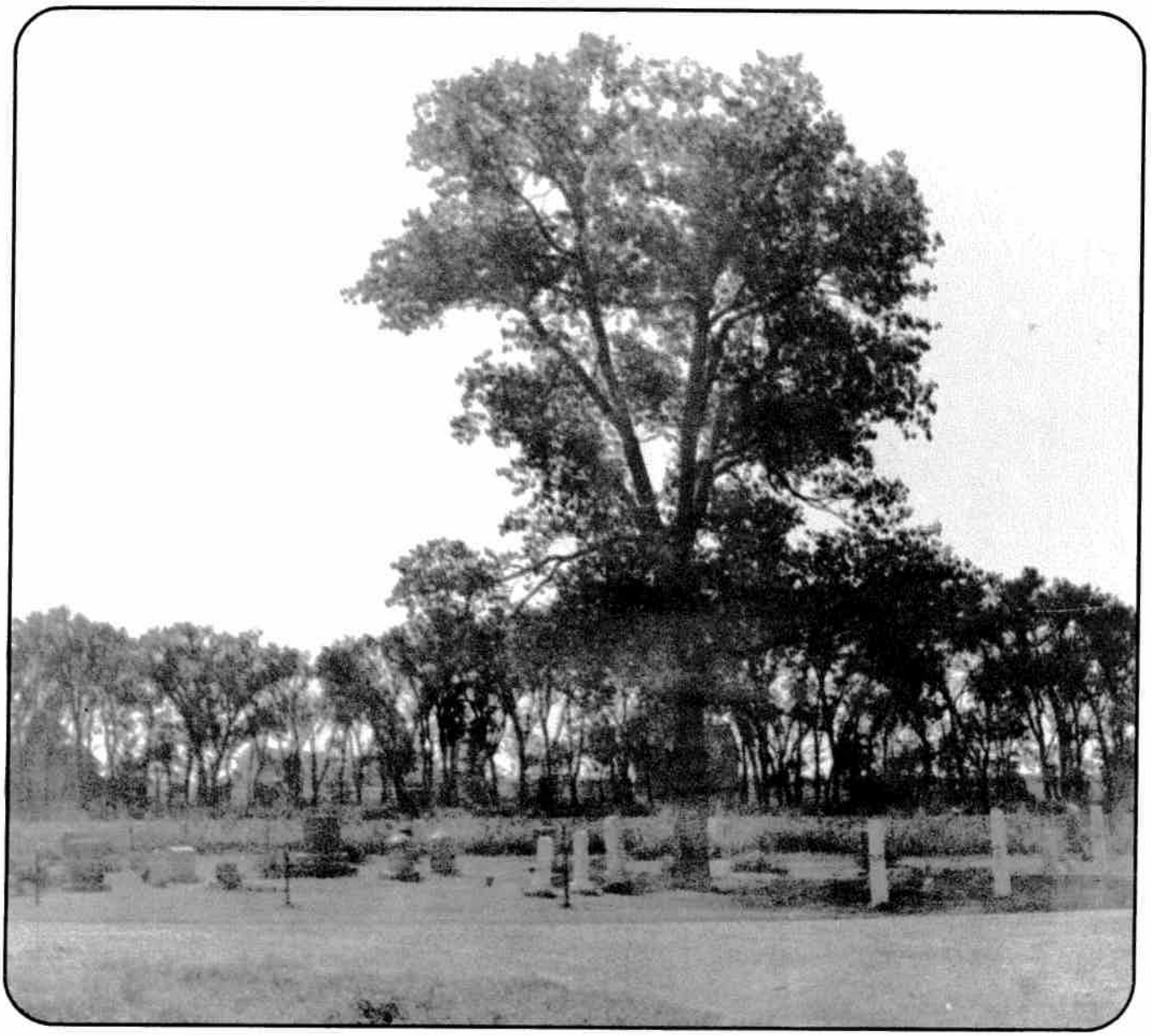
# generations

*The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society*

**VOLUME 2, NO. 4 WINTER, 1977**



generations

the journal of the manitoba genealogical society

Volume 2 WINTER 1977 Number 4

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COVER: Many cemeteries such as this one can be found scattered all over North America. In many cases, the stones contained within them provide the only information on the people buried there as no other records exist. Many genealogical societies conduct transcription programs to ensure that these disappearing records are preserved for the future. Photograph courtesy of Eric Jonasson.

generations is published quarterly by the Manitoba Genealogical Society, Box 2066. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R4. The editor invites articles and news items from all members of the society and from anyone else having a serious interest in genealogy

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Please address all correspondence (including any related to the library) to the Manitoba Genealogical Society, Box 2066, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 3R4. Mail is distributed by a secretary to the various officers who carry out their responsibilities from their homes. If you are a member, please use your membership number on all correspondence.

## EDITORIAL STAFF

This issue of generations has been made possible through the volunteer efforts of the following people:

| | |
|---|---|
| EDITOR: | Position Vacant (Eric Jonasson acting as Temporary Editor) |
| TYPING AND PRINTING. | Eric Jonasson, Liz Jonasson |
| COLLATING & MAILING. | Caroline Lumsden, Rudolf Schlick, Gordon Pruden, Bill Cottrell, Eric Jonasson, Ed Connors, Doreen Connors, and those who came late. |

The Manitoba Genealogical Society would like to thank the firm of CARTO GRAPHICS for providing the technical facilities necessary for producing the artwork and cover for this issue of generations.

## GENERAL REMARKS

With this issue of generations, we conclude another year of publication of our journal. Perhaps it is best at this time to reflect upon the past year, and look ahead to the forthcoming year.

When we first began printing the journal, our policy was to include as wide a range of articles as possible so that everyone in the society would find something in it to help them in their research. We felt that each issue should contain an article which would deal either directly or indirectly with Manitoba records and sources, and that the balance of each issue should contain articles dealing with general research tips, sources in other countries and provinces, or general interest articles. We have attempted to follow this policy as closely as possible, although it has been quite difficult at times. In Vol 2, No 2, for instance, we did not include any article which dealt with Manitoba, and in Vol 2, No 4 (this issue), we felt that the information given on cemetery transcribing does relate to Manitoba indirectly because it documents the methods of transcribing we wish to see our members pursue and we also felt that this article would help to stimulate the transcribing of Manitoba cemeteries. The other articles we included this year, generally follows the policy of the society. We are making efforts to ensure that no issue during 1978 will not contain at least one article dealing with Manitoba, and we hope that the comments of our members on the questionnaire to be included with January 1978's MGS NEWS will help us to re-establish our general publishing policies.

The majority of the articles published in 1977 were written either by myself or by Elizabeth Jonasson. This was also the case in 1976, when we wrote all of the articles. We have attempted to locate other writers who would be willing to contribute articles, as well as continuing to encourage MGS members to "pick up the pen". The latter half of 1977 saw a modest success for our efforts here when several of our members submitted articles to the journal. The first of these, an article on surnames written by Karen Shirley (MGS 021) appears in this issue. As many of you will recall, Karen was the first Recording Secretary of MGS, holding that office in 1976. Unfortunately, with her move to Marius, Manitoba, she felt that she could not due justice to her position and declined to seek re-election for 1977. We have articles by other members as well, which will be appearing in the 1978 issues along with other articles for which we have obtained permission to reprint.

Other changes have occurred during 1977. The loss of our Editor, Ainslie Sim, at the beginning of the Fall has meant that I have taken on the duties of the Editor temporarily. This has created a lot more work for myself and, because of the importance of our journal, has also resulted in my other MGS work getting behind. This should be alleviated once a new Editor is found. The last two issues of 1977, unlike the first two, were assembled and mailed by an "editorial team". Previously, only one or two people put together and mailed out generations. With the greater participation of our members, the journal has a better chance of getting bigger in size, better in content, and most of all, on time.

The past year has seen many changes, and new directions. The forthcoming year will see even more. I sincerely hope that more members will join in this period of change to make our journal one of the best available.

Eric Jonasson,
MGS President

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1976-77 MEMBERSHIP LIST AND SURNAME DIRECTORY

The Membership List and Surname directory has now been printed and assembled and is available to all Individual members at a cost of $ 1.00 per copy. (to cover the cost of printing, mailing, etc.). Each directory is 17 pages long, and contains the names and addresses of the first 242 members of MGS plus the surnames they are researching. Further information on the contents of the directory was printed in Volume 2, No. 3.

### DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

The last list of Donations to the Library was printed in Volume 2, No. 1. Simce that time, the following members have donated books to the library:

Mrs. Yvette Brandt, Swan Lake (MGS 083)

Brandt, Yvette: Hertitage: Malo 1639, Labossiere 1695 (Swan Lake, Man.: the author, 1975). This is a genealogy of the author's gradparents, Louis Malo and Edmire Labossiere. Their ancestors and descendants are arranged and documented. 160 pages.

Brandt, Yvette: Hutlet Heritage 1680-1972 (Swan Lake, Man.: the author 1972). This book documents the ancestors and descendants of Joseph Hutlet and Felecite Clesse who came to Canada in 1892. 127 pages.

Eric Jonasson, Winnipeg (MGS 001)

1974 Municipal Drectory of Ontario (toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario, 1974)

1976-77 Manitoba Provincial Exchanges Telephone Directory

Mrs. Isabel Westmacott, Winnipeg (MGS 047)

History of England for Public Schools (Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1927)

Bain, Robert: The Clans and Tartans of Scotland (London & Glasgow: Collins 1954)

Manitoba Library Ass'n: Pioneers and Early Citizens of Manitoba (Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers 1971)

Stephenson, William: The Store That Timothy Built (Toronto/Montreal: McClelland and Stewart 1969)

# "GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"
# GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE CEMETERY

by Eric Jonasson

## PART 1: LOCATING AND USING CEMETERY RECORDS

"Perhaps nowhere is the transitory nature of the existance of human indivividuals brought home to us more vividly than in an old country graveyard which lies neglected and forgotten on a rural hillside". With these words, Gilbert Doane introduces his chapter on cemetery transcriptions in Searching For Your Ancestors and,with it, completely sums up the major problem of cemetery research.

Throughout the United States and Canada, literally thousands of cemeteries of all sizes dot the countryside, a large number of which are known only to relatively small groups of people, even among those living in the same area in which the cemetery is located. Frequently, there are no descendants of those buried in a cemetery living in the area today and, in other cases, the descendants living there have no interest in the condition of the family graves or may not even know their ancestors' names and the whereabouts of their graves. Other areas have experienced a complete change in the character of the population, with the older pioneer families either moving away or dying out to be replaced by other cultural or ethnic groups who have no interest at all in the old burial places. Nature often reclaims it own in time, resulting in cemeteries so choked by bush and growth that even the tallest obelisk is obscured from view.

These circumstances are not peculiar to any one particular area or cultural group, but reoccur time and time again throughout the country. The reasons behind the neglect of old cemeteries takemany forms. Change in the character of the population is often the cause of neglect. As newcomers gradually replaced the pioneer families in a community and eventually came to control the area politically and culturally, their lack of intimate interest in the community's past allowed the old burial places to degenerate to a state of disrepair. The lack of respect of the past and of our ancestors by modern generations have contributed to the destruction or defacement of cemetery stones by vandals or by unfeeling humans who have used the stones as doorsteps or as part of the foundation of a house or barn. Perhaps the saddest reason behind the neglect is the lack of interest or the short memories of the descendants of people buried in these cemeteries. In visiting any cemetery, this lack of interest can be observed time and again by the general disrepair and seeming abandonment of the graves in the older section of larger cemeteries or throughout smaller cemeteries. Lack of interest is the first step in the destruction of a cemetery by vandalism and neglect.

To the ancestor hunter, the cemetery may prove to be the only available source to his past. As we progress back in time, official records and documents become increasingly scarcer, partly because of the smaller variety of records kept and partly because some of those early records have been destroyed through accident or neglect. As a result, we must rely on more diverse sources for proof of our ancestry. One particularly important source is the cemetery stone or memorial. In many instances, these stones predate the keeping of the church register or, in the case of smaller local cemeteries, may be the only record of an individual ever kept.

Cemeteries have been in existance from the very beginnings of settlement in an area, although at first the graves themselves may have been marked only with wooden crosses which have long since disappeared. However, stone memorials generally appear quite early in the life of many cemeteries, sometimes being erected on the earlier graves to replace the wooden markers.

Regardless of whether an ancestor died recently or a century or more ago, the cemetery records should not be overlooked in compiling a family history. Although the earlier stones may provide the information necessary to extend the family tree one or more generations, other records connected with the cemetery may provide information which may not be found in other official records or which, while contained in current records, may be regarded as confidential and therefore not released to genealogists.

TYPES OF CEMETERIES

The type of cemetery records available and the degree of accessibility of these records depends on the cemetery's type or classification. For genealogical purposes, there can be said to exist four major types of cemeteries:

* Church or Church-run Cemeteries
These cemeteries are often located right beside or within the yard of the church which administers it. In other cases, the cemetery may be some distance from the church itself, but still be administered by the church. In most instances, those people buried in this type of cemetery were either members of the particular church or denomination. The church itself often maintains a record of those buried in the cemetery in a "Cemetery Roll" or within the "Burial Register" of the church.

* Public or Municipal Cemeteries
These cemeteries are located thoughout the country, although they appear to be more prevelent around towns or cities. They are administered by one or another branch of government, such as a town, city or county/municipality. They are non-denominational although they may have seperate sections for various religious denominations. The cemetery itself maintains records of those buried within its confines, generally known as "Sexton's Records".

* Commercial Cemeteries
These cemeteries are basically similar to the Public or Municipal cemetery, with the exception that they are generally owned by a private company who sell the cemetery lots with the expectation of realizing a profit.

* Family or Local Cemeteries
This type of cemetery can be found thoughout North America. They may take the form of a small patch of land on a farm which was used to bury the family members of the owner of the farm, or they may be a small parcel of land at a crossroads which a pioneer farmer put aside for the burial of local residents. In any case, the cemetery is generally small containing between one and twenty graves and can be the most difficult of all the cemeteries to locate, primarily because of its small size and the neglect generally accorded this type. The family or local cemetery was most prevelent in the period before 1900. Although it is the most difficult to locate, it can also be the most valuable of all cemeteries because, as a rule, few records of the deaths of those buried in them were kept other than the stones to be found in them. They are generally overgrown with vegetation and in a state of general disrepair.

CEMETERY RECORDS

Although the most well-known cemetery records is the tombstone inscription itself, there are many other diverse records connected with the cemetery. Most of these other records, however, are of fairly recent origin or are dependant for their existance on the type of cemetery itself. Where these records exist, the researcher should make every effort to examine them to collaborate the information found on the tombstone and to check for information which may not be found on the stone.

* Ecclesiastical Burial Registers

Burial registers have long been kept by the various individual churches, although some denominations are better record keepers than others. In some instances, these records may have been destroyed or lost over time, particularly those records covering the early years of the church's life. These records are most often found at the local church although copies of them may also be deposited with a central or regional church archives of the particular denomination. The entries in this type of records are usually arranged chronologically with the information given varying between churches and denominations. Researchers can generally expect to find the cemetery lot no., name of deceased, date of death/burial, age at death or date of birth, name of the parents or spouse, and possibly the cause of death or other remarks. As a general rule, the maiden name of married women is not given.

* Sexton's Records

These records exist primarily for public, municipal, commercial and a few large family cemeteries and are quite similar to the church burial registers. Like the church registers, the information contained within these records is likely to vary from cemetery to cemetery. As a general rule, researchers will find the Sexton's records arranged by cemetery lot number, related to a large map of the cemetery, and containing the name of the purchaser of the lot; names, dates and ages of those people buried in the lot; and, in some cases, the relationships to the lot owner or the names of parents or other next of kin. These records can be found at the cemetery office, with the town or municipal clerk or at the offices of the private company which owns the cemetery.

* Cemetery Deeds

Whenever a cemetery lot is sold, a special deed is issued to the purchaser by the cemetery as proof of ownership. Copies of these deeds are also retained by the Sexton who enters them in a special "Cemetery Deed Book" for future reference. Often, these deeds will also contain information on the person buried in the lot. Larger cemeteries generally prepare a map of the cemetery from these and other records, showing the name of the owner of each lot and the names of those buried in each lot.

* Burial Permit Records

Burial Permits are of fairly recent origin and are generally issued by the funeral home. The records can be as useful (and sometimes more informative) as the official death certificate and generally contain the name of the deceased, sex, race, birthdate and place, death date and place, last place of residence, the name of the person providing the foregoing information to the funeral director, the name of the cemetery, the cemetery lot number, the

name of the lot owner, names of the deceased's parents, the name of the funeral director, and other burial information.

* Grave Opening Orders

Most cemeteries preserve a record of all the times a grave is opened, whether it is for a burial, postmortum, exhumation, or the transfer of a body. In cases where a single grave has been used a number of times, this particular record can save a considerable amount of time to the researcher. As with most other cemetery records, these are of fairly recent origin and generally are not found before 1900. These Orders often contain the date, name of lot owner, name of deceased, cemetery lot number, the type of opening (burial, etc.), name of funeral home, date of funeral, Death Certificate No., plus other information.

* Funeral Home Records

As a rule, funeral homes preserve duplicate records of all burials they perform which may contain more information than can be found on the official death certificates or the records of the church or sexton. It is not uncommon to find that some funeral home records may even predate the keeping of civil death records in the state or province. However, these are private business records and are made available only at the discretion of the funeral director who may choose to charge a fee for this access. Addresses of funeral homes in particular areas can be found in the local telephone books.

* Family Bibles

Although these are more appropriately classified as home sources, family bibles can also be regarded as the "sexton's record" for the smaller cemetery. Until the advent of public control and regulation of burials and cemeteries, many families chose to bury their relatives in small plots of the family farm. More often than not, the only records kept of those buried in these cemeteries were the stones that were erected, if any, and, in a few more isolated instances, a notation in the family Bible. These Bibles may be now in the possession of a family member or may be deposited with a local historical society or library. Information contained in these Bibles varies greatly, from very little to entire biographies of past family members depending on the importance each family placed on records of this type.

* Cemetery Monuments and Tombstones

The most notable and best known record of the cemetery is, of course, the memorial or tombstone, and it is on these markers that some of the most interesting information can be found. Tombstones may range from a simple stone containing only a name and date to elaborate marble obelisks on which is transcribed the names, dates, parentage or relationships of entire families. Memorials may take many forms in addition to the well-known tombstone. Often families presented tapestries, stained glass windows or gifts of alter ornaments or church furniture to the church, inscribed with information on those deceased family members in whose name these were donated. In some churches, researchers may often find plaques or memorials mounted on the walls or embedded in the church floor, all of which contain information similar to that contained on the tombstones located in the church yard.

In some cases, the information contained on the tombstomes of some cemeteries has been transcribed by local residents and written up in book form. These transcriptions can often be found in the local libraries, state and provincial archives, and local historical or genealogical societies. By referring to these printed sources, researchers can save a considerable amount of time in checking a cemetery for references to family members. However, these transcriptions are still "secondary sources", and are subject to human error in the transcribing stage. Therefore, whenever possible, researchers should examine the actual tombstones themselves to ensure that no errors or ommissions have been made.

Information contained on the tombstones vary greatly, depending on the type of cemetery, the time period in which the stone was erected or the religious denomination of the deceased. Modern cemeteries are turning more and more to a small stone containing only the name of the deceased and the year of birth and death, and which is placed flat on the ground. These types of stones will eventually prove a great disappointment to later genealogists who seek more information on their ancestors from the tombstone inscriptions. As well, the practice of placing the stones flush with the ground, while making it easier for cemetery attendents to cut the grass, also makes it easier for the grass itself to eventually grow over the markers in time. However, it is with the older cemeteries that our primary concern lies today. In these, a variety of markers can be found ranging from the small stone marker to the giant obelisk. These stones will often contain such information as: name, dates of birth and death or age at the time of death, places of birth and death, date and place of marriage, parents' names, spouse's name, children's names, religious affiliation, military service, civic positions and occupation, to name but a few. The extent of this information, however, is entirely dependent on what the deceased's survivors considered important.

## LOCATING THE CEMETERY

The first step to obtaining information from the tombstones or other cemetery records is the need to locate the cemetery or cemeteries where am ancestor was buried or is likely to be buried. While this may appear to be a difficult task at first, once the proper reference materials have been consulted, researchers will find that it is, in fact, relatively easy.

### * Map Sources

It is generally estimated that approximately 80% of all cemeteries can be found on one map or another in a particular area. As a rule, the most useful map sources are the county maps, the county atlases, and the topographical maps.

County maps and atlases were quite popular in the United States and Canada in the period between 1850 and 1920, although some did predate this period. Although these maps are primarily important for their lists of landowners of the various counties and areas, they also show the cemeteries of the areas which were in existance when the map or atlas was published. By checking these sources, researchers can quickly locate the early cemeteries in the areas which were covered by these maps and atlases.

Another important map source is the topographical map. These are modern maps and cover most areas of the United States and Canada and can be readily

purchased for a small fee. State indexes and ordering information for the U.S.G.S. 1:24,000 topographical series can be obtained from Map Information Office, Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 20244. In Canada, indexes and ordering information on the N.T.S. 1:50,000 series can be obtaimed from the Canada Map Office, 615 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E9. These maps show most of the cemeteries for the areas which they cover, and can also be used as "road maps" for finding your way to the cemeteries in which you have an interest.

* Local Residents

Although the various maps are useful in locating most of the prominent cemeteries, they do not always contain the smaller cemeteries or family burial grounds. These family cemeteries may have as few as one or two tombstones and may be located on the old family farm. Sometimes, even a visit to the family farm will prove unsuccessful in locating a cemetery of this type because it is situated a considerable distance from the farmyard and/or it is so overgrown with weeds and bushes that it will not be noticed until the researchers actually trips over one of the fallen stones. In instances such as this, the knowledge of local residents must be relied upon to locate the whereabouts of these burial grounds. By contacting local people or relatives, they may be able to provide directions to these cemeteries or may be able to recommend the name of a local historian who has intimate knowledge of the area. As well, published local histories of an area often contain information on the sites of old cemeteries. The local library should be contacted for more information on local histories or for the names and addresses of local residents or historians who may be able to provide further help.

* Town and Municipal Offices

Often the town, county or municipal office will be able to provide information on the location of larger cemeteries in an area, or may be able to provide the correct addresses of the cemeteries to enable researchers to contact the sexton or the specific church in question.

* Local Libraries and Historical or Genealogical Societies

Some local libraries and historical or genealogical societies may maintain an index of cemeteries in their area, state or province, or may have transcriptions of cemeteries in their libraries. Some societies even publish cemetery transcriptions in their journal, or as seperate publications. It is generally best to consult these organizations first before attempting to visit an area in search of cemetery records in case they may already have information on the cemeteries of interest.

## GENERAL TIPS FOR THE RESEARCHER

Cemetery research, like all other research, has its own peculiarities and problems. The following general tips for the researcher should help in eliminating some of the more serious problems and will help to make any cemetery research a little easier.

* Check all the cemeteries in the area

Never assume that because an ancestor belonged to a particular religious denomination that he will only be buried in a cemetery operated by that church.

Often during the first years of settlement in an area, only one church of any type was in operation. As a result, it often became the "community church", being attended by all members of the community regardless of their differences in faith. As other churches of different denominations were later established in the area, the members of the congregation who were originally of different faiths than the pioneer church would gradually dispurse to the newly established churches of their original persuations. Therefore, it is not entirely unlikely to find a Presbyterian ancestor buried in an Anglican cemetery, or vica versa. Also, children of ancestors may have changed faiths either because of marriage or conscience and, when their parents died, had them buried in the cemetery of their new faith. In other cases, churches themselves may have moved to a new location, sometimes miles away from their original locations and, along with their new church building, may have established a new cemetery as well. Therefore, in order not to miss locating the graves of any ancestors, all cemeteries in an area should be checked.

* Check the cemetery records first.

If sexton's records or church burial records exist, they should always be checked before venturing into the cemetery itself. In this way, all relatives graves can be identified beforehand. In many cases, by failing to check these records, researchers often miss female relatives who are buried under their married names, or may fail to realize that young children may be buried along with their parents because their names were never placed on the tombstones. Considerable time can also be saved because the lot numbers and locations of the graves can be found quickly from the written records, making it unnecessary to examine every tombstone in the cemetery in order to locate those of our relatives.

* Watch the layout of the graves.

Family units are usually buried together in large plots, or in graves close to one another. As well, it is often the case that most people who are buried together in the same grave are related in some way, despite any differences in the surnames. Therefore, records all information contained on a tombstone or located in the cemetery's written records, even though it may not appear to refer to relatives at the time these records are examined. To avoid disappointment, it is always better to record too much than too little.

* Check the physical description of the stone.

The date when the tombstone was placed on the grave can give some clue as to the accuracy of the information contained on it. Obviously, a stone which was erected several days after the funeral is often more apt to be correct than a stone erected 50 years later. Generally, the only way to date the marker is to note the type of stone used, and then to ascertain the type of stone generally in use at the time of the ancestor's death (see Part 2 of this article for a brief description of the types and time periods for different types of stone markers). Modern stones containing ancient dates indicate a replacement of an earlier stone or marker, or indicate that a considerable time period has elapsed between the death and the erection of the marker.

* Watch the size of the grave and the existance of field stones.

Most older graves and some new ones sink over time, leaving a slight depression outlining the dimensions of the grave. As a general rule, if the

depression is under 5 feet in length it is likely a child's grave, over 5 feet it is likely an adult's grave. This can be useful when no age or birth date is given on the cemetery stone. Field stones are small stones on which the deceased's initials or their family relationship (ie. "Mother", "Father") is generally inscribed. These are placed at the foot or head of the graves in large family plots to differentiate between the graves themselves and may help in determining the exact location of the grave of individual ancestors.

As in all other research, experience is the best teacher of all. Start your cemetery research close to home, recording the information to be found there on any ancestors. After a short time, return to this cemetery and check the results of your first visit. This proceedure should be continued until a cemetery can be researched and information recorded without error or ommission. Although this may seem like a long process, it will pay dividends when you are recording cemetery information in a distant part of the country, especially if you may never have the opportunity of returning to this distant cemetery to check your original research.

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PART 2: CEMETERY TRANSCRIBING: METHODS AND PROCEEDURES

Information found on cemetery tombstones may provide the only clue to a lost generation in a family, or may be the only immediately available record of the birth and death of an ancestor, or may fill the gap created by the incompleteness of existing official records. However, like all other records, tombstones are subject to the ravages of time. Vandalism and neglect has resulted in broken and destroyed stones while the natural elements of wind, rain, snow and floods have made many inscriptions barely legible, if at all. As time goes by, these stones will eventually disappear as nature reclaims the cemetery.

Future researchers will have to rely more and more upon transcriptions of the cemetery inscriptions for records of their ancestors. It is therefore extremely important that all cemeteries be found and their contents transcribed to ensure that future genealogists will have the benefit of the information contained within these inscriptions.

STARTING OUT

The best time of the year for cemetery visits is the early spring, just before the warm sun and spring rains cause the briars, weeds and grasses to grow, and the insects to make their appearances. However, transcribing can also be conducted anytime during the spring, summer and fall, although more precautions against nature and the elements will have to be taken.

Many cemeteries, particularly abandoned ones, are great places for poison ivy, thorns, etc. Consequently, it is wise to wear protective clothing such as levi pants or slacks, a heavy substantial shirt,and work gloves. As well, take along a sun hat, rainwear and a good pair of boots. A packed lunch with plenty of drinking water is another necessity that should not be overlooked. Last, but not least, make sure to include a first aid kit and insect repellant spray, and add a bottle of poison ivy preventative ointment of 10% sodium perborate (which any druggist can prepare).

## CHECKING OUT THE CEMETERY

Before actually going out to the cemetery, it is best to check with the local public library, the local church or the local genealogical or historical society to ensure that the cemetery being considered for recording has not been transcibed by someone else. Many genealogical societies do maintain permanent cemetery transcribing projects, and carefully minitor which cemeteries have been completed to avoid their being transcribed twice.

Once the local library or society has been contacted and the cemetery cleared for transcribing, ensure that the exact location of the cemetery itself is carefully recorded. This location information should contain a legal description of the parcel of land on which the cemetery is located, including the county or municipality, town or township, range if applicable, and the quarter-section or lot number. Also record the major roads in the area and the nearest towns, indicating where the cemetery is in relation to them. This will help in positively identifying the cemetery in the future (see sample transcription at the end of this article).

## PLOTTING THE CEMETERY

The first thing to do upon reaching the cemetery is to take a few minutes to walk around it and through it. This will provide an overview of the cemetery and make it easier to plan the proceedure to be followed in its transcription.

Then measure the exact size of the cemetery using a tape measure or by pacing off the distances, and make a rough map of the outline. Indicate the North side of the cemetery on the map. Within the cemetery, measure the relative positions of all the stones and graves, and indicate the locations of the paths, roads, gates, trees, bushes, and any unusual features. At this point, a numbering system for the stones and graves should be determined to aid in the systematic identification and transcription of the information.

The simplest system is consecutive numbering. This is perhaps the best one to use in smaller cemeteries where the number of stones are fairly small (under 100). Start in one corner of the cemetery, giving the first stone the number 1. The next stone is number 2, the next 3, and so on until all the stone in the cemetery have been assigned a number. If a group of people will be recording the information on the stones, it is always best to number and mark the stones in advance to avoid duplication or misidentification. This can be accomplished by writing the number assigned to the stone on the rear face of the stone itself with chalk, or by placing a small piece of masking tape containing the number on the stone's face. The chalk will wash off with the first rain, but the masking tape should be removed at the end of the day.

For larger cemeteries, the consecutive numbering system may prove too awkward. As most of these larger cemeteries will be arranged in fairly neat, easily discernible rows, these should be utilized in the numbering system. Each row can be numbered, and the stones in each row then numbered consecutively. (ie. "4-22", would identify stone 22 in Row 4.) When numbering the stones in each row, always start from the same side of the cemetery when beginning the numbering sequence (east to west, north to south, etc.) to avoid confusion. This will ensure that all number 1's will be foundonly on one side of the cemetery. The following example will help to clarify this system: (numbers are stone nos. in each row)

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Row 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Row 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Row 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

If the cemetery is still in use, the sexton or church registrar should be contacted to ascertain if a plan of the cemetery exists. If one does, try to obtain a copy of it and make use of its numbering system wherever possible. This will help to tie the transcriptions to the burial register or the sexton's records and will also help in filling in the gaps created by graves lacking markers.

## TYPES OF STONES

Various types of stones have been used over the years as memorials or tombstones. The more prevelent types include:

* Sandstone
  This stone consists chiefly of quartz sand cemented with silica, feldspar, lime or clay. This type of stone was primarily used before 1850. Being soft, it readily shows the talent of the stonecutter. It also weathers easily. It's susceptibility to moss and lichen also cause it to flake easily. Easrlier stones of this type are quite simple in shape and contents, although elaborate carvings appeared on later examples.

* Slate
  Black slate was also used in the pre-1850 period where it was available. True slate is hard and compact and does not weather appreciably.

* Marble
  This stone is a compact, granular, partially crystallized limestone. WHITE MARBLE was in use as a tombstone primarily from the 1830's until the 1880's. After 1860, square and usually towering stones of this type were used. These stones weather severely, especially in cities, and are subject to moss and lichen. Since 1880, POLISHED MARBLE has been used in the construction of tombstones. It is fairly durable.

* Granite
  Granite is a coarse-grained igneous rock composed of quartz, feldspar and mica. The proportions of its contents vary considerably, proding a stone which can range from very soft to very hard. SOFT GRANITE, usually gray in colour, was used primarily between 1880 and the mid 1910s. This stone weathers somewhat and is susceptible to moss and lichen. POLISHED GRANITE, of various colorations, has been used since the 1880s. As a rule, this type is highly polished and very hard in consistency, making it almost impervious to weathering of any type. Many of the earliest stones of this type still appear as good as when they were first erected.

Other types of stones have been used as tombstones, particularly if large local deposits were readily available in an area. However, local stone was often used only during the earlier years of settlement, and were gradually replaced as the principal tombstone material by the types discussed here.

## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Taking along the proper tools and equipment can save considerable time in cleaning the stones and ensures that nothing will be overlooked or missed in the cemetery.

A small shovel and a crow bar will be helpful in uncovering and lifting stones. If weeds and vines cover some stones, a machete or hatchet will be necessary to cut

to cut through the overgrowth. A steel probing rod should also be taken along in order to locate those stones which may lie buried 6 - 12 inches below the surface of the ground.

For cleaning the stones, several wire and bristle brushes of varying coarseness and a putty knife will be needed for removing moss and lichen from the face of the stone. While the use of wire brushes is sometimes challenged, if used carefully no damage to the stone will result. However, transcribers should avoid the use of wire brushes unless absolutely necessary, and should try to rely on a very stiff bristle brush instead. Brushes should be used lightly but briskly and parallel to the surface of the stone.

The legibility of the inscriptions can be greatly improved by using chalk or charcoal. White or yellow chalk can be used, although yellow chalk is better on white stones. If the inscription on the stone is raised slightly above the surface of the stone itself, the chalk can be rubbed on the raised letters to make them easier to read. If the inscription is cut into the stone, the chalk can be rubbed on the face of the stone over the inscription. This latter method will allow the chalk to cover all parts of the stone except the indentations of the inscription, which will remain the actual colour of the stone itself. For very white or for light coloured stones, charcoal can be employed with much the same results.

A kneeling pad or a low camp stool will come in handy during the course of the day. As well, do not forget pens and pencils, cards or note book, clip board, and elastic bands to hold down paper in windy weather.

## TRANSCRIBING

The success of any transcription depends on its accuracy. Above all else, transcriptions MUST be accurate and complete.

There are numerous methods employed to record cemetery inscriptions. Some people prefer to do all their transcribing onto file cards, using one card for each stone in the cemetery. Others prefer to use a bound book, such as a stenographers notebook, because the bound pages cannot be lost, mislaid or altered. Still others like using loose sheets of paper that can later be placed in a binder. The system to be used, however, depends upon the transcriber's preferences. In all cases, accuracy must dominate.

The following checklist will help to eliminate the possibility of mistakes and will help ease the transcribers task:

* Use one line on the page or card to record each line on the stone. If this is not possible, use a slash (/) to indicate the end of a line (see examples in sample transcription).
* Record inscription EXACTLY as they appear on the stone, including all obvious errors. In copying the inscription, serve only as the transcriber and not as the interpreter of inscriptions. Do not abbreviate or codify months or symbols if they do not appear that way on the stone itself.
* Beware of confusing one thing for another. The numbers 3 and 8, 1 and 7, 1 and 4, and 5 and 6 can often look surprisingly alike. Make sure of the number by carefully examining the stone. Watch for abbreviations which are uncommon, such as "Mar" for March and "Jun" for June.

* Write down all fraternal markings, military numbers, etc. Read all sides of the memorial, recording all information found on each side. Indicate the side where the information is located, by writing "North side" and then listing the information contained on that side, then "South side" and the information on that side, etc.

* Record all epitaphs found on the stone.

* Each stonecutter had his own style of script. If some part of an inscription is worn or chipped on one stone, compare it to similar letters or numbers on other complete, preserved stones of the same type in the cemetery. This may help in determining the correct number or letter. If an inscription can still be generally interpreted, depite its wear or broken state, indicate the interpretation by placing parenthasis around the interpreted portion. For example: "Gone but not forg(otten)" where "otten" has been broken or worn away but can still be interpreted.

* To avoid errors, copying should be done by at least 2 people working independently. This system of "double-checking" will eliminate any error in the transcribing.

* Record all burial indicators, including field stones, depressions, and mounds indicating their sizes and relationship to the tombstones.

* It is wise, but not essential, to number and record those plots which have a depression or mound but no tombstone or marker.

* Finally, do not rush or work when tired, as these will increase the chances of errors in the transcripts.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

As an additional project, the transcriber may wish to photograph the tombstones. An Instamatic camera may be sufficient, but it has a fixed focus making it inadequate for close-up work. A Polaroid camera has the advantage of immediate examination of the photograph. However, because it does not produce a negative, the only record will be the actual photograph taken. The best results are generally obtained by using a camera with 35 mm black and white, 20 exposure film with an ASA of 125.

Photograph most stones at a distance of about 4 feet, ensuring that the entire stone is centred in the photograph. An overcast or hazy day will also help in obtaining the best results. Chalk or charcoal should also be utilized to make the inscription more photogenic.

Photography is best employed as a supplement to the transcript itself, especially for stones written in foriegn script, those containing unusual symbols, or for old, decaying or broken stones whose data will be gone in a few years.

## FINAL COPY

The last step in the transcription of a cemetery is the preparation of the final copy. For clarity, this should be typewritten on $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 paper on one side only. A 1" margin on the left hand side of the page

will enable the sheet to be punched for a three-ring binder. To ensure accuracy, proofread the final copy, comparing it back to the original transcripts.

Proper organization is the key to a good final copy. An introductory page should be included at the beginning of each cemetery containing the following information:

* The name of the cemetery, including all names by which it has been known.
* The exact location of the cemetery. For city cemeteries, indicate street (with number), lot number, city, county or municipality, state or province. For rural cemeteries, indicate quarter section or lot, township (and range), county or municipality, state or province. Also indicate nearest towns and major roads.
* If possible, give the legal description of the cemetery from the official deed or land titles certificate.
* The type of cemetery (family, church, public, etc.)
* The religious denomination of the cemetery, if any.
* The state of the cemetery (still in use, abandoned, etc.)
* A history of the cemetery, if possible. Iformation can be obtained from land deeds, local histories, local residents, church histories, municipal or private company records, etc.
* Date of transcription and names of the transcribers.

The above information will help to place the cemetery in full perspective. The data obtained in the transcribing of the cemetery itself can be organized as follows:

* Cemetery location map.
  This map should show the location of the cemetery to the nearest towns and major roads.
* Cemetery map.
  This diagram should be based on the plot of the cemetery made at the time of the transcribing. On it should be indicated the numbering sequence of the stones, their relation to one another, the size of the cemetery and all other identifiable features.
* Transcription List.
  This section constitutes the major section of the final copy. All the transcriptions obtained are listed here according to the numbering sequence chosen for the cemetery. When used in conjunction with the alphabetical list and the cemetery map, the information on any grave or person can be located quickly and easily.
* Alphabetical list.
  All names contained in the transcript should be listed alphabetically by surname, with the number of the stone on which the transcription is contained following each name. Married women whose maiden names are also given should be listed twice in this index.
* Official burial list.
  Whenever possible, enclose a copy of the official burial list (church register, rexton's records, etc.). This will ensure that information is

available for those graves lacking a stone or marker. If an official cemetery map is also available, it should be included here as well.

* Additional information and comments.
This final section can be used to record other information on the families buried in the cemetery, or for recording the transcriber's general comments. Other material, such as photographs, can also be included here.

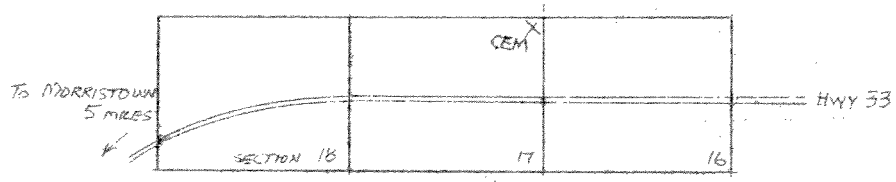
## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Cemetery transcribing is an art, requiring skill, interest and ability, all developed through patient practice. As a transcriber's experience grows, the art of transcribing becomes personal in the methods employed. If accuracy and completeness is not sacrificed, any method can be said to be good and efficient.

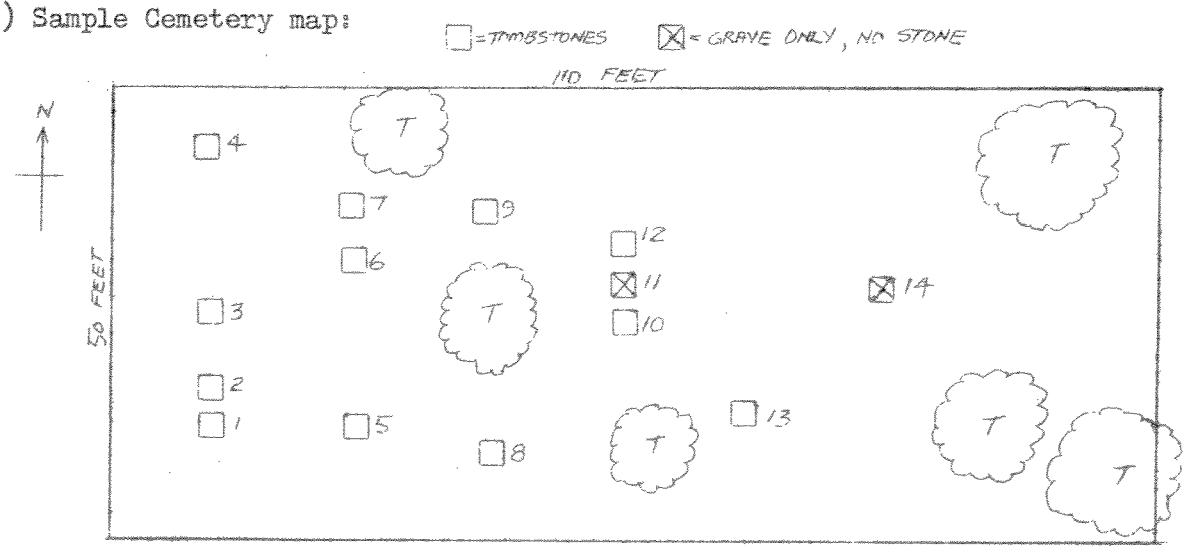
Once the final copy has been prepared and checked, ensure that one copy is deposited in the local library and that another copy is placed with the local genealogical society. With the slow disappearance of cemeteries, these accurate transcriptions can only grow in value to researchers. By depositing copies with these organizations, you will ensure that future generations will have the benefit of cemetery records when tombstones have worn smooth or have fallen prey to the vandal or the thoughtless.

## SAMPLE TRANSCRIPTION (NOTE: this is for a fictitious cemetery, not a real one)

a) Sample cemetery location map:




b) Sample Cemetery map:



c) Sample description and transcription:

JONES FAMILY CEMETERY

The Jones Family Cemetery (also called the Brown cemetery) is located in the NE¼ of Section 17, Township 22, Range 34 West of the Principle Meridian, in the Rural Municipality of Rockland, Province of - . It is presently located on land belonging to George W. Brown (from which it gets the name Brown cemetery). This is a family cemetery, and has not been used since 1923. It is located near the home of Mr. Brown, approximately ½ mile from Highway 33.

Phillip Jones homesteaded on this parcel of land and obtained his Homestead Grant on 31 August 1889. There is no record of a deed allocating the space for the cemetery. Because it was centrally located, a number of Mr. Jones' neighbours also used the cemetery. The Jones family resided in the area until 4 May 1913, when they sold the farm to W. W. Griffiths. The Griffiths family maintained the cemetery until they sold the farm to Mr. Brown in 1946. Since that time, it has generally been in a state of disrepair and is heavily overgrown with weeds and bushes.

This cemetery was transcribed by James Patrick on 23 June 1969.

The numbers used below refer to the numbers on the Cemetery Map:

1. JONES, MARTHA ..... Sacred to the Memory/of/ MARTHA JONES/ Beloved wife of Phillip Jones/DIED/ June 15, 1901./Asleep in Jesus./.

2. JONES, RICHARD ..... In Loving Memory of/ Richard Jones/ Died Jan. 1st, 1890/ Aged 3 years 2 months/and of/ William Jones/ Died 5 Feb. 1893/Aged 2 years 1 month./ Suffer little children to come unto me./
   JONES, WILLIAM

3. APPEL, JOHN ..... APPEL/ In loving memory of/JOHN/1824 - 1912/
   APPEL, CATHERINE CATHERINE/1836 - 1923/

4 CARTWRIGHT ..... In Memory of/The two infant children/of R.L & J.E. Cartwight/DIED/ June 5, 1903 and May 22, 1904/.

5. JONES, ELIZABETH ..... ELIZABETH/Mother of/Phillip Jones/DIED/ Feb. 10, 1894/ AGED/ 72 years 9 mo. & 4 dys./. Asleep in Jesus/.

d) Variations in listing transcriptions:

Transcriptions can be listed as in section c). or they can also be listed without placing the names of those contained on the stone to the left of the transcription. For example, number 1 above can also be listed as follows and then indexedin the alphabetical index section:

1. Sacred to the Memory/of/MARTHA JONES/Beloved wife of Phillip Jones/ DIED/June 15, 1901./Asleep in Jesus./.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE STORY OF NAMES

by Karen A. Shirley

Those who have an interest in genealogy almost always have an interest in the incidents of their specific origins or personal indentification. The often asked question of "Who am I?" can sometimes be answered by examining our names themselves, although names, in themselves, can only be of small help to the researcher. They cannot provide hard genealogical evidence like that of birth records or other official documents, but can provide clues which may solve or, at least, suggest a solution to a weighty genealogical problem.

A name is the first and most important identification of an individual. Almost always bestowed very shortly after birth, it is more personal than any of the other identification points generally watched for by the genealogist. A name by itself is not as perfect and unique a means of identification as a thumbprint would be, but it is infinitely more intriquing as they often have stories to tell.

Knowing a little about the meaning and the origins of a name can cast light over the rich histories and traditions which make one's genealogy interesting and alive. A name might suggest a certain country of origin (ie. the name "Wallace" might suggest an ancestor originating in Wales); a certain religious affiliation ("Hafiz" indicates a Mohammedan ancestor who visited the Holy Shrine at Mecca); or might represent a certain historic event (the long line of Plantagenet knings of England owe their unusual surname to the fact that the first of the line, Henry II, made a habit of wearing in his lapel a sprig of a certain flower whose Latin name was "planta genesta"). A name might even pinpoint an ancestor to a certain area at a certain time. If, for example, you knew that a certain female ancestor had the unusual Biblical name of "Mehitable", you could justly suspect that she might have been of New England Puritan extraction. As well, it is important to realize that certain personal names often enjoyed popularity for a brief period of time and then dropped out of usage.

Throughout the world, we generally find that names consist of three seperate parts: a personal name, a middle name, and a surname, although not necessarily in that particular order.

Personal names (alternatively called given, or christian, or first names) were, without a doubt, created by man almost as soon as he discovered others of his kind. Man has always been the descriptive romanticist and, in the beginning, personal names were carefully chosen for their special meanings and their vivid symbolism or descriptiveness. Although we may think the personal names used by the North American Indian of a century ago strange to our ear in their translations, their system is basically no different from the naming systems of the Romans, the Egyptians, the Chinese, the Polynesians, the Hindus , and even our own society.

In ancient times, a physical quality (CAESAR...from the Latin meaning "long-haired"); a quality of character (DARREL...from the Old English meaning "Beloved, or dear"); an event taking place at the time of birth (NOEL...from the French meaning "Christmas"); a circumstance connected with the birth (MOSES... from the Hebrew meaning "drawn from the water"); an admired animal or object (ROSS... from the Teutonic meaning "horse"); or even some quality the parents hoped the new child might come to possess (BEULAH...from the Hebrew meaning "she who is to be married") could suggest themselves as names for a newborn child. Personal names,

however, were not always permanent and were sometimes exchanged for another later on in life to give greater meaning and purpose. This can be illustrated by the Biblical characters Abram (Exhalted Father) who became Abraham (father of multitudes) and Jacob (one who supplants) who became Israel (soldier for the Lord).

In their passage through the years and across national and physical barriers, certain collections of names began to be developed through repetitive use. Of the personal names used in American and European countries today, almost all - perhaps 99 out of 100 - originated in one of four mother tongues: Greek, Hebrew, Latin, or Teutonic (which includes the Northern tongues: Scandinavian, Old German, Norse, etc) Some of these collections of personal names enjoyed periodic popularity, dropping out of sight for a time only to reappear as popular names again at a later date. The original meanings have long been forgotten by most people, except those glossographers and onomasticians who make this their particular field of study.

It is interesting to note that after the Catholic church succeeded the Roman Empire as the dominant power in Europe, she decreed that her children should be baptised only with personal names that had been redeemed by some holy Christian bearer. This could partly account for the fact that a survey made of representative pages in the telephone directories of a number of U.S. Cities showed that at least one quarter of all males were named John, William, James, Charles, or George, and at least one quarter of all females were named Mary, Ann, Margaret, Elizabeth or Catherine.

In contrast to the early development of personal names, the family name or surname is a relatively new innovation. The adoption of surnames was a gradual process, evolving over the years to serve a special purpose, particularly in more densely populated areas where single names proved insufficient for identification. Historically, there was no need for a surname in a family or tribe where every person was well known and could be identified by a single name. Even today, the majority of people in undeveloped Africa and Asia have no surnames.

The derivation of the word "surname" is a matter of dispute. Some authorities contend that it was originally spelled "sirname", a corruption of "sire" (ie. referring to the father). Others have written that the original spelling "sir-" was used in deference to the patrician families who invented the custom. Still other, in direct contradiction to the viewpoint that "sir-" is the original spelling, maintain that "sur-" is a prefix taken from the French word meaning "over, or in addition to". Whatever the actual derivation, the word surname today can be defined as a description, in addition to the personal name, generally handed down to someone by his parents.

Surnames were instituted first among the noble classes, who took a second name from their estates and castles in order to further identify themselves. From them, the custom gradually shifted down through the ranks of society until it reached the commonest labourer. Surnames first came into general use in Europe in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. However, there were earlier instances of surnames being used, especially among the early Hebrews and within the very civilized Roman Empire with its elaborate system of nomenclature . However, none of the names taken by the Romans correspond exactly to our family names for his "gens" or family name was conferred also upon slaves, servants, and other dependants of the household.

The use of surnames spread slowly across Europe. In Britain, prior to the Norman invasion of 1066, there is no evidence that any knid of description added to the personal name had become hereditary and thus a true surname. Actually, the Domesday Book (a census of all the land-holders and their holding of that time), preserved in a copy dated 1086, does include such descriptions although there is no

corroborating evidence to prove that these were hereditary. The earliest legal announcement in Britain came in 1267 when a London jury in the Court of Chancery gave the opinion that a man's "true name" was that one borne by his father. Up until this time, European and English pedigrees (which were compiled almost exclusively by the nobility and those possessing property to transmit to their heirs) showed individuals only by their given names. This changed through the latter 1200s and early 1300s to include a surname as well.

The usage of surnames gained a stronger hold when Edward V of England passed a law in 1465 compelling Irish outlaws to adopt them (for easier identification before the Bar, one might suppose). The wording of the law reads: "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Towne, or some Colour as Blacke or Brown, or some Art or Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some Office, as Cooke or Butler".

Surname usage became prominent early in the 11th century in Spain, Italy, and France; in Switzerland and the Upper Rhine Valley in the 12th century; in Germany in the 14th century and in the Netherlands by the 18th century. In Sweden and some of the north European countries, surnames were borne by noble families but were not incommon usage until the 18th or 19th centuries. Even as late as the beginning of the last century, decrees similar to the one passed by Edward V of England were being enacted to compel German and Austrian Jews to take a German surname in addition to the given names they were using.

Early surnames were generally based on one of the following aspects: an easily identifiable personal aspect or characteristic, the place of residence or birth, the individual's parentage, or the individual's particular occupation.

1. The identifiable personal aspect or characteristic.
   Such surnames were acquired as a result of some obvious characteristic of appearance (LAROUSSE...from the French meaning "red-haired"); of mental or moral attribute (BIEDERMAN...from the German meaning loyal and honest); of physical attribute (SKEET...from the Middles English meaning "swift one"); or from action or habit (MOWCHER...from Middle English meaning one who has acquired the habit of using a handerchief to blow his nose, a translation from the French "mouchoir"). Sometimes, this type of surname was used to poke gentle fun as in the case of the surname Frizzle, meaning curly-haired, which may have been applied to a bald-headed man.

2. The place of residence or birth.
   Place surnames often originated from a man's place of residence. However, a letter sent to "John in London" would probably never get there. It would have to be sent to London to "John atte Wood" or "John by the field" or "John at the sign of the Bull" (as many establishments were identified by a sign with a picture of an object or animal by which they could be recognized, this being due to the high rate of illiteracy). In time, these names or descriptions would be shortened to John Atwood or John Byfield or John Bull. Strangers would also be called by their place of origin, such as FLEMING, meaning a man from Flanders, or KJARNASTED meaning a man from the farm called Kjarna.

3. The individual's parentage.
   Ancestral surnames, or patronymics, originated from the name of an ancestor, generally from the father's given name but sometimes from the mother or another relation. Prefixes and suffixes were added to a given name to indicate a relationship. The prefixes "ap" (Welsh), "O" and "Mc" (Irish), "Mac" (Gaelic), "ben" (Hebrew), "Fitz" (Norman) and the suffixes "ssohn" (German), "ov" and "ovitch" (Russian), "ing" (Saxon), "sen", "son", "sson" (Scandinavian), "son" (Anglo-Saxon) and "ski" or "owski" (Slavic) all mean

"son of" and were added to the abbreviation and diminutives of personal names as well as to the full name. This also applied to the prefixes and suffixes indicating any other degree of relationship. One advantage of this system is that each surname automatically reveals the personal name of a relative, usually the father, to the researcher. However, this is of little consequence in view of the commonality of personal names. Patronymics was in existance from the early beginnings of surnames and still plays a strong influence in such areas of Europe as Scandinavia and Russia.

4. The individual's occupation or status.
Names with their origin in an occupation are extremely common and can be found in every language. For example, Smith is the common translation for Schmidt (German), Herrera (Spanish), Faber (Latin), and LeFevre or LeFeure (French). Occupational surnames can be derived from a office (CONSTABLE... from the English meaning the governor of a castle) or profession (SARGENT.. from the English meaning a lawyer), from a military rank (RYDER...from the English meaning a mercenary horseman), from a trade (CHARBONNIER...from the French meaning charcoal-maker) or vocation (COLLET...from the English meaning an acolyte)or from a mock office (KING, etc.) of the type held by characters in a passion play or a feast day parade.

Because of the nature in which surnames were acquired,it is dangerous to assume that those with identical surnames descend from a common ancestor. Conversely, blood relatives may not have the same surnames. Before the hereditary aspect of the surname was solidly established, it was possible that Richard Millar could have three sons: Tom, surnamed Dickson (patronymics); Dick, surnamed Bybridge (a locality name); and Harrym surnamed Pennyfather (a descriptive name meaning "miser"); while Richard himself may be only one of a number of Millars at the same place, none of whom were related to one another at all.

The study of surnames cannot be regarded as an exact science. Europeans did not become thoroughly name-conscious until the mid 1500s (the parish registers of many countries had their beginnings about this time). Custom had caused surnames to settle into more permanent patterns by this time, although a surname could still be changed, and frequently was, with every new situation. The problem of identifying a direct lineage is further complicated by the fact that immigrants coming to a new area might translate their names into the language of the country, or convert them into more acceptable sounding variations. Variations in spellings and pronunciations in a different dialect also have had their effect on the purity of a surname, but more devastating was the practice of substituting any synonym appearing to have equal significance (ie. "De la Guttere" was also officially listed as "atte Strete") Illegitimate children, foundlings, and orphans could lay claim to any name they took a fancy to. The ease with which a name could be adopted or adapted existed almost until the present day. These factors, combined with the lack of records, show that one would indeed be very fortunate to be able to trace a line earlier than the 1500s.

By the middle of the 19th century, as society grew more complex and population more dense, a third name was often added for better identification, placed between the personal name and the surname. It has been predicted that by the year 2000, a fourth name or number will be necessary for proper identification in our society.

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## MGS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 1976 AND 1977

The following financial statements were prepared for MGS from the society account books by our Auditor, CHARLES GINGRAS (MGS 004), and were presented to and accepted by the MGS Council on 19 January 1978. They are presented here for the benefit of the membership.

### STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR 1976

**REVENUE:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Membership fees (135 members @ 5.00) | 675.00 |
| Donations | 81.26 |
| | 756.26 |

**EXPENSES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| generations (2 issues, 300 copies of 1st, 200 copies of 2nd)..... | 197.53 |
| Breakdown: Gestetner costs ..... 124.15 | |
| Printed covers, enclosures.. 73.38 | |
| MGS NEWS (4 issues - average of 200 copies each) ..... | 66.62 |
| Postage (for generations, MGS NEWS, etc.)..... | 165.16 |
| Envelopes (for publications, office, ballots) ..... | 28.17 |
| General office (stationary, rubber stamp, etc.) ..... | 43.25 |
| P.O. Box rental ..... | 20.00 |
| Advertising (printing, etc.) ..... | 84.40 |
| Special Projects & Misc. (Founding Member cert., member cards) ... | 63.03 |
| Bank charges ..... | .75 |
| | 668.91 |
| SURPLUS..... | 87.35 |

### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1976

**ASSETS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bank account ..... | 204.00 |
| Accounts receivable ..... | 32.00 |
| | 236.00 |

**LIABILITIES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Accounts payable ..... | 148.65 |
| Surplus ..... | 87.35 |
| | 236.00 |

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR 1977

REVENUE:

| | |
|---|---|
| Membership fees (212 members @ 7.00) | 1484.00 |
| Donations | 91.50 |
| Sale of back issues of and queries in generations | 160.50 |
| Seminar | 622.50 |
| | 2358.50 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|---|---|
| generations (4 issues, average of 300 copies per issue) | 448.75 |
| Breakdown: Gestetner costs ..... 354.91 | |
| Printed covers and enclosures.. 93.84 | |
| MGS NEWS | 101.31 |
| Postage (for generations, MGS NEWS, etc.) | 375.88 |
| Envelopes and mailing labels (for publications, ballots, etc.) | 121.95 |
| General office expenses | 32.93 |
| P.O. Box rental | 20.00 |
| Advertising (printing, etc.) | 90.32 |
| Seminar | 490.50 |
| Library | 12.86 |
| Special Projects & Misc. (Surname Directory cover printing) | 7.59 |
| Bank charges | 1.56 |
| | 1703.65 |

SURPLUS ..... 654.85

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1977

ASSETS:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bank account | 708.67 |
| Petty cash | 100.00 |
| Accounts receivable | 53.00 |
| | 861.67 |

LIABILITIES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepaid 1978 membership fees and donations | 119.00 |
| Surplus | 742.67 |
| | 861.67 |