org/

Association of Professional Genealogists
August 30, 2006, Boston, Massachusetts
www.apgen.org

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference August 30 - September 2, 2006, Boston, Massachusetts www.fgs.org

Legacy Genealogy Cruise Inside Passage to Alaska September 6 -13, 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

AFHS (Alberta Family Histories Society) Family Roots 2006 Genealogy, Genes and Gigabytes October 13 - 14, 2006, Carriage House Inn, Calgary, Alberta
www.afhs.ab.ca

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Annual Conference October 27-29, 2006, Moosomin, Saskatchewan
www.saskgenealogy.com/seminar/events/Seminar%202006.htm

Abbotsford, Genealogy Society Seminar April 28, 2007, Abbotsford, BC www.abbygs.ca

Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar 2007 “Ottawa, The Nation's Capital for 150 Years: The Peopling of Canada” June 1-3, 2007, Ottawa, Ontario www.ogsottawa.on.ca/

XXVIIIth International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences
June 23-28, 2008 Quebec City, Quebec
www.sgq.qc.ca/congres_2008/welcome.htm

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.

BEGINNING: WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU KNOW

by Kenneth W. Rees

Beginning your family history by writing down what you know about your family may seem pretty useless – at least on the surface. After all, most of us begin doing family history because we want to know something about our families. If I knew, I wouldn't have to search. Right?

On the other hand, in order to clearly define what we want to find out, we must have a clear understanding of what we know already. And that means it must all be collected together in one place so it can be organized, examined, and the gaps identified.

How do we start doing this? If you are like I am, you'll find that information about your family is scattered all over your home, all over your family, all over your life! So the first step is collection. This information must be collected. I think the best way to start collecting is also the most inconvenient. Start by putting a box right in your way. Put it in the middle of the floor – perhaps in the middle of the hall where you have to walk around it.

Then as you go about your daily tasks, and just happen to come across something with family information on it or in it, put it into the box. What kinds of things go into the box? Baby books, photographs, marriage, birth and death certificates, letters, the family Bible (or equivalent), journals and diaries. After awhile the box will get filled up. You'll probably want to fill several boxes with records, items, books – anything with family history information.

When you have collected everything around the home with this sort of information, sit down at a time when you have a few hours and start to go through what you have collected. It will take a while, but look at each item, and record on standard forms (family group records and pedigree charts) what it tells you about your family history. For each fact written on the form, note exactly where you got that information. This is called documentation, and

without knowing where the information came from, family history degenerates into family mythology. Using your camera, take a picture to document each item. If you have a scanner, and the item is a document, letter, or photo, scan it.

The next step is to take an hour or two to start to plumb the depths of your memory. Most of us will say "Oh I can't remember much of anything about the past." And if we don't make the attempt, that is where we will stay. But something wonderful happens when we consciously try to remember. Our memory, when stimulated, becomes better.

When I talked with my father's mother, she said that she didn't remember much about her life in Germany before the Great War. But after awhile, she started to remember little bits and pieces – things that she hadn't thought about for years. The same thing happens when I talk to my daughters (now in their late 20s and early 30s). I begin to remember things about when they were growing up, and about when I was growing up. It happened with my father as well, before he passed away. He remembered things that he hadn't thought about for years. So start the process of stimulating your memory to bring out the things that you know, but don't know that you know. And write these things down as well – again on standard forms. (If you don't like writing, use a compute software program, such as Legacy, PAF, Family Tree Maker, Brother's Keeper, Ancestral Quest, The Master Genealogist, or similar.)

Now that you have started to mine your home and memory, it is time to approach those closest to you. The members of your family (living nearby) may remember things that you don't. They may also remember things differently. They may also have different pictures, different certificates, different things. Once again, record the information and document the source of each fact.

The fact that someone else has a different story – a different view of reality – is not really a problem. We all tend to see things a little bit differently. When we examine the differences, we may decide that they are of little consequence, and we'll agree that we don't see things in exactly the same way. But sometimes, the differences will be major, and we'll have to resolve the differences. That will happen in the next steps. Right now, all we want to do is to record what we are finding out, and note where the differences are.

So this is an introduction to step one – write down what you know. Next time we'll examine step two – decide what you want or need to find out.

OUR ANCESTORS COMMANDMENTS

Thou shalt use the same forenames for at least one person from every generation, preferably at least once in every family on every generation, just to cause confusion.

Thou shalt wait the maximum amount of time before registering births and deaths, or better still somehow forget to get them registered at all.

Thou shalt have 2 forenames, and use them both separately on official records, but never both together.

Thou shalt change your forename at least once during your lifetime.

Thou shalt use every conceivable spelling for your surname, and make up a few as well.

Thou shalt never use the same year of birth or birth date. Always vary it, adding on a couple of years here and taking away a couple of years there.

Thou shalt use the house name and county as your place of birth, and not the village or town.

Thou shalt completely disappear without trace

for at least 15 years of your life, and suddenly turn up again.

Thou shalt use at least 2 versions of your father's name.

Thou shalt not use family members as your witnesses at your wedding.

Thou shalt get married somewhere that neither of you live.

Thou shalt not have all of your children baptized, and shall not always use the same church.

Thou shalt move between counties at least once every 10 years.

Thou shalt move hundreds of miles from your home town at least once. Better still would be to move to another country in the UK.

Thou shalt make life as difficult as possible for your descendants when they decide to research you.

Thou shalt use as many of these commandments as is possible during your lifetime, but not all are necessary.

*God bless our ancestors and their quirks!
After all, we would not be here without them!*

OLD NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Paper of Record – www.paperofrecord.com

Toronto Star – <http://thestar.pagesofthepast.ca>

Obits Archive – www.obitsarchive.com

The London Times – www.timesonline.co.uk

Other Days – www.otherdays.com

The London Gazette – www.gazettesonline.co.uk

Accessible Archives – www.accessible.com

Historical Newspapers –

<http://historynews.chadwyck.com>

News Library – www.newslibrary.com

Historical Newspapers – www.ancestry.com

Newsbank – www.newsbank.com

NewspaperARCHIVE –

www.newspaperarchive.com

SERENDIPITY IN GENEALOGY

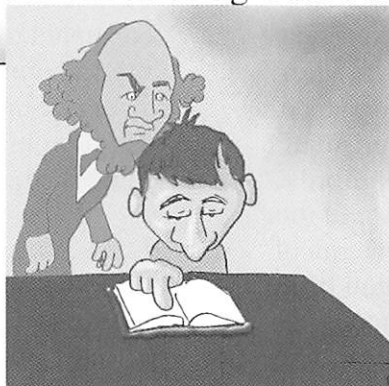
Coincidence in Researching Your Family History

Serendipity in Action

or

How to Succeed as a Genealogist without Really Trying

by Suddie William Mumford



When I first realized it would be necessary to know my family history in order to complete my autobiography I approached the subject determined to do it properly. I joined several genealogical societies, attended numerous lectures, read several books on the subject and attended every course offered. Now familiar with the terminology I volunteered at the local Family History Center, where, over a period of nine years, I became expert in source material and where it could be found. At the end of this period I found that while I had now established with certainty the family lineage within Canada and had thousands of references to possible family members elsewhere I still could not establish a proven linkage to other possible family members in England.

My aunt had employed the services of a professional genealogist some years earlier. He had identified a Suddy Mumford at Great Munden in Hertfordshire as the right man and while I had found some derivative evidence supporting his assertion it was not conclusive. I was now reduced to grasping at straws hoping to obtain some information not available from conventional sources. I contacted a lady in Essex who was compiling a baptismal index. She had no record of the person I was seeking but her husband, also a genealogist, recalled seeing the name, Suddy Mumford, in a parish register he had recently examined. After checking his notes he thought the parish was Littlebury in northwest Essex. While I had examined several hundred Essex parish registers Littlebury was not among them. I quickly remedied that. Lo and behold, there was my

Suddy, along with his family and three generations of ancestors. Serendipity strikes.

While this discovery provided an alternative family I still lacked the definitive proof I needed to identify one of two possibilities as the correct one. A few months later,

during a visit to a second cousin in Ontario, a postcard, dated 1911, was produced. It was addressed to one of my father's cousins mentioning a visit from an Uncle Irv. The card was signed Jimmy Wright. My father's generation had no cousins bearing the surname Wright. A search of my numerous Mumford references revealed a David Wright marrying a Sarah Mumford in Littlebury early in the 19th century. Sarah was the sister of the Littlebury Suddy. Her youngest son was James. He was a cousin of my father's grandfather. Serendipity strikes again.

A few years later I again visited Ontario and spent several weeks gathering trivia to fill in my family history. While searching the collections in the Trenton library I happened to mention to the librarian the lack of results I had obtained when recording the cemeteries in the Cramahe and Murray townships. She quickly pointed out they had a collection of cemetery extractions I might be interested in. Aware that I might have missed a stone in a cemetery for any of a dozen reasons I checked the collection. One cemetery, MacPhails, hadn't appeared on my maps. Quickly scanning the pages I saw an entry for a James Wright. The inscription read, "emigrated from Littlebury, Essex in 1835 at the age of one". On the following page were his parents. Next to them was my Suddy. Serendipity, of course.

Now, with a solidly established link to the Mumfords of Littlebury I extended my research

further using the Littlebury parish registers. Suddy's father and grandfather had both been called William. There were five Mumford families in Littlebury and a Mountford one consisting only of an elderly man and his wife. One of the remaining families was headed by a William. An earlier entry listed the baptism of a William in the family of one Henry Mumford. The dates fit. A little more research carried this line back three more generations to a veteran of the Civil War who had received a pension from Charles II after the Restoration. Feeling my research had been carried to its logical conclusion I published a family history for my cousins.

There was only one little series of nagging questions. Where had the given name Suddy originate? Why was it used in all the Mumford families in Littlebury at one time or another? Considering our family had used the name Suddy for generations surely we were related to the other Mumford families. I had researched the Suddie family in nearby Babraham in Cambridgeshire and traced all the descendants until the line died out. There was one exception, a girl named Jane born in 1684. With these doubts in my mind I mailed only one copy of the book.

I continued to collect references to the Mumford surname. I would check the films currently on hand at the Family History Center and extract any information I found. One day I noticed a film containing an index of Hertfordshire marriages. One of the Suddy's had a farm in Great Munden so, expecting to find a mention of his family, I mounted the film on a reader. There, only a few feet of film later was the entry I had been searching for, a John Mumford of Burnt Pelham married Jane Suddie at Bishop's Stortford in 1711. Serendipity, what else?

I immediately started researching this John Mumford. He was a non conformist. This is not a blessing when doing English research. Nevertheless I found he baptized all his children in the established Church. His children's names were those of the heads of the Littlebury

families, including a William. Their surnames were different, varying with whoever was the vicar at the time. John's name had been corrupted to Mountford. Based on this information I restructured my family and scrapped the Henry Mumford linkage. Another small problem now existed. How could I be sure I now had the right William?

I now switched my research to locating information concerning the parish of Littlebury to provide background material for my book. Through the Internet I located a group preparing a history of the parish. I requested a copy of the book when it was published and mentioned why I was interested. Several e-mails later they had provided me with the record of the death of my second great grandmother who I had assumed died during the immigration to Canada. They then mentioned a will for a certain Elizabeth Mumford. After obtaining a copy I discovered the will was drawn up by John Mountford's daughter who, for some reason, had changed her name to Elizabeth from Mary. In it she bequeathed her estate to her brother, William's, children. This proved beyond a doubt I now had the right Suddy. Serendipity had found me again.

One of the researchers working on the Littlebury history was also preparing a manuscript on the condition of the poor of Essex from 1735 to 1835. One of the topics was assisted emigration. In his research he had found a letter from my Suddy's older brother in Canada, another John, providing power of attorney to sell the family's cottages in order to obtain the funds to immigrate to Canada with his sisters and his brother in law. This led to a number of other revelations concerning my Mumford families along with several more marriages. Serendipity? I think so.

The promised history book arrived shortly after Christmas. Not only is it a quality book detailing the history of Littlebury from Roman times to today but it is filled with many pictures including one that was in all probability the home of my 5th great grandfather when he moved to Littlebury in 1730. The information contained in the book

has raised many more research questions than I can ever hope to answer in my lifetime. I think it is now time to publish what I have. I can't cope with any more serendipitous help!



Mill Cottage Today

(Note: Serendip, now Sri Lanka., from a fairy tale *"The Three Princes of Serendip"* by Horace Walpole, 1754.)

(A note about the photos: The cover photo is of Littlebury High Street circa 1900. The above photo is of Mill Cottage as it appears today. My fifth cousin, five times removed was born in the cottage in 1740. This cottage was part of my fifth great-grandfather's legacy. He apparently left a tenement that contained four cottages. Mill Cottage was one of them. The tenement appears to have been kept intact until her death in 1835 when it was sold. My second great grandfather's brother provided a Power of Attorney at that time in a letter I have that referred to the sale of the cottages to fund the emigration of his siblings to Canada. Whether these cottages and those of the tenement were one and the same is open to question. Sorry, no photos of family members referred to in the article are available due to technical difficulties. No cameras!)

The author, Suddie William Mumford, is a retired Member of the NGS Gentech Advisory Council 2002-2005. He was Contributing Editor, Software, for the National Genealogical Society Newsmagazine 1997-2005, and Director Gentech 2001-2002. He was Past Chair of

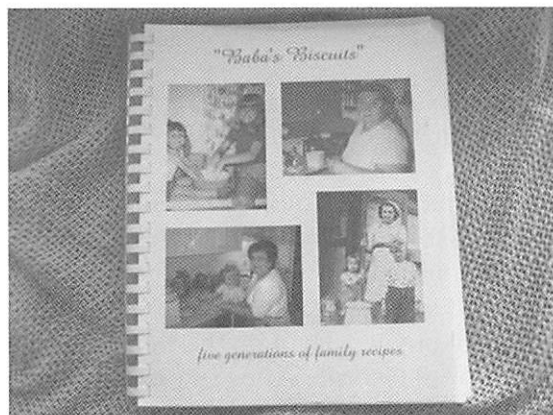
Genealogical Computer Group (now AFHS Computer SIG) 1995-1997, and Former Director AFHS 1995-1997.

"Baba's Biscuits" continue from page 16)

I remember watching her fervently as she scurried about her duties in the kitchen. I remember her telling me she didn't have a lot of food when she was growing up in Austria. As a young child she would go out on the streets of Lenesice pushing a small cart full of milk. It was so cold she would have to wrap her legs in brown paper to keep them warm. She would try to sell the milk so her family would have a little money to buy other necessities.

I remember feeling sad that I had so much and my "Baba" had so little when she was my age. I remember the warm feeling I had watching my "Baba" cook biscuits for me. It smelled good and it tasted good. It made me feel warm and fuzzy inside. I treasure the memories of my childhood which encompass flavourful recollections of good food!

A couple of years ago I took a moment to look back and remember the time before Fast Food came into existence. I could vividly see that cooking good food takes time and energy and is truly a gift from the heart! I suddenly knew what my Christmas gift would be to my family members that year. **"Baba's Biscuits"** is a collection of five generations of family recipes, past and present. It is illustrated with numerous photos and a nostalgic collection of "I remember the taste of", "I remember the smell of" etc. This heirloom cookbook is unique and has become an integral part of our family history!

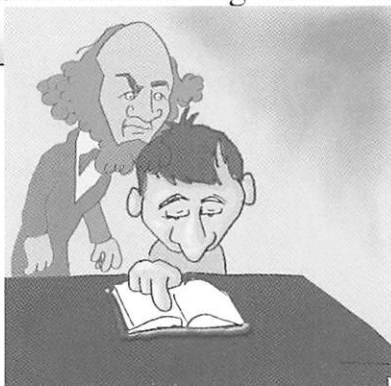


SERENDIPITY IN GENEALOGY

Coincidence in Researching Your Family History

King Family Serendipity by Al King

Last May, while waiting for an Ontario SIG meeting to start, I picked up a booklet titled: Perth County Pioneers, 10th Anniversary, Perth County Branch O.G.S. This was a mistake as I thought it would have information about the City of Perth and my Grandfather, John King, was born near the City of Perth. I looked in the index anyway and, bingo, I saw the name of my Great Aunt, Jane King, who, it turned out, had married a McInnis relative of the author. Her parents were shown and they were my GG Grandfather John King and GG Grandmother, Elizabeth Trail, whose name I recognized. They were on a family tree printed as part of a story about Daniel McIntyre of Downie Township written by a George Duncan Reid.

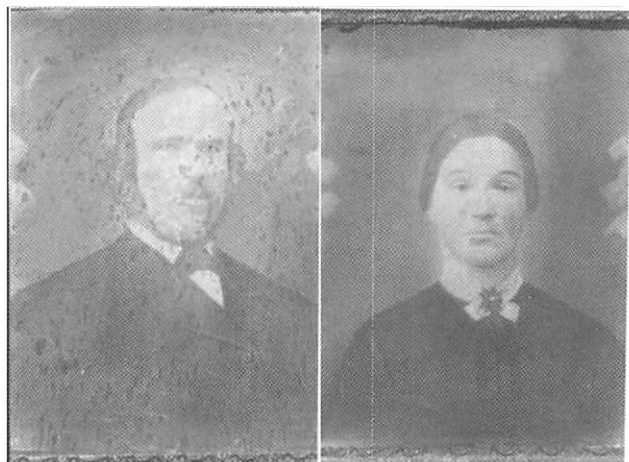


mails it became clear that he didn't have much more on the King family but he gave me the e-mail address of a Lynne Thompson in Manitoba who was researching the McInnis family. She was elated at making contact with a King family member and we exchanged McInnis and King information.

Lynne also gave me the e-mail address of a Peter Andersen who lives in Almonte, Ontario and who had provided her with some King information two years previously. I immediately e-mailed Peter.

Peter's ancestors were Danish and had no direct lines to the King family. However, when his Grandfather immigrated to Ontario in the early 1900s, he was befriended by one King family where the wife was Norwegian. This led to a long relationship with various Kings. Peter still remembers going to their homes for Sunday dinner. As a result of his interest in genealogy, Peter has researched many of the old newspapers, including the Lanark Era, and had recorded considerable information about the Kings. He was able to provide me with 9 pages of family information, most of which I did not have, starting with my GGG Grandfather, James King, who was born in 1786 in Paisley, Scotland.

All this because I didn't know that the City of Perth wasn't in Perth County!



James King, Jr. and Margaret Wark

I contacted the Perth County O.G.S. They sent me George Reid's last known address and also said they would put something in their newsletter. I sent a letter to George but it came back as "unknown". Then, in the fall, I received an e-mail from George. After an exchange of e-

Two ladies were talking together at a genealogical meeting. One woman was a bit of a snob. She said, "My family tree begins with my ancestors who arrived in America on the Mayflower!"

The other woman quickly replied, "Unfortunately we lost all our family records in The Flood!"

Alberta Family Histories Society

Membership

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

Objectives of the Society

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

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

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

Canadian Membership fees are			
When paid in Canadian funds using a money order, cheque on a Canadian account, on-line banking or cash.		When paid using PayPal (payment is in US funds and includes an administrative fee.)	
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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
\$50.00	Institutional	\$50.00	Institutional
USA Membership fees are		Overseas Membership fees (US funds) are	
\$40.00	Individual	\$45.50	Individual
\$55.00	Family	\$60.50	Family
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\$45.00	Senior family	\$50.50	Senior family
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