

# GENERATIONS

Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

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## **Students from Dumont Technical Institute-Ile a la Crosse, Saskatchewan**

Front row (L-R) Standing Jessicca Daigneault, Donalda Daigneault, Cyril Laliberte, Jolene Roy (Instructor), Tasia McCallum, Liz Durocher (Chaperone)

Back row (L-R) Head down-Stacy Caisse, Thomas Roy (Chaperone), Steven Caisse, Brittany Durocher, Karla Daigneault, Stephanie McCallum, Janet Desjarlais, Jenna Daigneault, Derek Janvier (Driver)

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# **MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**

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**Wednesday Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 (September through June)**

**Sunday Noon - 4:00 (mid-October to mid-May)**

The MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC. is a non-profit organization, formed in 1976, and incorporated in 1982. The Society promotes and encourages interest in genealogy and family history in Manitoba.

**Membership and Branch Information is available in this issue or on our website.** Full members receive four issues of *Generations*, general mailings, and are also entitled to one free Query per year, plus library privileges. Correspondence should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please put return address on **both** letter and envelope.

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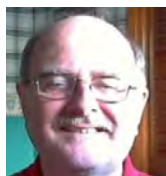
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**Deadlines: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, Nov. 1.** Please give appropriate credit when reprinting excerpts. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy; however, MGS does not accept responsibility for errors found in *Generations*, nor does it necessarily endorse opinions expressed therein.

*Please be sure to spell-check your submissions, and attach appropriate permissions for reprints and your contact information.*

## From the Editor

David Farmer #2277



It seems so easy to collect family history/genealogical information, but so difficult to sort and organize it to make it useful and easy to share with others. This was brought home loud and clear, these past 4 months, in dealing with some personal family issues in Ontario. I now have 12 large plastic 'tubs' of family history items (scrapbooks, clippings, who knows what), in my garage with the mandate to organize it.

Since my car will no longer fit in the garage, I have until the first snow fall to make room and get some order, not a task I am looking forward to.

This past while has been busy at MGS, as you can tell from the articles in this issue of *Generations*. We have had visitors, seminars, presentations, trips and the ongoing work on MANI, cemetery indexes and the running of the Society.

Our articles range from a report on a trip to Salt Lake City by some of our members, to some informative and humorous descriptions of early life in Canada.

As is always the case, we need your contributions to make *Generations* informative and worthwhile to our readers. So if you take a trip this summer, or are working on a family history project, or take some interesting photos of things historical, please send them in, we will make good use of them.

Have a great summer; they are all too short out here on the Prairies.

Enjoy the issue.



## From the President

Jim Oke #2729



By the time this note appears in *Generations*, the 2015 MGS Annual General Meeting will be history. This is due to the change in the MGS' financial accounting year to April 1<sup>st</sup> through the following March 31<sup>st</sup>, in order to better align with government and other agencies' financial practices. It has been a shortened, but busy, term at MGS with considerable activity leading up to the AGM.

The Manitoba Names Index (MANI) computer indexing and access project has moved ahead considerably over the past months, thanks to the efforts of the Computer Science group at Red River College, guided by Gordon McBean, the main MGS liaison for the MANI project. A basic search capability for about a million MANI records is now available within the MGS Resource Centre and also for home use for those members who apply for access. The next step is to add a general public access capability to the system to allow sales of cemetery and other information, to provide an income source to support MGS' operation. Special thanks are due to Gordon for his guidance of this project and for upgrading the Resource Centre computer systems.

The Society's web page and Facebook page have been updated over the past months thanks to the efforts of Janice Butcher, our VP Communications, who has done much to make these resources a better means of communicating MGS news and events to our membership. The intent is to make remote access available to as many of MGS' resources as possible, to our members, in order to provide value for membership in the Society, wherever one resides in Manitoba or even elsewhere.

Unfortunately I must mention again the financial challenges facing MGS. Very simply, our membership numbers and income are decreasing while our operating expenses are climbing. The difficult decision was made recently to increase MGS membership fees to partially close the gap, but this will not be sufficient on its own. The MANI project will hopefully provide an additional source of income but that is still to come. We remain

solvent by drawing down past accumulated funds, but this cannot continue over the long, or even medium, term. A very generous bequest by a past MGS member has given us some breathing room, but we must be aware of our situation and prepare for further changes as needed.

I want to close by recognizing the volunteers who look after the many tasks that keep MGS functioning so smoothly and well. It is only through their efforts and dedication that the library remains open, *Generations* is published, memberships are renewed, and many other seemingly routine but important things happen at MGS. Thank you one and all!

Have a good summer everyone, hope see you in the fall!



## Our Sympathies

### ***Our Condolences...***

to Shirle McGimpsey and family on the passing of her husband Bob, on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Bob had been ill for some time. Shirle has been a long-time member and volunteer of MGS and the Dauphin Branch. She currently serves as the Dauphin Branch President.

## A Life Defending the Rights of Others

*(The following is an excerpt from her obituary in the Manitoba Human Rights Connections Bulletin. Used by permission.)*

Durlene Gernscheid, a former member of the Manitoba Genealogical Society Executive, passed away on March 20, 2015.

In 1983 a new Executive Director took over the Manitoba Human Rights Commission. Durlene Gernscheid had been with the Commission since 1977. After a few years as leader of the

organization her bold style and words were reflected in the 1985 Annual Report revealing her concerns regarding human rights and the lack of resources at the Commission. Ms. Gernscheid would remain Executive Director of the Commission until her retirement in 1996.

During this time *The Human Rights Act* was replaced by *The Human Rights Code*, and some of the Commission's most famous cases took place, which would change the lives of many Manitobans and Canadians. Ms. Gernscheid moved to Winnipeg with her family in 1953 where, aside from a brief period in Churchill, she would reside for the remainder of her life. The mother of five children, she embraced a life-long career dedicated to aiding the impoverished and to defending the rights of those unable to do so on their own. Her many accomplishments before joining the Commission included volunteering for the Welfare Rights Movement (1969) and being a founding member, and then Director, of the Winnipeg Council of Self-Help (1970-74).

Throughout her career and life, she also contributed to many local and national organizations serving as: President of the Neighborhood Services Centre; Chairperson of the National Council of Welfare; and Board Member for (among others) the Social planning Council of Winnipeg, the Manitoba Rent Stabilization Board, Osborne House, and the Manitoba Genealogical Association. The staff and Commissioners pass their condolences to her family and friends, and will always remember her contribution to human rights in Manitoba.

## MGS has an Angel

We are in debt to a past member of MGS, the late Bonnie Bileski, Winnipeg, who generously included us in her will. Bonnie was member #3625 from 1999-2009.



Bonnie (nee Lyon) was born in 1941 in Winnipeg and passed away in October of 2014 from cancer. She



was an avid genealogist and during those ten years as a member, was often in the library on a Thursday when The Research Committee was in.

She was Senior Realty Adviser for the Department of National Defence and travelled a lot across Canada in her work.

After retirement in 2004 Bonnie spent time with family and friends at her cabin at Bird River.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Kelly, in 2007 and is survived by her son Randall (Randy).



**REMINDER:** Effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, the fee for MGS Individual Membership and Institutional Membership was increased to \$50.00. Associated fees did not change. Branch fees will continue to be set by the Branches.

## The Front Cover

Recently a number of students from Dumont Technical Institute, located in Île-à-la-Crosse, a northern village in northwest Saskatchewan journeyed to MGS to seek assistance with their genealogy. They wished to develop their family pedigree and to provide enough information to qualify for their Saskatchewan Metis Card.

Prior to their arrival, MGS staff was given a lineage chart of each student's family, as far back as they were able to trace. MGS researched each family chart and presented each student with a package of information that had been found.

Volunteers from the Tuesday and Thursday groups aided the students at MGS. A most enjoyable time was had by all and each student went home with new knowledge of their family.

## Salt Lake City Trip

*Jayne Paradis #0045*

Five members from MGS flew to Salt Lake City on May 17th for a week of research at the LDS Family History Library. They were Laurie Orchard, Margaret Platte, Bonnie Batchelor, Jillian Glover and myself. While Laurie and I had been to Salt Lake before, this was a first trip for the others.

We stayed at the Plaza Hotel right next door to the library. It is an extremely short walk to the library - out the back door and down the lane.

The Family History Library can be overwhelming at first - there are 5 floors of computers, books and microfilms. (There are apparently over 2.4 million microfilms alone at the library!) But, there are plenty of people who work or volunteer at the library to ask for help.

Temple Square, next to the library, is a great place to walk around for a break from research.

From the conversations we had during the week, it sounds like everyone had a good time. On our last evening, we all went for dinner at the Beer Hive Pub.

We flew home on the 24th without too much trouble. We didn't have a lot of time between flights so raced to get to the next plane only to find out that the flight crew hadn't even arrived!



## New Adoption Rules for Manitoba

*Kathy Stokes #0125*

There are important changes coming in June of 2015 regarding adoption records in Manitoba. For anyone who was adopted, for birth parents and for adoptive parents, these changes reflect major and positive shifts in the rules governing release of information.

*For complete information about changes which will be forthcoming in June of 2015, please see the following site: [www.Manitoba.ca/adoption/records](http://www.Manitoba.ca/adoption/records)*

Adoptions, whether formal or informal, have been present in most societies forever. For whatever reasons, there have always been children whose birth parents were unable to care for them and there have been families who opened their hearts and homes to such children. In Manitoba, it was in 1922 when the first substantive adoption rules were introduced into legislation, but they did not come into effect until an amended version of the act, "An Act Respecting the Welfare of Children", was proclaimed on September 1, 1924.

A common thread among many adopted people has always been the need to know; who they are, whom they resemble and information about the family and lives of their birth parents. Similarly, those who relinquished their offspring to adoptive parents needed, in many cases to be assured that their children are in good health and happy. It took many years for governments to realize these needs and rights of adoptees and birth parents and to develop rules to produce the desired results. Society helped by being more accepting of situations in which birth parents sometimes found themselves. Adoptive parents, in many cases, came to realize that knowledge of their backgrounds often affected their adopted children positively and made them happier.

Practices changed slowly over the years. In the earlier times, adoption papers contained the original name of the child, but in the mid-1960s this clue to a child's origins was eliminated. This change made it more difficult for adopted children to trace their birth parents. Adoptions in the earlier years were also heavily influenced by religious requirements that children must be placed in a home designated by the birth parents as either Protestant or Roman Catholic. This provision was later eliminated.

The 1960s saw what became known as "the 60s scoop", which saw many children of native heritage sent into homes in the United States. This practice was banned in 1974.

There was much discussion amongst the lawmakers in the late 1970s. The Manitoba Law Commission studied the release of personal

information policies regarding adoptions within Manitoba and issued a report. The headline on page one of the 21 July 1978 issue of the *Winnipeg Free Press* read, "Secrecy in Adoptions Supported."

Among the recommendations, the report said that release of adoption information should only be done at the request of both the adoptee and the natural parent. Thus it would protect the interest of both parties. It went on to say, "Present legislation is to give the natural parent assurance of anonymity, and indiscretion will never be divulged." The commission felt that widening the disclosure to the adoptee would directly contradict such assurances. The Commission report further stated that if full information disclosure were to be available on demand by birth parents, adoptees or adoptive parents, an untenable position would be created because "interests of the party searching for contact would always be favoured over the party who wished to forget about the adoption." These opinions reflected the Commission's view, as well as the view of many in the general population of the day, that pregnancy outside of marriage was something to be ashamed of and best kept hidden.

The Law Reform Commission recommended that a central registry be developed with a passive role, and was in agreement that the names of birth parents not be released to adoptees. A post adoption registry was set up by the Provincial government in the early 1980s on which birth parents and adoptees could place their names. Staff at the Post Adoption Registry could release what was known as "non-identifying information" to an adoptee, but not the names of birth parents. Staff could also check their records to see if a birth parent had expressed a wish to meet the child given up for adoption and then could facilitate such a meeting.

Pressure continued to build toward more extensive release of records to adoptees and birth parents. As society's attitude toward pregnancy outside of marriage became more accepting, the shame of such events that had been reflected in the Law Commission report

vanished. Society in general has become more open about many social situations. In 1997, Helen Zuefle led a Review Committee Consultation of lawyers, social workers, and members of the community at large which resulted in a major change. New legislation made it clear that adoptions made after 15 March 1999 were to be considered open. This meant that information previously denied was now open to requests from adult adoptees and their birth parents.

But what about those who had been adopted previous to the March 1999 date? They were still unable to obtain significant information about their backgrounds. The legislation to come into effect in this province in June addresses this situation.

The *Lawyers Weekly News* of 20 June 2014 has commented on Manitoba's opening up of its adoption process, which follows the lead of jurisdictions in several other parts of Canada. "Adult adoptees will have the opportunity to learn about their birth families and birth parents can learn about the adult children they gave up for adoption." At the same time, a comment by Janet Sigurdson, a Manitoba Crown counsel who worked on the legislation noted, "Openness means you are entitled to the information, but it does not mean that you are entitled to a relationship."

A fine balance has been struck in the Manitoba legislation between openness and privacy. For instance, adult adoptees and birth parents can have access to birth record information and, as well, can protect their information. Vetoes for disclosure and/or contact can be made to the Manitoba Post-Adoption Registry BEFORE the new legislation takes effect. Previously made vetoes remain in effect and will be respected. Fines for disregarding these vetoes are very large. THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN NEW VETOES AFTER THE NEW LEGISLATION COMES INTO EFFECT. There are no fees to file disclosure or contact vetoes. Contact the applicable government offices or read the information contained in the site mentioned at the beginning of this article for further information.

The legislation also contains, among other things, a section which makes it possible for Manitoba born children who are adopted outside the province to obtain family information, or for children born outside Manitoba, but adopted here to apply for information. Children of deceased adoptees have gained the right to know about their parents' background.

The work of the province of Manitoba in finally making the needed changes to its adoption legislation is much appreciated by the many adoptees, birth parents and adoptive parents who were involved in the previous process over so many years. The balance that has been struck between privacy rights and openness is due in no small measure to the tenacity of a Manitoban, Roy Kading (an MGS member) who has worked for more than 30 years assisting in the development of laws that better serve everyone involved in the adoption community. He simply just never gave up in his quest. For this, he was mentioned by name on the floor of the legislature by the minister in charge of new legislation. This is a singular honour! Congratulations Roy!

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## **The Oxford County Genealogical Society**

*David Farmer #2277*

While I was in Woodstock, Ontario for an extended period this spring, I decided to drop into the Oxford County Genealogical Society (OCGS), a Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Part of the reason was curiosity, but the main reason was to visit with a long-time family friend who volunteers there.

As with anything we seem to do these days, there are always challenges.

The first challenge was to find the building! The OCGS is housed, along with the Oxford County Archives and the Oxford County Historical Society in the old Colonel House. An impressive looking building you would think would be easy to find, but not so. It is part of the old Jail complex which was been turned into government agency offices along with the



addition of some new more modern buildings. The Colonel house is snuggled in amongst these newer buildings.



**PHOTO:** The Colonel House, Woodstock, Ontario, home of the Oxford County Genealogical Society.

The view from the back windows looks out over the old Jail building complete with the 'hanging' tower, which today has been turned into an impressive atrium (but the old history remains). But that is a story for another issue.

Once inside the OCGS building, there is an impressive array of books and family historical information. The 'reading' room is lined with shelving, film readers and information of interest to all who visit.

The second challenge was found in the back records room, filled with shelves housing a large number of family histories of the founding families of Oxford County, the City of Woodstock and surrounding areas. Many of the names were quite familiar to me, having lived in Woodstock for several years. Streets, parks and buildings are named after these folks. The challenge was wishing I had more time to actually browse through some of the materials.

One of the key collections of the OCGS is a complete set of Land Title records for the county and area. These are very popular with both genealogists and others searching for land title information. The small fee (I think the fee was less than 5 dollars) charged to use this collection, is a source of the Society's revenue.

The membership is not large, perhaps less than 100, but the collections are well used. Each day several researchers come to the facility, where they find a very helpful and knowledgeable staff ready to assist. Much like our own MGS, these volunteers love to talk and share genealogy. While there I was provided with a number of Woodstock pins, a few of the 'cow' pins (<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/18953>) along with some material on historical events in the county.

With the Historical Society and the Archives in the same building, the Colonel House makes an excellent one-stop genealogical research facility for all things Oxford County.

If you are in the area, I recommend dropping in for a browse. (<http://oxford.ogs.on.ca/>)



## From the Past Rural Ramblings

Kathy Stokes #0125

*Manitou Western Times* Jan 4, 1962

Mr. and Mrs. G. BOOKER celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at their home in Snowflake on Dec. 25, 1961. Among the many guests were 10 of their 11 children, 20 of their 23 grandchildren and 13 of their 17 great grandchildren.

Robert Storie CARSWELL, aged 71 years, died in Winnipeg on Dec. 26, 1961. He was born in Renfrew, Ontario, Oct. 6, 1891 and came to the Manitou area at the age of seven. His father was Thomas CARSWELL. Mary Elizabeth RIDLEY became his wife Nov. 12, 1912. She survives him, along with two sons, Elmer and Gordon. Burial was in Manitou Cemetery.

Colin MCMURACHY (Vital Stats spells it MCMURCHY) 78 years old, died May 4, 1936. Born in Vaughan Twp., York County, Ontario, he came west in 1892. The family home on the farm was moved to town to become the first residence in Hamiota. Mrs. MCMURACHY,

nee Martha BENNETT, supplied meals for the railway crew as they were pushing the lines around that part of Manitoba. She died in 1924. Mr. MCMURACHY is survived by one son and four daughters: Ben of Toronto, Mrs. O.J. Bennett of Mission City, British Columbia, Mrs. Porter of Portage la Prairie, Mrs. Boden of Regina, Mrs. Oliver of Calgary. Also surviving are six brothers and three sisters: Neil, James, Dan, David and Joseph of McConnell, Manitoba and John of Elphinstone; also Mrs. McDonald of Strathclair, Mrs. Campbell of Toronto and Mrs. Millen of Cincinnati, Ohio. Burial was in the Hamiota cemetery.

## A Pleasant Surprise!

*Generations* has several purposes: to inform members of the activities of MGS; to provide help and assistance to those in the pursuit of ancestor-finding and; sometimes to simply surprise a reader or two. This later purpose was fulfilled with the March issue of Rural Ramblings (Volume 40, Issue 1, p 14). Following is a letter from Elizabeth Campbell (a former and current contributor to *Generations*). She writes:

I was pleasantly surprised to find my 2g-grandmother's obituary, which I had never seen before, in Kathy Stokes' column in the March issue of *Generations* (Rural Ramblings, p.14). I am descended from her son by her first husband (Hugh MATHESON), the Rev. John Richard (aka John Grace) MATHESON, who was a missionary at the Anglican Mission at Onion Lake. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a photo of her that you would be welcome to print as a follow up.



**Photo:** Letitia (Pritchard) Cunningham

## The Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. is a registered charity.

Donations can be made to the Memorial Fund, the Library Fund, or the General Fund. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more, and are much appreciated.

## Our Library

Mavis Gray #0008



Our ancestors believed in banding together to make their lives and their communities better. Churches and schools came first, but organizations to improve agriculture and provide educational, cultural and recreational opportunities weren't far behind. Listed below are the titles of books about some of these organizations, held by the MGS Library.

### Agricultural

*From Boys' and Girls' Clubs to 4-H in the Portage Agricultural District, 1913-1991* by Arline Davey. 1992.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 630.7 FRO)

*4-H Clubs in Manitoba.* 1984.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 630.7 FOU)

*History of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies' Association, 1883-1985.*

(MGS Library call no. Western Canada 630.6 HIS)

*The History of the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association* by A.L.D. Martin. 1970. (MGS Library call no. Manitoba 631.52 MAR)

### Co-operatives

*History of United Grain Growers Local 243, Vista, Manitoba.*

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 630.2 VIS)

*History of United Grain Growers Local 227, Souris, Manitoba.*

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 630.2 HIS)

*Spirit of the Post Road, a Story of Self-help Communities* by Robert Meyers. Published by the Federation of Southern Manitoba Co-operatives, 1955.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 355 SPI)

*People and Progress – a Co-op Story* by Don H. Slimmon. 1981.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 334 SLI)

### **Country Clubs**

*Glendale Golf and Country Club Anniversary Yearbook, 1946-1996.* (MGS Library call no. Manitoba 796.352 GLE)

*One Hundred Years at St. Charles Country Club, a Centennial History* by Barbara Huck and Doug Whiteway. 2004.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 367 SAI 2)

### **Cultural**

*Highlights of District 64 Toastmasters International, 1960-1990.*

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 367 HIG)

*Let Us Enjoy Music, a History of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg, 1894-1994* by Valorie Dick.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 780 DIC)

*Music For Its Own Sake or, Somehow We Pulled It Off: Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir, 75 Years of Choral History* by Ishbel Moore. 1997.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 780 MOO)

### **Men's Service Clubs**

*The Cross and the Square, the Kinsmen Story, 1920-1970* by Robert Tyre. 1970.

(MGS Library call no. Canada 366 TYR)

*Khartum Temple, Winnipeg, Canada, 1905-1995.*

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 366 KHA)

*Rotary in Canada, 1910-1985, 75 Years of Service Above Self.*

(MGS Library call no. Canada 369.5 ROT)

*Together Once Again, a Brief History of the Brandon Kinsmen Club, 1925-1975.* (MGS Library call no. Manitoba 366 TOG)

### **Women's**

*The Great Human Heart, a History of the Manitoba Women's Institute, 1910-1980.*

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 367 GRE)

*Junior League of Winnipeg, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1928-1978.*

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 367 JUN)

*This Makes Fifty, a History of Women's Institutes in the Winnipeg-Interlake District of Manitoba* by Laura James. 1969.

(MGS Library call no. Manitoba 367 THI)

*Women's Institutes of Manitoba.* 1985. (MGS Library call no. Manitoba 367 WOM)



### **Library Lines**

Mary Bole #884

MGS Librarian



For further information on any of the following books check KOHA, our on-line catalogue. The link can be found on the MGS web site.

### **Manitoba**

**371 Winn** *Breezes*, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1951, 1962, 1964. [Yearbooks of Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute.]

**378 UofM** *A Record of the Years, Commemorating Fifty Years of Agricultural Education and Endeavour, 1906-1956.* [Faculty of Agriculture and Home Economics, UofM.]

**971.27 Mor** Holloway, B., *The Story of Sperling*, 1994. [Morris municipality]

**971.27 Tur** *Vantage Points, Volume 3: A Layering of Footprints*, 2013. [Turtle Mountain-Souris Plains]

### **Eastern Canada**

**355.3 Blu** *The Blue Puttees: Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 1914-1918.*

[2 DVDs]

**929.5 Ont/Per** *Avondale Cemetery Index (Old Section).*

### **Western Canada**

**355.3 Reg** *1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Regina Rifle Regiment, 1939-1946.*

### **Canada**

**355 Joh i** *To Spread Their Wings: an index.* Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division)

### **Great Britain and Ireland**

**362.7 Feg** *The J.W.C. Fegan British Home Children Collection.* [CD-ROM]

**941.3 Pre** *Pre-1855 Fife Death Index.* [CD-ROM, Fife, Scotland]

**942.5 Aaa** *Lincolnshire, England: Miscellaneous Binder.*

**942.8 Aaa** *Northumberland, England: Miscellaneous Binder.*

### **Europe**

**289.7 Fri2** Friesen, J., *Against the Wind: the Story of Four Mennonite Villages (Gnadental, Gruenfeld, Neu-Chortitza and Steinfeld) in the Southern Ukraine, 1872-1943.* 1994.

**289.7 Sto3** Stoesz, C., *Mennonite Genealogy - Stories, Rules and Exceptions,* 2015.

**947 Gal2** *Galicia: Multi-Ethnic Roots in Ukraine and Poland,* 2010.

### **General**

**929.1 Mor** Morgan, G., *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques,* 2013.

### **Family History and Biography**

**921 Ker** Beugener, D., *Pearl's Story: a Biography of Paraska Malkowich Kernatz,* 2014.

**929.2 Dow** Bronstein, D., *Down Through the Ages,* 1995. [Down Family]

**929.2 Harl** Kuhn, J., *Beside the Fort Ellice Trail: a History of the Harland, Jenner and Scott Families,* 2007.

**929.2 Lin2** Linossier, J., *The Linossier and Montagnon Family: Pioneers in the Interlake Region,* 2012.

**929.2 Mav** *Mavins, a Northumbrian Heritage, 1678-1990,* 1990. [Mavins Family]



### **Book Reviews**

*Enid Dorward #4502*

New books, recently added to the MGS library. All are available for loan.



***The Way of the Bachelor: Early Chinese Settlement in Manitoba*** by Alison R. Marshall. Vancouver, UBC Press, c2011. 226 p., photos, index, extensive bibliography. (MGS library call number MAN 971.27 AAA MAR)

This is a carefully researched account of early Chinese residents of Manitoba. The first men arrived in 1884, but had to wait 33 years before being able to bring their wives and families to Canada. During those years, they had to adapt to lives as bachelors, hence the title of the book. The author examines the history and religion of Chinese immigrants in western Manitoba in particular. Most of them lived rather lonely lives in rural areas. The predominant means of making a living were restaurants and laundries. This is a valuable resource for persons researching their Chinese ancestors in Manitoba.

***Roath, Splott and Adamsdown*** compiled by Jeff Childs. Stroud, Gloucestershire, Tempus Pub., 1995. 159 p., photographs. (MGS library call number GB & IRE 942.9 ROA)

Here is a remarkable collection of photographs of Roath, Splott and Adamsdown, three areas of Cardiff, Wales. The majority of the pictures



were taken between 1890 and 1950. They are arranged by categories, e.g. churches and chapels, farms, streets, shops, etc. A gem for anyone with ancestors from that area of Wales.

***Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques*** by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith. New York, McGraw Hill, c2014. 206 p. illus., index. (MGS library call number GENERAL 929.1 MOR)

Don't let the word *advanced* scare you off! This book provides many approaches to the dreaded "brick wall" that so often hinders genealogical researchers. The authors offer research techniques and strategies that can make all the difference. An up-to-the-minute book, which even includes sections on crowdsourcing and DNA, tips on hiring a professional researcher, and much more. You don't have to be an expert to benefit from the wisdom and advice in this book.



## **Periodical Potpourri**

*Enid Dorward #4502*

*All periodicals mentioned in this column are available for loan from the MGS library.*

### **MANITOBA**

***Beautiful Plains Genealogical Society Newsletter*** (Winter 2015) Manitoba is opening birth records related to adoptions. Information provided in this issue.

***Manitoba History*** (Winter 2015) Filipinos in Manitoba.

***The New Leaf*** (March 2015) Includes a list of persons from SW Manitoba who lost their lives during World War II.

### **CANADA**

***Anglo-Celtic Roots*** (Spring 2015) List of names of families who applied for payment from the Royal Bounty Program in Canada 1906-1960,

for parents of triplets, quadruplets and quintuplets.

***Cleveland FHS*** (April 2015) An account of a North Yorkshire family's emigration to Canada.

***Halton-Peel KINnections*** (Winter 2015) Contains a lengthy list of internet resources on the Great War.

### **ABORIGINAL RESEARCH**

***Family Footsteps*** (Nov. 2014) Resources for First Nation families and individuals with First Nation ancestry: genealogy resources in Kamloops.

### **AFRICA**

***Family Tree*** (UK) (Feb. 2015) Discovering your Somali heritage.

### **AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND**

***Ancestor*** (Sept. 2014) Finding an Australian Boer War grave in SE Transvaal.

***The Genealogist*** (Sept. 2014) Includes a lengthy list of names from an 1854 petition from Belfast Port Fairy (Australia).

***New Zealand Family Tree*** (Aug.-Nov. 2014) Maori associations of North Otago.

### **DNA**

***Berkshire Family Historian*** (Dec. 2014) Cousins reunited: autosomal DNA testing demystified.

***Branching Out*** (Jan. 2015) Several persons write about their experiences with DNA testing

***Family Chronicle*** (Jan.-Feb. 2015) How DNA can assist you in your genealogy research.

### **EASTERN CANADA (QUEBEC AND ATLANTIC PROVINCES)**

***Connections*** (Autumn 2014) A list of the first colonists of Quebec, from 1617 to 1635.

-(Spring 2015) *Montreal Star* death database 1900-1910.

***Generations*** (New Brunswick) (Winter 2014 and Spring 2015) Part of an alphabetical listing



of burials at McFarlane Burial Ground (Sunny Bank Cemetery).

-(Winter 2014) Deaths in the 140<sup>th</sup> Battalion (1916 and later).

-(Spring 2015) A listing of voluntary fire wardens 1919.

**Halton-Peel KINnections** (Winter 2015) County of Wellington marriages 1878 & 1879 (strays).

**Newfoundland Ancestor** (Vol. 30, 4 2014) Newfoundlanders at the battle fields of France and Flanders WWI.

**P.E.I. Genealogical Society** (Nov. 2014) The heroic service of P.E.I. nurses in the Great War.

## IRELAND

**IGRS Research Update** (Feb. 2015) A listing of Wexford additions to the RootsIreland site.

-(March 2015) Preview of 2015 on-line releases from National Archives of Ireland.

**Internet Genealogy** (Dec./Jan. 2015) Researching Irish petty court sessions.

**Irish Genealogical Research Society** (Sept. 2014) Irish burials of 1834 in Old St. Peter's Cemetery, Saint John, New Brunswick.

**The Irish Genealogist** (Vol. 14 No. 1, 2014) Limerick Cathedral Registers 1826 to 1842 – a transcription of 321 marriages.

**Irish Roots** (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014) Index to Irish slave children in colonial court records.

-(2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014) Tracing your Galway ancestors.

## USA

**American Ancestors** (Summer 2014) Researching Maine ancestors.

-(Fall 2014) Salem end: the diaspora that followed the 1692 witchcraft crisis.

-(Winter 2015) Searchable databases on AmericanAncestors.org.

**Branching Out** (April 2015) On-line archive of depression era photographs by state and county.

**Family Chronicle** (Jan.-Feb. 2015) Finding African American ancestors pre-1866.

**Family Tree** (USA) (Dec. 2014) 75 best web sites for USA genealogy.

-(Jan.-Feb. 2015) Tracing African-American slave ancestry.

**Geer Family Association** (Summer 2014) Hebron CT historic Gear property. Back issues of this journal are in a binder in the “family history and biography” section of the library.

**The New England Historical and Genealogical Register** (July 2014) William Sewall of Bridgewater, Mass. and some of his descendants: A reconstruction of a New England mixed-race family.

-(Oct. 2014) Family data extracted from bibles for sale on *eBay*: Brown-Guion, Duryee-Bunce, Hallock-Northrup.

-(Winter 2015) A reconstruction of a New England mixed-race family.

**Oregon Genealogical Society Journal** (Fall 2014) Contains a partial list of Pennsylvania civil war veterans who resided at one time or another in the area covered by the Department of Oregon.

-(Spring 2015) Victims of Silver Lake, Oregon, fire of 1894 – list of dead and injured.

**Red River Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter** (July-Dec. 2014) List of Grand Forks (N.D.) Central High School Graduates 1948.

**SGS Bulletin** (Seattle) (Winter 2014) Contains a series of articles about ethnic groups in the northwest USA, including Native Americans, Nordic settlers, African Americans, Chinese, and Japanese.

## WALES

**Glamorgan Family History Society** (June 2014) A Glamorgan family bible

-(Dec. 2014) Memoirs of a parish priest in Pontypridd, Ton Pentre, Aberdare and Llanelli areas.

-(Sept. 2014) Wales and the Great War. Several articles.

## **Much Ado About Squat**

*A book review by Jim Oke #2729*

By Ron Stevens, Published by Heartland Associates, Winnipeg, 301 pages, illustrations, maps, catalogue 971.27.2

Many MGS members will be familiar with the homestead records at the Manitoba Archives, these being an almost mandatory stop for anyone researching during Manitoba's early days as a settlement destination. Some individual homestead files are quite brief containing little more than an application for "entry" and then a request for "title" followed by an inspector's report and then the cryptic "title awarded please return the enclosed receipt" form letter. However sometimes there are pages and pages of correspondence between the homesteader writing from an (imagined!) rough shelter on the prairie and his opposite number, usually a clerical worker in the Ottawa offices of the then Department of the Interior. These more extensive homestead files often make for interesting reading and can provide a glimpse at the challenges of homesteading on the prairies.

This book is based on the writer's extensive research of the homestead files for a district near the village of Birnie, on the eastern slope of Riding Mountain in Manitoba. Ron Stevens has a personal connection to this story; he lived with his maternal grandparents in Birnie for some years in the 1930s and they had homesteaded there at the turn of the 20th century. Later in life he became curious about how their lives had really unfolded compared to his rather imprecise childhood impressions. He began looking through his grandfather's own homestead file at the Archives and then began to research the content of other nearby files to gain a better understanding of homestead activity in the Birnie District. This book is the result and it can be said that Mr. Stevens has provided a thorough and valuable overview of the homestead experience in Manitoba.

Life as a homesteader had many challenges that are often glossed over; dealing with government officials, completing the necessary homestead

documents, coping with the weather, earning a living, family complications, relations with neighbours and, yes, occasional criminal activity. Stevens touches on these all issues and others that his grandparents dealt with.

A special situation in the Birnie district was its location on the eastern slopes of Riding Mountain where significant stands of poplar and other useful timber were present. During the 1890s, some in the Government wanted to preserve these wooded areas as a permanent forest reserve while others sought to maximize homestead activity and short term population growth. While these contradictory objectives were being played out in far-off Ottawa, the Birnie district became filled with settlers seeking one last chance at a homestead as most of the better agricultural land had already been taken up. A common strategy was apparently to simply "squat" on a piece of land and start cutting timber for sale as cordwood to survive. The "squatter" would hope to be eventually granted a recognized homestead entry when an inspector happened by and found there wasn't much timber left to preserve. A complication was that if someone left his land for awhile, and lacking any real title to the land, it was not unknown for another party to simply move in become the resident "squatter" instead. These struggles to obtain a valid homestead entry often went on for years near Birnie and account for the book's title.

Stevens has an interesting writing style that interweaves the dry recounting of facts and correspondence with what can be referred to as historical fiction where he puts himself in one of his character's shoes and tries to recreate their thoughts, words, and actions during a significant event such as a winter blizzard in a lonely homesteader's cabin. Some may object to the inclusion of what is obviously conjecture into a factual history but these sections are identified clearly enough that they can be set aside and read on their own merits. The result is a quite readable history that often has a "can't put it" appeal to it.

Ron Stevens has written a detailed, carefully researched, yet entertaining family history that

pulls together many interweaving threads based on the homestead records of the Birnie district, newspaper accounts and other local history sources. The background details of the homestead process and the details of the Dominion Lands Act of 1872 and how it evolved over the following decades are useful resources for anyone with an interest in this period of Manitoba's history.



The *Winnipeg Free Press* of November 8, 2014 contained some information on Romanian Orthodox Churches in Manitoba of which there are five:

**St. Elijah Romanian Orthodox Church** and cemetery located in Lennard, MB. It is now a museum and is the oldest standing Romanian Orthodox Church in Manitoba. It was designated a Manitoba historic site in 1986.

**St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church** and cemetery in Shell Valley, MB.

**St. George Romanian Orthodox Church** and cemetery in Blue Wing, MB.

**St. Demetrious Romanian Orthodox** and St. George Romanian Orthodox Churches, both in Winnipeg. St. George Church in Winnipeg is the first to offer the fullness of the faith in English.



## 2015 Eric Jonasson Award



**PHOTO:** Orma Sozansky #0575 receiving the Eric Jonasson Award from President Jim Oke. (Photo by Bill Curtis)

This year the Eric Jonasson Award is going to a member that came to us in 1985. From that time she has contributed her time and talents to MGS in many ways. In the early days, along with her late husband Eric, she transcribed cemeteries in the High Bluff area. In the library, where she has worked for more than 25 years, she puts books away, checks cemetery indexes, keeps track of outgoing mail and handles many other tasks that need doing.

The volunteers take it for granted that our library will be kept clean and tidy, but do we ever give a thought about who is responsible for this? For more than a quarter century, it has been this lady's job. If you come into the office on a Wednesday morning at 8:15, you will find her there beginning her cleaning day of vacuuming the entire area, dusting, cleaning the bathrooms and kitchen, defrosting the refrigerator when necessary, checking supplies such as Kleenex, etc. so that we never run out of them.

The sidewalk in front of the library is swept each week and she shovels the snow when it piles up. No one was happier than she when the new piece of sidewalk was put in recently, after many years of complaints. At the end of the day she empties the waste baskets and garbage can and takes it all home to be disposed of in her own grey and blue receptacles.

She has a delightful personality and is a pleasure to work with. A wild sense of humour keeps the Wednesday group laughing. Her comments on life in general are part of the very early morning chitchat we share, but at the end of such an exchange of ideas, we can feel that we have somehow solved the world's problems for a few minutes anyway.

It is a great honor to present this year's MGS Jonasson Award to Orma Sozansky, member #0575.

Congratulations Orma.

## 2015 Florence Cox Award



**PHOTO:** David Jenkins #0090 displaying the Florence Cox award presented to him earlier at the Wednesday group meeting. (Photo by Wednesday group)

This year, the Florence Cox Award has been awarded to an MGS founding member. He has been a Wednesday and Sunday volunteer since he retired from Parks Canada in 2011. He is a man of many talents, not the least of which is patience, as he tackles and copies old cemetery transcriptions, some from more than 30 years ago, typed on an old typewriter. He cheerfully sorts things out and produces error-free copies to add to our MANI resources. Through research he has done on his own and his wife's families, he is able to assist patrons searching in several countries.

He also has a talent for the machines we use at MGS and seems able to get anything working! Because he is tall, he is able to see the top of the thermostat and to set it at the proper level to keep the heat and air conditioning at a

comfortable level, something the short people find it difficult to do.

He also is a weatherman. We can tell when spring has come, however fleetingly because he comes in wearing shorts and flip flops. When his wardrobe is shoes and trousers, we know fall has arrived.

He is very easy to work with, low key and knowledgeable on so many aspects of family history. He helps create a pleasant atmosphere on Wednesdays and Sundays at MGS.

MGS is pleased to present the Florence Cox Award in 2015 to David Jenkins, founding member number 0090.

Congratulations Dave.



**The Manitoba Genealogical Society is supported by a grant from Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection**

## Far From Home

*Enid Dorward #4502*

The November/December 2014 edition of *Legion Magazine* featured an article about a project called "Far From Home". Many thousands of Canadians served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during World War I, and 3,893 of them died and were buried in Great Britain during the war. About two-thirds of the C.E.F. had originated in Britain, which would explain why so many were buried in obscure churchyards and private cemeteries. A British couple are creating a memorial to these people and have made it their mission to visit and photograph every grave, and to carefully research the lives of every one of those persons. They plan to complete the project in 2016.

The graves are located in 853 different cemeteries in all parts of the British Isles. The

authors have created a profile for every person, whether soldier, sailor or nurse, as a result of meticulous research. A sample page on their web site [www.canadianukgravesww1.co.uk](http://www.canadianukgravesww1.co.uk) includes a picture and description of the cemetery, a photo of the grave, a photo of the individual and biographical information about him. The web site shows a list of names of soldiers that will appear on the CD-ROMs they are creating. There will be 98 CDs in all when the project is complete. The CDs gather together the graves from each county. A price list indicates that the cost will be between £7 and £14.50, excluding postage, and depending on the amount of information on each CD. One can also request a CD about an individual person.



## Remains of Canadian First World War Soldiers Identified

*The following is an excerpt from a clipping from the November 2014 issue of The Maple Leaf, a service magazine. It was contributed by the Louisa Shermerhorn.*

In an article titled as above, it states:

"The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces succeeded in identifying the remains of four First World War soldiers found in Hallu, France as those of:

- Lieutenant Clifford Abraham Neelands, born in Barrie, Ontario. Resided in Winnipeg, Manitoba when he enlisted. Aged 26 at the time of his death.
- Lance Sergeant John Oscar Lindell, born in Virestad Parish, Kronobergm, Sweden. Resided in Winnipeg, Manitoba when he enlisted. Aged 33 at the time of his death.
- Private Lachlan McKinnon, born in Campbelltown, Argyllshire, Scotland. Resided in Manitoba when he enlisted. Aged 29 at the time of his death.

- Private William Simms, born in Russell, Manitoba. Aged 25 at the time of his death. (Simms is on the Memorial Stone in the Russell Memorial Gardens, MGS Cemetery Index #444)

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## We Are a Hardy Bunch

*Sari Fields #5267*

While people-watching at The Forks the other day, my thoughts turned to the Red River and our annual spring flooding when *that* other thought occurred to me. You know the one. The one in which we scratch our head and ask 'Why, oh why, did our ancestors settle here? Why didn't they just keep on going west or even south?'

In fact, I often wonder how the early settlers survived our crazy climate. We whine and complain about our weather, but really, we live in a privileged society with heated and air conditioned homes, cars, and businesses. We have and expect large machinery to clear away snow from our streets and sidewalks, and others to break up the ice on the rivers. But it is easy to forget it wasn't always this way.

I recently had a project in which I was asked to help prove a relationship between a daughter and her parents. The family had arrived at the Red River Settlement in 1825 and she married shortly afterwards. As luck would have it though, her marriage register was one of many destroyed when the St. Boniface Cathedral burned down in 1860. Without this vital statistic, her death and burial documents were missing the names of her parents, and as luck would have it her birth information from 1790 was, and remains, lost to time.

Since we could not prove the relationship through these records, I was asked to look at HBC Post Journals (among other primary sources) hoping she was mentioned in connection with her father. To say I was in research heaven would have been an understatement.



About half way through the project I was reading through the early Fort Garry Post Journals, when I was blinded by the old proverbial light bulb. I realized I had before me a first-hand account of the 1826 flood. This was the first time I had seen it and needless to say, I did not sleep well that night.

Did you know that in 1826 we experienced the worst flood of our recorded history? Well, the winter of 1825-26 was horrendous - similar to last winter, the one which I like to call the year that summer was forgotten.

Snow began falling in late October and by early November the rivers were frozen solid. The early arrival of winter was further complicated by the failure of the annual Buffalo hunt and so by January the "Indians of the neighbourhood" and the "poorest settlers" were facing starvation. As the snow continued to fall throughout the winter it grew deep enough to bury houses in the settlement. As the new year unfolded, cattle and horses were "dying daily for want of fodder," while settlers throughout the area were dying from the cold and starvation.

And then spring arrived. The Red River rose rapidly, quite likely due to ice jams. On May 4<sup>th</sup> alone it rose five feet over night. When the ice on the river finally broke, there was an "awful rush, carrying away cattle, houses, trees and everything else that came in its way." The settlers' homes did not stand a chance against the rage of the river and within half an hour "forty-seven dwelling houses were thus carried off by the first rush." When the Assiniboine broke up, pandemonium again ensued in the rush to save belongings; many settlers had time only to take refuge on the roof of their dwellings.

Reminiscent of the 1950 and 1997 floods, it was reported that "the whole country assumes the appearance of a large Lake." Many of the settlers did survive by escaping to higher ground near Sturgeon Creek eight long miles away. HBC employees did their best to remain in the Fort which "now stands like a castle of romance in the midst of an ocean of deep contending

currents..." But it too was abandoned to the waters.

It was not until mid-June that the rivers receded enough for the settlers to make their way back to the Fort. As the water receded out came the swarms of mosquitoes. Later, the grub-worm destroyed whatever crops they had managed to plant. And as still happens every year, a few settlers were washed away in the spring run-off.

Then on July 11<sup>th</sup> a magnificent storm hit the colony. Complete with a "water spout of immense violence" it uprooted the largest trees and destroyed part of the roof of the Protestant Church. The next day 130 people left the colony (50 men and about 80 women and children).

What if they had all left for higher ground? Where would we be today?

## **Standing at the Junction of Memory Lane and Information Superhighway**

*Elizabeth Campbell #4572*

My grandmother was born with a hole in her heart, the result of a valve that should have closed at birth failing to do so. It didn't slow her down much as a child – she was a daredevil of a tomboy. It may not have been noticed until she contracted rheumatic fever while in training at the Winnipeg General. Her mother, Dr. Elizabeth Beckett (Scott) Matheson, was summoned from remote Onion Lake, SK, where she and her husband, the Rev. John Richard Matheson [his mother, Mrs. James (Letitia, née Pritchard) Cunningham's obituary was published in the March 2015 issue of *Generations*], had a mission, school and hospital. Their daughter Riema's condition was so dire that the doctor stopped at every station along the way to check for telegraphs with updates on her daughter's condition.

Riema was forced to end her training and was given only months to live. Dr. Matheson took her daughter back to Onion Lake and worked to nurse her back to relative health. Not only did Riema survive; she was determined to lead as

normal a life as possible for as long as the Lord gave her. She resumed her nursing training under the tutelage of her mother at the little hospital on the Indian Reserve. You can read more about this family's story in the now out-of-print book by Ruth M. Buck, *The Doctor Rode Sidesaddle*.

The Great War ended and, in late June or early July of 1919, a neighbouring homesteader and very recently returned RAF 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Ernest Brandram Goodman came to see the Doctor about a stallion she had at stud. As he walked by the mission garden, he saw Riema weeding her Pansy patch and stopped to talk. Later in life he would say, with a twinkle in his



**PHOTO: c1930.** My mother, whose memory from about the time this photo was taken, launched me into the mystery.

They lost their first baby within days of its birth. Riema recovered. Then my mother was born in 1924, under the watchful care of her grandmother doctor, who now lived at 70 Maryland St. in Winnipeg. Riema had moved temporarily from Fort a la Corne, SK, where Ernest was then teaching. With her heart condition, everyone wanted to ensure she had the best of medical care. When it was certain both mother and baby were well, Ernest sent a telegraph to his mother, Ellen (Brandram) Goodman, in Norfolk, England, telling her, as joyfully as a telegraph can, that the first Canadian member of the family had arrived and was thriving.

A few weeks later, a letter arrived in the mail, and it is with the memory of this letter that this story really begins. The letter was, as my mother

eye that they fell in love over the flowers. Despite the doctor's warnings, they determined to marry and live what time they had, be it fifteen years, fifteen days, fifteen hours – it didn't matter. They'd have that time of happiness together.

recalls from a conversation she heard in her childhood, from her grandmother's cousin, Alice Smith. Alice was the daughter of the Rt. Rev. George Smith, First (Anglican) Bishop of Victoria (Hong Kong), and she was living her years out in Ellen's home. The letter told how Alice had been born at Ile a la Croix on her parents' return from Hong Kong, on the overland route they took across Canada from the west coast to Churchill, from whence they set sail for England. The Bishop retired from Hong Kong in 1864 or 1867 (depending on whether one goes by *Burke's Peerage* or the *Dictionary of National Biography*), and the family appears on the 1871 Census in London. What a journey, I thought, her poor mother must have had at that period in Canada's history!

Some years later, as I worked from home on the Internet using Google searches, I found an announcement of a professor from a Hong Kong university who was giving a lecture in Edinburgh on Bishop Smith's life. I was able to track her down in Hong Kong and find her email address online. It turned out she was writing a biography of the Bishop, and was interested in learning what I knew about his family. I told her that he had a daughter who was born on their way back to England via the Canadian North West. She was quite sure that he and his wife, Lydia (née Brandram, my grandfather's great-aunt) had only a daughter and two sons (two more than I knew about), all of them born in Hong Kong.

WHERE BORN	Whether
	1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
Holyhead Anglesea N Wales	
Birmingham	
British Possessions in N America	Can
British Possessions in N America	"
British Possessions in N America	"
High Seas British Subject	at Sea

**PHOTO: 1871.** The 'Where Born' column for the Smiths on the 1871 Census of England. It's always a good idea to check the original documents!

I got an Ancestry membership, and the Bishop's family became one of my first research targets in their UK records. I was determined to prove my mother correct and the professor wrong. But the only records I could find (census) proved my mother's memory, or Alice's, or my grandfather's, had somehow been in error. Alice and Henry, the only son to survive Hong Kong, were born in that country.

Memory is a fine thing, I learned, but it isn't always accurate. Yet I believed that the letter had come, and that someone in my grandfather's Brandram family must have been born in Canada. But who could that possibly be? I learned many interesting things as I ploughed through the records over the years, but never the answer to this question. It became a genealogical cold case parked in the archives of my notes and my own memory.

Earlier this spring, *Findmypast* had a free weekend. I had never taken out a membership there before and I was looking for some new online material, so I decided to take advantage of the offer. I hadn't seen the 1911 Census for England yet. I plugged in the Brandram name, which is so uncommon that I know if I find it, the person who owns it is most likely a relative/ancestor. Toward the end of the last free day, I found Ellen Goodman's sister-in-law, my Grandfather's aunt, Mary Gertrude (Smith) Brandram, a widow living



**PHOTO:** Mary G (Smith) Brandram about three years after her return from Japan. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Brown)

in Hertfordshire. Two of her four sons were at home with her. Her other two were attending and enumerated at the same school, Trent College in Derbyshire, as my grandfather. Mary had been widowed in 1900, while she and her husband were missionaries in Japan, so this was the first census on which I had found their family in England. The 1911 Census of England required more information regarding place of birth than previous Censuses do. Imagine my surprise when I saw listed under "Birthplace" for Mary: Stanley, Saskatchewan, Canada! But who were her family, and what were they doing there?

The name of Smith is not an easy one to research in England. There are far too many of them. But I could narrow the results by searching the censuses and listing a birthplace of Canada. I immediately ran into a stumbling block, though. If Mary's age was 47 as listed on the 1911 Census, then she was born at Stanley Mission prior to confederation, circa 1864. She went to Japan to serve as a missionary in about 1888 – she was accepted for service with the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in August of that year according to *The Church Missionary Review* (Vol. 39). So, I was looking for her on the 1871 and the 1881 Censuses, assuming her family had come back from Canada to England. Where would Stanley Mission be on the map back then?

I tried Northwest and North West Territories, and Canada without result. My Red River background kicked in and I tried Rupert's Land, as that is what it would have been when she was born there. I found her on the 1881 Census, but without her parents as an 18 year old lodger at The Vicarage Cottage in Ashperton, Herefordshire.

I had no such luck with the 1871 Census. There was, however, a Mary Gertrude Smith born in the USA about 1862. I decided to look at her before beginning the gargantuan task of investigating every Mary Smith living in England. Not content with the transcription offered on *Findmypast*, I went into the document image itself. It was my Mary after all. The transcriber had transcribed "British

Possession of N W America Br Subject” as “United States” (someone confused 'transcription' with 'interpretation'...)! Much to my satisfaction, she was living with her parents, the Rev. Thomas Thistlethwaite Smith (born about 1838 in Holyhead, North Wales) and his wife Caroline Busby (née Fox, b. 1835 in Birmingham, England), and four siblings.

While my search online was underway, I had also contacted the Diocese of Saskatchewan Archives to see if they had any records from Stanley Mission at that time. They were quick to get back to me with the message that, unfortunately, they did not.

So who was this Rev. Thomas Thistlethwaite Smith? I searched Google using quotation marks around his full name. It turns out that he, too, was a missionary with the CMS. In that day, it was the CMS that was supplying Anglican missions in Rupert's Land, which included the Red River Settlement (RRS), with clergy and mission personnel.

It appears that the Smiths took the American route into the RRS, as I found an announcement of the couple's nuptials in New York City on 31 May 1861 [Aris's *Birmingham Gazette*, 15 June 1861, p.5]. I'm still trying to find passenger lists that will help me understand whether they travelled on the same ship or whether Caroline and T. T. met at this port of entry to the US.

An excellent free resource for Manitoba researchers is the Manitobia site (<http://www.manitobia.ca/>). There I found the newspaper of Thomas Thistlethwaite Smith's day, *The Nor' Wester*. My search resulted in locating an account of his ordination on Sunday, July 21, 1861 at St. Andrew's on the Red. He and Caroline had wasted little time in their travels!

The ceremony was quite an event at the RRS; 211 people took communion, and there would likely be unconfirmed children (and adults) present as well. The article gives a portion of the sermon with the promise to print a full version later. In that snippet, Bishop David Anderson mentioned Smith especially, indicating by his words that a deeper friendship had developed

between the two men, so they must have known each other in England – before T. T. arrived at the RRS, at any rate. Smith was already a Deacon in the Anglican Church, and this ordination elevated him to full priesthood [*Nor' Wester*, August 1 1861, p.2].

James Hargrave mentions one of Smith's duties while he was incumbent at St. John's Cathedral in 1864. The *Nor' Wester* had reported that there was some concern that the cathedral tower was leaning more every day, depending on the support of a gable to remain standing at all. In order to allay the fears of worshippers,

“The tower of the cathedral was examined daily by the Rev. Thomas Thistlethwaite Smith, the temporary incumbent, with such accuracy that a deflexion of one-sixteenth of an inch would be immediately detected. This Mr. Smith did, not because he feared anything of the kind himself, but in order to satisfy the [congregation]. Mr. Smith and the Archdeacon appear to have been in the right, as the tower has stood the test of time; but their feeling of assurance did not immediately extend itself to the lay worshippers, as was, I believe pretty plainly evinced by the nervousness which prevailed indoors one Sunday, some months afterwards, when one of the four large weathercocked pinnacles which adorned the corners at the summit of the tower, fell with resounding blow on the sharp gabled roof of the building in which the people were assembled for morning prayer.” [Hargrave, *Red River*, 1871. p. 338]

The same historian also mentions Manitoba's first Masonic Lodge, the Northern Light Lodge, of which the Rev. Smith was a member during his brief stay at Red River. It was a short-lived group as most of the members didn't stay at the settlement long. Hargrave describes their celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist in 1864, where he also mentions a rumour that passers-by could blame Thomas Thistlethwaite



Smith for the entertaining sounds of the harmonium issuing from the building. [Hargrave, p. 346]

Those interested may find a brief journal of one of his missionary trips through the plains on the Saskatchewan River in 1865 on-line ([http://www.anglicanhistory.org/canada/sk/smith\\_narrative1867.html](http://www.anglicanhistory.org/canada/sk/smith_narrative1867.html)). At this time, Smith was based at Devon (also known as Cumberland) Mission, now The Pas, where he remained until c1867. This journal shows that he was a keen observer, and not without a sense of humour:

“Oct. 23 – We are now entering an entirely different country. The river at the alternate bends approaches precipitous bluffs of clay, crowned with spruce, or, where the fire has passed, with aspen and an abundant undergrowth of wild vetches. The sides of the precipitous banks are covered with the fragrant *Artemisia*, showing our proximity to the plains. On the shores, at the foot of the bluffs, we picked up many specimens of *pyrites* in nodules, some of a dull grey on fracture, others of a more arsenical nature, silvery white, and, where exposed to the atmosphere, a bright golden colour; so that some of the men, having heard of the gold found on the Saskatchewan, imagined they had alighted upon a rich mine.”

And later,

“Oct. 25 – Met the return provision-boat from Moose Woods. This is the boat which I expected to return by, but not having achieved the object of my journey, I must proceed, and trust to some opportunity offering itself for my passage back. Wrote to my wife, telling her not to expect me until the winter had set in. A little whisky-jack (*Perisozeus Canadensis*) was so impudent to-day, at dinner time that I set a snare close to me and caught him. On

letting him go again he appeared in no way disconcerted, but, alighting on a willow about two yards from me, eyed the viands spread out in the most saucy manner possible.”

The entire trip lasted until Dec. 9, when he jots, “Arrived at home, and found my family quite well. On setting out I expected my stay to be about three weeks: now it is two months since I left home.”

Other papers, including letters and reports he made to the home office while he served in the North West (1860-1867), are in the CMS Archives in England. Fortunately, any of these records pertaining to Canada were microfilmed by the National Archives of Canada, and copies are held at the Manitoba Archives. I was able to find letters, reports and journals in his hand! And thanks to those records, I learned that he had some character: he chose to be known by his second name. He must have felt there were too many Thomas Smiths with whom to be confused; T. Thistlethwaite Smith he was!

While many of the missionaries serving in the North West were frustrated by isolation and an inability to communicate with non-English speaking First Nations people, such was not the case with the Rev. Smith. Illness forced him to return home after his stint of duty at Devon Mission [Pettipas, *The Diary of the Reverend Henry Budd*, 1974. p. xxxiv]. Pettipas doesn't say that he could speak Cree, although she does imply that he could. If so, he must have been a quick study. The letters he wrote long after his service in Rupert's Land, however, reveal that Archdeacon Mackay regarded Smith as an adept. Smith writes to the Secretary of the CMS, “If Archd McKay thinks it well to entrust the correction of his book [a Cree hymnal] to me I shall be happy to do what I can in the matter.” [CMS microfilm A116 1624]

Caroline had their fourth child at sea. The baby's parents must have felt some sentiment over leaving Devon Mission and the people in the Reverend's spiritual charge. They named the poor girl Agnes Ruperta!



Thistlethwaite and his family spent a couple of years in the Hereford area of England, where another daughter was born. Then, on 26 Sept. 1870, he was installed as Rector of Thruxton, near Hereford, where he remained until his resignation in 1885 [Mel Lockie, <http://www.melocki.org.uk/> 2011].



**PHOTO:** Two photos of the Rev. Thomas Thistlethwaite Smith, CMS Missionary to Stanley (SK) and Devon (The Pas) Missions. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Brown)

Perhaps those nights spent under the stars in the Great North West developed a scientific interest in the heavens, for Smith applied for (and obtained) membership in the Royal Astronomical Society in 1874 [*Astronomical Register*, No. 134, February 1874, p. 25]. Members must be serious amateurs at least, with “a strong commitment to astronomy or geophysics”, their having made some contribution to, or formal study of, the science. His interest in other aspects of natural science continued, too. He had a membership in and, in 1872, served as Vice-President of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club (Herefordshire). Years later, Thistlethwaite is credited with an archaeological discovery in Yorkshire in the *Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society* report of 1891.

By 1881, he had also become the Vicar of Kingstone, according to the census of that year. Perhaps Mary felt squeezed out of the home by then, as four more children had arrived in the household! The 1891 Census reveals that the family had moved to Birkdale, Lancashire. Thistlethwaite is visiting a neighbouring vicar at the time of the census, and is still listed as a “Clerk in Holy Orders”. *The Manchester*

*Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser* of 26 September 1895 [p.6] notes that Smith had been licensed recently to preach in the Diocese of Ripon (Yorkshire & Durham).

Mary's mother, Caroline, died 16 Feb. 1896 at Leeds [Index to Death Duty Registry, 1896]. During the first quarter of 1900, the Rev. married again, this time to 29-year-old Ellen Louisa Gerring [BMD Index]. Imagine Mary just arrived home, not four months a widow, to meet her step-mother for the first time, a woman eight years her junior! Mary and her four sons were living with the relative newlyweds, and one of Mary's sisters, in Leeds on the 31 Mar. when the 1901 Census was taken.

Thistlethwaite and Ellen were still in Leeds for the 1911 Census – his youngest daughter was living with them yet – and it was in Leeds late that same year that the Rev. T. T. Smith breathed his last [Civil Registration Index].

Mary Gertrude (Smith) Brandram died at Watford, Hertfordshire during the last quarter of 1944 [BMD Index]. She was predeceased by her youngest son, Christopher, who was killed in action at the Somme on Sept. 1, 1918. John Buckley, her eldest, followed in the missionary tradition of his father and grandfather. Her second son, Arthur, lived until 1974 [BMD Index]. Her third son, Thomas Caldwell, died in 1960 [BMD Index].

A few years ago, through Google searches, I found the recent obituary of a Brandram lady in England. I e-mailed the church associated, and the minister there was able to put me in touch with the deceased's great niece. We figured out how we were related – Caroline Brown is also interested in family history. Mary was her 2g-grandmother. I contacted her for photos of the Rev. Smith and Mary Gertrude for this article. Ironically, she initially sent me a sketch of the first Bishop of Hong Kong, George Smith. In a collection of Mary Gertrude's photographs, however, she was able to find some unidentified photographs of a reverend gentleman. We are now pretty certain that he is her ancestor and Mary Gertrude's father, T. T. Smith.

There are still many details to fill out in the lives of these characters that swung into the branches of my family tree! As I work away, I am often struck by how the theory of six degrees of separation keeps proving itself. My grandparents had no idea that they may have shared a Red River link. Her Pritchard ancestors no doubt were among those anxious parishioners relieved by the indications of the Rev. T. Thistlethwaite Smith's measuring device, perhaps they even danced to the strains of his harmonium at a church social. My grandfather wasn't so fond of Mary's sons, with whom he was at school. He used to joke that the best way to get along with his relatives was to put the Atlantic between himself and them. That resolve ultimately led him to my grandmother.

I never met either of my grandparents, but their stories live on through my mother. Even if the memories are not always accurate, there are always elements of fact buried in them. Readers will see the connections between memory and fact in this article: the common surname of Smith, the mistaken connection between the telegram and the Smith at its destination point and the Smith actually born in Canada, the shared occupations of missions and priesthood, the closeness in the dates of the Bishop's return to England and Mary's birth....

It is thanks, also, to those sometimes faulty memories and the clues they offer that we go on learning valuable genealogical lessons – like the value in testing memories before we accept them as gospel, in exploring lateral lines, of looking at original documents wherever possible rather than trusting transcriptions... – all of which help us to build fascinating family histories based on fact.

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## **An Old Autograph Book**

*Kathy Stokes #0125*

The other day, while looking through some of the remnants of my mother Nonie Rooke's life

(1909 – 2014), I found an old book of autographs she had collected between about 1926 and 1932. The entries make interesting reading and reflect a society more concerned with thoughtfulness, concern for others and a gentle sense of humour than we see in today's fast moving world.

I only recognized a few of the names that Mum had mentioned over the years, but it seemed that she had many friends as she loved athletic activities, such as paddling along the Red River, snowshoeing, a bit of golfing and the like. Here are some of the thoughts and verses contained in the book, along with a few drawings that were also in it.

“Nonie had a little lamp  
She had it trained, no doubt  
For every time her boyfriend came  
The little lamp went out.”

“The years go fleeting onward  
May gladness cheer your way  
May your future be the brightest  
Is my wish for you today.”

“I picked your album up to write  
I chose a page all black and white  
I dipped my pen into the ink  
I knit my brows and tried to think  
I thought and thought and thought  
again  
At last I thought I'd write my name.”  
From Alma Gray

“A girl can be gay in a new coupe  
In a taxi, she can be jolly  
But the girl worthwhile  
Is the girl who can smile  
When her sheik takes her home on a  
trolley.”

“It is hard to find a friend when your  
heart is full of hope  
But it's harder to find the towel when  
your eyes are full of soap.”

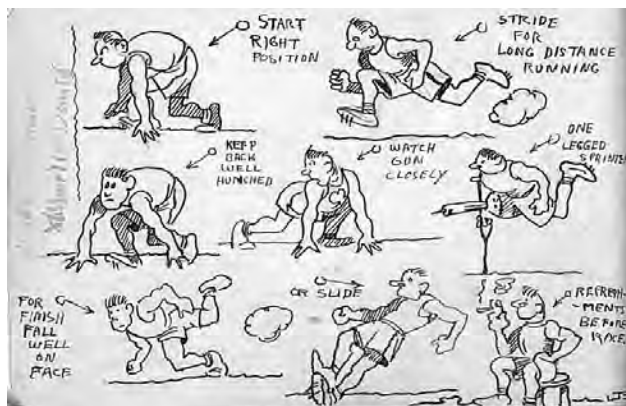
“In your golden chain of friendship  
Regard me as a link.”

"If your egg is only half boiled, eat the boiled half.

"The pleasant things in the world are the pleasant thoughts,  
And the great art in life is to have as many of them as possible."

In sailing down the stream of time  
Three things remember with care  
To whom you speak, of whom you speak  
Of how, when and where."

"Have many friends, trust few  
Learn to paddle your own canoe"



## The Manitoba Genealogical Society Executive for 2015-2016

As determined at the recent MGS Annual General Meeting, the Executive for the coming year is as follows:

### *By Acclamation:*

<b>President</b>	Jim Oke
<b>VP Communications</b>	Janice Butcher
<b>VP Finance</b>	Rick McLellan

### *By Appointment:*

<b>VP Administration</b>	Virginia Braid
<b>VP Information Tech.</b>	Gord McBean
<b>Secretary</b>	Pat Sundmark
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linda Wray

<b>Past-President</b>	Kathy Stokes
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### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Help in working at the MGS information booth at Folklorama is needed for the second of the event, August 9 - 15.

For more information or offers of assistance, please contact Outreach and Education Chair, Bill Curtis at [billcurtiswpg@hotmail.com](mailto:billcurtiswpg@hotmail.com).

## **Branch News**


### **Beautiful Plains Branch**

The Beautiful Plains Genealogical Society **continues to meet monthly except for July and August**. The membership has remained constant over the past year. The library has moved to the Beautiful Plains Museum and the move is still a work in progress. The focus for the coming year will be the updating of the information in a military display at the museum. It is hoped this project will get all Society members involved and rekindle local genealogical interests.

### **Dauphin Branch**

The Dauphin Branch has been busy over the past year hosting several events such as: the Branch's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; "My

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Heritage Workshop" with Gord McBean; a Christmas Supper with Santa Claus and; several monthly presentations.

### **Southeast and Winnipeg Branch**

On May 11, 2015 the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch held its Annual General Meeting at the Northwest Law Enforcement Academy. A documentary entitled "Steamboats on the Red River" was presented by Ed Ledohowski.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to Kathy Stokes and Susan Wellman.

The following slate of officers was selected by acclamation:

**President** - Virginia Braid

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President** - Vacant

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President** - Sheila Woods,

**Secretary** - Kathleen Kristjansson,

**Treasurer** - Susan Thorpe,

**Councillors** - Virginia Braun, Katharine Schulz and Kelly Southworth.

## South West Branch

The South West Branch continues to meet monthly with membership holding steady at approximately 60 members. The Branch offers and provides many seminars in partnership with the Brandon Public Library. Recently two introductory workshops, "Getting Started with Genealogy" were held at the Library. The Branch maintains a web site, Facebook page and produces a monthly newsletter, "*The New Leaf*".

## Swan Valley Branch

The Swan Valley Branch meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the North-West Regional Library in Swan River. The Branch completed and submitted their "*Star & Times*" index of the local newspaper for 2014. This includes all births, marriages and deaths for the year. The Branch held two special interest workshops: "Harrogate – British War Stories in Newspapers" and "Internet Resources – Our Favourites". The coming year's Special Project is to prepare an index of library books at the Swan Valley Branch.

## The Last Laugh

*(with many thanks to the Internet)*

### Top Ten Internet Abbreviations for Genealogists

10. AFAICTWDAR — As far as I can tell without doing actual research
9. IYKWIM — If you know what "inbreeding" means
8. AMOUFL — As a matter of unfounded family legend
7. SCNRPYI — Sorry, could not resist proving your illegitimacy
6. IMPGHO — In my paternal grandmother's humble opinion
5. NIFOMR — Naked in front of microfilm reader
4. TIABIDITTYA — Thanks in advance because I don't intend to thank you afterwards
3. KMA — Kiss my ahnentafel
2. ROFTBPR — Rolling on the floor transcribing British parish registers
1. BTWYA — By the way, you're adopted

**SODS LAW OF GENEALOGY:** After years of painstaking research when you finally solve the mystery of the skeleton in the closet, your tight-lipped spinster aunt will sniff, "Well, I could have told you all that!"

**SODS SECOND LAW OF GENEALOGY:** Never ever put the right information on ANY of your certificates because if you do your descendants may actually find you.

## Murphy's Laws of Genealogy

*(From an American viewpoint)*

1. Old newspapers only have holes where the names have been printed.
2. You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.
3. The ancient photograph of four relatives, one of whom is your progenitor, has been endorsed with the names of the other three.
5. Record Offices invariably celebrate your day off work, by closing for the day.
6. No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, always rented property, was never sued, and was never named in Wills.
7. You have just discovered that your Great Aunt Eliza's executor recently sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials at a car boot sale 'somewhere' in England.
8. Yours is the only surname not to be found among the 4,000,000,000 records held at the Mormon Archives in Salt Lake City.
9. Your great-grandmother's maiden name, for which you have searched for more than ten years, was on a letter in a box in the attic all the time.
10. The document containing the evidence of the missing link in your family tree will invariably have been lost due to fire, flood or war.



### ***Generations* Editorial Team**

If you are interested in working with the Editorial staff in some capacity, please send note to [generations@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:generations@mbgenealogy.com)

Editor – *David Farmer*

Editorial Consultant – *Janice Butcher*

Proof Reader – *Joyce Elias*

Advertising Sales – *David Farmer*

Features:

Book Reviews – *Enid Dorward*

From the Past – *Kathy Stokes*

Library/Library Lines – *Mary Bole*

Periodical Potpourri – *Enid Dorward*

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Is your membership expiring with this issue? (Check the EXPIRY DATE on the back cover) Please copy or clip the form on this page and remit with your payment.

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E-mail: [contact@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:contact@mbgenealogy.com)  
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A6	An INDEX of BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH NOTICES FROM MANITOBA NEWSPAPERS Volume 1 (1859 – 1881) Marr / Deaths only	each \$25.00	_____
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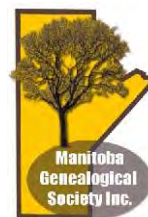
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Please supply your ad as a Word document of the correct size in an e-mail attachment. A proof will be sent for your approval before printing. Photos should be supplied as a jpeg (300 dpi). Minimum photo manipulation charge \$15.00 and \$15.00 each additional 15 minutes .

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#### **Changes**

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#### **Copy Deadlines**

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- Advertisements in MGS publications shall be directly relevant to members of the Society.
- All advertisements shall be subject to the approval of the Editorial Committee. Where doubt exists as to the appropriateness of any advertisement, the Vice-President of Communications & Vice-President of Administration shall have the right to deny its publication.
- All revenues from advertising shall go directly to MGS. Rates may be subject to change annually upon review and recommendation by the editorial committee and approval of the Council of the Society.

Revised January 2012.



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Wednesday Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 (September through June)  
Sunday Noon to 4:00 (mid-October to mid-May)

(It is always best to confirm Wednesday evening and Sunday opening times)

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40050442

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:

**Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.**

Unit E 1045 St. James Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 1B1 Canada

**Is the EXPIRY DATE on your address label one of the following dates?**

**2015/06/30, 2015/07/31, or 2015/08/31**

**If so, your membership is expiring with this issue.**

**PLEASE RENEW SOON. Membership form is on page 27.**