

GENERATIONS

Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

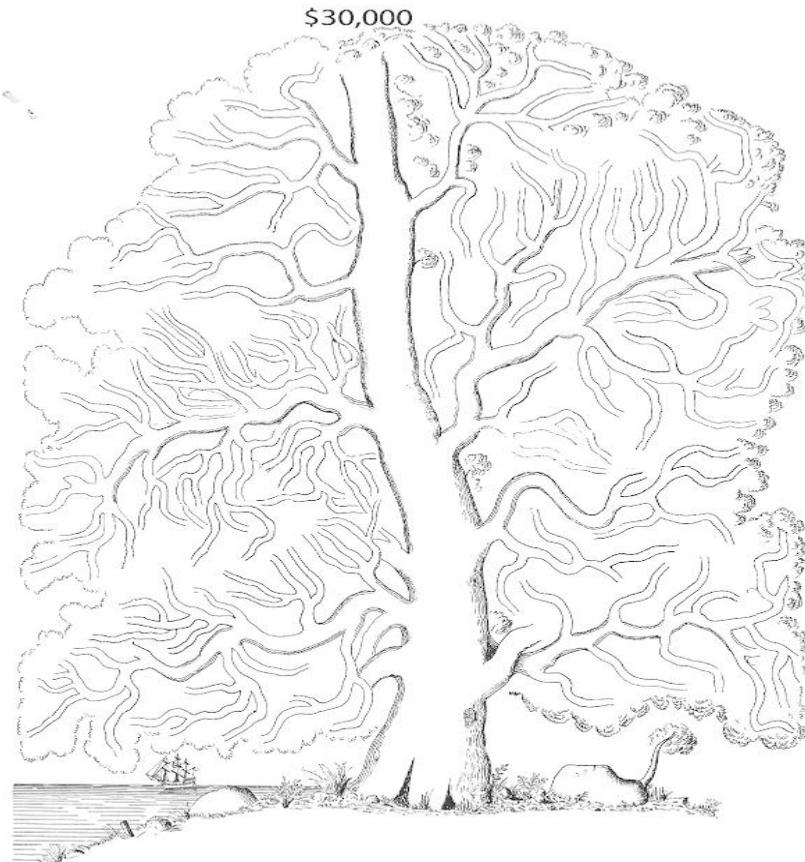
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Capital Campaign

IN THIS ISSUE

- READING THE HUDSON BAY SERVANTS' CONTRACTS (PART TWO)
- 2013 CAPITAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF
- IT IS ALL IN THE TELLING

MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 1B1

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Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:30 - 3:30

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 on page 27 of 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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GENERATIONS

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Editor: David Farmer

Table of Contents

Messages to Members

From the Editor	2
From the President	2
MGS VOLUNTEERS	3
MGS Awards	3
Donations to MGS	3
What Has MGS Been Up To?	5
MGS Capital Fund-raising Campaign	6
2013 Capital Campaign.....	6
Manitoba Genealogical Society – Data Project	7
From the Past	10
Rural Ramblings	10
Are These Your Ancestors?.....	11
Our Library.....	13
Materials for Genealogy and Family History Research in Western Canada	13
Library Lines.....	15
Book Reviews	16
Periodical Potpourri	17
An Introduction to the Database For HBC Servants' Contracts, 1776 -1926 (Part Two)	18
So Are You Up for Some Change?.....	21
101 Ways to Research Your Family Tree for Free	21
After 85 Years, Bible Finds Its Way Home.....	24
Branch News	25
Publications Order Form	28

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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

Well here it is the beginning of yet another year. By the time you receive this issue of *Generations*, there should be something green somewhere – it has been a long winter.



The past few months have seen a lot of energy around the future of MGS and the challenges we are facing. This issue has some more of that, with the kick-off of MGS' first ever fundraising campaign. Please read both articles related to this campaign, and hopefully chose to contribute to our goal.

Kathy's President's message stole some of my message, but since hopefully you read my column first I will state it again. The most recent issues of *Generations* have been pretty heavy with 'news', and possibly have not been the most enjoyable reading with your morning coffee.

But to be honest it seems to be getting harder to find articles (or at least authors) to publish each quarter. So all you 'wanna-be writers', I am looking for articles: fun, factual, personal, fictional, local, wide-ranging, whatever, now is your chance for fame and fortune (ok, maybe not so much fortune, and maybe not so much fame, but certainly my appreciation). Send in your items; don't worry about spelling, format, etc. I will do the editing (that is what I do!). I will check with you if I make major changes, so your message is not lost. Don't even worry about the length; we can make a multi-part story (more fame and more fortune!). I know there are lots of stories out there.

Be sure to check out the notices for a couple of upcoming seminars that promise to be excellent.

Part Two of the article on reading the HBC Servants' Contracts is a good read, full of interesting tidbits of life 'way back then'.

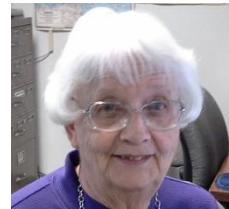
And don't miss the cute little story on how the 'spin' can get put on a story... LOL!

Enjoy.

From the President

Kathy Stokes #125

By the time you read this issue of *Generations*, the weather, we hope, will be if not warm, at least less cold. Barring a last minute blizzard, we can look forward to the arrival of spring. I hope that you have found some new and exciting information during your winter research; and that it may lead to a pleasant summer trip to a place where your ancestors originally lived or where they homesteaded.



Generations is published, as you know, four times a year. The editor bears the responsibility of gathering material for it and getting the publication out on time. I think he does a great job. However, it would make his task much simpler if he had more material to work with.

There are many stories out there, some sad, some humorous and most of them contain information about facets of personal research which may assist other members in their quests. We need more of these stories. They don't have to be lengthy, annotated with footnotes or the like. All they have to be is interesting. Please help us by contributing your knowledge and the tales of your ancestors for the benefit of all of our members. Who knows? You may find another relative along the way when someone reads your story.

Another way you can contribute to *Generations* is through a 'Letter to the Editor'. If you really enjoyed something you read, let the editor know. If you disagreed with something, let him know. A healthy dialogue among readers makes the magazine come alive and sparks further interest.

Upcoming events at MGS include a workshop put on by SouthWest Branch on April 13, a garage sale in Winnipeg on May 4 and the MGS Annual Open House on May 11. Further details about these events may be found on our website.

The Front Cover

The Front Cover graphic is courtesy of Judith Roe. This tree will be the measuring stick for our Fund-raising Campaign. Each donation received will become a leaf on the tree. The goal is to reach the top and completely 'leaf' the tree. The master tree will be on display at the Resource Centre. Our June issue of *Generations* will have this same graphic, but showing the results of the campaign.



MGS VOLUNTEERS

MGS Awards



Continuous Membership - Individuals

25 Years

Warren West
Beth Wall

20 Years

Ernie Myers
Patricia Allan
Patricia Moreau
Barbara Bradley
Carol Peter
Richard Peters

15 Years

Dan Spurrill
Desmond Ireland
Merle Darling
Ron Braun
Virginia Braun
William Pooley
Marion Moore
Rick McLellan
David Smith
Gwen Smith
Marilyn Boyle

10 Years

Liz (Maisie) Anderson

Doris Bronson
James Carcary
Marlene Wiess
Robert Clayton
Dr William Christie
Joyce Alexander
David Barry Parker
Heather Sharman
Alice Harron-Spence
Bernice Glowacki
Karen Becker
Linda Shopka
Margaret Turnbull
Jane Pattison

Continuous Membership - Institutions

10 Years

Cincinnati Public Library
Nor-West G & HS

20 Years

Regina Public Library
Fort McMurray Branch AGS

Donations to MGS

August 2012 – January 31, 2013

The Manitoba Genealogical Society would like to recognize and thank all who have made Memorial donations, cash donations, and material donations for the Library between August 2012 and January 2013. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Louisa Shermerhorn	Susan Wellman
Edna Duff	Mary Bole
Elizabeth Briggs	Carolyn Fisher
Elizabeth Borup	Patricia Allan
David Smith	Gail Melko
Karen Becker	Cecilia Innes
Gerry Goodridge	Patricia Moreau
Doreen Mary Franck	Brian Laxdal
Lea Frame	Linda Shopka
D. Anne Emes	Keith Maitland
Barbara Greig	Marjorea Roblin
Beverley Smith	Robert Bowman
Gwen McKenzie	Muryl Geary
LeRoy Amy	Diane Cain
L. Joan McRae	William J. Oke

Kelly Southworth
Carol Peters
Doreen Murray
W.B.K. Pooley
Edward Alexander
W. Wayne Lavallee
Carol Clegg
Alan MacFarlane
David Ross
Edith Lyon
Jean Lenderbeck
John K McDonald
Anonymous
Harry Skene & Cecile Alarie-Skene
Herbert & Audrey Hayward
Donna-Mae Burgener

TD Bank Group
Dauphin Family History Group
Scottish Association of Winnipeg

Marilyn Strang
Jean Ammeter
Bonnie Batchelor
Mavis Gray
John Peach
Denise Neufeld
Helen Armstrong
Barbara Lee Page
Daryl Dumanski
Al Prestayko
Don White
Linda Lowrey

Help Wanted!

Having trouble finding an ancestor, or don't know where to look for certain types of information? Submit your query to *Generations* and perhaps a reader or two can give you some leads. If you need detailed or long-term help, then please contact our Research Team through the MGS address.



My name is Birthe Wildau Krog and I am looking for my grandmother's sister and brother. They immigrated to Carberry, Manitoba; the sister, Sine Nikoline Skipper, in 1906 and the brother, Christian Andreas Skipper, in 1904. My grandmother is Ingrid Skipper.

Even if you are not able to help me, I would be willing to assist you if possible. Please refer to my website www.anelisten.dk for more information. (*Ed's Note: This website is not in English*)



MGS's kitchen is in need of an facelift! We want to paint the kitchen and create a chair rail around the wall. If you have any talent for sanding, painting or carpentry or just love to fix up rooms we would welcome your volunteer help. Of course, the more volunteers the faster the job. If you are interested in helping please contact Ginny Braid, VP – Administration or our President Kathy Stokes, at the Resource Centre – phone 204-783-9139. We would like to get started this spring.

I am writing to you in hope that you may be able to help. I live in the UK and during the last war my mum married a lovely Canadian soldier. His name was Eric D. Cunningham-Greenlaw. We think he came from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He would probably be dead now, but we would be interested in finding any other family members.

I am doing this for my brother who is now 67 years old and has spent his whole life trying to find his real father. He would be so grateful if he could just find a photo of his father, as he doesn't even know what he looks like. All he has is a copy of his parents' wedding certificate:

Eric Cunningham-Greenlaw married to Kathleen Rose Butler in Edmonton, Middlesex, 1945

And the birth details of my brother:

Richard J. Cunningham, registered Hendon, Middlesex, 1946

My mother, Kathleen Cunningham-Greenlaw, divorced Mr Eric D. Cunningham-Greenlaw, 3/4 years later (around 1948), as she didn't want to leave her family in the UK and move to Canada. She got divorced by Interpol apparently. Any help you may be able to give would be greatly received.

Kind Regards,

Angela UK
killen67@btinternet.com



2012 Annual General Meeting Reports and Strategic Planning Report

A reminder that if you would like a copy of the 2012 Annual General Meeting reports, please contact a member of the MGS Executive. If you would like a copy of the complete Strategic Planning Report, please contact Kathy Stokes. All reports will be delivered electronically.



What Has MGS Been Up To?

Kathy Stokes #125

Your MGS Executive and Council have met a total of three times since the beginning of January – executive twice and council once. The executive is charged with the day-to-day operations of MGS and we deal with problems large and small. As well, we formulate plans for the current running of our society and try to look to the future and prepare for it as best we can.

Council brings together not only the executive members, but also the chairs of the various committees to make sure that we are operating as smoothly as possible. Council also discusses and usually approves decisions made by the executive.

The January Executive Meeting received the final draft of the Strategic Plan we have been working on since our Strategic Plan Conference

in October. The final plan contains much food for thought. Linda White's work on this project has been time consuming and we appreciate her efforts. Copies of the plan are available electronically upon request from MGS.

At the same meeting we discussed early plans for our fundraising campaign. We also received an update on progress being made in preparing our data for the upgrade in our computer services and have asked advice from other societies which already have a system such as we are planning. Also, we decided to continue our support by awarding a prize at the Red River Heritage Fair for this year's winning genealogical entry.

The first Council Meeting of the year was well attended. We learned that the cheque for the \$1,500 we raised by running a bingo has been received and that a much appreciated \$1,000 had been received as directed from the will of a former member, the late Ethel Denoon. Council also approved the Strategic Plan noted above. Council directed the President to enter into negotiations with our landlord for a three year lease when our current lease expires in July 2013. Further information about the upcoming fundraising campaign was also forthcoming.

The February Executive Meeting approved the newly negotiated three year lease for our current premises, beginning in July 2013. The executive also approved the format which will be used once our computer revisions are completed. It will be similar to the Ontario Genealogical Society's (OGS) pages and will be a pay-per-view site, similar to others such as the Scotland's People website. It is hoped that this will bring added funds into our coffers.

The meeting also directed the President to contact the Ontario Genealogical Society president to discuss matters pertaining to genealogists across the country. Severe budget cuts have lessened access to sources in the National Library and Archives of Canada. There is no longer an inter-library loan service. If you wish to visit the Archives and do research there, you must make an appointment prior to your visit. Digitization of many of their records is

planned which may mean that only part of a current file will be available after such action. We should all be concerned about this. Please speak with your MP if the opportunity arises.

Please contact me at bkstokes@mts.net if you have questions or suggestions.

MGS Capital Fundraising Campaign

As you may know, MGS is launching its first-ever fundraising campaign. The following articles will outline the campaign, the process being followed and the reasons why the Society is undertaking this effort.

2013 Capital Campaign

Janice Butcher #4499

Chair, 2013 Capital Campaign

MGS is embarking on a major Capital Fundraising Campaign. At its recent Strategic Planning Meeting in October 2012, four objectives were decided upon: organizing a Capital Campaign; increasing MGS membership; investing in hardware and software to make our resources accessible online; and developing a comprehensive, long-term financial plan. Thus, as a result of the Planning Meeting decisions, and supported by the MGS Council, a committee has been struck to carry out the Capital Campaign and I am serving as chair.

MGS needs a major injection of funds to carry out its present activities and to continue to thrive into the future. The proceeds from the Capital Campaign will provide funds for several new initiatives which will positively impact MGS for many years to come:

1. The updating and preservation of our valuable MGS indexes and other resources (cemetery transcripts, early newspaper obituary indexes, etc.), collectively known as the “Data Project”. This will take place over the next few years – (*see the article, ‘MGS Data Project’ by Gord McBean, in*

this issue, for more details on this project).

2. The development of a “master” database to store these valuable resources.
3. The redesign of the MGS website to enable online searching of our indexes and documents. MGS members will be able to search free (through password-protected entry) and non-members will be able to search for a fee. Both members and non-members will be able to download pages (and print if they wish) from the indexes for a small fee (pay-per-view).

We are hoping that eventually our website will have similar capabilities to the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society and Ontario Genealogy Society with whom we are consulting. (*Refer to both the SGS website at <http://www.saskgenealogy.com/> and the OGS website at <http://www.ogs.on.ca/> to see what is possible.*)

This long-term project will have many benefits:

1. Free online access to indexes for MGS members who will be able to search our master database from the comfort of their home. MGS branch members and out-of-Winnipeg researchers will benefit the most from this long-term project (presently 46% of MGS members live outside of Winnipeg). This improved access should help to retain present members and encourage others to join MGS to get the “free” searches, resulting in increases to our membership revenues.
2. Convenient access for non-MGS members, including the general public from around the world, and high school students researching for history projects. This fee-based access will increase MGS revenues and contribute to our ongoing financial stability.

Thus, in the long term, the database and website improvements made possible through the contributions to the Capital Campaign will address other objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan – increasing MGS membership and long-

term financial planning. Some of the funds could also be used for other specific projects such as a marketing plan to increase membership and awareness of MGS.

The Capital Campaign will run from April 1 to June 30, 2013. Shortly, all MGS current members and former members from the last five years will be mailed a personal letter introducing the Capital Campaign and asking for a contribution. Completed pledge forms can be mailed to the MGS Resource Centre with a cheque, or dropped off with either a cheque or cash. Tax-deductible receipts will be written for donations of \$10.00 or more.

We hope that MGS members and past members will be generous so that we can reach our Campaign goal of \$30,000. If 300 people donate \$100 each, we will achieve our goal. We hope that you will think of this as an investment in the future of MGS.

If you have any questions about the Capital Campaign, you can e-mail me at jbutchr@cc.umanitoba.ca or leave me a phone message at the Resource Centre at 204-783-9139. You can also contact other members of the Capital Campaign Committee – David Farmer, Sari Fields and Judith Roe.

Thank you for your support of the Capital Campaign. We hope that you will be generous.

* If you know of someone who might be interested in contributing to the Capital Campaign but who has not received a personal letter/pledge form, please contact me and we will send them one.

Manitoba Genealogical Society – Data Project

Gord McBean #3033

Chair, Information Technology

Of all the MGS assets, our indexes are the most precious. They are a unique collection of data built over 35 plus years; involving thousands of volunteer hours to collect and organize. This collection is not duplicated anywhere else (not

even on Ancestry). It is up to us to ensure its perpetual existence. Our comprehensive databases contain over one and a quarter million (1,250,000) indexed entries. These entries are considered “data”, hence the name of the project. These databases index events in the lives of past Manitobans from birth to death. The goal of the MGS Data Project is to make the data more broadly accessible to our members in a form that is easier to search. Eventually MGS members will have web access to the indexes similar to what other provincial genealogical societies already have.

Because our indexes are so much of an integral part of our research, they may be taken for granted. They seem so extensive and so easily produced and reproduced. However these important resources could be lost due to fire or a digital storage device failure. A preservation scheme, that maintains this unique set of Manitoba information, is needed.

The previous MGS Information Technology Upgrade Project has, over the last number of years, upgraded the society’s network infrastructure and the computers in the MGS Centre. It has added a microfilm/form scanner as well as a flatbed scanner with updated software. It created a structured file system for storage of all MGS digital records and resources that allows for ease of finding items, documents, email, etc.

Summary of Current Data Project

Funding permitted; we want to embark on a major project that will unfold over several years. The Data Project has two main purposes:

- a. To provide access to web-based indexes and documents for MGS members, wherever they live.
- b. To provide a revenue stream for MGS whereby non-members could access our indexes for a fee.

The project will consist of two main activities which can occur somewhat concurrently:

- 1) Creating and hosting a new “master” database to include all of our indexes.

2) Creating and hosting a redesigned web-site that will allow access to the master database.

1) Database – summary of steps:

- a. “Creating” the database involves putting all of our current indexes into one database which can be searched with one query. Estimated cost, based on information from the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) - \$10,000.
- b. Yearly updates, adding new content and collections (e.g. rural obituaries) and long term maintenance of database. Estimated annual cost from SGS - \$1,000.
- c. “Hosting” the database requires access to a computer server to store the data. We could either rent or purchase this space.

2) Website – summary of steps:

- a. “Creating” a redesigned website that would enable password-protected access for MGS members, and financial transactions for non-members (referred to as “e-commerce”).
- b. “Hosting” the website – paying an annual fee to keep the website online.

Further Explanation of Database Development

Note – an attempt has been made to explain terms/concepts that some people may not be familiar with.

MGS’ focus is initially on the cemetery transcription collection. There are two types of documents in this collection:

- a. Digital (electronic) documents which have been saved into a computer file (e.g. Word documents).
- b. Paper documents which are not on a computer (either typewritten in the first place, the computer file has been lost or is in a format that is unreadable with present-day computer software and all that remains is the original paper format).

The current Data Project started with Phase 1 this past fall. A committee was struck to look at our digital resources as well as to set priorities. We have worked with students from Red River College and raised funds to provide scholarships for the students in return for their work. We had a student analyze the data structure of a block of our cemetery indexes and transcriptions with an eye to finding a way of automating the conversion of word documents into a database.

Many volunteer hours were also put in by MGS volunteers. We have made very real progress in starting to manage our digital files. Over 25,000 files were sorted and will continue to be organized as the project moves forward. We have transferred as much information as possible from existing deteriorating or obsolete media (sources). Some physical items that we have not been able to access include tapes for tape drives and 5 ¼ “floppy” disks. Systems for backup of files onsite and storage of copies of the backup files offsite were set up.

In January, 2013 we started Phase 2 of the MGS Data Project. It will provide long-term access to our organization’s paper and digital records. This access is becoming increasingly important for all organizations. The Project’s aim is to create a master index (database) that will allow an “All Index” search of our data from a single database query screen. We will work separately on our digital and paper-based documents.

- a. Digital documents: The project has set up a process to: organize existing digital copies; verify and proofread these copies; and create new verified and quality controlled digital copies, for all of the MGS-created products and indexes. It is important that we make sure the correct file is used, coming from an environment where we had multiple copies of each file.

All existing files that could be read with the existing hardware/software have been addressed. We will prioritize collections for future treatment based on factors such as the value, importance and needs of the collection

and the level of anticipated use for the collection.

b. Paper documents: There are five steps for creating digital copies of documents for which there is presently no digital file:

- Scanning to capture an image of each page in the document.
- Converting the image to a document, usually a Word file, but can also be a PDF or an Excel file, using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software.
- Proofing, where we correct any of the errors made in the OCR process.
- Indexing and file preparation – file naming, organizing, inserting structured formatting to the document
- Verifying, which is the final check of the file to ensure it is ready to be loaded into the database

Note that only about 500 of our 1300 cemetery files are digital so there is still much work to be done.

The Data Project is (or will be) undertaking some additional tasks:

1) Updating the cemetery collection: Some of the cemetery transcriptions were completed 40 years ago and so need updating to include recent burials. We have to develop procedures for managing these new transcriptions and keeping the indexes in sync. The work we are doing on updating the system will make this task easier to do.

2) Collecting and documenting the “organization knowledge” of how these files should be created and stored (e.g. naming conventions for files, formats for family names, dates, maiden names, etc.). Many of the rules and procedures have not been documented or standardized. Writing documentation of this information is vital to our future.

3) We also have to look at the storage infrastructure (type of computer server) that is needed for the future. We are presently comparing a rented hosting solution versus an in-house solution.

- We could rent space on another organization’s server (an off-site hosting service) with annual costs ranging from \$350 to \$850. This would provide easy preservation/back up of our data. As well, it would not require us to find a volunteer with the skill set needed to manage it.
- We could purchase the hardware and software required to set up a server and host it in-house, but would require expertise to manage it.

Brief Description of Web-site Redesign

We will need to redesign our website, creating free access to search the master database for members (password-protected). Non-members will be able to purchase access-to-search. At the moment, the plan is that all individuals (members and non-members) will purchase copies of actual documents that they have found in their searches (Pay-per-view – OGS charges \$1.00 per page) but will be able to do this from the comfort of their homes. This will provide income to support the future of this new system and MGS. Hopefully the online data access will be a valued benefit of membership that will help to retain existing members and help us to expand our membership.

Your donation to the Capital Campaign will ensure our valued MGS resources will be preserved and made accessible for years to come.

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Balderdash, n. A rapidly receding hairline.

**- The Washington Post's
Mensa Invitational**

It is all in the Telling! “Remus Rudd”

No matter what side of the political fence you're on, THIS is FUNNY and VERY telling! It just all depends on how you look at the same things.

Judy Harper, an amateur genealogy researcher in Northern Ontario, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Winnipeg in 1889. Both Judy and Stephen Harper share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Manitoba Provincial Jail.

On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:

“Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Stoney Mountain Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the CP and CN trains six times.

Caught by Mounted Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.”

So Judy recently e-mailed Prime Minister Harper for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd.

Believe it or not, Harper's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research:

“Remus Rudd was famous in Ontario during the mid to late 1800s. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the CP and CN Railways.

Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroads.

In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Mounted Police Force.

In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.”

NOW That's how it's done, Folks! That is a real POLITICAL SPIN!

(Ed's Note: You judge if this is real or not, but either way it is a great spin!)

MGS Research Services

Having trouble with your research, or just don't know where to start? MGS offers [Research Services](#) (for a fee). Our talented researchers are available to help you break down those walls. Call the MGS office on Thursday at (204) 783-9139 for further information.

From the Past

Rural Ramblings

Kathy Stokes #125

Winnipeg Tribune 7 May 1898

Mrs A.E. Page, of 532 Alexander Ave., was visiting with her sister, Mrs McQueen of 172 Willow St., in Fort Rouge yesterday with her daughter Elizabeth, 18 months. The child appeared in good health at first, but became ill and died of convulsions the same day.

Donald McPhail, who lived at the McQueen residence and was the unmarried uncle of Elizabeth, was lying ill in a nearby room suffering from dropsy. His condition worsened and he died the evening of Elizabeth's death. Both Donald and Elizabeth are buried in the family plot at Poplar Point.

Manitoba Free Press 10 Aug 1907

The Morden Old Boys' Reunion is being planned for the Labour Day weekend. About 70 families will make an excursion to their former homes in Morden. Among those attending will be: Doctors Burnham, Sharpe, Davidson, Coulter, Stewart and Black; and Veterinarians

Rombough and Murray. Also making the trip as well, will be lawyers J.B. McLaren, D.W. McKarchar, M. Steinkopf, A.A. Hobkirk, W.D. Lawrence, J.W. Wilton, S.M. Battram, P.R. Locke and J.D. Suffield.

Manitoba Free Press 19 Aug 1907

James McLaughlin, was a Manitoba pioneer born in Lanark Co. near Perth, Ontario. He later lived in Bruce Co., before settling on a farm near Winnipeg 35 years ago. Later he moved to a farm near Raven Lake, but due to illness left it in the care of his son John and moved with his wife to the Shoal Lake residence of his daughter, Mrs. A. McLeod where he died recently.

Besides his widow and Mrs McLeod, he is survived by Mrs T. Miller of Shoal Lake, Mrs McKinnon and Miss Carrie of Winnipeg, Miss Ethel, John and Robert at home.

Manitoba Free Press 2 Sept 1907

Gladstone. Paul Assmundson, an Icelander who lived near Marshland, was accidentally killed by a shotgun blast through his abdomen, as he worked near a mower in his field. He had come from Iceland some three years earlier and was described as "poor but industrious". Currently he had been a mail carrier from Woodside to Marshland. He left a wife and five children as well as a brother Albert who resided near Plumas.

Are These Your Ancestors?

Kathy Stokes #125

For most of the 19th and into the early 20th century, there was in England, a marriage law which is perhaps little known to researchers in this country. It is commonly referred to as the "Deceased Wife's Sister Act". Its early roots were found first in Ecclesiastical (or church) law but in 1835 was made part of the law of the land. In this short article, I do not pretend to cover all the reasons for this peculiarity in the law, but to make researchers aware that if they

cannot locate an ancestor's marriage, it may be because of this rule.

The early church, first Roman Catholic and later Church of England had strict rules about who, within a family circle, could marry whom. These laws were called 'laws of consanguinity' and reflected the concern of the churches, that there be no marriage between people who were closely connected by blood ties. However, there was also a less stringently applied practice known as the 'law of affinity' which looked at the wider concept of the family, and how it should be defined when a marriage took place, and two families were thus joined by the marriage of their children. Church of England canon laws were administered by ecclesiastical courts after the Reformation, because Henry VIII had, of course, broken the English church away from the authority of the Pope.

Canon or church law indicated that the wider family, who became connected by marriage, were regarded as being related to one another in a way which made marriage between them improper. That is not to say that a marriage between a man and the sister of his deceased wife never took place. Sometimes such events took place away from the domicile of the participants or a minister was found who agreed to perform the service. These marriages were legal; however, they could be challenged in the church court by anyone with an interest, and subsequently voided by such a court. This situation existed for almost a century until passage of Lord Lyndhurst's Act in 1835, the purpose of which was to "*render certain marriages valid and alter law with respect to voidable marriages*". The act of 1835 made legal all previous marriages of a man and his deceased wife's sister, but decreed that in future, all such marriages performed would be illegal.

For more than the next seven decades, battles raged in Victorian England and changes were demanded from various sectors of society. Private members' bills were brought forward in the House of Commons, but always failed because the governments of the day withheld support.

King Edward VII, Queen Victoria's son and successor, supported such bills in the House of Lords before he became king, but it was all to no avail.

In 1907, the government of the day introduced an act in the House of Commons entitled "The Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act". The support of the government meant that it was government policy and thus the bill was passed after much debate. In the House of Lords, the Archbishop of Canterbury (who is the head of the Church of England) appealed to the Lords to toss out the bill because, "*in its effect upon life and morality of the people of this country, change would cause more distress and inconvenience than it would alleviate and the general tendency would be for ill rather than good.*"

Most of the people, however felt that such marriages would be more desirable for both parties and of benefit to their children, than if the marriage had not taken place. It was estimated that some 1,800 illegal marriages took place in England each year and some 9,000 children were born each year of illegal marriages.

Retroactively, under the Act, all marriages since 1835 were legalized, but the new law did not disturb property which may have changed hands under the old law. Henceforth, a man could indeed legally and openly marry his deceased wife's sister.

The *Winnipeg Tribune*, in its editorial of 29 August 1907 left no doubt as to its feelings about the passage of this Act.

"At last, after one of the most prolonged fights and incomprehensible defences to be found in British Parliamentary history, the absurd and tyrannical law that makes it illegal for a man to marry the sister of his deceased wife has been set aside by the House of Lords. That England, home of liberty and common sense should be the last stronghold of nonsensical superstition that there is a relationship between a brother-in-law and a sister-in-law that makes marriage immoral or undesirable, is one of unexplained mystery that makes British legislative history

unique. Britain is the last enlightened country to remove such a prohibition. The English can feel a sense of pride restored by this victory over intolerance."

And a little more than a century later, as I was writing this article, an act to legalize same sex marriage was passed by the British House of Commons. The world moves on.

Sources

Manitoba Free Press and Winnipeg Tribune, both of 27 August 1907

Article by Anne D. Wallace found by searching "Deceased Wife's Sister" in Google.

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Are YOU a Descendant of a Father of Confederation?

Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2744
Charlottetown, PEI
C1A 8C4

To the Descendants of the Fathers of Confederation, Anywhere in the World

Warmest greetings from the Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society.

For almost 40 years, our Society has served the genealogical and research community by publishing transcripts, books and other documents relating to immigrants, cemeteries, and census information as well as providing links to a great many other historical resources.

In 2014, the Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society is proposing to undertake an exciting project in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference.

Ultimately, this project will culminate in an event bringing together direct descendants of the seven Prince Edward Island Fathers of Confederation who were delegates at either the Charlottetown Conference or the Quebec Conference, held in September and October 1864 respectively.

If you are a direct descendant of Honourable George Coles, Honourable John Hamilton Gray, Honourable Thomas Heath Haviland, Honourable Andrew Archibald MacDonald, Honourable Edward Palmer, William Henry Pope, or Edward Whelan, the PEI Genealogical Society wants to hear from you.

The proposed event will provide an opportunity for descendants to exchange stories, family lore, show and tell related to your famous ancestor and the many branches of his family tree extending down through the 15 decades since 1864.

For its part the Genealogical Society is planning on presenting a copy of the family tree to descendants who are able to attend. Activities are tentatively planned for September of 2014.

To assist with planning, the Society is currently gauging interest in this groundbreaking event. Are you, as a direct descendant of one of the PEI Fathers, interested in attending this 2014 event to mark the sesquicentennial of the genesis of our great nation, in which your ancestor played such an important role?

When the 200th or 250th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference rolls around, we want those celebrants to look back in appreciation for an accurate, professionally-researched family tree of the descendants of each of the seven PEI Fathers as they were in 2014! Recording the subsequent three to five generations will be their responsibility and we challenge them to take up the trail we have meticulously laid out for them.

If you are a direct descendant of one of the PEI Fathers of Confederation, please contact the Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society by e-mail at peigs_queries@yahoo.ca or by letter to:

PEIGS

Descendants of the Fathers Project

P.O. Box 2744

Charlottetown, PEI

C1A 8C4

Thank you. We look forward to your response.

Descendants of the Fathers Committee

Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society

Our Library

Mary Bole #884,

MGS Librarian



Materials for

Genealogy and Family History Research in Western Canada

Mavis Gray #0008

The collection at the MGS Library and Resource Centre is not limited to materials about Manitoba! It also includes some materials which may be of interest to those researching people who lived in the three provinces west of Manitoba.

GENERAL

Back To The Land: a Genealogical Guide to

Finding Farms on the Canadian Prairies (Ref 912 BAC)

Cummins Rural Directory: Alberta 1923, Saskatchewan 1922 (Microfilm 325 CUM)

North West Half Breeds and Original White Settlers (incl 1885) (Microfilm 970.3 LANC 14936/42)

Land Records, Metis and Original White Settlers: Applications of 1886-1901, 1906, index A-Z (Microfilm 970.3 LAN C14943)

Henderson's Directories of Manitoba and Northwest Territories [1876-1904] (Microfilm 917.127 HEN)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia has a provincial society and several regional societies, all of which publish magazines which are received by the MGS. Following is a list (not necessarily complete) of these periodicals:

Roots Around the World (Abbotsford Genealogical Society)

British Columbia Genealogist (British Columbia Genealogical Society)

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

Okanagan Researcher (Kelowna and District Genealogical Society)

Grapevines (South Okanagan Genealogical Society)

Victoria Genealogical Society Journal

Family Footsteps (Kamloops Family History Society)

Ancestree (Nanaimo Family History Society)

Cariboo Notes (Quesnel Branch, British Columbia Genealogical Society)

Tree Tracer (Prince George Genealogical Society)

Treehouse (Campbell River Genealogical Society)

We also have a few other resources which may be helpful, for example:

Genealogical Resources for British Columbians (West Can 971.1 Gen)

Genealogical Sources in British Columbia (West Can 971.1 Gen)

Vancouver Voters 1886, a Biographical Dictionary (Ref 971.1 VAN)

ALBERTA

A few materials which may be useful to research in Alberta:

Relatively Speaking (Alberta Genealogical Society)

Chinook (Alberta Family Histories Society)

Alberta, Index to Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1870-1905 (Ref 929.3 ALB)

Alberta, Formerly a Part of the North-West Territories: an Index to Birth, Marriage and Death Registrations Prior to 1900 (Ref 929.3 ALB2)

Surname Index to Alberta Cemetery Records and Other Sources (Microfiche 929.5 SUR)

Who Died When: Southern Alberta 1885-1969 (Ref 929.5 WHO)

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin

Armchair Genealogist (Saskatoon branch, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society)

Historical Directory of Saskatchewan Newspapers (West Can 016.071 MacD)

RCMP Obituary Index, 1933-1989 (Canada 363.2 WIL)

Transcribed Saskatchewan Cemeteries (West Can 929.5 SAS TRA)

Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors: a Guide to the Records and How to Use Them (West Can 929.197 TRA)

Finding Your Ancestors in Saskatchewan (West Can 929.1 HAN)

Births, Deaths, Marriages from Regina Newspapers, 1883-1913 (Ref 929.3 SASK)

Map Showing the Boundaries of the First and Second Systems of Survey in Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Maps 912 MAN SUR)

Our Towns: Saskatchewan Communities from Abbey to Zenon Park (Ref 919.3 McL)

People Places: the Dictionary of Saskatchewan Place Names (West Can 910.3 BAR)

Notable Saskatchewan Women 1905-1980 (West Can 920 NOT)

We also have approximately 100 local histories from Saskatchewan.

Library Lines

Mary Bole #884

Books for December 2012

For further information on any of the following books please check KOHA, our card catalogue. The link can be found on the MGS website.

Manitoba

070 Nor2 *Nor'Wester, July 15, 1970.*

289.7 Sto2 Stoesz, Dennis. *History of the Chortitzer Mennonite Church of Manitoba, 1874-1914.*

363.5 Bur Burley, D. *Living on Furby, 1880-2005.* [Winnipeg]

917.7127 Man Southworth, K. *Manitoba Communities, Alphabetical Listing,* 2012.

971.27 Fish Luty, C. *Where Have They Gone? A Story of Zbaraz and New Valley,* 2002. [Fisher]

Eastern Canada

362.7 Coo Cooper, B. *For the Children: 150 Years of Caring for Children and Families,* 2001.

971.3 Carl Johnston, G. *Bowesville: a Place to Remember,* 1988. [Ontario]

971.3 AAA Boyle, T. *Under This Roof: Family Homes of Southern Ontario,* 1980.

Western Canada

971.23 Fur A *Furrow Laid Bare; Neerlandia District History, 1985.* [Alberta]

Great Britain

770 Ras Rasmussen, G. *Digital Imagine Essentials: Techniques and Tips for Genealogists and Family Historians,* 2012.

941.1 Low Leetooze, S. *Lowlands of Scotland; Sourcebook for Family Researchers,* 2012.

941.1 Woo Woodcock, Christine. *In Search of Your Scottish Ancestors,* 2012.

942 Fam *Family Tree, Historical Ebooks,* 2012. [CD ROM]

General

004.1675 iPa Cooke, L. *Turn your iPad into a Genealogy Powerhouse (and Other Tablets too!)*, 2012.

021.0025 Ame *American Library Directory,* 2011. [Reference]

355.1 Can 2 *Canadian Forces, Sequence for Wearing Orders, Decorations and Medals,* 2005.

793.2 Vic *Victorian Party-Giving on Every Scale,* 2007.

929.1 Ken Kennett, D. *DNA and Social Networking: a Guide to Genealogy in the Twenty-First Century,* 2011.

929.1 Tra *Tracing your Ancestors Using Google,* 2011.

Family History and Biography

929.2 Bec Dodds, L. *Johannes Becker and his Descendants,* 2012.

- 929.2 Boo Dodds, L. *George Booker and his Descendants*, 2012.
- 929.2 Bow Dodds, L. *Thomas Bowker and his Descendants*, 2012.
- 929.2 Cri 4 Veldhuis, O. *For Elise: Unveiling the Forgotten Woman on the Criddle Homestead*, 2012
- 929.2 Dod Dodds, L. *William Purvis Dods and his Descendants*, 2012.
- 929.2 Fay Dodds, L. *Johann Nicolaus Fay and his Descendants*, 2012.
- 929.2 Fre 2 Urbanowski, C. *Freese, a Manitoba Pioneer Family*, 2012.
- 929.2 His 2 Dodds, L. *Robert Hislop and his Descendants*, 2012.
- 929.2 Red Redekop, D. *The Redekop(p) Clan, 1730-1980*.
- 929.2 Tho Thomas, M. *Middlesex Roots: the Ancestors of Clara McCandless and Morley Thomas*, 1989.
- 929.2 Neu Neufeld, W. *The Neufelds of Waldheim (Popularly Known as Wowldheimsche Niefelds)*, [1987].

Book Reviews

Enid Dorward #4502



You can borrow these materials from the MGS library!

With Love, Lydia: The Story of Canada's First Woman Ordained Minister by Patricia Wotton. c2012. 291 p. photographs. (MGS library call number FH & BIO 921 GRU)

Patricia Wotton sensitively tells the story of Lydia Gruchy, who was born in 1894 to English parents living in France and came to Canada

with her family in 1913. Lydia graduated from St. Andrew's College (theological college) in 1923. For several years she worked with new immigrants, including working as a missionary among the Doukhobors in northern Saskatchewan.

She was ordained by the United Church of Canada in 1936, having earned the privilege of ordination for women by proving that she (and other women) was capable of doing the required work well.

She worked in various roles within the United Church until her retirement in 1962, and then was a dedicated volunteer for many years after that. Hers is a story of humble dedication and valuable work within the United Church, as well as a snapshot of changing times and attitudes in her country and her church. Study groups will find reflection and discussion starters at the end of the book.

Irregular Marriages, Annan, Dumfriesshire 1797-1854. Transcribed and with an introduction by Arthur Brack. Dumfries & Galloway FHS, 1997. 52 p. (MGS library call number GB & IRE 941.4 IRR)

A list of 405 marriages that took place at Annan, of English people who found it less complicated to be married in Scotland than to deal with legal barriers in their own country.

Inventory of Archival Material in Western Manitoba (3 vol.) and ***Inventory of Archival Material in Eastern Manitoba*** (1 vol.). Published by Brandon University Press, 1967-1991. (MGS library call number: REF 011 INV)

Although these volumes are not up to date, they do contain a wealth of information about historical records from rural Manitoba. Each volume begins with a list of communities included, followed by lists of available records arranged under such topics as agricultural societies, churches, cemeteries, health care organizations, businesses and business associations, community history books, rural municipalities and local government districts, newspapers, school, and more.

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 over \$5.00 and are much appreciated.

Periodical Potpourri

Enid Dorward #4502

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

MANITOBA

Internet Genealogy (Dec-Jan 2013) Lord Selkirk's settlers – a listing of related websites.

Manitoba History (fall 2012)

A special issue devoted to journalism in Manitoba.

Times Lines (Oct. 2012 – Jan 2013)

Contains a list of Manitoba farms to which Centennial Farm awards have recently been given.

SOUTH AFRICA

Anglo-Celtic Roots (autumn 2012)

A mystery solved in South Africa.

ENGLAND

*****new periodical donated *****

Cockney Ancestor is published quarterly by the East of London Family History Society. All issues from 2008 to 2012 are now available in the MGS library.

Anglo-Celtic Roots (spring 2012) London Electoral registers 1835-1965.

Berkshire Family Historian (Dec. 2011) Information including lists of names, about almshouses in Newbury.

- (June 2012) This issue contains a lengthy list of UK military resources online.

- (Sept. 2012) The Berkshire probate index reviewed.

Bristol & Avon FHS (Sept. 2012) Contains a list of names of cholera victims in Bristol 1832-34.

Cleveland FHS (Oct. 2012) Describes a rescue after a shipwreck 28 Jan. 1815 and names the ship's crew and the rescue crew.

Cornwall FHS (Dec. 2011) Cornwall church rate list – a list of names from the early 17th century.

Devon Family Historian (Feb 2012) Devon shipping records project.

- (May 2012) How to access records of Muller's Orphanage, Bristol.

- (Nov. 2012) Devon church rates – an under-used resource?

Family History Monthly (Oct. 2011) How to trace asylum patients.

Family Tree ((Jan 2012) Information about a new website featuring digitized British newspapers.

- (Feb 2012) Tracing your RAF ancestors.

Use maps & gazetteers online free.

- (March 2012) enclosure records.

- (June 2012) Finding wills & probate records online for free.

- (Aug/12) Electoral registers & poll books online.

- (Dec. 2012) Parish chest websites.

Footprints (May 2012) Profiles of the parishes of Weekley and Warkton in Northamptonshire.

Journal of Gloucestershire FHS (summer 2012) Gloucestershire connections with the *Titanic*.

Hampshire Family Historian (March 2012) City Road Baptist Church Roll of Honour 1939-1945.

Internet Genealogy (Dec/Jan 2012) Online English, Welsh and Scottish criminal records.

Lancashire (Feb. 2012) The distribution of surnames in Lancashire in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Lincolnshire FHS (Feb 2012) The GENUKI church database project.

Norfolk Ancestor (Dec 2011) Norwich textile workers, with connections to Spitalfields and Bethnal Green.

- (March 2012) Information about Norfolk records & FamilySearch site.

- (Sept. 2012) Female convicts research centre.

Northumberland & Durham Family History Society Journal (spring 2010) Snippets from Tynemouth burial transcripts (1832-1840)

- (autumn 2012) A search for 58 persons from lead miners' families who emigrated from Allenheads in 1849.

Nottinghamshire FHS (Jan 2012) Tales from the workhouse, including a list of names of inmates who committed offences and were punished for them (1852-53).

Origins (March 2012) The Titanic disaster: Buckinghamshire connections (victims and survivors).

Past Tents (June 2012) Royal household staff records.

Practical Family History (Nov. 2010) Lunatics and asylums.

Suffolk Roots (Dec. 2011) A list of names of debtors in Beccles Gaol 1729

West Middlesex FHS Journal

- (March 2012) World War II memorial, Ealing town hall – list of 25 names.

-(Sept. 2012) Newspaper notices from 1929-30 (list of names & events.)

Who Do You Think You Are? (April 2012) Researching Hertfordshire.

- (Oct. 2012) Warwickshire research.

WALES

Family Tree (April 2012) Best websites for North Wales.

- (May 2012) Best websites for South Wales.

Glamorgan FHS (March 2011) Contains an article about Welsh people who lived in South America.

- (Dec. 2011) World War II roll of honour, St. Mary, Nolton, Bridgend.

- Park Slip explosion 1892: a list of survivors, and a list of fatalities from this mine explosion.

- (June 2012) Resources for researching Welsh family history in Australia.

Internet Genealogy (Aug/Sept. 2011) Tracing your Welsh roots.

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

The Genealogist (Sept. 2012) Changes to registration districts of Tasmania, 1838 – 1937.

Ancestor (Genealogical Society of Victoria) (March/April/May 2012)

Researching Australian World War I nurses.

- (June/July/August 2012)

Larrikins: street youth in Australian cities, 1870-1930.

- (Sept/Oct/Nov 2012) Research guide for aboriginal people in Australia.

Borders FHS Magazine (Oct. 2012) Extracts from the South Australian register, 2nd May 1865, re the ship "Clara", its passengers, deaths at sea.

New Zealand Family Tree (April-July 2012)

The growth of the town of Oamaru during the 1860s gold rush.


Generations can be e-mailed! Have you signed up yet for your electronic copy? You can sign up at:

mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=generations



An Introduction to the Database For HBC Servants' Contracts, 1776 -1926 (Part Two)

Elizabeth Briggs #0484

Reading the Index to the Servants' Contracts

Date The date the contract was signed which could be at the time the employee was hired, or a few weeks or months before hiring. Generally contracts were signed for a period of one to five years; the usual contract for an apprentice was seven years. Most contracts are

signed from the date of the new outfit year that is 1 June of the year and contracts terminate 31 May, a number of years later. The *Outfit* is the term used by the HBC employees to describe the trading or fiscal year. Around this time many new employees were hired from Britain and they sailed to North America to begin their term of employment.

n.d. would refer to no date on the contract

Location Reference to locate a particular contract, e.g. A.32/54 fo.56.

Code

Name of

Employee Family names appear first, then Christian or given name.

The eighteenth or nineteenth century style of writing differs from the present day. The name Jean Baptiste Bisson [A.332/21 fo.371] appears to be written Bifson where the first “s” takes the elongated form and is written like a letter ‘f’.

Age This is often an approximate age.

Origin A typical entry is as follows:

Scot. OKI Birsay

Scot. - Scotland

OKI - Orkney Isles

Birsay - Parish of Birsay or name of the hamlet or farm

Work

Location This can refer to the place where the contract was signed or where the employee was working. It is handwritten at the top of the document, e.g. YF meaning York Factory.

Occupation Some of these occupations are unfamiliar and explanations are given.

Miscellaneous Extra information which appears on the contract has been abbreviated in this section.

£25 pa.+£2 t/s (3) sig.

£25 pa. This is the rate of pay per year = 25 pounds sterling.

£12-16 pa. This rate of pay rises from 12 pounds sterling in the first year to a maximum of 16 pounds sterling in the last year.

£40 pa.+serv. Approximately £10 per year was allowed to pay for a servant. Normally this service was granted to a Master of a ship.

+£2 t/s The employee received £2 *in lieu of tea and sugar. The dollar equivalent at the time was often \$9.73*

(3) The term of the contract was 3 years. Sometimes the contract was seasonal as in A.32/59 fo.59 when Robert Williams was hired in Cartwright, Labrador for *the sum of Seventy dollars (\$70) for the season dating from the 15th May to the 15th October 1907.*

sig. The employee signed his contract. The signature was witnessed.

his mark The employee either could not write or did not sign the contract and made his mark which was witnessed.

Advance £10: an employee when he signed the contract might have agreed to an advance payment on his wages. The earliest date for advance on wages in the Servants' Contract records is 23 May 1780 when John Cromatie from South Ronaldsay, Orkney Islands negotiated an advance of wages £1.0.0. [A.32/1 fo.1]

For Orkney men this amount might be paid to the family after the ship had left for North America. Normally this was up to half the annual wages, although it could be a little more than this amount.

Advance payments were common to employees from Orkney, the Isle of Lewis and Scotland. It was less common in England. Advance payments were common for French Canadian employees.

Board & Lodging: Board is [how it]appears in the database. Meals and a bed to sleep were provided for employees by the Company in the “Custom of the Country.” This information was not always given in a contract.

Weights & Measures: Some contracts use unfamiliar units which require a brief explanation. Significant amounts of supplies e.g. grease, flour, sugar, teawere granted to employees as part of the payment. This amount

appeared on the contract and was more common for guides and interpreters.

cwt	hundredweight or 112 lbs [pounds]
$\frac{1}{4}$ cwt	28 lbs
lbs	pounds weight
keg	56 lbs [pounds] currently 5 gallons

Men Who Signed Contracts

Generally early contracts were signed by men although there are a few contracts for women who served as cooks. The predominant group originated from the British Isles and the North of Britain or the Orkney Isles and Shetland Isles. The men were hard working and educated for they frequently signed their names in a clear hand, and they could endure long periods of hardship and loneliness. Men with continuous long service may have a gap when no contract has been kept.

A large group of employees originated from Scotland with another large group of employees from the Isle of Lewis off the western coast of Scotland. Contracts for men employed from the Isle of Lewis did not appear until the early decades of the nineteenth century. A common thread for many Scottish contracts is the need for advance payment of up to 50% of the annual wage for the first year of employment. Their families were in great need.

There are a few contracts for Welshmen and more for Irishmen. Some men who signed in London, like David Thompson, have Welsh names and ancestry but they may be first or second generation in England.

A large group of employee contracts originated with the voyageurs and labourers from Bas Canada, now Québec. Unlike their Scottish counterparts they could not write and always made their mark before the notary public. Some contracts have no signature of the employee or a mark. These contracts are frequently written and dated in French by a notary public.

Another significant group of labourers who have contracts with the Hudson's Bay Company are the Norwegians. The men were normally

employed as labourers with the contract written in two columns on the page. The left side is in English and the right side Norwegian.

Free passage home is often written into a contract, but some men elected to remain in the Red River Settlement and receive a grant of 25 acres of land from the Hudson's Bay Company.

From the 1880s there are many references to testimonials and academic, health and dental certificates. They were probably returned to the employee with his copy of the contract as these documents are not found with the contracts until the early twentieth century. Normally one contract is located in the list for one employee at one particular time. However, two copies of the same contract can be found and very occasionally three copies of a contract. Thus it is believed that contracts were in triplicate, one copy for the employee, one for head office and perhaps one copy for the Canadian office.

Seasonal Employment

Seasonal employment was common for Salmon Preservers and Tinsmiths. Men were hired from May to October and each man would receive £4.10.0 per month with an advance of £4.10.0 and a monthly allotment £2.5.0. Thus there would be some saving for the final payment in October when the employee returned to England. Sometimes the address of the employee was included in the contract and there was a requirement for producing 300 tins of salmon daily during the season [Thomas Cory A.32/24 fo.294]

It being hereby agreed that during the period of salmon preserving 300 tins soldered and put out of hand to the satisfaction of the Master Preserver, or Foreman, shall be held to be an ordinary day's work, for any excess over which the said.....shall be entitled to six shillings extra for one hundred tins, while for any deficiency in this number a similar deduction shall be made from his wages.

The contract was signed by Donald Smith and John Ford in London. It represents a different

form of contract with John Ford acting as an independent business partner with the Hudson's Bay Company.

(Be sure to catch Part Three in the June issue of "Generations".)



So Are You Up for Some Change?

David Farmer #2277, Editor

For some time now, I have been thinking about making changes to *Generations*. The current format has served the Society for quite a while, but perhaps it is time to update it.

I am considering changing the format to something a little more modern looking as well as making it a little easier to put together each month. Perhaps some changes would make it easier to read, and easier to place longer articles, without having to chop them up over several issues.

Given that we have a growing number of readers who are opting for the electronic version, it is possible to add more colour, more graphics and more visual appeal. Of course we would not forget those who prefer to receive the paper version of *Generations*. In fact, perhaps it is time to go to a two-version format?

But what would you like to see? I am looking for input into where we might proceed with a new look *Generations*. So without doing a formal survey (mainly because I don't know how to set one up), I would like to know your thoughts on the current format.

So:

What do you like about the current format?

What would you like to see changed?

What are your favourite columns (those you would like to see continue)?

What columns do you think we could remove?

What types of articles would you like to see? (longer, shorter, more Manitoba focus, less Manitoba focus, etc.)

What new things would you like to see in *Generations*?

Is four times a year right? (more, less?)

Would you be willing to pay a fee for *Generations*? (for colour printed version, for improved graphics, etc.)? How much per issue?

Do you find *Generations* useful? Which article do you read first?

What are your thoughts about the front cover? Should we change the look?

I am sure there are lots more questions, but these should get you thinking. Feel free to address any issue, all submissions will be considered confidential, you don't have to put your name on it if you prefer not to. You can submit your thoughts to me at generations@mbgenealogy.ca or you can write them out, put them in an envelope marked "*Generations Survey*" and leave them in the office at the Resource Centre. I will give you until April 30, 2012 to submit your thoughts and ideas and hopefully we can incorporate some of them into the June issue. And, for all those who submit something (paper or electronically), I will put your names in a hat and draw TWO names for a Tim Horton's gift card.

Thanks and I look forward to some really great ideas.



101 Ways to Research Your Family Tree for Free

Alternatives to Pay-For-Use Genealogy Sites on the Internet

By [Kimberly Powell](#), About.com Guide

Is free genealogy a thing of the past? With the constant addition of subscription genealogy databases on the Internet, people often wonder if there will soon be an end to free genealogy research via the Web. For those of you with this concern, take heart - free genealogy databases aren't going anywhere anytime soon. Web sites from all over the world contain free genealogy information of use to family tree researchers which has been contributed by individuals, companies and even governments. Birth records, marriage records, military records, ships passenger lists, surnames, census records, immigration records, wills, photos and much, much more are available on the Internet for FREE if you just know where to look. These 100 free genealogy sites, in no particular order, should keep you busy searching for weeks! (*The following is a sample*).

1. Rootsweb - World Connect Project

Out of all of the online databases of submitted family tree information, my favorite is the World Connect Project which allow users to upload, modify, link, and display their family trees as a means to share their work with other researchers. The reason why this particular project is my favorite is it is one of the largest, and it also allows people to add to, update or remove their information at any time. While this by no means ensures that the information you will find here is correct, it at least increases the probabilities of finding current contact information for researchers with information which interests you. This free genealogy database currently contains over 3 billion names in over 300,000 family trees, and you can search them all online for absolutely no charge! You can also submit your own family tree information in GEDCOM format for free.

2. FamilySearch Record Search

This free research site from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a veritable treasure for all genealogists, with

plenty of free family history records for those concerned about the budget, and excellent image quality and indexes for researchers looking for alternative access options. Records are available from numerous countries.

3. WorldGenWeb

No list of free Internet genealogy records would be complete without mentioning WorldGenWeb. It began in 1996 with the USGenWeb project and, shortly thereafter, the WorldGenWeb project went online to provide free access to genealogy information around the world. Each region, country, province, and state has a page on WorldGenWeb with access to free queries, links to genealogy information and, often, free transcribed genealogy records.

For more information and a complete listing of all free sites, please go to:
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/free_genealogy/a/free_sites.htm

Source: Powell, Kimberley; about.com genealogy;
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/free_genealogy/a/free_sites.htm; February 23, 2013

Do you have ancestors with one of these unique occupations?

Puddler – wrought iron worker

Ripper – fish seller

Slopseller – seller of readymade clothes in a slop shop

Snobscat or Snob – repairer of shoes

Stuffgownsman – junior barrister

Tipstaff – policemen

Webster – operator of looms

Whitewing – street sweeper



EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

"FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY RESOURCES" and "RESEARCH IN THE FORMER RUSSIAN EMPIRE"

(Includes Poland, Ukraine, Baltic States, and other areas)

Saturday, June 1, 2013

Seminar location at

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS)
45 Dalhousie Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

This full-day seminar will feature presentations by internationally renowned authority, Kahlile Mehr from Salt Lake City. The presentations will focus on two distinct subjects namely, "Family History Library Resources" and "Research in the Former Russian Empire." The first subject includes information for the former Russian Empire but is also relevant for other areas of Eastern Europe such as Poland and Ukraine (including Galicia & Bukovina). The former Russian Empire was comprised of modern-day Russia, the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, & Estonia), Belarus, Poland (northeastern), Ukraine (central & eastern including Black Sea), & other former Soviet republics.

The presentations are:

- Getting the Most out of *FamilySearch*
- Online Databases of the Polish State Archives
- Finding Places in the Former Russian Empire
- The Baltic Edge of the Former Russian Empire
- How Records are Acquired by *FamilySearch* from the Former Soviet Sphere

Registration:	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Sessions 1 to 4:	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (includes breaks and lunch)
Buffet Dinner:	6:00 p.m.
After Dinner Talk (session 5):	7:30 p.m.

Early Bird Draw: Registrations postmarked by April 20, 2013 will be entered into 3 early-bird draws.

Prizes: * complete set of EEG journals * complimentary one-year EEGS membership

- * *Polish Surnames: Origins & Meanings, Third Edition* (Book & CD) by William F. Hoffman

- Registration will be acknowledged by postal mail or e-mail and will include a receipt of payment.

Mail form with payment to:

Mari Domolewski
EEGS Seminar Registrar
39 Rockspur St.
Winnipeg, MB, Canada R2K 3M5

Please complete and detach the registration form below.

----- EEGS 2013 Seminar registration form (detach here) -----
(One form per registrant)

Name _____

Street / PO Box _____

City _____ Province /State _____

Postal/Zip code _____ Home phone _____

E-Mail _____

Meals: Lunch is included in the price of your seminar registration. An evening dinner (additional \$28.00 per person) will be held at the seminar venue. Registrants are welcome to bring their spouse for dinner. Please indicate and include payment for dinner meals. All dinner requests must be postmarked by May 21, 2013. This is a *full-day seminar*; "dinner-only" registrations are not accepted.

Registration fee (check all applicable and enclose payment)

EEGS Member \$60.00 _____

Non-member \$65.00 _____

Attendee dinner \$28.00 _____

Spouse dinner \$28.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

info@eegsociety.org

204-689-3292 (voice mail)

www.eegsociety.org

After 85 Years, Bible Finds Its Way Home

John Shaw

South West Branch, MGS

The following article is reprinted courtesy of the South West Branch New Leaf Newsletter, edited by Jack Dodds.

John Shaw of Brandon was always fascinated by a story he heard as a young person in church about a Canadian soldier whose life was saved because an enemy bullet aimed for his heart was intercepted by a Bible that the young solder carried in his breast pocket. Unbelievably, Shaw found out that the subject of one of the Great War stories was his great uncle, Freeman Margarson.

The story was brought to life when Shaw received the Bible, complete with the bullet still intact, from Chris Woodward, an Englishman whose family had been in possession of the Bible since late in the First World War.

Thanks to Mr. Woodward and some great genealogical work done by Jim Rutherford of the Manitoba Genealogical Society in Winnipeg, the bullet-pierced Bible was forwarded from England to Winnipeg, where Shaw presented it to Mr. Gerry Woodman, the President of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum,

Woodward came into possession of the Bible because his grandfather received it from a dying Canadian solder, who happened to be Freeman Margarson's brother John. It is believed that after the Bible saved Freeman's life, he regarded it as a good luck omen, and so he gave it to his brother, who continued to fight in the First World War. Tragically, it didn't bring the same protection for John Margarson, who was killed in battle. But when the dying solder handed the Bible to Woodward's grandfather on the battlefield for safekeeping, it could have been out of the Canadian family's hands for good. The fact is that it sat in the Woodward's family home in England for 85 years before Chris Woodward started the search for the Bible's familial ownership.

The Bible carried an inscription inside the cover that said "To Dear Freeman from your wife Mirrie." There was also an address underneath – 501 Polson Avenue, Winnipeg, Canada. Before Freeman left, his wife gave him the Bible to take with him. He carried it in his breast pocket, right next to his heart. One day in a ferocious battle, he was hit by a bullet, but because of the cover on the Bible, the bullet did not hit his heart but instead was lodged in the Bible, where it has stayed undisturbed to this day.

Armed with the scant information inside the cover, Woodward began his search. He started by contacting Mayor Sam Katz, who turned the request over to Mary Munk of the Canadian Genealogical Centre. Through a variety of searches the true family ownership was established: John Shaw of Brandon who was a great nephew of Freeman Margarson.

Jim Rutherford of the Manitoba Genealogical Society in Winnipeg arranged to have the Bible shipped to him by a Canadian military flight to Toronto and then on to Winnipeg. The Bible was donated in a special ceremony in Winnipeg.

"I often thought about the story of the young soldier and how his life was saved by his wife's love and the gift of a Bible. But it was a rare coincidence to find out later that the story was about one of my ancestors," said Shaw.

"It's a very heart-warming story," said Shaw. "It's a story about history and love and family. I know that the Bible will be well taken care of."

(Ed's Note: Jim Rutherford is the MGS Research Chair. You can find Jim and his team in the Resource Centre on Thursdays.)

"The most important thing in life is to stop saying 'I wish' and start saying 'I will.' Consider nothing impossible, then treat possibilities as probabilities."

— Charles Dickens, David Copperfield

Branch News

Southeast & Winnipeg Branch Educational Programming Schedule Winter - Spring 2013

**Unless otherwise stated, all Branch Programs are held at the MGS Resource Centre,
Unit E-1045 St. James Street, beginning at 7:00 pm**

Date	Type	Topic	Presenter
Mar 11	General	Building a Picture of Everyday Life of our Ancestors	Mary Bole
Mar 18	12 Heads	Cooking with Grandma – Recipe & Family Secrets from the Kitchen	Virginia Braid
Mar 25	12 Heads	New Year's Resolution—1 New Source	Judy Labossière
Apr 8	General	From the Borderland to the Back Woods	Howard Mathieson
Apr 15	Computer SIG	Using Your Digital Camera	Linda White & Gord McBean
Apr 22		Possible presentation TBA	
Apr 29	12 Heads	Ethics in Genealogy	Jayne Paradis
May 13	AGM	Breaking Deadlocks	Elizabeth Briggs
May 27	Tour	Walking Tour - Shaarey Zedek Cemetery	Lynn Roseman
Jun 10	General	Preparing for a Summer Research Trip	Kelly Southworth

*Monday-night program may be changed without notice.

*Monday-night events will be cancelled whenever Winnipeg School Division #1 closes due to weather—listen to your radio or TV!

Watch the E-Zine for detailed descriptions, programming changes, and other educational opportunities. Or, check postings at MGS Resource Centre.

Don't subscribe to the E-Zine? Ask Sheila Woods how! Or, register with our Branch Caller to be kept up-to-date monthly, via telephone.



South West Branch Manitoba Genealogical Society

South West Branch Manitoba Genealogical Society

Workshop

Celebrating 35 Years

Saturday, April 13, 2013
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Knox United Church
18th Street & Victoria Avenue
(use 17th Street entrance)

Registration Fee: \$40 per person before April 1st or \$45 after (spouse ½ price)
For registration information, visit our website:

www.swmanitobagenealogy.ca
Or call 204-726-5344
Registration deadline April 1st

Premier Presenter:
Elizabeth Briggs, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Ed.
Author, Presenter, Genealogist

TOPICS:

Sound Genealogical Practices
Genealogy - Basics and Beyond
Analyzing/Getting the Most Out Of Census Records
Using Manitoba Archives & Vital Statistics
Irish Research
Irish History - Religion and Immigration

Heritage Dinner

Margo's Grill
4 - 1451 Richmond Ave. E.

Guest Speaker - Richard McIntyre
Topic - Ireland
Cocktails 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Price: \$17.99 payable at restaurant

Generations Editorial Team

If you are interested in working with the Editorial staff in some capacity, please send note to generations@mbgenealogy.com

Editor – *David Farmer*

Editorial Consultant – *Linda White*

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*

Make a Donation!

(*You can use the Membership form on this page to submit your donation*)

Your financial support helps with:

- developing programs, collections and research resources for the heritage community
- upgrading equipment and subscribing to relevant resources to keep us abreast with current research
- providing and maintaining a comfortable facility for our members and the public

You receive:

- the satisfaction in knowing that your donation will be put directly towards furthering the goals of the Society.
- a tax receipt for the full amount of your donation. As a registered charity these receipts are applicable in both Canada and the United States.

Time to Renew?

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

Manitoba Genealogical Society, Inc.

Unit E-1045 St. James Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3H 1B1

Telephone: 204/783-9139

E-mail: contact@mbgenealogy.com

Web: www.mbgenealogy.com

New _____ Renewal MGS #_____

Name: _____

(Please Print) Phone Number: _____

Street: _____

City/Town: _____

Prov./State: _____ Code: _____

E-Mail: _____

(We will not disclose your personal information outside of MGS without your permission.)

To receive *Generations* by e-mail tick here: _____

Name of Associate Member at the same address (if applicable): _____

MGS# _____

MGS MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual.....	\$40.00	\$ _____
Associate.....	\$20.00	\$ _____
Institutional.....	\$40.00	\$ _____

BRANCH FEES

Beautiful Plains.....	\$10.00	\$ _____
Dauphin.....	\$10.00	\$ _____
Southeast & Winnipeg	\$12.00	\$ _____
South West (Brandon)....	\$10.00	\$ _____
Associate of above.....	\$ 8.00	\$ _____
Swan Valley.....	\$10.00	\$ _____

DONATION* _____
MGS is a registered charity and welcomes your support

Total Enclosed _____
GST not applicable. _____

*Federal Income Tax receipts are issued for
donations of \$10.00 or more

OFFICE USE

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Computer _____

Cash _____ Cheque _____ Other _____

Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

E – 1045 St. James Street, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3H 1B1 Phone: 204-783-9139

contact@mbgenealogy.com

www.mbgenealogy.com

Publications Order Form

<u>Book</u>		<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
A1	BIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES at the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY Archives, Vol. 1	each \$33.00	_____
A2	BIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES at the HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY Archives, Vol. 2	each \$39.00	_____
A3	CARVED IN STONE. Cemeteries and Burial Sites in Manitoba. Revised in 1997	each \$25.00	_____
A4	FAMILY HISTORIAN'S GUIDE to Illness, Disease & Death Certificates	each \$25.00	_____
A5	FAST FACTS FOR FINDING FAMILY IN MANITOBA	each \$10.00	_____
A6	HANDBOOK for READING and INTERPRETING OLD DOCUMENTS ...with examples from HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY Archives, Winnipeg. Illustrated	each \$35.00	_____
A7	An INDEX of BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH NOTICES FROM MANITOBA NEWSPAPERS Volume 1 (1859 – 1881) Marr / Deaths only	each \$25.00	_____
A8	Volume 2 (1882 – 1884)	each \$49.00	_____
A9	Volume 3 (1885) (<i>currently unavailable</i>)	each \$20.00	_____
A10	Volume 4 (1886)	each \$20.00	_____
A11	Volume 5 (1887)	each \$20.00	_____

Please Note: Shipping & Handling for the first item \$4.50 and \$3.00 for each additional item.

Total S & H	\$_____.
Total Order	\$_____.

Please check here if you would like to receive a free large pedigree chart with your order while supplies last _____

TOTAL PAYABLE IN CANADIAN FUNDS

Name _____ MGS # _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. / State _____

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Prices subject to change without notice

Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

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

Telephone: 204-783-9139

Email: generations@mbgenealogy.com



***Generations:* Advertising Rates Schedule**

	<u>1 ISSUE</u>	<u>4 ISSUES</u>
Full Page/2 column width	\$150.00	\$500.00
Half Page/2 column width	\$ 80.00	\$200.00
Quarter Page/1 column width	\$ 40.00	\$ 90.00

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 .

Classified Ads

Maximum of 3 (typewritten) lines x 1 column width for \$10.00 per issue or \$32.00 per year. Must be typewritten or printed clearly. Extra lines are \$3.00 each.

Business Card Ads

Actual business card = \$20.00 per issue or \$60.00 per year. Camera ready.

Changes

Changes will be allowed to advertising purchased at the yearly rate at a cost of \$15.00/change. Changes must be received by the copy deadline.

Copy Deadlines

February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1. Send copy or enquiries to Editor, *Generations*, at the address above or generations@mbgenealogy.com

Guidelines

The following guidelines shall apply to advertisements placed by MGS or appearing in Society publications:

- All advertisements shall conform to MGS policy. The following outline of principles constitutes the policy of the Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. on advertising. **Purposes:** [1] to advance the cause of genealogy; [2] to promote the interests of the Society; [3] to provide information to the public. **Content:** any advertising placed by the Society or appearing in Society publications shall: [1] conform to the policies of the Society; [2] contain no statements that are false or misleading to the best of our knowledge; [3] ensure a regard for public safety and shall not depict situations which might encourage inappropriate, unsafe or dangerous practices; and [4] conform to the public standards of taste and decency. **Placement:** advertising shall not be placed by the Society in any publication or media program that discriminates in its content on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, marital status, family status, source of income, or age. Advertising that appears in any publications of the Society shall not discriminate in its content on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, marital status, family status, source of income, or age. **Application of the Policy:** Where any doubt exists as to the application of the policy, the Vice President of Communications and the Journal Editor of the Society shall decide.
- 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.



LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTRE

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:30 to 3:30
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?

2013/03/31, 2013/04/30, or 2013/05/31

If so, your membership is expiring with this issue.

PLEASE RENEW SOON. Membership form is on page 27.