

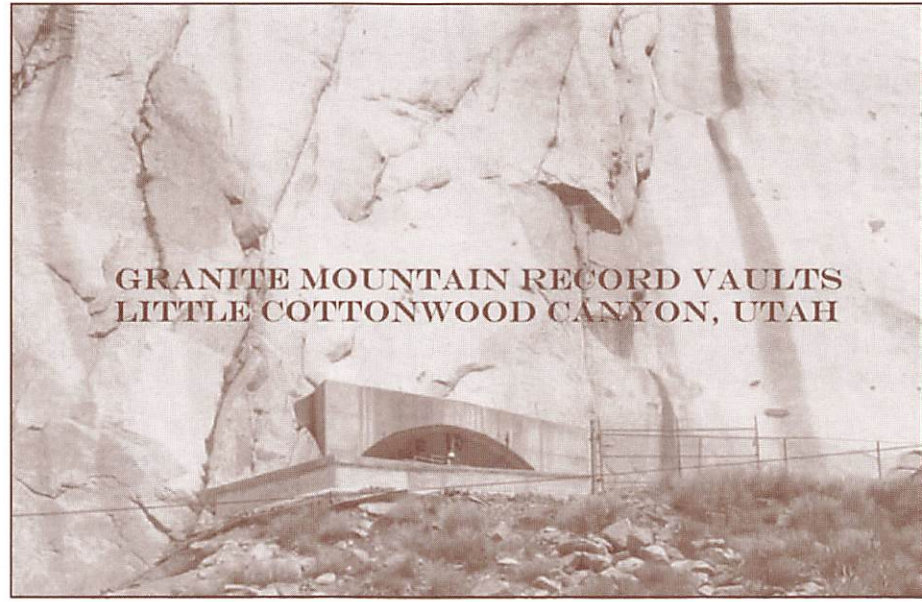
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# Chinook

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Alberta Family Histories Society



Approximately 2.5 million rolls of microfilm housed behind this massive 14-ton iron vault door are in the process of being digitized and eventually will be made available on FamilySearch.org, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints family history Web site. Within 10 years it is expected much of this vast store of genealogical information will be available online. No matter how fast the digitization occurs, the vault will still remain a primary repository of family history records.

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## ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

DATE	TOPIC
June 2006	Genetic Genealogy
13, 14 October 2006	FamilyRoots 2006 – <i>The Family History Event of the Year</i>

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

**On the Front Cover:** Granite Mountain Vault, Salt Lake, Utah. Photo courtesy and permission of Beverley A. Rees.

### 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.

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

by Tara Shymanski



It's my first week as chair of the Alberta Family Histories Society. What have I got myself in for! The first thing I'm being asked to do is write this message. I am looking forward to the responsibilities of working with the board and continuing the work of the past one. I have been a member of the society for almost two years. There is a lot to learn.

The new board has experienced members returning and some new members. Gary Manthorne is returning as Vice Chair of Facilities. A new member of the board, Gary Gauthier will serve as Vice Chair of Finance. Our Treasurer, Ronna Byam is returning as are Charles Aubin and Bev Swan as Directors at Large. Then we have two new Directors at Large, Kay Clarke and Rosemary Kry.

I am fortunate to be chair at a time when money will not be a concern. We received casino money and have another casino booked for 2007. With our money worries eased the board can focus on increasing membership and improving the knowledge and research skills of our membership.

Our FamilyRoots 2006 conference is Oct 13 and 14. The speakers committee has arranged some impressive speakers. I believe with the quality speakers we have the sessions will fill up quickly so register early.

A little about myself. I am an historian at heart. History is one of my loves and researching the history of my family is a passion. Until three years ago I dabbled at genealogy. Then I decided to really focus my energies. This desire led me to take courses from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. My skills at researching, analyzing, and organizing have improved considerably. My goal is to be a professional genealogist.

I have served on other boards before. When I was 18 years old I was secretary for the Fort Frances Little Theatre. Then while in university I was the artistic director for the Eleanor Drury's Children's Theatre. At church I served as chair for a number of activities. This year with the Alberta Family Histories Society I was a member of the program committee and continue to be a member of the FamilyRoots Committee.

I have also served at the Family History Centre in my mid 20's, my mid 30's and now in my mid 40's. I love helping others with their family history.

Now you know a bit about me. I expect you to introduce yourself to me at our meetings and tell me a bit about you.

I hope everyone has a relaxing, enjoyable summer.

Tara Shymanski

## EDITOR'S TABLE

by Kenneth W. Rees

As editor, I think I have the best job in town. I get to read the submissions for *Chinook* before anyone else! And that is always fun.

For instance, right in the middle of this issue (pages 16 and 17) you will find advanced information about FamilyRoots 2006. It will be the family history event of the year, and our Society is the sponsor.

Also in this issue Mertie Beatty shares the story of a man who crossed the Atlantic Ocean *seven times* before his family could join him in the Canadian West! What a wonderful story.

Lois Sparling gives us a different view of starting family history – one that elevates preservation to a more prominent place. Give it a read, and resolve to preserve the priceless before it is too late.

Last October, I was in Regina, Saskatchewan, lecturing on writing family histories. One of the participants was Renae Grubb, who shared the beginnings of the story of Cyril Grubb and how she came to start researching his life. She gives us a fuller account in these pages.

Sometimes it seems odd how events mesh together. In March, Bev and I were in Victoria for their conference. I was presenting a lecture on Loyalist Research. When it came time to put this issue together, I was gratified to find an article about our Loyalists in Calgary.

Velma Boyer has taken time out of her busy life to write about immigrant ancestor research. She offers her insights about ships lists and about setting goals.

Have you ever thought about how philosophy affects our family history research? Read Joyce Metcalfe's article for a light-hearted look.

We have two articles in our serendipity column, illustrating that sometimes coincidence brings wonderful discoveries.

There is certainly more, but I hope you get the impression that I think this issue has some wonderful material.

As always, it probably doesn't have your story in it. Recently, I was talking with Tara (our Chair). She mentioned that she would like to write something for *Chinook*. As we talked, she told me that she didn't know how to write. She suggested that we have sessions on writing, perhaps organized through our wonderful Education committee. I think that would be great, but I am not certain that it is needed. If we can speak (converse with our friends), we are able to write. Writing is speaking on paper, and the best writing has an unmistakable speech-like quality. To read the best writing is to be speaking with the writer.

Please let me know what you think. As always, I am interested in your opinions.

Ken

## HISTORIC CALGARY WEEK

by Bill Campbell

In our continuing challenge to ensure that every Calgarian (and a few visitors, too) are fully aware of the AFHS and its many resources we have been invited by the Chinook Historical Society and the City of Calgary to participate once more in **Historic Calgary Week** this summer.

We are invited to provide a speaker on the evening of Wednesday August 2nd. The talk will be presented at Central Memorial Library and should be about 45 minutes in length.

The topic is open to the author's choice but realistically should relate somehow to the history of Calgary.

A brochure is being prepared for widespread distribution which will publicize all of the events for Historic Calgary Week, including the proposed talk to be provided by AFHS. The brochure goes to press June 1st.

If you have a story to tell or would like to provide a talk please let me know as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you have a suggestion of a speaker whom we might contact please don't be shy - contact me (Bill Campbell) either by email or phone (254-2293).

It will also provide a great opportunity to promote our FamilyRoots 2006 event planned for October 13/14.

Your participation will certainly increase the awareness of the community to the Alberta Family Histories Society.

## CEMETERY PROJECT

by the Projects Committee

### Alberta Family Histories Society's Queen's Park Cemetery Project

The first step in this enormous undertaking by the Project Committee of the AFHS was the transcribing of the burial records (1940-1977) from the published fiche. This was done with the help of numerous volunteers over the winter of 2002/2003. Starting in May 2003, Lynda Alderman organized over 40 volunteers who participated in numerous recording sessions at the cemetery that summer, recording the data from the markers and taking digital photographs of each marker. The following winter another group of volunteers entered this data into a database and the photographers cropped and renumbered each photo. Marlene Knott, Carol Lylyk and Judie Riddell combined these three sets of data (marker information, burial records and photos) and edited the contents of this collection. In total, thousands of volunteer hours have been willingly donated to make this data available.

In early spring of 2004, Queen's Park Cemetery allowed Judie Riddell access to its burial books to verify our data and to include the burial records up to the present day. This new information was added and a final editing check was made. It is taking several volunteers numerous hours to ensure the accuracy of the information on the CDs

### Queen's Park CDs

Sections A-F is on our CD Volume IV and Section P (The Military Section) is on CD Volume V. Volume VI will contain Sections G through J and should be released in June 2006. Two other CDs should be completed this year. The remaining sections will be forthcoming as the work is finished. We will be heading back to the Cemetery this coming spring to update the photos in these last few sections where the new burials are currently taking place. This will make our information as up to date as possible. The CDs sell for \$25.00 each.

An index to this information is available on the AFHS Website. As a result the Society gets queries from all over the world. There are presently over 40,000 records available for Queen's Park Cemetery with another 10,000 soon to be released.

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**Hint:** Always view the original source! Often we look in indexes, hoping that the name we are searching is there. Most of us will check one or two alternate spellings. A really thorough family historian will check many alternate spellings. Some will go beyond that and check under "U" for unknown – just in case.

But we need to look at the original records. An index is only as good as the indexer was on that particular day. My rules are

- If the name is in the index, check the original record!
- If the name isn't in the index check the original record!

## SEVEN TIMES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

by Mertie Beatty (nee Werenka)

daughter of Adam Werenka and granddaughter of Wasyl and Marafta

*Wasyl Werenka from Ukraine crossed the Atlantic Ocean seven times before settling with his family in Northeastern Alberta. Here is what is known:*

Wasyl Werenka arrived in Canada aboard the S.S. Lake Manitoba, having sailed from Liverpool, England on July 14, 1903 and docking at Quebec City on July 24, 1903. The Ship's Manifest shows that his destination was Edmonton, and that he declared he had \$4.00 cash. This was his FIRST CROSSING. (On his first voyage, he got a ship going to England first and then sailed from Liverpool, England to Quebec City.)

The Ship's Manifest also shows that Wasyl was 27 years old. He left behind in Ukraine his wife Marafta, age about 24, and three young children: Adam (age 3), Pete (Procopius) (2), and Anna (1). Marafta had been very close to her parents and sisters so did not want to leave them to go with Wasyl to Canada.

Wasyl crossed Canada by train and came to the Vegreville area where his sister and brother-in-law, Lesavata and Hryhory Shandruk had settled the previous year and were working at proving their homestead. Wasyl may have worked for his brother-in-law and other farmers in the area for a short time and then he went to work in a coal mine.

It is possible that Wasyl worked at the Canmore Coal Mines, but this has not been researched. Mention was made that Wasyl may have worked at the Frank Mine following the Frank Slide in the spring of 1903, because it did reopen following the disastrous slide.

Wasyl missed his wife and young children. He saw the opportunities for a good life in Western Canada, and with the demand for coal increasing he would be assured of steady employment. So Wasyl saved his money in order to return to

Ukraine for his wife and children. In about 1905 it is thought that he traveled by train east across Canada, boarded a ship, and returned to Ukraine to bring his wife and children to Canada (his SECOND CROSSING).

But this was not to be. Marafta was the oldest in her family of six, and likely she felt responsible for the care of her parents, Michailo and Juliana Iwasiuk. Her sisters were married by now and had families of their own, but her two younger brothers, Peter and Harry, were still at home. Marafta and the three children either lived with her parents, or they lived nearby.

Marafta refused to leave her parents. So after a stay of perhaps a few months, long enough for Marafta to have another child on the way (Kalyna, born in September, 1906), Wasyl once again said "Good bye" to his family and left for Canada. He would likely have traveled by train through Ukraine, across Poland, and then to Hamburg, Germany where most of the Ukrainian immigrants embarked.

It is not known whether he came directly from Hamburg to Halifax, or whether perhaps again he came via Liverpool. Nonetheless, this was Wasyl's third trip across the Atlantic, or his THIRD CROSSING. (Further research needs to be done to find the Ship's records of this trip.)

Again Wasyl worked hard in the coal mines and saved his money. No doubt he spent his limited free time with his three sisters and their growing families.

As Wasyl watched his young nieces and nephews grow up, his thoughts no doubt would turn to his own four children growing up fatherless in Ukraine. Communication with Marafta was difficult because Wasyl had not gone to school and could neither read nor write Ukrainian. He could only sign his name. To send a letter he would need to find someone who

could write it for him, and then he would need to wait months for a reply to come.

Marafta had not attended school much either, but she could read well enough to read her Ukrainian Bible. She could write a grocery list, laboriously sounding out each letter, and she could sign her name. She too would have to find someone who could read a letter to her and then compose a reply. Likely very few letters crossed the ocean between Marafta and Wasyl.

The next trip back to Ukraine for Wasyl was probably in 1911 (his FOUTH CROSSING). Again he no doubt tried to persuade Marafta to pack her things and travel with him to the wonderful new land of opportunity – Canada.

The question one must ask is, “Why did Marafta not want to leave her parents and accompany her husband to Canada?” She must have found it difficult to live all these years as a single Mom with four young children to care for and raise alone. Her means of support for herself and the children was to work for a landlord tending fields of potatoes.

Years later, Marafta shared with a granddaughter how she had to work. She would rise early in the morning and walk several miles to the potato fields, often taking the children with her. She would spend all day hoeing and hilling the potatoes. This she did all summer long.

In the fall when she dug the potatoes, she and the children would put the potatoes into four equal piles. The landlord then came and chose which pile of the four would be hers for the summer’s work. Thus she had potatoes for her family and was also able to sell some to buy needed flour, sugar, salt and other items.

Marafta’s dad worked as a roof thatcher. Grandson Adam remembered working with his granddad as he built and repaired roofs, using rye straw. He was helpful because he was slight enough to crawl into the corners of the attic and assist with shaping the corner while his Granddad added thatch on the outside. (Adam

related this story to his own children when he was in his 80’s, and liked to reminisce when asked what life was like when he was a young boy, growing up in Ukraine.)

Likely the temptation to leave Ukraine with Wasyl was probably great for her, but Marafta had depended on her parents for help when she was left with three tiny children in 1903. She could not bear to leave them, now that they were becoming elderly.

Again she had a child on the way when Wasyl sailed to Canada to a sure job and a reasonable income from his work as a coal miner. This was his FIFTH CROSSING. (In this case also, more research is needed to find the Ship’s Manifest telling when he made this trip.) Son John was born in May of 1912.

Wasyl was working at Cardiff Coal Mines just three miles south of Morinville, some 40 miles north of Edmonton. He liked the work and the people and decided that this is where he would build a house and live. So Wasyl built a house on a small lot that he had purchased. The house was ready in the summer of 1913, and now Wasyl was sure that Marafta would agree to come with him to Canada.

Wasyl asked for time off from his job with Alberta Coal Mining Co. in Cardiff, Alberta and was granted leave, with the understanding he would have his job back when he returned. He even had a card from the company to show to immigration authorities that he indeed had a job in Canada.

Before leaving for Ukraine, Wasyl visited his sisters. He had questions about going yet another time to try to persuade Marafta to come to Canada. His oldest sister Maria and her husband, Gowrylo advised him to go one more time. “If she won’t come back with you this time,” they said, “Then leave her there and make a new life for yourself in Canada.” This information had been told by Maria to one of her sons who passed it on to us.

So back to Ukraine Wasyl went, (his SIXTH CROSSING). As with his previous trips, it took him nearly four weeks. First he would board a train in Edmonton or Vegreville, travel across Canada to Quebec City or Halifax, take a ship to Hamburg, and travel by train across Germany, Poland and the length of Ukraine to their village of Shepenitz located near the capital city of Chernivtsi which was close to the Romanian border.

He likely arrived late in the fall of 1913 and began making arrangements to sell their belongings for the family's move to Canada early in 1914. It is not certain, but perhaps Marafta's father had passed away during Wasyl's most recent time in Canada. But Marafta was concerned about the care of her aging mother. This dilemma was solved when her younger sister, Maria Malanchuk, agreed to care for their mother. It appears that Maria had been widowed and had a young son, Michael.

With arrangements for her mother's care satisfactorily made, Marafta was more than ready and willing to join her patient and persistent Wasyl in Canada. It probably helped to know that her sister Elizabeth and husband Metro Mickailyk with their young son John had moved to Canada in 1911, and was living in the Brosseau area not too many miles from where Wasyl's sisters had homesteaded.

Furthermore, there was news of unrest in Europe. Son Adam would soon be 15, and would be expected to serve in the Austrian army should war break out. Leaving for Canada now seemed to be the right thing to do, and Marafta set about preparing for the move.

Soon their three trunks were packed and ready. Everyone had new traveling clothes along with their warm sheepskin coats. It was winter time and even in the southern part of Ukraine the weather was cool. Wasyl had prepared them for the cold weather they would encounter when they arrived in their new Country. For some reason, perhaps his waiting job, Wasyl wanted to leave as soon as possible. It mattered not that

they would arrive in Western Canada at the end of March when Alberta's weather could be bitterly cold, especially where they were to live north of Edmonton.

By February 3, 1914 the passport and necessary funds were in order. Good-byes were said. Marafta left her mother, sister and young brothers behind. Some of them would follow after the war.

The family of seven traveled north by train through part of western Ukraine, across much of Poland, across Germany and across Holland to the port of Rotterdam. There they boarded the S.S. Potsdam with the Holland-Amerika Line on March 7, 1914. Even for a sheltered port like Rotterdam, the wind was bitterly cold that March day. After 12 days at sea, they arrived at Ellis Island in New York City on March 19, 1914. This was the family's first ocean voyage and Wasyl's SEVENTH CROSSING, and his last one.

Everything was new and exciting for the children. Adam (age 14) and Pete (age 13) had a great time exploring this beautiful ship. Even though they were in "Steerage" or Third Class, it was luxury for these village children who had never before had running water and flush toilets.

Adam recalled that his mother Marafta was sick most of the 12-day crossing. It did not help that she was in the early months of another pregnancy. Daughter Anna, aged 12, looked after 6 year-old Kalyna and young John who was only 21 months old.

John recalled that someone (probably a crew member) picked him up and swung him, threatening to throw him overboard. This so frightened John and was such a traumatic experience that he remembered the incident for the rest of his life, even though he was not yet two years old.

Anna told us that she remembered when they arrived in New York and passed the Statue of Liberty. Everything was so new and exciting,



and even though she was elderly when she related her experience, she remembered it well.

The family's Inspection Cards show that they passed their medical examinations on March 7th in Rotterdam, the day they sailed. There is also a Canadian Government Official Stamp as well as another stamp that reads, "Immigrant Clearing House, Mar. 19'14, Joint Agents Office, New York".

It appears that the family immediately boarded a train in New York City and traveled north to the Canadian border. Another set of Inspection Cards have "Canadian Immigration, Mar. 20, 1914, Noyan Junction, P.Q." stamped on them. All these cards were kept by Marafta. After her passing, they were kept by her son Adam, and then passed on to her grand daughter who is writing this account.

From Noyan Junction in the Province of Quebec, the family continued by train across Canada. Likely they rode in what was called a "colonist car" which was equipped for immigrant families traveling west from Halifax as well as from Quebec. The colonist car had wooden seats with wooden over head fold-down bunks. Passengers were expected to bring their own bedding, and if they did the children probably slept quite comfortably on the bunks. The parents made the wood seats into beds, or simply slept sitting up.

At the front of the car was a cook stove where women could heat up water for tea or even cook a pot of soup if they had the ingredients. During the trip west, it is likely that this wood-burning cook stove would have provided heat during the cold March days. Across the aisle from the cook stove was a tiny bath room with a toilet and small sink. There was one Men's and one Women's toilet to serve the 72 passengers carried in each car. Each colonist car was equipped with gas lanterns in the ceiling to provide lights in the evening.

Adam remembers that they came through Calgary and changed trains to continue north to Edmonton where they took a local train to

Morinville. The train traveled north on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and returned to Edmonton on alternate days. Food could be purchased at each stop if the family had money. Wasyl like did because he had worked hard for many years and saved his money for this move to Canada.

During this entire trip Marafta was looking forward to her newly built house in Cardiff. It would be so nice to prepare meals for the family and to have Wasyl come home every evening after his shift at the coal mine. All the hardships of the train trip through Quebec, Ontario and the prairies would be worth it all. She was looking forward to being able to wash clothes and have a proper bed to sleep in.

While on the train traveling north from Edmonton to Morinville, Wasyl met an acquaintance from Cardiff. The man was surprised to see them and shared the bad news with Wasyl that the lovely new house he had built last year had burned down while he was away. What a shock! Now where would they live? Poor Marafta! She had so looked forward to settle down in a new home!

They had no choice but to continue on to Morinville. They hired a man with a team of horses and a sleigh to take them the three miles to Cardiff. Perhaps it would be possible to salvage something of the house and to rebuild.

Adam remembered that the house was totally destroyed and nothing was left. They spent the night with kind neighbors and the next day they took the train back to Edmonton.

It is not known for certain, but it is not likely that Wasyl ever went back to working in a coal mine. Son Adam, however, later worked in a coal mine in the Drumheller area.

The decision was made to go to Lisaveta and Hryhory's farm. They were by now well established and had built a large home. Vegreville was the nearest train station to the Shandruck farm. Again they hired transportation

and arrived at the sister and brother-in-law's home where they were warmly welcomed.

Adam recalled that they stayed with the Shandruk family for about two weeks. It was April and soon the weather would turn warmer. Wasyl was happy to find a farmer nearby who was looking for a renter for his farm and farmhouse.

The family moved into the rented house. Marafta finally had a place of her own! Wasyl seeded a crop and Marafta and the children planted a garden. All would turn out well. It seems that fate dictated that Wasyl should give up mining and seek land of his own where his growing family could contribute to the family's livelihood by clearing and working the land.

With her sisters-in-law Lisaveta and Anna nearby Marafta was happy to be able to visit and learn more about the district where they were living. No doubt they canned berries and garden produce together and sewed a baby layette for the expected sixth child.

Wasyl found a homestead some twelve miles away, and filed on it on September 15, 1914. Together with Adam and Pete, he began cutting logs for a house. On November 3rd the family moved into the new house and three days later, on November 6th Marafta gave birth to a baby girl, Alice.

When Wasyl decided to move the family to Canada early in 1914, little did he know that by the end of June the ports would be closed to immigrant travel, and most of Europe would be at war by mid August. Or had the rumors of impending conflict reached the small village in Ukraine and spurred them to immediate action that previous January and February?

What a relief it must have been for Wasyl to know that his family was safe in Canada! In less than a year they had immigrated to Canada, applied for a homestead, built a house, moved in and had a new baby!

Much work lay ahead of them, but they had already proved to the world that not one of these homesteaders was afraid of hard work!

## FAMILY HISTORY EVENTS

by Beverley A. Rees

### **2006 National Genealogy Society Conference**

June 7 – 10 -- Chicago, Illinois

The Hyatt Regency O'Hare will be home to the NGS June 7-10th, 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](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

### **Federation of East European Family History Societies Conference**

June 16 - 18, 2006 -- Edmonton, Alberta

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

### **Germans from Russia Historical Society Annual Conference**

July 12-16, 2006 -- Portland, Oregon

<http://www.grhs.org/grow/06convention.htm>

### **Brigham Young University's Annual Genealogy and Family History Conference**

August 1 - 4, 2006 -- Provo, Utah

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](http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen)

(continued on page 23)

## PHILOSOPHICAL GENEALOGY

by Joyce Metcalfe

When I was first introduced to genealogy several years ago, it seemed to me to be a somewhat scientific endeavour. The genealogy manuals I consulted outlined a process that seemed familiar – asking questions, formulating hypotheses, collecting and organizing data, and drawing conclusions supported by the evidence. I naively thought that I would simply gather the facts about my ancestors; pop the data into my computer program; and once I acquired sufficient data, write my report. I would then have the available facts on who my ancestors were and where they came from. Of course, the question I was really asking was “Who am I and where do I come from?” – And I probably should have known that any search beginning with those questions was more likely to be a philosophical journey than a scientific exercise. After all, the philosophers throughout the ages had often asked themselves the same two questions.

On a practical note, though, there are many areas of genealogy where the thoughts of the ancient philosophers can help us gain perspective and effectively guide our research efforts. This article takes a light-hearted look at how inserting a little philosophy into our genealogy can help us in our quest

The quintessential story about the consequences of not knowing about one’s ancestors was written by Sophocles sometime around 425 BC. Unaware of his ancestry, Oedipus the King of Thebes unknowingly killed his father and married his mother, bringing about a terrible plague upon his people. Oedipus became aware of his destiny before it happened when he traveled to Delphi and inquired with the Oracle about his future. Determined to avoid killing the only father that he knew, he left his home and fled to Thebes – only to encounter his real father along the road. Oedipus’ failure to ask the Oracle about his genealogy resulted in his taking precisely the wrong action. Oedipus ultimately

found the truth so painful that he poked out his own eyes to avoid seeing further.

Of course, few of us will ever find anything in our family backgrounds as startling as Oedipus; and hopefully, none of us will be inclined to poke our eyes out. Better that this story reminds to formulate specific queries and advises us to make sure we understand the answers we get correctly. It might also remind us not to jump to conclusions and to keep asking questions until we are certain we have unearthed the complete story.

How else can ancient philosophy help us advance our research? Well, let us consider that even the scientific method was introduced by a philosopher – Francis Bacon, in 1620. We’ve all been taught that the scientific method is the model for inductive reasoning – that is, a conclusion is properly derived from the data, not the other way around. The data are not collected to stubbornly prove or disprove a conclusion, although it is OK to formulate a hypothesis and prove or disprove that. However, we need to allow ourselves to go with the flow.

In his work, Bacon identified four classes of “idols” that can prevent us from doing just that – seeing the data objectively and from “thinking outside the box.” They were: Idols of the Tribe (referring to peer pressure), Idols of the Cave (referring to prejudices developed from personal experiences), Idols of the Market Place (referring to the power of propaganda to sway our thinking), and Idols of the Theatre (referring to blind acceptance of formal teachings).

In genealogy, we can interpret this to mean that we should let the information found in one document lead us to the next. Logically then, we would start with the most recent generation and work our way methodically backward in time, collecting enough data to prove each connection as we go. Provided the information in each

record is correct and none of the records are missing, working our way back generation to generation should then be as easy as climbing a ladder – OK, we don't live in a perfect world.

Genealogy invariably brings us face to face with many of our own moral, political, historical and personal issues. Even if the documents we find provide us with solid clues, our idols can cause us to deny what the data are indicating. Sometimes too, we simply get set in our thinking. If you're stuck then, perhaps take a second look at a document or two you've had for awhile. If you find yourself mouthing the words, "now why didn't I pursue that clue before?" – Well, maybe one of Bacon's idols was standing in the way.

The philosophical father of deductive reasoning (the alleged opposite of inductive reasoning) is Rene Descartes, who published his *Discourse on Method* in 1637. He's most famous for his conclusion, "I think, therefore I am." He felt that it was his method that enabled him to reach this startling conclusion, which he broke down into four steps: "The first was never to accept anything as true which I clearly did not know to be such..." How about I give you the short version, instead?

1. Doubt everything.
2. Break your big doubts down into little specific doubts
3. Try to prove or disprove your doubts, starting with the easiest.
4. Keep good records to avoid just running around in circles

For me, the key points are the first two. I'm a natural doubter, so I don't have a problem questioning the information I find or have been given by others; but some people do blindly accept what they've been told. The problems and mistakes in our data are more likely to remain hidden to us if we believe that everything is correct. If we believe we have errors, we're more likely to find those errors.

However, we should remember that "Too good to be true" is not a researchable problem. We need to get more specific than that. If you doubt a family story, then ask yourself what specific details about it seem out of line. The third step tells us to start attacking our issues starting at the easiest point and methodically working our way through to the most difficult point. For genealogists, this often means starting with the sources that are most easily accessible and then chasing those records that are more difficult to find. On second thought, it could also mean searching first for those records that have the best chance of answering our questions. On third thought, maybe I'll just take the easy way out and leave it up to you to interpret.

If I could just find my notes on this messy desk, I could maybe discuss Descartes' last point with some authority... but I guess I need to work on my own record-keeping first. If I could just find my notes... oops, been there done that.

There are many other ways the thoughts of the ancients can help us advance, organize or just have fun with our research. We can calm ourselves by taking the Stoic approach – it's all for the best anyway. We can find balance through Aristotle – who reminds that too much or too little of anything is not the ideal – the ideal is found somewhere in the middle. Or, in the end, we can always fall back on the comforting words of Plato: "... and so, not here only, but in the journey of a thousand years of which I have told you, we shall fare well." Of course, he was speaking about reincarnation and the afterlife.

Have a great summer!

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**Tip:** Why not buy supplies that go directly into your filing system? For instance, buy paper for the printer that is already punched for a three ring binder. This can save an extra step, and you'll wonder less where the three-hole punch has gotten itself!

## MY GENEALOGY RESEARCH ON CYRIL GRUBB'S LIFE

by Renae Grubb

One of my most rewarding genealogy research projects occurred between, December 2004 and December 2005 with the research of my husband's uncle, Cyril Grubb. Cyril was born Feb. 9, 1922 and died overseas Oct. 2, 1944 shot by a sniper during World War II.

As long as I can remember from when I first met my husband, Jeff, I had heard about his Uncle Cyril. Every year in Balcarres, Saskatchewan a wreath was laid in Cyril's honour at Remembrance Day. In the past my father-in-law, Norman Grubb would lay the wreath, in the later years Jeff and our two sons, Landon and Rylan would lay the wreath. During this time Cyril Grubb was a name only mentioned at Remembrance Day. Plus there was sometimes mentioned during family gatherings about "these letters" Cyril had written while in the army to his sister, Gertrude.

This research all started with a phone call in the beginning of December 2004 from my husband's cousin, Mike Robinson calling from British Columbia. I decided to ask Mike about his Mom's (Gertrude Grubb) letters from her brother Cyril. I thought if he had a chance to copy the letters, I would sure like to add them to my genealogy research. I'd been meaning to do this for years. About a week later we received a large envelope filled with the 33 letters written by Cyril Grubb. What a treasure! Half of these letters were written to Gertrude Grubb from her brother while he was doing his training in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and Shilo, Manitoba from January 1943 to June 1943. The remaining letters Cyril wrote from overseas. These letters were written with small hand writing on the thin blue folding stationary from July 1943, followed with his last letter written September 1944, a month before he was killed. There was also the telegram of Cyril's death that was sent to his sister. I then proceeded to carefully photocopy each letter. The only catch was that I only had 3 days right before Christmas to copy these letters

before having to return them to British Columbia! Meanwhile, my husband, Jeff started reading some of these letters and decided he would like to speak at Balcarres' Remembrance Day service about Cyril. So on the evening of my birthday, December 22 I was busily scanning each and every letter with my friend's scanner and computer for about 3 hours! You know you are hooked on genealogy when you're doing research on your birthday! I then bundled the letters up and sent them back to British Columbia the next day. For Christmas I copied and compiled binders for my husband, two sons, mother-in-law and Jeff's aunt and uncle in Fort Qu'Appelle.



Cyril Grubb

My next mission was to find a relative who had a photo of Cyril. A relative in Melville and another in Regina each had a photo of him. So I made arrangements to borrow these photos and have them copied and scanned. One photo had recently been sent to Doug Chisholm, pilot, photographer and author of the book *Their Names Live On* in honour of Saskatchewan's fallen soldiers. This also had a connection to an old magazine I found at my Mom's house earlier that summer. "Saskatchewan – Naturally"

Magazine Fall 1999 was pulled out of the recycle pile for an article regarding the Big Muddy Badlands where my son's grade 8 class had toured last summer. As I was looking through the magazine I ran across an article called "The Poet and the Pilot" with regards to the memorial of Saskatchewan's fallen soldiers. I couldn't believe it when I saw Cyril Grubb's name, along with the other Saskatchewan World War II casualties in this article. Wow! I like it when treasures fall into my lap!

From there, I purchased the book *Their Names Live On* by Doug Chisholm, ([www.woodlandairphoto.com](http://www.woodlandairphoto.com)) where Cyril Grubb's name was included in the long list. By the end of September 2005 I attended the book signing at the Book & Brier Patch book store in Regina of the new book *Age Shall Not Weary Them* by Bill Barry and Doug Chisholm ([www.peopleplaces.ca](http://www.peopleplaces.ca)). I introduced myself to both gentlemen. There was a small paragraph on Cyril in this book. Unfortunately, Doug hadn't received Cyril's photo yet. So we made arrangements to keep in touch with the latest research I found on Cyril.

The next stage of my research lead me to various websites given to me by various genealogy people. It pays to chat with others in regards to your research. I had taken the Genealogy "Boot Camp" workshop last summer where my friend, June Bates suggested I look on the Veterans Affairs Canada website. ([www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca)) That night June looked up Cyril Grubb's name and printed off the information for me! There was information with his service number, age, force and regiment, along with additional information. It showed the cemetery where he was buried. His name was also written in the Book of Remembrance in Ottawa's Parliament Building. This was all so very interesting. I was really getting excited with all the research information I was finding. I also checked out June Bates' website [www.mapleleaflegacy.ca](http://www.mapleleaflegacy.ca) - a project in remembrance of Canada's war dead.

On October 2, 2005 I attended the War Memorial Dedication held at the Legislature grounds in

Regina, Saskatchewan. That is where the names of 5000 Saskatchewan men and women who gave their lives in the cause of freedom are listed. There I saw Cyril Grubb's name listed among them. The most symbolic part of the day was that it had been exactly 61 years to the day that Cyril had been killed! I had goose bumps when I made the connection. You can also go online and check out this memorial at [www.peopleplaces.ca](http://www.peopleplaces.ca) where they list the names on the memorial. I was one of the people The Leader Post newspaper interviewed for their article regarding the Memorial.

Afterwards I did some more checking on these websites:

- [www.forces.gc.ca](http://www.forces.gc.ca) (National Defense Canada)
- [www.genealogy.gc.ca](http://www.genealogy.gc.ca) (Canadian Genealogy Centre) where I requested a "genealogy package" which included copies of selected documents from the file that highlight and summarize the individual's service.
- [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)
- [www.vac-acc.gc.ca](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca) (Veterans Affairs Canada) The Veterans Affairs website also provided lots of information regarding the war medals.
- [www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet) (Library and Archives Canada) where I found more details about the WWII including the regiment that Cyril belonged to, The South Saskatchewan Regiment.
- [cap.estevan.sk.ca](http://cap.estevan.sk.ca) (Estevan Community Access Project) This site provided the list of engagements, a map, and cemetery information, showing where Cyril was listed on the casualty list on Oct. 2, 1944 at Lochtenberg II a small village in Belgium and buried in Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands. We already had an old photo of Cyril's grave, however now we know where it's located.

One of Jeff's Aunts from Regina had all of Cyril's medals. So I thought I'd phone her to see if I'd be able to view these medals up close and to photograph them. The interesting part about this Aunt was that I had never met her before and here she lived in the same city as me. Anyway, I phoned her up to tell her who I was and about my research that I was working on about her brother, Cyril.

Aunt Verna was very welcoming to me. Here I was, a complete stranger coming in and sharing what I've found about her brother. Meanwhile she was very informative towards my research. I just loved hearing the stories. I did video tape our visit. Anyway, after seeing Cyril's six medals she offered to show me the prayer book that was on Cyril when he was shot and killed. I had also heard in the past of this prayer book. The prayer book was covered in Cyril's blood! Another goose-bump moment!

Later that night I was sharing with my husband and family all that Aunt Verna had shared with me that day. Jeff sat down and watched the video tape. Verna had also told stories of when Jeff's Dad, Norman was little. Then I went on the Veteran's website again where it listed and described each medal that Cyril had received. This helped clear up some confusion with medals being mixed up in the wrong boxes. The next day I returned to Aunt Verna's house to show her what I had found that night on the website. Needless to say, I provided her a binder with all of this information. In regards to the letters that Cyril wrote to his sister, Gertrude; Verna had never seen these before. I provided her the 33 letters in a binder, which she was to read later. I was so excited with all of this information that I was discovering.

Later on someone suggested to "Google" Cyril's name and sure enough there were several hits for me to check out. I never would have thought of that before!

On November 11, 2005 at Balcarres' Remembrance Day service, my husband Jeff spoke to a large group of people. He shared with

everyone a personal side of a young man from Balcarres who went off to war never to return home. By using a power point presentation Jeff was able to show Cyril's photo, the last photos with his family before he left for war. The intimate look at some of the letters Cyril wrote to his sister, Gertrude proved to be humorous and touching. Here are a few samples:

Shilo Camp, Manitoba May 17, 1943. (He just had an appendix attack, since in early August while overseas his appendix was removed.)

"Dearest Sister Gertrude,  
I am writing you a few lines to let you know that I am feeling a little better now I am out of the Hospital now. I was in for seven days but I still feeling a little weak yet but I guess I will get to feel better after a few days. Well how are you keeping your self these nice fine days and how is everything at home? How is Dianna and Annabell (his two youngest sisters) keeping themselves? I suppose they miss me a lot. Now I kind of miss them. I can still see them standing on the platform at the station in Melville that Sunday I left. I sure hated to leave but I had to go but I sure wish that I could have stayed again as long. But I guess we will have to keep on praying that the war will soon be over and we will be able to live in peace after. Until then we will have to keep on hoping for that day to come."

Overseas, July 30, 1943 (not too long after arriving)

"Dearest Sister Gertrude,  
... Well I suppose you know by now that I am over on this side of the water along way from home. Now we had a good trip over there. A lot of the boys got sick but I was a tough fellow and did not get sick but we were sure glad when we reached land again. It was a fairly nice country over here but give me Canada any day. I have been over here long enough for me already."

(continued on page 18)

# FamilyRoots 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](http://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.



## FamilyRoots 2006: Genealogy, Genes, and Gigabytes

*This will be Alberta's premier genealogy event of 2006 – and it will be held in Calgary, Alberta!*

The conference begins with a special presentation at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse on Heritage Drive. It will give us “A Sneak Peak at the Near Future.” In this lecture, noted family historian David E. Rencher, AG, FUGA, Director of the Records and Information Division of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, will discuss the digitization of the records in the Granite Mountain Vault (see our cover). This treasure trove of information (estimated to contain some 30 billion names!) will be made available in digitized form, and will be indexed to make use even easier. Come and hear how family history may change in the next few short years! This will be an exciting evening.

On Saturday, our venue shifts to the Carriage House Inn on Macleod Trail. Here 15 speakers from Calgary, Edmonton, British Columbia, Ontario, and the United States will deliver 24 informative lectures addressing the themes of the conference. Our speakers will be:

David Rencher	David Obee	Ken Aitken	Charlie Hansen	Lois Sparling
Xenia Stanford	Deanna Bullock	Annabelle Bondar	Geoff Rasmussen	Raechel Ferrier
Rick Roberts	Alan Cassley	Gordon Hulbert	Bill Campbell	Judi Lee

To get a better idea of the depth of experience and knowledge, we urge you to go to the web site ([www.family-roots.ca](http://www.family-roots.ca)) where brief biographies of our speakers are posted. Many of them are very well known, not just here in Calgary, but across Canada and throughout the family history world.

They will be addressing topics in the following areas:

Getting Started	Mining the Internet
Family Medical History and Genetics	Alberta Homestead Records
Finding Places in Germany and Eastern Europe	Family History Travel
The Family History Library Catalogue	Irish Church Records
Irish Estate, Land and Property Records	English Church Records
Research Guidance	The Latest Technology
Family Reconstruction	Organization for Family History Research
British Columbia Records	Journaling
Immigration to Canada	Using Technology
Irish Emigration	English Indexes
Essentials of Documentation for Family Historians	Ontario before 1869

Again, brief descriptions of the lectures are posted on the web site. Please go there to get an idea of the breadth and depth of material that will be addressed during this conference. Truly, there is something for every family historian, experienced, or beginning, and from a wide variety of record sources, technology areas, geographical regions, and points of view.

Additionally, vendors from across Canada will display genealogy software, instructional videos, books, maps, and tools for the family historian. Family history and related organizations will have display booths as well to inform us about their efforts in furthering genealogy.

(Cyril Grubb... continued from page 15)

(Cyril tells of meeting friends from Lebret, Saskatchewan and how surprised he was to see them so far from home)

September 1, 1944

“Dear Sister Gertrude,  
I am writing you a few lines to let you know that I am fine and dandy. Hoping you are the same and I want to let you know that I received your most welcome letter yesterday that last day of August.”

(The last letter from his sister included family photos and Cyril replies by writing about each of his siblings, mentioning small things about them like how they have grown since he last saw them. This was rather symbolic since in one of Cyril’s earlier letters he explains how his wallet with all of the pictures he had of his family had been stolen and how upset he was about that and he asked his sister to send new pictures. One month prior to his death Cyril received a new picture of his family and this obviously made him happy.)

“... Well I guess I should tell you a little about myself. Well there is not much to tell you about just that I am getting a long pretty good. I am taking good care of myself to. I make sure I don’t get in any place where I will get hurt. I have had a few close calls already but I seem to come out alright. I hope I can stay that way until this is all over. ... Are the people ever happy to when we take over a town where they live and are they ever good to us. They sure give us a lot of things such as eggs and things like that. Well I guess I will have to close as my paper is coming to an end so I will close for now... with lots of love and good wishes.  
From your brother Cyril”

(This was Cyril’s last letter to his family before he was killed a month later.)

Jeff and I received many thanks for the presentation about Cyril. Some people had even

been crying! So many people said “It was so personal.” We felt it gave a face and a personal connection to who this 22 year old young man from Balcarres was. Cyril gave his life for his country. In doing all of this genealogy research it has allowed our family to finally get to know Uncle Cyril, a man many of us did not know. It gave our family a greater appreciation for his ultimate sacrifice. This has also given us a window into the pain and suffering his family went through when they learned of his death. While he was a hero to many, for his family he was a son and brother who had been taken away at a very young age. As my husband mentioned, Cyril’s story is probably very similar to many other Canadians who went off to war never to return.

Later in November, Doug Chisholm emailed me that he will be flying over “Grubb Lake” this summer to take an aerial photo. He also referred me to Art Marbach from the Saskatchewan Geographic Names Board at the Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan on Research Drive at the University of Regina. On December 8, 2005 I picked up the certificate honouring Cyril Grubb and a map showing Grubb Lake which was named September 5, 1957 with its location being: Longitude 108°17.5’ Latitude 55°22.2’ - located near Ile-a-la-Crosse and the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range. So for Christmas, I was able to photocopy the map information and add that to everyone’s binder.

This has been such an interesting journey researching Cyril Grubb’s life. It’s been very rewarding to have gathered all of these various bits of information from so many people and different connections and to have copied and shared Cyril’s life with so many. I feel that it has given the Grubb family a closer connection with a family member from the past and we as a family in the present.

Our next goal is to some day fly over Grubb Lake. What a feeling that will be!

The latest addition to my research includes receiving on March 24, 2006 the “Genealogy package” from Library and Archives Canada. The information sent included: the Attestation papers with the certificate of Medical examination and Record of Service, the Personnel Selection Record, the Occupational History Form, the Awards he received and the Canadian National Telegraph sent to his family 16 October, 1944.

On the day I received this envelope I was to do a TV interview about an upcoming genealogy meeting on a local cable station here in Regina. The interview lady, asked me about my own research and of course I just had to tell about the research on “Cyril Grubb”. I just happen to have had the envelope with me which I shared during the interview. I’m also interested in obtaining a copy of my TV interview. I have since copied these papers to share with the other Grubb relatives. That’s my motto when it comes to researching one’s family tree: “Make enough copies for all the family members, so that the information is shared amongst the various branches and future generations to come”. I also recently shared my research project with the Regina Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society in February. It was my way of saying “thanks” to the members for sharing their research knowledge and expertise.

## CALGARY ARCHIVES RELEASES RECORDS

The following press release was forwarded by Judi Rempel. For those who have recent Calgary roots, these records might fill in some bits and pieces of information about the places our families lived and worked. When writing a family history, this information can provide a sense of place that might be hard to obtain in any other way. If a sketch of the building is available, so much the better – especially since some of the places that were part of our family history might have been torn down already and a photograph might not be readily available.

The City of Calgary, Corporate Records, Archives is pleased to announce that 4.635 metres of the Residential Assessment Cards have been processed and are available to researchers.

The Residential Assessment Cards were created by the Assessment Department to record property details and to keep them separate from the Assessment roll in order to maintain their confidentiality at that time, as the Assessment roll itself is open to the public. Property details were used to assess the value of a property. The collection and use of this information was made obsolete with the province-wide introduction of the Market Value System of assessment in 1999, ending Assessment's requirement to create and maintain these records.

The four sub-series that have been processed are:

- II. Pre 1975 Assessment Cards
- III. Building Assessment Record Cards Demolitions
- IV. "Mobile Unit Valuation Records" - Mobile Homes
- V. Assessment Record Cards (Demolished Buildings).

These cards, 1952-1999, may include the legal description and the building/property address; construction date; detailed information about the construction materials used, interior fixtures and rooms; building dimensions; assessed value; a record of inspections; and often a detailed pencil sketch of the building itself. The cards were updated as new information became available through inspections. They are now useful to researchers in the areas of building history, business or community history and environmental research.

This project has been supported by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation through the Archives Society of Alberta.

(continued on page 25)

## TRACING YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

by Velma Boyer

Whenever we talk about our ancestors, most of us are looking for that connection that will trace our families to their town, parish, or city of birth in their country of origin. Many of us seem to have reached a brick wall as to this ultimate goal in our research.

Why did our ancestors not talk about where they came from? Was their life in their homeland so hard that they wanted to forget about it forever? Didn't they try to communicate with friends and families that they left behind at the time of emigration? If they did communicate, why is it so hard to trace this information? I have seen references in early newspapers that a certain person had mail at the post offices for pick up. Why didn't they talk about their friends or families from their country of origin? Or, was their life so busy getting established in their new environment that they just didn't take time to talk about their previous life in their homeland? Maybe they did not know how to write a letter. Are we as wrapped up in our busy lives today that we are forgetting to talk about our parents and grandparents, immediate family or of our place of birth in Canada or elsewhere?

Canada is considered to be a multicultural society, yet the culture of our early settlers seems to be lost, as to their customs and ways of life that they left behind. It seems that creating a life in Canada was more important than who and what they were before coming to the new world of that time. On the whole, our immigrant ancestors just wanted to become Canadians.

Whatever the reason, most of us have probably set goals to find our ancestor's place of origin. This goal may be an easy or hard task to achieve depending on the information we have at present. The best way to find our missing information is to set goals and establish questions such as:

- What induced our ancestors to emigrate? Most people do not just move.

Something caused them to do so. For example, some reasons might be economic conditions, war, famine, assistance for emigration, free land in a new country, a family member who emigrated earlier, etc.

- What year did they emigrate? Each country has different regulations covering methods of reporting migration, such as passenger lists or manifests, naturalization and immigration papers.
- What type of transportation would they have used to get to their destination? The type of transport has a bearing on what type of records you can use to trace their journey to a new land.
- What do you know about their mode of travel? Did they get assistance to emigrate or did they travel in emigrant groups or with other family members?

As a child growing up, I understood that my father's family was from Ireland. The story was that they were of Irish decent and came from the Township of Drummond, which is located in the County of Lanark in Ontario. At that time in my life, we accepted this as fact and never asked any other questions or for more details.

A couple of years ago, my family notified me that there was an advertisement in the local newspaper requesting information on a John Gallagher who lived on a certain piece of property described by a legal land description that matched the legal description of the property on which the Gallagher family had lived on for over four generations. We replied and started to correspond with Gerri, only to find that John Gallagher was probably our great great-grandfather.

Gerri and I proceeded to exchange information on the family. She sent me a document entitled "Early Settlers to Bathurst District Arriving Prior to 1822, compiled by J. R. Ernest Miller and

Robert E. Sargeant (1988)". This document listed:

"pg. 57, Gallagher, John, birthplace of Ireland, Ship Douglas, date 1820, settled Bath. [Note: This is probably Bathurst Township and not Bathurst District as other entries refer to township names.] Con. 9, Lot 8, one wife, two sons under 12 and one daughter under twelve for a total of five people."

At that time, the family was very thrilled to learn what the ships name was, year of arrival and country of origin, Ireland. We really had a connection to Ireland.

There really was a ship called the "Douglas" sailing the seas around the year 1820. I was able to prove this from Internet research and also by a book called *Ships from Scotland to the Americas, 1628-1828* published by Genealogical Publishing Company (1998) that I found in the Calgary Public Library. The "Douglas" is described as a 220-ton brigantine.

In order to understand Irish emigration, I read the book entitled *Irish Emigration and Canadian Settlement* by Cecil J Houston and William Smyth. This book indicated that the ports of Derry, Coleraine, Larne, Belfast, Newry, Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway were main ports of emigration in Ireland around 1750-75. The cost of a passage between Ireland and Scotland and England was very reasonable around the time of 1820. Could the family have departed from Ireland or from Scotland?

Last fall, while I was doing census research for our Alberta Family History Society Beginner's Special Interest Group, I came across an index listing for Census at our Calgary Public Library. The document was entitled "Census Finding Aid 300 for Canadian Census" available at Calgary Public Library. A listing of "1822 Return of persons, Perth Military settlement, Alphabetical index included MG9, D 8-27, Microfilm Reel C-4651" drew my attention. Even though, they say you should set your goals for your research and

complete the goal, I could not resist viewing this microfilm.

The first thing I learned was that this return of people was a list of people who settled in Perth under the name of "Perth Military Settlement". I have not considered a listing of people in a settlement as a type of census. Secondly, I discovered John Gallagher listed on page 104, under the title of "Upper Canada Located Settlers Lieut. Colonel J. W. Powell, Secretary and Superintendent Nominal Returns of Persons received as Settlers from 5th April to 4 Dec 1821" as follows:

"No. 879, John Gallagher, one man, one women, two males under seven and one female under seven, country of Ireland, date of arrival July 28, 1821 in what ship, the Douglas, authority for being received, "do" [Note: probably ditto and the information above I have not been able to transcribe], date of Location, 3rd December 1821, Township Bathurst, Con. 9, Lot 8, remarks formerly located to William Cairns 70th Regiment."

This information was very similar to the information from "Early Settlers to Bathurst District Arriving prior to 1822" except there was an actual date, "July 28, 1821" not just the year 1820 and the children were listed as under seven not 12. The microfilm was an exact copy of the actual record and not a transcription. It appears that the transcriber read "do" as "20", thus, the year 1820.

Information from the University of Library, Canadian Library Association, Montreal Herald microfilms for

- January 4, 1817 to December 30, 1820, microfilm #129 AN5 M63
- January 3, 1821 to December 27, 1823, microfilm #130 AN5 M63

were very helpful in learning more about people arriving in Quebec and area.

The Montreal Herald, Volume X, Saturday, August 4, 1821 No. 79, printed and published by Wm. Gray, reported the arrival of the "Douglas" at Quebec City as follows:

"Port of Quebec, July 28, - Brig Douglas, Pevis, 38 days from Newry, to W. Pemberton, ballast 52 settlers"

This was the second "date of arrival proof" for the Brigantine "Douglas". The family probably arrived in Quebec and proceeded from there to the Military Settlement at Perth. They may have gone by steamboat from Quebec to Montreal, as there were many advertisements in the Montreal Herald for steamboat travel between these ports. The advertisements stated types of accommodation available, price and days of arrival and departures.

An advertisement in 1819 for the John Molson and Sons business indicated that they were taking lease of the Woolsey and Lemoins "Queens Wharf" located in the lower central part of Quebec's Lower Town. They had three steamboats and were proposing trips leaving Montreal on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday and leaving Quebec on Saturday, Tuesday, and Friday. The business was looking for an engineer. Just imagine - our ancestors may have departed Quebec on this steamboat line. If we identified what day of the week July 28, 1821 falls on, could we identify which steamboat our family traveled on from Quebec to Montreal? Or, find information on a passenger list?

The paper had advertisements for accommodation, goods, places for meals, new settlements information for land in Upper Canada (Ontario area) and a guide book entitled "The Emigrants Assistant or Remarks on the Agricultural Interest of the Canadas". It seems that there were goods available for our relatives if they needed them before proceeding onward on their journey.

A newspaper obituary for John's daughter, Alice, in the Perth Courier dated May 16, 1930 reports the following:

"A daughter of the late John Gallagher and Ann Blackley, who came from County Cavan, Ireland and settled in Drummond"

This obituary indicates that the family is probably from County Cavan which is not that far from the port of Newry, Ireland. The report from the Montreal Herald indicates that the "Douglas" departed from this port. *The General Directory of Newry, Armagh and the Towns of Dugannon, Portadown, Tandragee, Lurgan, Waringstown, Banbridge, Warrenpoint, Rosstrevor, Kilkeel and Ruthfriland For 1820* by Thomas Bradshaw, indicates that Newry was a major commerce center and trading port in the early 1800s. There was access to Newry via canal and stagecoach from surrounding counties, and County Cavan was listed as one of these counties.

The discovery of a ship's name and arrival date in a census was a complete surprise to me. I had seen country of origin but not the ship's name and arrival date. There was also a legal description of the land that the family was assigned as part of the Perth Military Settlement on this census information. It appears that John did not receive this land as a military person but as a regular citizen. John and family probably traveled on more than one mode of transportation to get to their destination.

It is possible to do research on your family in areas for which you have limited information by setting and establishing goals. In my case, I have learned that you should check the original record and not just accept what has been transcribed. The actual document may have more information than what has been extracted. Books written on immigration and settlement in your area of research can be very helpful as well. Do not just look at your ancestor's travel from departure point to arrival point. There could be information on their mode of travel from and to these points. Newspapers are a really wonderful source of information at any time. It is a good idea to join a genealogy group where you can exchange information with others. What other researchers have found may help you to proceed

with your research. Always remember to have an open mind, as what you find may not be what is actual fact as in this case. Even the information I have quoted above may not relate to my family until I am able to prove that John Gallagher was my actual relative by finding a reference to his wife's name or one of the children listed in settlement information.

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(Events... continued from page 10)

**East European Genealogical Society and Federation of East European Family History Societies Joint Conference**

August 4 – 6, 2006 -- Winnipeg, Manitoba  
<http://www.feeffhs.org/conferences/EEGS0609.htm>

**Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe Conference.**

August 11-13, 2006 -- Edmonton, Alberta  
More information will be available soon.  
<http://www.sggee.org/>

**Association of Professional Genealogists**

August 30, 2006 -- Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.apgen.org](http://www.apgen.org)

**The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference**

August 30 - September 2, 2006 -- Boston, Massachusetts  
[www.fgs.org](http://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](http://www.legacyfamilytree.com)

**AFHS (Alberta Family Histories Society) FamilyRoots 2006: Genealogy, Genes and Gigabytes**

October 13 - 14, 2006 -- Carriage House Inn, Calgary, Alberta  
**Please see pages 16 and 17 for additional information.**  
[www.afhs.ab.ca](http://www.afhs.ab.ca)

**Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Annual Conference**

October 27-29, 2006, Moosomin, Saskatchewan  
<http://www.saskgenealogy.com/seminar/events/Seminar%202006.htm>

**2006 Genealogy Conference and Cruise Hosted by Wholly Genes Software**

November 11-18, 2006  
Join us for an educational and fun-filled voyage through the Mexican Riviera while we learn about genealogical research methods, tools, and technologies from some of the most popular speakers and authorities in those fields. Don't miss this opportunity to learn new research techniques from the experts between relaxing jaunts to warm and exotic ports of call. It will be a memorable trip! Professional lecturers include Dick Eastman, Hank Jones, Tony Burroughs, Robert Charles Anderson, Dick Pence, Marsha Hoffman Rising, and Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak.

**Abbotsford Genealogy Society Seminar**

April 28, 2007 -- Abbotsford, BC  
<http://www.abbygs.ca/>

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

**Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar 2007**  
June 1-3, 2007, Ottawa, Ontario  
Ontario Genealogical Society  
[www.ogsottawa.on.ca/](http://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](http://www.sgq.qc.ca/congres_2008/welcome.htm)

## HAZEL MCKAY – NEVER TOO LATE TO BE A LOYALIST

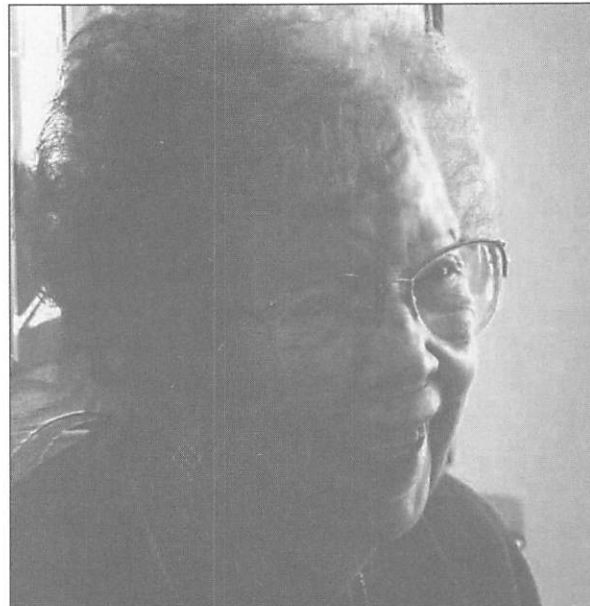
by Ted Cooke

It's never too late to be recognized as a United Empire Loyalist descendant. Hazel (nee Wagar) McKay, born 20 February 1902 has applied for this recognition at the age of 104! She is bright and alert, well able to appreciate this honour for herself and her family at her birthday celebration.

Hazel was born in Parham, Ontario, just down the road from Wagarville where her father, Donald, was born. Her Loyalist ancestors, both paternal and maternal, include Johann "Eberhardt" Wager, Thomas Wager and William "Everhart" Wager. Hazel's 2nd great grandmother is believed to be Nancy 'Mary' Huffman (1792 – c. 1860) who married Thomas Wager (1791 - 1871) was another Loyalist ancestor of the Huffman lineage.

Hazel, a widow raising a young family, was never really interested in learning more about her Loyalist ancestors; so the connections were not made until my wife Shirley and I (Ted Cooke) visited Parham on a trip to Ontario in June 2005. There we were made aware of the strong interest in the Wagar family of Muriel Villalta. We did not meet Muriel, who lives in Parham, but subsequent emails triggered off our search for UE ancestors and accreditation. It turns out that Muriel is related to Hazel in 7 different ways! She sent along a family file listing over 6500 relatives of Hazel, not including husband and descendants.

Hazel's mother died when she was 3 or 4 years old and she was raised by Aunt Libby and Uncle Clayton Wagar in Parham. Her father took her two brothers to Alberta where he homesteaded near Boyne Lake. Her brother Orval died at Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917, aged 19. Her other brother Verne had a daughter, Maureen. We are in touch with Maureen and family who live near Quesnel, B.C.



Hazel McKay (nee Wagar)

Hazel married Ralph Smith in 1921. They had three children, Jack, Betty and Shirley. Ralph died in 1930 when Shirley was a babe in arms. Hazel raised her family and put them through University by offering room and/or board to Queen's University students in Kingston. This was during the Depression and times were not easy for a widow with three young kids. Hazel married Carl McKay in 1950 and after his death moved to Alberta to be near Shirley and family. Hazel's recent birthday party on 20 February, 2006 was celebrated at grand daughter Leanne's home in Calgary with family and friends. Son Jack of Salmon Arm, B.C. and daughter Betty of Cobourg, Ontario could not attend but sent greetings. Hazel has 9 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren and those who could not attend sent their memories and personal stories of "Nanny Mac." Daughter Shirley and great grand children Michael and Andrea read these stories and Hazel remembered and commented on all of them! The toast, composed by Jack, was proposed by Ted, along with comments on her UEL background. It was wonderful to see Hazel bright, healthy and fully enjoying her 104th birthday.





Hazel McKay—Awarded UEL Certificate on April 3, 2006

The genealogical work and research for Hazel and Shirley's UE application was done by family friend and amateur genealogist Warren Sadler from Abbotsford B.C. We gave Warren a stack of information and misinformation and he sorted it into a proper package. In his research he found a first cousin, plus several other degrees of relationship, Lucy Wagar, in Coronach, Saskatchewan. Today, Lucy is 106, lives in a retirement home, and is as sharp as a tack. The Wagars are a long-lived bunch!

Hazel McKay, 104 years young, and her lovely daughter, Shirley, were presented their UEL Certificates on Monday afternoon, April 3, 2006 at the Eau Claire retirement home. Attendees included Shirley's husband Ted Cooke, Shirley's daughter Leanne Johancsik and granddaughter Kara. Inspired by Hazel's example, Leanne and all her children (Hazel's great-grandchildren) Kara, Michael and Andrea have applied to join the UEL. Hangers on were Calgary Branch President Wayne R. Hovdestad and Genealogist Emeritus Jim Stewart.

(City of Calgary... continued from page 19)

For more information please contact:

The City of Calgary  
Corporate Records, Archives  
Email: [archives@calgary.ca](mailto:archives@calgary.ca)  
Phone: (403) 268-8180

Corporate Records, Archives is open to researchers Monday to Friday, except for statutory holidays, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No appointment is required. Please Note: Records are not retrieved after 4:00 p.m. We are located at 313 - 7th Avenue SE, on the ground floor of the Administration Building, next door to the old sandstone City Hall, and are part of the Municipal Complex. The sign on the glass doors reads "Corporate Records".

Email: [archives@calgary.ca](mailto:archives@calgary.ca)  
<<mailto:archives@calgary.ca>>  
Phone: (403) 268-8180 Fax: (403) 268-6731  
Mail: PO Box 2100, Station M, Calgary AB T2P 2M5  
Courier: City Clerk's Office, Ground Floor, 700 Macleod Trail SE

Carol Stokes  
Archivist  
Corporate Records, Archives  
Administration Services Division  
City Clerk's Office  
The City of Calgary

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**Suggestion:** Use multiple record source types. A great many family historians become specialists in using one record source. Now, there is nothing wrong with being a specialist, but sometimes we need to step back and see if we are neglecting other record source types that might give us a more complete picture of the family.

For instance, what is carved in granite on a tombstone should be verified with vital records, cemetery records, and the local newspaper!

## THE GREAT ANCESTOR HUNT

by Lois Sparling

### First Things First

The conventional advice to those taking their first steps in Family History Research is to start with yourself and move back, generation by generation, in an orderly fashion. This is excellent advice but incorrect. Your first steps should be:

1. To find and preserve your extended family's photographs, documents, heirlooms and memorabilia; and
2. To interview all elderly relatives about their own life story as well as what they know about the family's history.

It is very important to research your family from present to past in an orderly fashion; but it is urgent to save the family's records and memories before they are irretrievably lost.

Therefore, while you are looking for genealogical guide books at the library or bookstore, book marking useful looking web sites (and there are a huge number) and starting our pedigree chart, also tell as many relatives as possible that you are working on the family history. Ask them what they know and ask them to PLEASE not throw out any old stuff.

Volunteer to take it if they cannot or will not store it anymore. If some of the "old Stuff" offered to you turns out to be your grandfather's old Ford or an ancient chesterfield of great size, you may have to take pictures and then let it go to a dealer or junk yard. However, if you are offered a collection of letters and memorabilia saved by Great Aunt Martha or an old album of damaged photographs of people nobody recognizes, jump at the chance. Offer to pay for protective packaging and a courier. Do not miss such an opportunity!

While sifting through "old stuff", remember that you are at the beginning of your research project. You do not yet know what clues may be waiting

for you in a ticket stub or the marginal notes in a book.

Do not put off interviewing the family elders. I do not mean questioning your parents and grandparents and stopping there. Your cousins, even distant cousins, are also descended from one of your ancestors. The other branches of your family tree are likely to have passed down some different stories and to have preserved different photographs and documents. The realities of the situation are that some people are sharp as a tack at 96 while others unexpectedly die at 70. Get at your interviewing ASAP.

Recommended Family History How-To Books  
*In Search of Your Canadian Roots* by Angus Baxter

*Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy* by Emily Ann Croom

Recommended Books on Old Photographs  
*Dating Old Photographs 1840 – 1929* available through Family Chronicles Magazine

*Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs* by Maureen Taylor

Recommended Guides to Interviewing Relatives  
*Interviewing Elderly Relatives* by Eve McLaughlin

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/my> - under Oral History and Biography Assistant

<http://oral-history.ncf.ca/reference.html#reference> - Canadian Oral History Association list of books and online guides

Recommended Guides on Preserving "Old Stuff"  
*Help! I've Inherited an Attic Full of History Volumes 1 and 2* by Althea Douglas available through the Ontario Genealogical Society

*Organizing and Preserving Your Heirloom Documents* by Katherine Scott Sturdevant

<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/careothr.html> - The Library of Congress advice online.

## Canadian Census

Itching to get into some serious research in official records? The first two types of documents to look for are birth, marriage and death records from the Vital Statistics Departments of the relevant provinces and the census returns for your ancestral families. You may have noticed that the government has us fill in census forms every so often. This census business started in what is now Canada in the early to mid 1800s and even earlier for Quebec. The most recent census returns available to researchers are for the 1911 census.

The census is the only public document which records the family as a unit, rather than individuals or couples. You must look for all your ancestral families in every single census in order to get as complete a picture as possible of that family and to find all possible clues about extended family (brothers and sisters, cousins, etc.) and the previous generation. It is not at all uncommon to find elderly relatives living with their middle aged children or to find a younger brother living with his married sister.

The easiest place to start is with the 1901 census because it is available online and has been indexed by name. It is also available at larger public and academic libraries on microfilm with a locality index. Indexing by name is incomplete for the special 1906 census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the B.C. railway belt. Work has only just started on an index by name for the 1911 census. There are also an every name index for the 1881 census of Canada, the heads of households for the 1871 census of Ontario and a number of indexes for other areas and other census years.

If you cannot find a name index for the census you want to search, you will need a fairly

specific idea of where your family was living at the time that census was taken. This means the name of the village, district or township, a street address for larger towns and cities or the legal land description of the old homestead. I found my families in the days before name indexes and you can do it, too. It just takes more patience.

Photocopy or print off the census pages recording your families for your genealogy files. Make copies on archival paper for an interesting addition to your Great Ancestor Hunt book. If you have to transcribe the census information by hand, printed forms are a big help.

The census returns provide all sorts of valuable information about your ancestors. The early census records household without specifying the relationships between the members of the household. The really early censuses only name the head of the household and the numbers of males and females in the household by age group. However, the 1871 to 1911 census state everyone's relationship to the head of the household, age, occupation, religion, place of birth, marital status and other precious tidbits.

### Recommended Websites

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/022-500-e.html> - Canadian census returns online

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/cache/index.html> - Online index to 1901 census

<http://www.afhs.ab.ca/data/census/1906/index.html> - Partial index to 1906 census

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census06/index.html> - 2<sup>nd</sup> partial index to 1906 census

[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp) - Index to 1881 census

<http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/default.asp> - Find census extraction work sheets online at familysearch.org under Search – Research Helps – Canada

<http://www.islandregister.com/forms.html> -  
Census extraction worksheets

<http://globalgenealogy.com/> or  
<http://www.ogs.on.ca/> - Purchase Canadian  
census extraction forms from Global Genealogy  
or the Ontario Genealogical Society

### **You Cannot Do It All on the Internet**

Did you know that family history research is the second largest use made of the World Wide Web? There is a vast amount of genealogical material available in cyber space. If you do not have access to the internet, you really should look into whether your local library or community centre provides access to the public. However, no matter how well equipped you are for surfing the web, you will have to drag yourself away from your monitor to use libraries and the Mormon Family History Center nearest you. Your public library may not have much, but it is your doorway into the wonderful world of inter-library loans. Mormon or Latter-day Saints Family History Centers are well distributed around Canada. They will not try to convert you. It is perfectly safe and comfortable to use them. The local Family History Centers give you to access the vast holdings of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City by ordering in microfilm and microfiche which you can use at these Family History Centers.

What you can do using the internet is truly amazing. There is a wealth of information for the Family Historian, from “how-to” advice to databases, indexes and transcriptions of key resources. There is also a network of forums and mailing lists which will serve you well in your efforts to contact other researchers of the same families or the same localities that are important to your Ancestor Hunt. A distant relative in the States provided me with the only pictures I have of one set of my great grandparents. Another distant cousin found the will of her 3X great grandmother which named her brothers, thereby linking that family together and linking the family history researchers descended from the brothers with one another and her. Each family

had different clues which, put together, got us to their place of origin in Ireland. Sometimes a member of a locality mailing list lives in the area and will volunteer to take pictures for you of your family gravestones or the old family home.

Recommended important Canadian family history web sites

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy> -  
Canadian Genealogical Centre

<http://www.afhs.ab.ca/index.html> - Alberta  
Family Histories Society

<http://www.ogs.on.ca> - Ontario Genealogical  
Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~canwgw> - Canada  
GenWeb

<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/> - Our Roots/Nos  
Racines (local histories online)

<http://www.interlinkbookshop.com> - Interlink  
Genealogy (BC based online book store)

<http://www.globalgenealogy.com> - Global  
Genealogy (Ontario based online bookstore)

<http://www.cyndislist.com> - Cyndi's List

<http://www.worldgenweb.org> - World GenWeb

<http://www.rootsweb.com> - RootsWeb

A final word of advice – do not pay for access to data until you have thoroughly checked out what is available free of charge.

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**Don't you wish** that your family had kept the container? Sometimes the clues we want are on the wrapper!

Wouldn't it be nice to know where that small tool was purchased and how it got to our family?

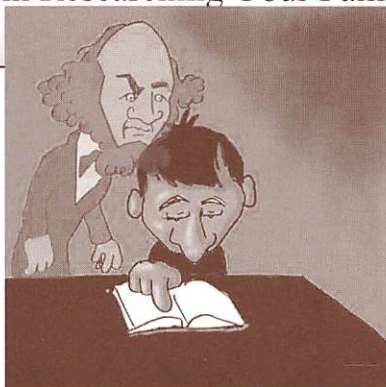
And the greeting card? If the envelope had survived, it could give us valuable clues about locations and time periods.

## SERENDIPITY IN GENEALOGY

### Coincidence in Researching Your Family History

#### Serendipity in Research

by Larry Gilchrist



Archives at Victoria University, a part of University of Toronto. We found that the Archive had a compilation by township of the baptisms performed by Methodist ministers in Ontario before the union that formed the United Church. As my wife searched the townships in which she had an

Family history research as we all know can be tedious and even boring. It becomes exciting when we find a clue that could lead to the answer we are seeking. But sometimes that clue can be misleading. Then again, sometimes we stumble across an answer when we least expect it, and where we never would have sought it.

My Great Grandmother McDonald was born a Vancoughnet. My mother was able to give me a time frame for her death, and by going through a few microfilms of the local weekly newspaper for the time period, I found a very extensive obituary for her in the form of a news story. This provided me with her death, age and burial information as well as her father's name.

Then I checked with the local funeral home, which fortunately still had records back to the 1920's. This record told me she had been born in Grey Co., Ontario. Since her birth pre-dated government registrations, I began the tedious chore of checking census records. The obituary had stated she and her husband had come to the Parry Sound area in Ontario in 1869, so I began with the 1861 census of Grey County. Nothing found.

I checked county marriage registers while visiting the Ontario Archives in Toronto. Again, nothing found under Grey County. I widened the search, and found the marriage of Donald McDonald and Julia Ann Vancoughnet in the Wellington County Register for the year 1867. Again, a check of the Wellington County census for 1861 gave me no further information.

On a subsequent visit to Toronto two years later, my wife and I visited the United Church

interest, I looked through the microfilm containing the baptismal records for the township I was interested in, Foley Twp, District of Parry Sound. I found nothing.

I returned my microfilm, and began reading over my wife's shoulder as she scrolled through the microfilm of the Township of Whitby, near Toronto. Suddenly there at the bottom of the page was my family! Baptisms recorded for my great grandmother as an adult, my grandmother as an adult, for some siblings of both; and the birthplaces given for all of them. Not only that, the baptisms had been performed in Foley. Why were they listed under Whitby?

I left that question alone for a time, since the baptismal record showed my great grandmother had been born in Loughborough, which is in Frontenac County a few miles from Kingston, Ontario. A search of the 1851 census for Loughborough uncovered the Vancoughnet family I had been seeking, and opened up avenues of research for me which have all paid family history dividends.

But why were my family's baptisms listed under Whitby Township when the record clearly indicated that they had taken place in Foley? I stumbled across the answer a couple of years later when looking at an older map of Whitby Township. There was indeed a community called Foley located in that township. The person compiling the baptismal records had mistakenly interpreted the place to be the community of

Foley rather than the township. A 'simple' mistake, which certainly plagued this researcher, and makes me wonder how many similar errors there are in records, especially records that have been compiled or transcribed.

Serendipity: "n. The faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident;" according to the Concise Oxford Dictionary. When it happens to others, we are envious. When it happens to us, it is a glorious feeling.

May you have at least one such experience in your researching.

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### **Serendipity**

by Marion Peterson

Each summer I travel home to Putnam, Ontario to visit my family and to do family research. A few summers ago, a visit to the Public Library in Woodstock, Ontario was on my to-do list. I knew that they had microfilms of the London Free Press, and my goal was to collect obituaries and other announcements.

It was a very successful afternoon, and I was about to leave when I decided to take a moment and see what other resources this library might have. On a lower shelf I discovered a microfilm reel called "Ingersoll Methodist Church Records 1872-1937 Vol.1". I had been to the United Church Archives in Toronto, and this microfilm was not in their collection.

Since Putnam is only 8 miles from Ingersoll, I decided to view this film. To my delight and surprise, I found that the marriage register included my great-great-grandmother's second marriage. Clara Ellen (Beer) Allison had remarried following the death of my great-great-grandfather William Allison. The marriage was performed at Ingersoll on 28 November 1925 by Rev. R. G. Peever of the United Church of Canada. Stephen Bennett, age 70, a gentleman who was a resident of North Dorchester Township, born in England, a widower and son of Richard Bennett and Caroline Clarke married



**Clara Ellen (Beer) Allison**

Clara Ellen Allison, age 66, a resident of Ingersoll who was born in Ontario and a widow.

Most importantly, the entry included her parents' names – Henry Beer and Elizabeth Morris. I had known her father's name, but her mother's maiden name had eluded me until this moment.

Since then, I have connected with another family member who says the Beers came to Canada from Cornwall. Now that I know her maiden name and a region to search, I am hoping to be able to trace my Beer family in England.

So, the lesson I learned is to take the time to visit all the libraries in your research area and browse their shelves. You just never know what serendipitous find you might make!

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### **Perspective**

We respect our ancestors' achievements by standing on their shoulders and seeing farther, not by crouching in their shadows and seeing less. Let's do something to inspire our own grandchildren. That's what our ancestors did.

Donald Creighton (Sep. 27, 1999)

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> each year. If a new member joins on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> then that membership is valid until the September of the following year.

## Objectives of the Society

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

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

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

Canadian Membership fees are			
When paid in Canadian funds using a money order, cheque on a Canadian account, on-line banking or cash.		When paid using PayPal (payment is in US funds and includes an administrative fee.)	
\$40.00	Individual	\$40.00	Individual
\$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
\$35.00	Senior individual	\$40.50	Senior individual
\$45.00	Senior family	\$50.50	Senior family
\$50.00	Institutional	\$55.50	Institutional

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Legacy	Charles Aubin
Master Genealogist	Alan Peers

Return Undeliverable Canadian Address:

Alberta Family Histories Society  
712-16th Avenue N.W.  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2M 0J8  
email chinook@afhs.ab.ca

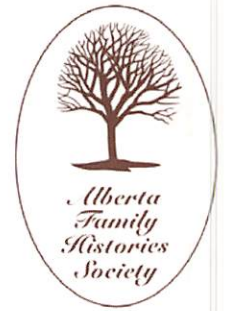
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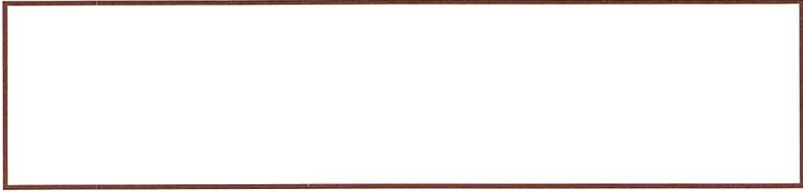


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