

GENERATIONS

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This Issue:

- Belgians in Manitoba
- Annual Reports of MGS
- Manitoba Public Accounts Records

MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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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 Fees: \$35.00 Individuals; \$15.00 Associate at same address; \$35.00 Institutions; \$100.00 Corporate; and \$350.00 Life. Full members receive four issues of *Generations*, general mailings, and are also entitled to one free Query per year, plus library privileges. **Branch Fees:** Dauphin \$10.00 / South West \$10.00 Individual, \$8.00 Associate / Swan Valley \$10.00 / Beautiful Plains \$10.00 / Southeast & Winnipeg \$10.00

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Please put return address on both letter and envelope.

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Editor: Bill Burland



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From the Editor: The best of the holiday season to all our members.

This issue contains many pages of reports of your society as presented at the AGM.

In trying to let you know of the recent Seminar, we e-mailed all the members of MGS who had e-mail addresses. If you did not receive this mailing, or have recently changed your address, please send a note with the correct address to mgsi@mts.net.

President's Report/ Seminar Report

Jayne Paradis, MGS #045

I would like to thank everyone who helped with and participated in the Seminar. It was an interesting day and I think, well received. Having said that, we lost money on the seminar, basically through lack of attendance. I'm not sure exactly why we didn't get a better response - perhaps it could have been advertised more or more members could have participated. It seems that everyone would like a seminar but very few are willing to help organize it. We have quite a few regular volunteers who are already giving lots of their time and shouldn't have to give more. If seminars are to continue in the future, MGS sure could use some help - no experience needed. We've had some new additions and changes to the executive. Joan Whiston has become VP of Administration after several years of being Treasurer - I think she will do a wonderful job in her new role. John Christie has become the Treasurer after a year of VP Finance. We welcome a new executive member - Jim Beyette as VP Finance.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a great holiday season!

Pioneer Royalty

June 1947

"Pioneer Royalty" is from a small newsletter entitled *Town and Farm* that was mailed out with the Manitoba Hydro Bills covering the dates 1946 until 1955. We thank Manitoba Hydro for permission to reprint them in *Generations*.



In the hustling and bustling of our modern age we are apt to forget the pioneers who blazed the trail for our progress. When we pause and look back at the prairie wilderness, we are humbled and inspired. We deem it a privilege to pay tribute this month to the following men and women who pioneered in Manitoba:

OVER NINETY . . .

Mrs Katherine Hutchison, Boissevain, 98 years of age, June 22

Mrs Rebecca Madill, Clanwilliam, 98 years of age.

James Murdock, Franklin, 92 years of age, June 14.

John Simpson, Neepawa, 92 years of age, June 16.

J.W. Carrothers, Wawanesa, 91 years of age, June 26.

Jas. A. Smith, Portage la Prairie, 91 years of age, June 22.

Mrs E. Johnson, Pierson, 90 years of age, June 4.

OVER EIGHTY . . .

Robert Leeson, Strathclair, 89 years of age, June 20.

Hugh Roberts, Strathclair, 89 years of age, June 20.

Mrs Thos. Clark, Brandon, 87 years of age, June 4.

Mrs T. Brown, Rivers, 87 years of age, June 28.

John C. Randall, Shoal Lake, 97 years of age, June 13.

A.W. Lief, Hamiota, 86 years of age, June 10.

F. Dunn, Sr., Alexander, 86 years of age, June 21.

R. A. Gibb, Portage la Prairie, 86 years of age, June 24.

Peter Guthrie, Reston, 86 years of age, June 5.

J.T. Thomas, Partage la Prairie, 85 years of age, June 7.

Major A.B. Chapman, M.C., M.D., Reston, 84 years of age, June 2.

Dr. Robert Lawson, Shoal Lake, 84 years of age, June 2.

T. Greaves, Russell, 84 years of age, June 9.

T. Bush, Austin, 81 years of age, June 21.

ANNIVERSARIES . . .

Mr and Mrs Wm. Shaw, Boissevain, married 56 years, June 20.

Mr and Mrs Jas. Burnett, Napinka, married 55 years, June 10.

Mr and Mrs H. Clack, Strathclair, married 54 years, June 28.

Mr and Mrs F. Eagle, Brandon, married 52 years, June 2.

Mr and Mrs Geo. S. Sumpton, Dauphin, married 52 years, June 26.

Mr and Mrs D. Wildfong, Hamiota, married 52 years, June 11.

Mr and Mrs David Allison, Roland, married 51 years, June 10.

Mr and Mrs John Porter, Killarney, married 52 years, June 16.

Mr and Mrs Thos. Richardson, Carman, married 51 years, June 24.

Mr and Mrs Geo Hunt, Morden, married 51 years, June 11.

Mr and Mrs R.J. Black, Justice, married 51 years, June 9.

Mr and Mrs C. Perry, Pierson, married 51 years, June 23.

Mr and Mrs J.N. Caskey, Portage la Prairie, married 43 years, June 22.

Mr and Mrs F.C. Norris, Elkhorn, married 36 years, June 14.

Belgians in Manitoba

By Marcel Blanchaer

In the Free Press Weekly of 5 April 1888 there appeared this item:

"A group of Belgians arrived in Winnipeg on April 2nd, numbering 106 in all, including women and children. Instead of being opulent as some immigration agents had believed, their appearance betrayed their poverty. The most valuable possession to be seen was a game rooster of lengthy pedigree. Nineteen who were miners were sent off to Nanaimo, and 46 farmers went to St. Leon, MB. The remainder were left because they were so poor that no immigration agents wanted to bother with them. They were left in the care of Father Cloutier."

The "immigration agents" worked for various clients including towns seeking more settlers of their predominant ethnicity. In one case the Roman Catholic Bishop Taché who had failed to attract settlers from the province of Québec had finally accepted Belgian settlers whom he believed were French-speaking, but who in everyday life actually spoke Flemish (Vlaams), currently considered a dialect of Dutch.

Although building materials were available in the villages of Cypress River, Holland and Swan Lake in south-western Manitoba, the newcomers built their first homes of logs mostly for economic reasons, but also because of their availability. Poplar logs were sawn into lumber for cabin roofs. The one advantage poplar lumber had was that it could be used immediately after sawing, as it did not shrink while drying. The settlers were advised to use it as soon as possible. Eventually more lumber than logs was being used for building.

Shortly after building a home, the married Belgians who came alone would send for their families, although in some cases it would be several years before the families could come to Canada. One of the requirements for obtaining a homestead was that a residence had to be built, so after building their log house many left to look for employment elsewhere to earn money to send to their families, or to buy whatever was needed to begin farming, as very few of them had sufficient funds to start. Many of them found employment on the railways. The C.P.R. was being extended west of Cypress River, and to the southeast the Pacific Northern Railway (later to be known as the C.N.R.) was laying a line which would pass through Somerset, Swan Lake and Mariapolis in 1889/90.

Henry Swennen's father lived up until the 1920's in a thatched hut made of clay reinforced with branches. Its floor was packed dirt and the

animals: a horse, cow, pig and chickens shared the same hut with the farmer and his family! Having one's own homestead must have seemed like Heaven to those that came from Limburg and Brabant, and other places in Belgium in the early 1890's.

Many of the settlers would go away to find work elsewhere in summertime, and return to their homesteads in the winter to start clearing land for breaking. The tool they used was a grub-hoe, also called a mattock, a tool with a sharp blade on one side to cut roots, and on the other a curved hoe-type blade to clear the dirt away from the roots. With the coming of the railways there was also a market for cordwood. This was a source of revenue in the wintertime and only wood cut in the winter could be sold. Many thousands of cords of wood were hauled to the railway stations at Holland, Swan Lake and Mariapolis, where the wood was piled on flatcars and shipped to Winnipeg.

In order to haul the wood to the railways the settlers needed horses or oxen. Of these, the oxen were the most popular as they could "live off the land", whereas horses needed oats which were not always available. Also, when an ox became too old to work it could be butchered, and the meat used for food. It was said that ox meat was so tough you could sit down to dinner hungry and get up tired! Oxen were slow and had a working speed of only two miles an hour, however it was said that when they were frightened, or when the flies were bad, they were capable of speeds that would make a horse blush! Many of the farmers used oxen to break the new land. They were slow but strong and generally patient. These animals felt the heat very much and would try to get into the water of a nice comfortable slough if at all possible. They had a joke about the oxen in the early days. One man had 3 animals and he called them by name as a Presbyterian, a

Baptist and a Methodist. "Why did you use these names?" he was asked. "Well," he answered, "the big ox was bad for bawling at nights, so he was called a Methodist, the red one would always lay down in the water so we called him a Baptist, and the other, the roan, we called him a Presbyterian because we could not make him work on Sundays.

As more land was cleared and oats grown the homesteaders would buy horses. At first it would be only one or two to use for transportation, while oxen would still be used for field work as they were cheaper to buy and more economical to work with. It was many years before horses finally replaced oxen.

As more Belgian immigrants arrived all available homesteads were being taken up, and the district north of St. Alphonse became the Bruxelles district, with its own village, named after the capital of Belgium from whence had come the first parish priest and one of the early settlers.

While the lure of free land was responsible for the Belgians coming to Manitoba; 160 acres for the registration fee of \$10.00 but not all land was free. Of the 36 sections in a Township, the odd-numbered sections 1 to 35, with the exception of sections 11 and 27, were given by the Federal Government to the C.P.R. to compensate for the cost of building railways in western Canada. Of the 144 quarter sections in a Township, only 64 were available as government homesteads.

Belgian immigrants who came to Bruxelles (Manitoba) and St. Alphonse after the government homesteads were taken up had to purchase land from companies. Shortly after the arrival of the Belgians, many French-Canadians, fed up with the difficulty of clearing land around St. Alphonse, moved out. They had no difficulty selling their farms to newcomers who had not managed to obtain homesteads.

In 1888 a young Belgian who was single, and had arrived with the first group, went to Swan Lake to look for work and to learn English. Although Swan Lake had been settled mostly by English-speaking farmers from Ontario in 1878, there were still homesteads available. This young Belgian was encouraged by the English farmers that he worked for to take a homestead there rather than at St. Alphonse. He did so, and for several years was the only Belgian settler in the Swan Lake district. In the years to come other Belgians

settled around Swan Lake by purchasing land from companies, the railway, or from English farmers who had reached retirement age and had no sons to take over.

Some of the English farmers from Ontario, whose fathers and grandfathers had settled there decades earlier, sent their sons to the cities to further their education. These sons did not return to the farms, and when the fathers could no longer farm they sold their land to the Belgians. Other English farmers who had sons, but not enough land, discovered they could sell their land to the Belgians for a good price and move elsewhere to purchase land where more was available, or take up new homesteads out west when they became available. Thus it is that today in the Swan Lake district, which was once ninety-nine per cent English, only a few English families remain.

The Belgian children, on the other hand, when they reached the age of thirteen or fourteen had to leave their schooling to help out on the farms, regardless of how much or little education they had received. It would be several decades before many would receive high school education. The few who did go on to receive higher education in the early days did so to become teachers, or to enter religious life. However, when the Belgians first came they tried to learn English as soon as possible. A French-Canadian Mother Superior from St. Alphonse Convent school once remarked that "concerning languages, one could learn from the Belgians that it is possible to learn two or more languages, as many of them already speak two languages and are now learning a third."

The heavily wooded areas around Bruxelles, St. Alphonse and Swan Lake were also a source of income for immigrants from Belgium who had come when homesteads were no longer available. They quickly found work grubbing for homesteaders, or for established farmers. Many had already spent several years doing backbreaking work in the sugar beet fields in France before coming to Manitoba, so had no difficulty working in the bush day after day. Many had come with only enough money to buy a grub-hoe after paying for their passage. At first they would work for daily wages, but soon discovered they could make a great deal more money working by the acre, or a set amount of money for a specified portion of bush. The landowners supplied room and board. In summer grubbing began at 6 am. with a lunch-break at 9 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. Lunch consisted of two

raw eggs and a few sandwiches. After the evening meal workers carried on until darkness forced them to stop. In the winter they grubbed until the snow became too deep, and the rest of the winter they worked for the farmer for room and board.

In the summertime when the weather was hot the men would drink a great deal of water, and as a result many came down with a form of dysentery known as "summer complaint." An English doctor advised them to put oatmeal in their drinking water, a handful to a gallon. While the taste left something to be desired, it did quench their thirst, and was effective in preventing the sickness.

Because of their occupation these men became known as "grubbers". Sometimes the odd one would have difficulty collecting the money owed to him, but in most cases the owners were satisfied to pay the price agreed upon. One young grubber told of an experience when grubbing for a farmer north of Pilot Mound. He and the farmer had agreed on a price for grubbing a piece of bush. Seeing how far the grubber had progressed after a week, the farmer complained that he had been overcharged - that the grubber was making fantastic wages, whereupon the grubber said, "I'll make a deal with you. Come with me to the bush tomorrow morning to start grubbing, and if you can keep up to me for a whole day I will finish the rest of the bluff at no cost to you. If you cannot keep up just pay me what we agreed upon." Next morning the owner and the grubber went to the

A more extensive account of Belgian settlement in Manitoba can be found at the internet website:
<http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~blanch/ManBelgHist/index.htm>

bush at 6 a.m., and for the first two hours the owner had actually done more than the grubber, but by 10 a.m. he started straightening himself upright and rubbing his back, and by 11 a.m. he was also looking up at the sky as well. By noon he was ready to call it quits, and never complained again.

When working in abrasive soils, grub-hoe blades would wear down quickly, and would have to be taken to a blacksmith to be heated, hammered out, tempered and resharpened. The Scottish-born blacksmith at Swan Lake, who was known for the quality of his work, sharpened so many grub-hoes that he referred to them as "Belgian flags" - a name by which they are known to this day.

While many of the first Belgians left the district to take up homesteads further west or south when they became available, most of them were satisfied to remain in the district which they had already traveled a few thousand miles to reach. They now owned farms which they could never have owned in Belgium, and eventually, as conditions improved with better housing, roads, and availability of education, they never regretted coming to Manitoba. As the years went by more land was purchased by Belgians in the surrounding districts of South-Central Manitoba. Today most can trace their ancestry to the families who settled in St. Alphonse.

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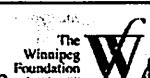
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Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. had been supported by a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation



Library Lines

Mary Bole, MGS Librarian (#884)

Manitoba

- 011 INV v.2 *Inventory of Archival Material in Western Manitoba*, 1987.-.
- 371.8 GOR *Yearbook, Gordon Bell High School*
- 371.8 LOR *Yearbook, Lord Selkirk High School*
- 371.8 MMC *Yearbook, Miles MacDonnell Collegiate*
- 912 MAN *1885 Map of Manitoba*
- 912 Man *1968 Map of Manitoba*
Shows areas populated by Natives and Métis.
- 929.1 FIN Hanowski, Laura. *Finding your Ancestors in Manitoba*, 2005.
- 929.5 BRA *Index to Brandon Sun Obituaries 1900-. (Reference)*
- 929.5 RHI *Grossweide Cemetery, Rhineland Municipality. (Reference)*
- 970 SEV Sevareid, Eric. *Canoeing with the Cree*, 1968.
In the summer of 1930 two boys paddled an 18 foot canoe from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay, a time when the area was still a vast wilderness inhabited by Natives, Mounties and Hudson's Bay employees.
- 971.27 BLAN *History of Blanshard Municipality, volume 4*, 2004.
- 971.27 CAME Parkinson, H.M. *Mere living, 1957. (Reference)*
A biography of the Harney district, Cameron municipality.
- 971.27 DAUP Tucker, A.J. *Dictionary of pioneer families of the Dauphin Valley*, 2005.
Contains brief biographies of most of the 300 persons whose names are on the Pioneer Cairn at Fort Dauphin Museum grounds. These pioneers settled in this area 1883-1895. Written by MGS member #64.
- 971.27 LACD *Logs and Lines of the Winnipeg River*, 1979. (Reference)
A history of the Lac du Bonnet area.
- 971.27 NORT Boulanger, Tom. *An Indian Remembers*, 1971.
Story of Tom Boulanger's life as a trapper in northern Manitoba. Mentions Oxford House and Berens River.
- 971.27 NORT Malaher, Gerald. *The North I Love*, 1984.
A collection of stories about the Canadian North. They chronicle the real-life adventures of a Gerald Malaher, a pioneer conservationist.
- 971.27 PINA *Pinawa – 20 years*, 1983.

971.27 SAAA *Glimpses of the Past*, 1997

Local history of Clandeboye, St. Andrews municipality.

971.27 SASK *Golden Thread or the Last of the Pioneers*, 1971. (Reference)

A story of the districts of Basswood and Minnedosa, Saskatchewan municipality.

971.27 WMOU *Trails and rails to highways*, 1979.

Local history book of Whitemouth municipality.

971.27 WINN Peterson, Murray. *Winnipeg Landmarks*, 1995.

971.27 WINN Masters, D.C. *Winnipeg General Strike*, 1950.

971.271 WEL Wells, Eric. *Manitoba Nuggets*, 1978.

971.272 GRE Green, W. *Red River Revelations*, 1974.

971.274 HOM Ens, Gerhard J. *Homeland to Hinterland*, 1996.

Changing worlds of the Red River Métis during the 19th century.

Canada

071 BOO *Bookshelf Free Press*, 1955-6
A collection of editorial pieces and essays which appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press.

305.4 WOM *Women of Canada: Their Life and Work*, 1975.
The original of this was compiled by the National Council of Women of Canada for the Paris International Exhibition in 1900.

317.1 CAN *Canadian Almanac*, 1927.

355.3 REG *Regiments: Corps of the Canadian Army*, 1964.
Prepared by the Canadian Army Historical Section.

363.2 ROY Fetherstonhaugh, R.C. *Royal Canadian Mounted Police*, 1940.
363.4 GRA Gray, James H. *Booze*, 1972.
Deals with the impact of whisky on the Prairie West.

384.54 LAM Lambert, R.S. *Old Country Mail*, 1941.

A series of letters written from people in Britain and read on CBC during the war.

929.1 RES Labrosse-Purcell, Michele. *Researching Canadian Uncommon Sources*, 2004.

971 DUN Duncan, D.M. *Story of the Canadian people*, 1922.

971 TRA Tracy, F.B. *Tercentenary History of Canada from Champlain to Laurier, 1608-1908*, 1908.

A history of early Canada – of particular value are the maps and illustrations.

971.004 FRE *French-Canadians of the West*, 2000. (CD-ROM, Reference)
A biographical dictionary of French-Canadians and French Métis of the Western United States and Canada. Search by surname.

971.2 TRA Traill, W.J.S. *In Rupert's Land, Memoirs of Walter Traill*, 1970.
An informative history of Walter Traill, the youngest son of Catharine Parr Traill. Born in 1847 he left home at 19 to work as a clerk for the Hudson's Bay Company.

Eastern Canada

378 ASS *Associated Alumni of Acadia University*, 2001

Alphabetical biographical sketches of students, lists of names and classes as far back as 1843.

912 N.B. *In New Brunswick You'll Find It*, 1975.

Detailed atlas.

912 N.S. *Carte de L'Isle Royale*, 1744.

929 DIC *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles du Québec des Origines à 1730*, 1983. (Reference).

Contains corrections and additions in 1996.

929.5 ONT/ONT *St. Andrew's Scotch Kirk Cemetery, Uxbridge Township, Ontario County*, 1990.

971.3 KENO *Ignace*, 1979. (Reference)

A history of the Kenora district.

971.3 KENO Jackson, F.E. *North Wind Blowing Backwards*, 1977.

A history of Keewatin in the Kenora district of Ontario.

971.3 ONTA McGillivray, A. *Decades of Harvest*, 1986.

A history of Scott township 1807-1973, Ontario county.

971.31 HOF Hoffman, F. *Much to be Done*, 1996.

Private life in Ontario from Victorian diaries.

971.34 GRA Lavallee, J. *Granby, a Manufacturing Centre*, 1968.

Local history of Granby, Quebec.

971.5 CEN *Centennial Prize Essay on the History of the City and County of St. John*, 1883. Local history New Brunswick.

971.5 EAR Greenwood, W.R. *Early Baptists of Cambridge Parish, Queens County, New Brunswick*, 194-.

971.5 MIL Graham, E.G.C. *Mills, Hills and Early Settlers of Springfield Parish, Kings County, New Brunswick*, 198-.

971.6 DEA Shea, I. *Deadman's: Melville Island and Its Burial Ground*, 2005.

Deadman's Island is on Halifax's northwest arm, today a peaceful park. For many years it and Melville Island were prisons. Of particular interest are the appendices which include: French prisoners of war, 1803-1814; American prisoners of war; Black refugees from 1803-1814; British army prisoners 1868; German and Austro-Hungarian prisoners of War 1914 and Wardens and Employees 1856-1939.

971.6 HIS *Historic Acadia*, 1979.

971.6 MAJ *Major record sources for Acadian Genealogical Research*, 1976.

971.8 ASN Major, K. *As Near to Heaven by Sea*, 2001..

A history of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Western Canada

324.2 BAR Barr, J.J. *Dynasty*, 1974.

The rise and fall of Social Credit in Alberta.

378 SAS *University of Saskatchewan Greystone*, 1927.

971.004 BAT Barkwell, L.J. *Batoche 1885*, 2005. This book documents the Métis resistance and the Métis military and political structures at the South Branch Métis Settlement by way of biographical vignettes of the lives of the participants.

971.1 CAR Place, M.T. *Cariboo Gold*, 1970. Describes the late 19th century gold rush to Fraser River and its effect on the settlement of northern British Columbia.

971.23 FRO *Frontier Guide to the Dynamic Crow's Nest Pass*, 1969.

971.23 HIS *Historical Walking Tour Downtown Medicine Hat*.

971.23 Mac MacGregor, J.C. *Paddle Wheels to Bucket-wheels on the Athabasca*, 1974. (Reference)

971.24 HOM *HOME (Historical Ownership Mapping Endeavor)*, 2005. (CD-ROM, Reference)

Includes map of Saskatchewan, grid road maps, homestead maps and a detailed history of homesteads in Saskatchewan. Can be searched by surname. Also includes a copy of the book *Understanding Western Canada's Dominion Land Survey System*. This CD-ROM is a must for anyone searching in Saskatchewan.

971.24 MEE *Fond Recollections from Rabbit Lake, Meeting Lake, Mullingar*, 1976.

Local history of Round Hill and Meeting Lake municipalities, Saskatchewan.

971.24 WHI *Langbank memories*, 1984.

Local history of Brookside, Fairmede, Golden Plain, Montgomery, Sunnymead, Woodside in Whitewood municipality of Saskatchewan.

General

- 312 USA *AIS census index, pre-1790 (CD-ROM)*
Early records of the eastern United States from 1607 to 1780 – records before the first US census.
- 371.8 ATC *Atchison, Kansas Junior Senior High School Yearbook*
- 387.5 ATL *Maddocks, M. Atlantic Crossing, 1981.*
Gives a good account of conditions aboard ships moving immigrants from Europe to North America. Good illustrations.
- 929.1 MER Merriman, Brenda Dougall. *About Genealogical Standards of Evidence*, 2004.
During the past decade genealogy has become a more exact science, in particular the necessity of sifting your sources. This is a guide to standards of evidence and documentation, what those standards are and how to apply them to genealogical work. Includes many examples with proper documentation. Very easy to understand.
- 929.1 MIL Mills, E.S. *Professional Genealogy*, 2001.
A manual for researchers, writers, editors, lecturers, and librarians. Anyone serious about genealogy should take a look at this book.
- 968 HIS Beck, H.H. *History of South Africa and the Boer-British War*, 1900.
- 974.7 ANT *Antiquities of Long Island*, 1875.

Europe

- 943.7 FIN Alzo, L.A. *Finding your Slovak Ancestors*, 2005.
- 944 FRE Normandeau-Jones, K. *French Forts in New France*., 1998.
Documents are still available describing the men who protected these forts and their families.
- 947 RAM Rambaud, Alfred. *Russia*, 1898.
- 947.71 FIN Geary, M.A. *Finding your Ukrainian Ancestors*, 2003.

Great Britain and Ireland

- 312 YOR *1861 census eastern Yorkshire (CD-ROM)*
From the Humber to the Tees.
- 910.3 SCO *Gazetteer of Scotland*, 2004. (CD-ROM)
Compiled in 1882 by the Rev. John Wilson.
- 929.3 LUD *Parish Church of St. Oswald Luddington, Lincolnshire, marriages*.
- 929.4 ORI *Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames with a Vocabulary of Christian Names*, 1969. (Reference)
- 929.5 POC *Pocklington Monumental Inscriptions, East Yorkshire*.
- 929.5 SCO *Essil Old and New Cemetery, Speymouth, Moray, Scotland*
- 942.5 BED *Bedfordshire Parish Register (Microfiche)*
Includes the following parishes: Biddenham, Broham, Clapham, Cranfield, Holcote, Houghton Conquest, Oakley, Turvey, Wootton.
- 942.5 MEE *Meeting Houses and Gamekeepers, 1699-1788*. (Microfiche)
Indexes from the Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions.
- 942.5 PIG *Pigot's Directory 1830: Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire* (microfiche)
- 942.5 YOR *English Parish Records of Eastern Yorkshire* (CD-ROM)

Family History and Biography

- 921 ELI *Magnus Eliason, a Life on the Left*, 1997.
Biography
- 921 GRA Gray, James H. *Boy from Winnipeg*, 1970. Autobiography.
- 921 GRE Green, Sidney. *Rise and Fall of a Political Animal*. Autobiography.
- 921 HAS Hastings, M. *Jesuit Child*, 1971.
Autobiography
- 921 HIL James J. Hill, *Empire Builder of the Northwest*, 1996.
- 921 POU *Trial and Sentence of Chief Poundmaker*, 1969.
- 921 SHI Shields, R. *My Travels*, 1900.
Autobiography
- 921 STE2 *Stephansson House Historic Site, Edmonton, Alberta*.
- 929.2 CAM *Campbell of Argyll*.
- 929.2 GEN Graham, E.G.C. *Genealogy of Northrups, Barters and Benson of Springfield, New Brunswick*.
- 929.2 RAW Raworth, J.G. *Before These Eight*, 198-.
Family history of Raworth in New Brunswick.
- 929.2 ROB2 *Robertson*.
- 929.2 SER Johnson, D.S. *Serviss & Hollenbeck and Thomson and Ross Families and Their Johnnycake Journey*, 1999.
A genealogy of the ancestors of Otto Francis Serviss, born in Wisconsin in 1891, and Dollie Vilone Thomson, who married in Glendive, Montana in 1917.
- 929.2 SHE5 *Ancestors and Descendants of the Sherwood and Pickel, U.E.. Loyalists in Canada*, 1948.
- 929.2 STR Gray, C. *Sisters in the Wilderness*, 1999.

The lives of Susanna Moodie and Cartharine Parr Traill and their family history. 929.2 TOO
Grusendorf, H. *Our U.E. Loyalist Ancestry*, 1982.

Family history of the Toole family in New Brunswick.

929.2 WIL3 Fraser, J.N. *George Wilson, Ethel Jane Nelson and their Manitoba families, 1880s – 1930s*, 2005.

George Wilson married Agnes Johnsone Fleming 1858 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Their son George Wilson immigrated to Manitoba in 1883 where he married Ethel Nelson.

Picture

921 BOY *Wilfred Boyle*

Picture taken when he was a driver for Verbena Chocolates in Winnipeg in 1914.

ARE THESE YOUR ANCESTORS?

By Kathy Stokes

The history of divorce in Canada is a checkered one. Originally, divorces were not granted by the province in which the petitioner resided, but by the Canadian Parliament. In the early days, divorce petitions were reviewed, for some reason which I fail to understand, by the Agriculture Committee of the House of Commons. Later this responsibility was passed to a committee of the Canadian Senate. This was a very expensive procedure with the result that only those with means could obtain divorces. The unfairness of the system is apparent.

In May, 1917, Mrs. Katherine Walker of Winnipeg sought an annulment in the Manitoba courts from her husband, E. Stanley Walker, a Winnipeg engineer. The petition was rejected by Mr. Justice Galt on jurisdictional grounds: he did not believe that Manitoba courts could grant divorces. The Manitoba Court of Appeal reversed the Galt decision. An appeal followed directly to the British Privy Council, and was decided in favor of Manitoba's having the power to grant divorces. British Columbia already had this power due to a different writing of its constitution, but the Manitoba decision also covered all provinces but Ontario and Quebec.

Gradually, all provinces except Quebec and Newfoundland obtained power to grant divorces, but Quebec and Newfoundland residents were forced to appeal to the Canadian Senate up to the late 1960s, when divorce laws were revised.

During the two years it took to decide the Walker case, more than 40 petitions were filed and awaited judgment. One of these was described in the Winnipeg Telegram of 10 July 1919. This was the first decree of divorce granted by the Manitoba courts, the Walker case having been an annulment.

Myrtle M. Corneliuson of Brandon sought a divorce from her husband, Louis. The petition had been filed in July 1918 and a decree nisi granted, but the final decree had had to await the Privy Council decision. The case was decided on

grounds of immorality, and the cost of the divorce was \$250.00. This amount was considered likely to be an average charge for divorces in the future.

Apparently, there was an appetite for news of this type amongst the readers of the Winnipeg Telegram, for on July 14, there appeared a detailed description of a divorce hearing. Wm. Davidson of Moore Park sought a divorce from his wife Pearl nee Mooney of Dauphin. Laughlin Currie of Dauphin was named as co-respondent. The Davidsons had been married in Dauphin in 1911. After three months, Pearl asked her husband to sell his belongings so that they could move to Moore Park, which he did. As they were about to board the train, she refused to go, said that she wished to stay in Dauphin and planned to live with Laughlin Currie. William proceeded to Moore Park and had not seen Pearl since 1913.

Pearl did not appear in court, but Laughlin Currie gave testimony that he had indeed committed adultery with her on numerous occasions. He felt that it would be best for all concerned if the divorce were to be granted. Both Currie and Davidson said that they bore no ill will towards one another. William Davidson's petition, referring to Pearl's conduct noted that, "your petitioner has not consented to the wrongful conduct of said Pearl Davidson and has not contributed to said conduct and in any way has not condoned said conduct and did not give said Pearl Davidson any cause to desert him, but on the contrary, was always prepared to and did treat

and maintain the said Pearl Davidson as his wife in a proper and lawful manner."

The divorce was granted immediately, in all only seventeen minutes of court time being used.

Predictably, most clergy were against the Privy Council decision. Rev. Byron Stauffer of Winnipeg's Central Congregational Church was

particularly vocal, noting that Winnipeg would become like Reno, Nevada. He called divorce lawyers, "the scum of the earth" and noted that when couples knew that divorce was easily obtainable, there would be a tendency not to try to agree, but to settle for the divorce court. He said, "There is a worse thing than quarrelsome married life and that is a broken home."

Outreach Report
(no current Chairman) pro-tem chairman
Daryl Dumanski, MGS #1031

"I am so glad I have found an activity that allows me to use creative ways to make lasting contributions to my family, friends and community." – from Genealogy is More than Charts by Lorna Duane Smith from M.G.S. library (929 Smi).

In lieu of a chairman's report I'd like to thank the many volunteers that have participated in 3 of our displays these past few months.

I'm sure you've all heard that we've had a display at the Pavilion of Scotland for Folklorama for about 15 years. It's fun, it's loud, it's always a busy & usually hot place -but we sure meet a lot of great people. It has to be one of the easiest places to talk about family history with this celebration of cultures. Thanks to the following people for saying yes when asked: Jim Bracken, Bill Curtis, Malcolm Dewar, Daryl Dumanski, Kyla Dumanski & Andrew Robinson, Eleanor & Martin Goffard, Jack & Yvonne Mavins, Gord McBean, Jim McGregor, Jayne Paradis, Allan & Jeanne Pickard, Lynn Roseman, Joan Shelton, Kathy Stokes, David Sutherland & Cynthia Zinrose, Joan Whiston, Dave & Linda White, Kerry White. Also congratulations to our MGS members Gord McBean as building coordinator & Pat Allan as volunteer coordinator for the Scottish Association for a huge job well done.

A special event we were glad to be part of this summer was the Red River Descendants' Reunion held at Lower Fort Garry. Thanks to the following volunteers for spending the better part of a day there during the week in August: Daryl Dumanski, Carol Moore Glenn, Gord McBean, Jim McGregor, Lynn Roseman, Joan Whiston, Linda White. Special thanks to Gord McBean for storing & hauling the display walls & computer for both of these events & to his wife Janice for her continued support.

For the second year we have been invited to the Social Studies Conference SAG display for the

teachers in the city. There were about 700 teachers in attendance – they go through at a very fast pace & collect as much as they can regarding history curriculum for their students. These educators are fascinated by how many resources we have as an organization & it's always a chance for us to find out what's happening with other heritage organizations as well. Thanks to Daryl Dumanski, Carol Moore Glenn & Joan Whiston. I'd like to hand this very capable group of volunteers over to an Outreach leader with my continued support. I can be reached at 668-9366 or ddportfolios@shaw.ca.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS - GENEALOGY STYLE

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me...
Twelve census searches,
Eleven printer ribbons,
Ten e-mail contacts,
Nine headstone rubbings,
Eight birth and death dates,
Seven town clerks sighing,
Six second cousins,
Five coats of arms,
Four GEDCOM files,
Three old wills,
Two CD-ROMs,
And a branch in my family tree.

Author Unknown

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Some editing for relevance, clarity & space has been done. Ed.)

PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

MGS

President: Jayne Paradis, MGS #45

MGS has been in existence for nearly 30 years — that is hard to believe. There have been many changes throughout the years — our library keeps growing; we're in the computer age; volunteers keep working, and we seem to plug along. Without our faithful volunteers MGS would not keep running. To them I say, THANK YOU!! I would like to ask everyone to think about volunteering in some small way — there are many opportunities within MGS to volunteer and a lot of time isn't always required. Please consider it.

BEAUTIFUL PLAINS BRANCH

President: Don McGillivray, MGS #4342

As we are the newest branch of MGS, our report covers 24 October 2004 to 31 July 2005. We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm at the Neepawa Public Library (side entrance). Should that room be booked, we have met, a time or two, in the board room in the school division office.

Executive: Chair: Don McGillivray
Co-Chair: Hector Swanson
Secretary: Norma Forsman
Treasurer: Victor Deacon
Publicity: Darlene Perrett

We are looking for a permanent home. We find it difficult to transport our resource material (accumulating quickly) to each meeting. Looking ahead, we have purchased 2 used office cabinets; thus we have depleted our funds to \$55+. Money is a problem, so after discussions with our members, we have initiated a "Bean Jar". We have 28 members and look forward to continued growth. About 12-15 attend each meeting. Our executive tries very hard to make each meeting interesting and informative. Our members are novices to seasoned genealogists. To balance this is a challenge.

We were fortunate to have Eleanor Burch, of Carberry, as a guest speaker to share her research and publication of her book, McVicar-Post Ancestry. Also, Neepawa's Peggy Galloway related her trials and tribulations in publishing her book Women of the War Years.

We managed some tours. The MGS office was definitely a high. The Beautiful Plains Museum in Neepawa and Don Murray's private museum on his farm were enjoyed. By invitation we travelled to Dauphin April 28th to attend their meeting. Al Gray's computer presentation and handouts were so helpful. We were also invited by the South West Branch to join them for a potluck supper and tour at the Commonwealth Air Aviation Museum. That tour was so interesting.

As we move into the fall and winter, we are planning tours to the Manitoba Archives, United Church Archives, MGS office, and Family History Centre in Brandon. These trips further members' knowledge of just what is available as aids and resource material for members of the Beautiful Plains Branch and Manitoba Genealogical Society.

We acknowledge, with gratitude, resource materials and aids forwarded to us by the MGS office and the South West Branch for the books.

DAUPHIN BRANCH

President: Jean Tucker, MGS #64

This past year we have attempted to 'do more genealogy' at our meetings and have involved senior members in workshop-type presentations on such subjects as:

- Getting Started — with tips on doing research at home and afar
- Sources/Resources — where to look, what you will find, locally and at MGS, and at other archives
- Using the International Genealogical Index
- Tips for Getting the Most from Your Computer — neophytes and pros got something from this one
- Getting it Together — suggestions on how to organize your family history material

Booklets were prepared on some of these subjects and are available for \$3.00 (plus postage if they must be mailed).

A workshop on making the best use of the Internet is coming soon, also a workshop in October on making the best use of your Family History Computer program.

New branch website:

www.sitescapers.com/webpages

We always have a "Windup Dinner" at the end of the year and "go out for a treat" — Dutch Treat that is! This year it is at Thunders on December 1st. Instead of a gift exchange, as we used to do, we donate money and non-perishable food to

provide a Christmas food hamper for one or two families.

We held a raffle this year to raise funds to add to our resource centre and pay the ever-increasing insurance so we have all been engaged in selling tickets — \$2 could win you \$400. Draw date is November 24, at our Annual Meeting. If you haven't got your ticket, you had better hurry! Let me take this opportunity to extend "Best Wishes" from Dauphin Branch to all members of MGS and especially to members of other branches of MGS who have special needs living outside the perimeter! You are welcome to come to Dauphin and attend one of our functions anytime—just let us know when.

SOUTH WEST BRANCH

President Eleanor Burch, MGS #2252

2004 was a busy and interesting year for the South West Branch. We held 10 meetings during 2004, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, in Crocus Plains School in Brandon.

Topics and speakers have been varied. In February, our annual Heritage Dinner took place in the Travelodge Canadian Inn. We all enjoyed Tom Mitchell's presentation of a "Photographic Essay of Brandon". Sheila Shearer was the recipient of the Ruth Tester Award. Our other programs included speakers such as Morris Mott on the topic, "Emigration to Canada", Jaye Little on the Brandon Mental Health Hospital, Vivian Mitchell, representing Links, an agency which helps reunite adoptees with their birth parents, and Bill Hillman's "History on the Web". A totally new executive was elected in March 2004:

President Eleanor Burch

VP Administration: Jack Dodds

VP Operations: Jeanetta Casselman

Treasurer: Vivian Privat

Secretary: Denise Bromley

It was a learning experience for all of us. Sales of the 1901 Census Index continue at a steady pace. Indexes are now ready for the final three municipalities in our census project: Westbourne and North and South Norfolk. Also available are cemetery transcripts and indexes of obituaries in the *Brandon Sun* for the years 1900-1929. Members continue to clip birth, marriage and obituary notices from a variety of southwestern Manitoba weekly newspapers, as well as from the *Brandon Sun*. Much of this work has been done by Beth Wall, who also coordinates the office, published the newsletter,

takes care of the mail, phone, and e-mail requests, and looks after the library.

Membership has dropped a wee bit — as it has in many genealogical societies. It would seem that access to information on the Internet has, for some, replaced the need to belong to a group. However, it is a great benefit to be able to draw on the experience of others as we pursue our own research.

We have supported the folks in Neepawa as they started their own branch of MGS. I attended their first meeting and they joined us for a potluck supper and tour of the Commonwealth Air Training Museum. We look forward to interesting programs and the exchange of ideas during the coming year.

SWAN VALLEY BRANCH

President: Eric Neufeld, MGS #2410L

The Swan Valley branch has completed another successful year. Our meetings are held at the Town of Swan River basement office. Our meetings are conducted every second Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Our Branch takes a summer recess for the months of July and August every year.

Our executive:

President: Eric Neufeld

Treasurer: Helen Ellingson

Secretary: Donna Fox

We continue to acquire copies of local history books and books with any historical value to people searching their ancestors in our area. This year we continue to attend local auctions and sales looking for any such books. As our collection grows we are more successful in answering the many queries we receive from around the country.

On the local level we have increased our pursuit of old obituary clippings from our members and from various local newspapers. We are setting up a database of these and hope to continue this activity. Of course we continue to index births, marriages and deaths from the *Star and Times*. During this year we submitted our *Star and Times* index for 2003 and will submit the 2004 version when it is complete.

The majority of our meetings are dominated by various "queries" that we received during 2004. We have also received many out-of-town people who have written to us for information and subsequently have planned a vacation to specifically come to our office for research

purposes.

In future we have decided to update some of our previous cemetery transcriptions as 2004 proved to be a very wet year which hampered our endeavours.

In closing, our hope is that we can acquire, and preserve, any historical document, including obituaries, that may assist anyone tracing his or her ancestors in the Swan River Valley.

SOUTHEAST and WINNIPEG BRANCH

President: David Sutherland, MGS #4122
I, David Sutherland, was elected President of the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch, MGS, in May of 2005. Wayne Neily has returned home to Nova Scotia for family reasons. Thank you Wayne, for your hard work; you will be missed.

I will try to cover the past year and provide an overview of the coming year.

The 2004-2005 year saw limited activity as not all the executive positions were filled and there were no volunteers for the various committee chairs. Also, some executive were away ill, notably Chris Irwin. Hurry back Chris; we miss you. The most active positions were programs, outreach and research.

The name of the branch was changed to Southeast and Winnipeg Branch this year. This was done mainly to comply with an MGS requirement to better define the geographical area which the branch served. There were some lively debates at various meetings but the name was adopted in spring, 2005.

Gord McBean provided a well-rounded program of activities. There were very good speakers, such as Anne Morton from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in April. There were also some home-grown presentations such as "Collecting and Digitizing Photos" by Jim Oke and me, as well as "Scrapbooking", led by Daryl Dumanski. There were also tours such as the Hudson's Bay Company Archives which had a good turnout.

Gord has another active year set up for the branch and the schedule has been published in *Generations* and online at the branch website. This includes tentative tours of the Anglican Archives, University of Manitoba library, the new Millennium Library downtown, and Fort Garry Horse Museum. Also new this year is the branch's Computer SIG (Special Interest Group) which is to focus on computers and the Internet in genealogy. The SIG will have presentations by Gord and speakers such as Elizabeth Briggs.

Jim Oke has kept the branch website and does a very good job for us. Thank you Jim. Jim is once again the Past-President in Wayne's absence.

Outreach was also active this year, led in large part by Daryl Dumanski. She is not the chair but anything outreach-related has been handled by Daryl and her efforts are always appreciated. As usual, the MGS was represented by our branch at Folklorama's Scottish Pavilion. If you have never volunteered you don't know what you are missing. My wife and I always have fun at the booth and so do others who volunteer there. The branch will be there again next year so come out and share in the fun.

This year was special as Outreach was also involved in the Red River Reunion at Lower Fort Garry. Daryl Dumanski and Gord McBean led presentations and a booth. They also arranged for the library to open so reunion members could do research. By all accounts it was a huge success.

Wayne Neily tried to keep the Research Committee active. Although he had some volunteers, most of the work fell to him. I am not sure how much research was done, or revenue generated. When I took over in May I also voluntarily took over the Research Committee. There are, currently as of writing, three requests pending (awaiting a response as to whether the person requesting the research wants to pay a fee), one currently being researched, and ten completed requests, these have not generated any revenue. All were completed in the library in a small amount of time so no fees were charged.

Going forward, I have created a binder to collect the research requests to be done (documentation and instructions) and plan to leave it at the library. Volunteers for the Research Committee and for Wednesday night volunteers can go to the binder to start, or continue, research on a request.

Wednesday night saw branch volunteers keep the library open. This will continue during the coming year. Thank you to all those who volunteer so faithfully. You are very much appreciated.

This year all the executive positions have been filled which is fantastic. You have a very able and excited executive with many plans, including building the branch further. This means the greatest need is for a Volunteer Co-ordinator and volunteers to be committee chairpersons. The committees also need volunteers. The branch and what we can offer is up to the membership. The

branch and what it can provide you is dependent on what you are willing to contribute in time and ideas. So don't be shy, come out, volunteer, share, and learn.

If I have failed to acknowledge anyone or any activity, I apologize. Everyone's efforts have been great this past year and we are looking forward to a really great year in 2005-2006.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS VICE-PRESIDENT

Chris Irwin, MGS #2458

The administration of the Society has maintained a "go with the flow" approach this year with my absence for a major period of time. The men and women of the Society who aid in the functions of its daily work have done an excellent job. Thank you.

The administration portfolio will see a major overhaul as to the departments that will be responsible to it and a new look in its internal function. We hope for the best to serve you, the member, more efficiently.

COMPUTER

Chair: Bill Burland, MGS #3727

Computer use continues to increase in the library. Even with Ancestry.com available on all computers patrons often have to wait their turn. We have had some difficulty accessing Ancestry.com this summer but Bill MacDonald and Mary Bole have worked hard at keeping it going. I thank them.

We tested a new library program briefly this spring and decided to keep looking for a better one. The typing of the Cemetery Indexes is continuing. With just 4 regular volunteers for typing the progress has slowed. Currently there are just under 250 cemeteries to go.

The Obituary Index was updated this spring. Currently we have an index to Winnipeg papers 1968-2004.

There is a great need for people to do data entry and proofreading of entries. If you can volunteer, please contact MGS at: mgsi@shaw.ca

LIBRARY

Chair: Mary Bole, MGS #844

Volunteers

We would like to give a special thank you to all the volunteers who help with library tasks. The volunteer list is growing but will never be too

large. If you are willing to help, or know anyone who would like to assist us, please let us know.

Statistics

77 periodicals are exchanged with other societies. We send *Generations*: they send us their journals. 9 periodicals are received by subscription.

169 periodicals were borrowed by 126 members. *Family Tree Magazine* from England was again the most popular loan.

1760 books were reshelfed.

We must remember that the above two statistics are artificial because they don't take into account the number of books, CD-Roms and periodicals used in the library.

284 donations (books, CD-ROMs, etc.) added to the library collection. In total, we have added 430 items to the library through donations and purchases. As well, we received \$340 in monetary donations.

79 books were circulated by mail. The circulation is up again this year, probably due to the special Library Postage Rate we were able to get.

Members must still pay postage both ways, but it is very low. We still cannot mail these books to members who live outside of Canada.

The number of patrons searching Manitoba sources was still ahead of the number of researchers for all other areas combined. Eastern Canada and the United Kingdom came in second. Ancestry.com continues to be high demand. Of interest: it would appear that more men are using the library than in previous years — it is not a statistic we follow so the magnitude has not been documented.

Donations

We would like to encourage members to donate a copy of their published research to the library.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Louisa Shermerhorn, MGS #567L

This committee is charged with seeing that the housekeeping and "office type" tasks in the library are carried out. Except for service contracts for major repairs to machines, all tasks are done by volunteers and these tasks include the following: (Many of these tasks overlap work of other committees.)

- Maintenance of premises: housekeeping chores including vacuuming, dusting, emptying wastepaper baskets etc.
- Machine maintenance: day-to-day service (adding toner, etc) of microfiche/film machines, fax, computer printers, etc.
- Mail clerk: incoming and outgoing mail picked

- up, recorded, mailed, postage purchased, etc.
- Office operations: includes monitoring and purchasing office supplies; revising brochures and information pages; copying transcripts for sale; taking inventories; posting information; manning the telephone; compiling statistics; acting as Patron Assistants; helping the patrons use the library resources, etc.
- Volunteer recruitment — an ongoing process.

The following statistics show some of the volume of work outside of the countless hours of work done specifically by other committees. Except for an increase in the number of patrons signed in, other statistics are down slightly:

- 2980 patrons signed our register.
 - 1322 volunteers signed in.
 - 1180 pieces of mail, by post, were sent from MGS. I do not have the number of replies made by e-mail.
 - 1547 pieces of mail by post (including faxes) were received by MGS. 1614 last year.
 - 350 relevant e-mail messages were received.
 - 425 incoming phone calls were recorded.
 - 29,536 photocopies were made. This includes Cemetery Transcripts which are sold.
 - 27 MGS publications were sold, plus cemetery transcripts.
 - A considerable number of Cemetery Transcripts, generating over \$1,300.00 for the Society.
- Each month, September through June, Southeast and Winnipeg Branch usually holds a monthly meeting at the Resource Centre. Other meetings this past year included: MGS Executive usually once a month; MGS Council 4 times; Open House; Library-Computer Committee session; some Saturday special openings by the librarian and others, for such groups as Beautiful Plains Branch, MGS, and Red River Descendants group; AGM. Outside of regular specialized tasks for other committees, many volunteers do mundane tasks such as photocopying, filing cards, mailing letters, vacuuming, emptying wastebaskets, cleaning the kitchen, and checking supplies. And so I say to all volunteers: Your help is invaluable. Believe me, you are appreciated.

RESEARCH

Chair: Jim Rutherford, MGS #2632

During the last fiscal year, the Research Committee received 155 e-mails asking for information. We responded to all of these but only 37 of them sent money in eventually. Along with

the snail-mail research sent in, we took in a total of about \$2500. With 71 queries completed, we averaged about \$35 for each one.

The queries came from all corners of the globe including France, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Australia, Scotland, England, Sweden, many of the U.S. states, as well as all provinces of Canada.

The committee consisted of Connie McLeod, Hazel Runchey, Bonnie Bridges, Jody Jones, Rick McClelland, Doreen Houston, and John McCrindle.

The addition of Ancestry.corn and the release of the 1911 Census added much to the sources of information in the library for the researchers to use.

As chairman of the committee I would like to express my sincere thanks to my very co-operative and resourceful committee.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Kathy Stokes, MGS #125

The Special Projects Committee has not been too active this past year. Cemetery transcriptions are not coming in at any great rate because most of the cemeteries in the southern part of the province have already been completed, with the notable exceptions of the Morden Community Cemetery (now in progress) and the La Riviere cemeteries. Lack of volunteers and the cost of gasoline are two reasons for this decrease in activity. In Winnipeg, MGS has not transcribed many of the newer cemeteries because information on burials is easy to obtain. At this point, we need to update many of the cemeteries already transcribed.

Each year, more and more information on burials around the province appears on the Internet. Occasionally, some of our transcriptions appear, even though our copyright is clearly stated on the front page of any cemetery we sell. There is little we can do about this, except to contact the person who put the transcription online and point out that our copyright prohibits this practice.

Cemetery sales are down considerably this year. This is important because these sales are one of our major ways of fundraising.

Volunteers are continuing to put indexes from our cemeteries onto the computer so that we can eliminate the three large filing cabinets which now contain file cards from the first 500 cemeteries. Within a few months we will be able to remove one of the cabinets, thus providing more space for the library. It is slow, time-consuming work.

We continue to index newspapers — obits from current Winnipeg papers, and birth, marriage and death notices from early papers. Currently we are working in 1897 Winnipeg papers and 1888 rural ones. A new publication with births, marriages and deaths from 1887 newspapers was produced this year.

Work continues on the indexing of United Church records.

I have been Chair of this committee for more than twenty years now. It is time for me to retire from this position so that some new ideas from a new Chair can be brought forward. During the past years, I have appreciated the tremendous support I have received from the MGS executive and council, the branches, and, most of all, from the volunteers from all over who have helped us collect transcriptions of cemeteries from nearly every corner of this vast province. Special thanks are due to Lome Harris who drove our intrepid band through sun, rain, mosquitoes and bad roads for many years in his red van. This old van also retired this year to be replaced by a sparkling new one. And I cannot forget Flo Cox who truly loved transcribing and leaves so many transcriptions with her name on them as her legacy to our organization.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS VICE-PRESIDENT

Daryl Dumanski, MGS #1031

The Communications department includes the branches, the journal, publications and outreach. Again I must report the sweet with the bitter. Our branches are flourishing with many dedicated volunteers who put in more than the call of duty but would really like to relinquish some of their duties. As with any volunteer organization it is difficult to bring in new volunteers and help them get their footing. Without an active volunteer recruitment committee we are in a hard place. Without an outreach chair it's hard to get a handle on the activities requested of the society for public interaction. Fortunately most of the branches are able to facilitate public events in their geographical areas. Please give well-deserved accolades for the great accomplishments being achieved by our branches and a warm welcome to our newest member of the family — the Beautiful Plains Branch of MGS, centred in Neepawa. Our publications increased by one this year with the continuation of Special projects providing the main input in this department. There is opportunity to develop this department; it just needs some ideas.

Our journal is being very ably developed and processed by a hard working committee. They can always use more material and volunteers. All publicity, even word of mouth, is a valuable asset to our organization. We have to get out there! If there is something the society should be doing for you, as a member or you as an active branch member to increase our membership, please let us know.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our organization, please call me at 668-9366 or e-mail me at: ddportfolios@shaw.ca.

GENERATIONS

Editor: Bill Burland, MGS #3727

There is little to report. There is always a need for articles for *Generations*. Most members have at least one story to share, or some advice to give. I need these if I am to keep the journal going.

The regular contributions of Lori, Mary, Kathy and Geoff are much appreciated, also Joyce and Pat's help.

PUBLICATIONS

Chair: Lome Harris, MGS #005

This past year we produced our most recent book, *An Index of Birth, Marriage and Death Notices from Manitoba Newspapers for 1887*.

A lot of work goes into producing such a book: the initial data gathered from the various newspapers in circulation in the province at the time; entering the data onto the computer in some form of spreadsheet; editing and manipulating the data so it reads properly; acquiring the ISBN identifying the book; and finally, selecting a printer and bindery to complete the book.

All of this takes months of preparation and sometimes we fail to meet our intended launch date but I believe we made it again this year. It's been my pleasure to again be involved in the production of this work — working with Special Projects.

HUMAN RESOURCES / MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT

Chair: Bill Pooley, MGS #855

Time for my annual report although it will also be my last. I will be assisting MGS in the future with other projects but I am unable to continue in my position as Vice-President of Membership Services.

Our Individual memberships are down 19 from

last year. This translates into \$665. Each dollar the MGS raises is needed for the operation of the MGS. Daryl Dumanski, Joan Whiston, and Kathy Stokes have done all they can to keep the membership from falling even further. Our membership must be increased if the MGS is to remain a viable, sustainable operation. I challenge each and every one of the MGS members to try to recruit a new member for next year.

I would like to thank Betty Atkinson for her help. I would also be remiss if I didn't thank the other members of the MGS executive for their continued support and assistance over the past year. It was a pleasure working with them all. See the following Membership report.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Betty Atkinson, MGS #2117

MGS Current as of September 8, 2004:

Member Type 1:	Individual	489
Member Type 2:	Associate	37
Member Type 3:	Institutional	16
Member Type 4:	Life	50
Member Type 5:	Exchange	78
Member Type 6:	Deposit	15
Member Type 7:	Administrative Memb.	1
Member Type 8:	(not used)	
Member Type 9:	No mail out	<u>16</u>
Total		702
	(2004:	718)

Branches:

Dauphin Branch	13
Beautiful Plains	29
South West Branch	73
Swan Valley Branch	7
Southeast and Winnipeg Branch	116

AWARDS:

At the AGM, the following awards were announced:

Eric Jonasson Award to Eric Neufeld

Eric is President of the Swan River Branch and has served on the executive for a considerable number of years in that role.

He holds a life membership in the MGS. His endeavours in helping his local community are also reflected in his assistance to the Swan River Branch and MGS. Attending and organizing executive meetings, open houses, assisting members in their research and organization for their research is all met with willingness and a great sense of humour. He has devoted himself over many years to helping all.

He is quoted as saying, "The most important thing for a genealogist is patience."

Well, Eric has been patient and good things come to those who wait. It is an honour to have Eric as an esteemed recipient of the Eric Jonasson Award.

Flo Cox Awards:

Linda Toews

Linda has been a volunteer on Wednesdays for several years. She helps handle the front desk responsibilities and is adept at welcoming new patrons. She also keeps her computer next to the desk on at all times so that she can work at various indexing projects when not otherwise employed. Her knowledge of the workings of the computer system are invaluable when some of the other staff is on holidays. Linda has expanded her knowledge of our resources tremendously in the years she has been with us. Her pleasant personality makes her a very valuable asset to MGS.

Karen Becker

Karen joined the Wednesday group about the same time as Linda. Every week she can be found beside the photocopier with the week's orders for cemetery transcriptions beside her. Some Wednesdays, it takes her all day to get through the orders, and sometimes she has to put some aside for the following week. No one understands the personality of "Flo", (the copier named in honour of Flo Cox) better than Karen. Hers is a somewhat boring job and it can get very warm standing beside the copier all day. Her cheerful personality and comments on life add a dimension to our Wednesdays.

Bill MacDonald

Bill is one of those people who never seeks the limelight. Over the past four or five years, he has been into the library two or three times a week, working on his own family history. But, aside from that, Bill is there to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it. His knowledge of office machines is encyclopedic and we call on him whenever anything goes wrong with the copier (he and Karen are great friends) or the computers (he and Bill Burland are great friends). Bill also helps patrons who are searching for ancestors from the fur trade and Selkirk Settler era for he has many ancestors from that time. He often plugs into his own database from our computer to help a new patron get started.

Long Service Awards:

10 year award	15 year award	20 year award
Wayne Neily # 430	Martha Goerzen #2251	Irene Crofts #1428
Annette Fuoco #1010	Eleanor Burch #2252	Joyce Hill #1430
Garth Woodward #1354	Lloyd Duncalfe #2253	Esther Brown #1438
John W. Steele #1772	Ernie Myers #2282	Teresa Hamilton #1447
Thomas M. Button #2092	Nellie Larocque #2297	Clayton Berry #1462
Helen M. Armstrong #2332	Barbara Paleshnuik #2301	Germaine VandenBussche #1464
N. Lynn Roseman #3041	Laura McGoldrick #2342	Linda Lowrey #1468
Erik L. Anderson #3118	Patricia Smith #2350	Brenda Piche #1473
L. R. McDonald #3119	20 year award	Darlene Burns #1488
Rose Anderson #3206	Catherine Croken # 455	25 year pin
Fern Muirhead #3207	Patricia Walker #1328	Orma Sozansky # 575
Douglas Gray #3234	Brian Queau #1336	Gwen Campayre # 590
D. Lynne Leggett #3255	Jack Mavins #1373	Ellen Glinka # 596
Beverley Smith #3265	Anne Morton #1375	Diane Clendenan # 598
15 year award	Margaret Goodman #1413	Shirley Rawlinson # 628
Phyllis Innes # 53	Wayne Digby #1414	Victoria Pfeifer # 615
Joanne Friesen #2237	James Wall #1416	

FINANCIAL REPORTS

VICE-PRESIDENT

John Christie, MGS #3011

FUNDRAISING and GRANTS

COMMITTEE

Geoff Lambert, MGS #3591

I took over these responsibilities last winter, when I thought I would have more time. However, the spring and early months were as busy professionally and personally as any time I can recall. MGS was put on the burner to simmer a little more.

However, I am, I assure you all, now back in control of my waking hours.

I thought it would be useful to canvas the experience of all the provincial genealogical and family history libraries in the country. I recently sent them all an e-mail, asking about their fundraising activities.

I have only received one reply so far, from Saskatchewan. Their experience is somewhat different from ours, since they are virtually a branch of the government.

I have sent out reminders to the other eight and will let the MGS Council know what the other provincial associations have thought of that we haven't. In the meantime I have tried to inform myself as to our eligibility for different grants.

Of course, there was a very successful Garden Party fundraiser in July and we are now in the process of selling Entertainment Books.

It occurs to me that perhaps I could do with committee members. Are there any suggestions?

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MGS TREASURER
Joan Whiston, MGS #1883

THE MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

STATEMENT 1

BALANCE SHEET

JULY 31

	Operating Fund	Lifetime Memberships Fund	Publications Fund	Seminar Fund	Dedication Fund	2005	COMBINED 2004 (Unaudited)
ASSETS							
CURRENT							
Cash	\$ 2,626	\$	\$	\$	\$	2,626	\$ 11,741
Short term investments (<i>Note 3</i>)	35,260					35,260	41,118
Accounts receivable	17,736					17,736	1,515
Prepaid expenses	856	---	---	---	---	856	2,809
	56,478					56,478	57,183
DUE FROM OPERATING FUND	---	13,075	2,000	500	2,695	18,270	17,970
	\$ 56,478	\$ 13,075	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,695	\$ 74,748	\$ 75,153
LIABILITIES							
CURRENT							
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,829	\$	\$	\$	\$	2,829	\$ 2,619
Deferred revenue (<i>Note 4</i>)	15,682	---	---	---	---	15,682	15,991
	18,511					18,511	18,610
DUE TO OTHER FUNDS	18,270	---	---	---	---	18,270	17,970
	36,781					36,781	36,580
SURPLUS							
FUNDS SURPLUS	19,697	13,075	2,000	500	2,695	37,967	38,573
	\$ 56,478	\$ 13,075	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,695	\$ 74,748	\$ 75,153

Approved by the Board

Director _____

Director _____

MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

STATEMENT 2

STATEMENT OF LOSS AND RETAINED EARNINGS

YEAR ENDED JULY 31

	2005	2004 (Unaudited)
REVENUE		
Beverages	\$ 86	\$ 88
Donations	4,054	5,109
Generations	20	687
Grants	10,800	15,800
Interest income	584	644
Memberships	20,623	18,782
Other	1,226	374
Services	6,209	7,615
U.S. Exchange	437	521
User fees	500	605
	<u>44,539</u>	<u>50,225</u>
OPERATING EXPENDITURES (Schedule 1)	\$ 45,613	\$ 54,656
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE	(1,074)	(4,431)
TRANSFERS FROM (TO) FUNDS		
Life Members fund	(300)	(350)
Dedication fund	469	(150)
Publications fund	<u>469</u>	<u>1,615</u>
OPERATING FUND DEFICIT FOR YEAR	(905)	(3,316)
SURPLUS, beginning of year	<u>20,602</u>	<u>23,918</u>
SURPLUS, end of year	\$ 19,697	\$ 20,602

MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

SCHEDULE 1

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

YEAR ENDED JULY 31

	2005	2004 (Unaudited)
Annual general meeting		
Capital expenditures	\$ 87	\$ 72
Committee - outreach		4,685
- library	3,124	12
- special projects	39	2,152
- committee	279	62
- memberships	168	241
Conventions and meetings	139	316
Equipment maintenance	2,281	214
Generations	3,208	1,795
GST (recoveries)	(2,577)	5,878
MGS seminar	350	
Insurance	1,042	3,017
Office and administration	5,008	1,283
Photocopying	128	4,908
Professional fees	2,260	642
Rent and common charges	25,802	1,975
Telephone	1,287	24,254
Utilities	2,988	759
	<u>\$ 45,613</u>	<u>\$ 54,656</u>

Library Report

Mary Bole, Librarian

Donations:

Many members of MGS may not be aware that most of the books added to our collection have been donated. In fact, three large sets of books in the past year are from estates of family historians. These donations are greatly appreciated.

If you wish to make a donation to the library we ask that you sign a *Gift Agreement Form* – this allows us to decide what is to be done with the gifted material. The options are:

- we put the gifted material in our main stacks and allow it to be borrowed.
- we put a duplicate copy on reference.
- we give a 3rd copy to the Branches.
- others are returned to the donor or donated to the Children's Hospital Annual Sale.

When you sign the *Gift Agreement Form* you can put restrictions on your donation.

What we need:

- Local history books – these are the books with biographical information on the families in a particular region.
- Family histories which have been compiled into one book or on a CDROM. These can be written by the researcher or generated from one of the computer programs. We do not have the facility to take boxes of research.
- Cemetery inscriptions

What we don't always need:

- Biographies of well known families if they can be found at the public library.
- History books.

- Fiction books – even if about genealogy.

What we never need:

- Musty smelling books – the mold could spread to the rest of our collection.

What we worry about:

- Photocopies of books. We cannot put these in our library unless both the author and photographer have been dead for over 50 years.

How to find donations:

Check out those *For Sale* books at the public library.

Check out second hand book stores in your local town/city.

Check out eBay, etc.

Can you help us? With Money?

All donations over \$5.00 are tax deductible.

I'd like to support the Manitoba Genealogical Society.
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39 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Generation Gaps

Send Queries to MGS, Attention: Editor. Members are allowed one free query/year (printed once); additional or non-member queries \$3.00 each. Please type or print on standard size paper, or e-mail to mgsi@mts.net.

Andreas **SCHIMUNEK/SIMUNEK** who was born about 1871. He arrived with his brother Franz SHIMONEK/SIMUNEK (1867-1947) from Bremen Germany through Ellis Island in 1895. A third brother - Johan Schimunek 1865-1954) arrived with his family in Canada in 1902 or 1903. All three brothers lived and farmed in Southern Manitoba (Letellier, Rosenfeld and Morris). Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Florence Brown nee Schimunek at sboway@mts.net or Box 2519 Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0 phone 1-204-476-2126.

Muriel **GOLDING**, in Brandon in 1916. She wrote an aunt, Georgina Byrnes SPRATT of Elgin, MB, news of a "brother died in France" post-card, dated 4/11/16.

Contact Mrs A. Silvius, Ste 412, 939-9th Street, Brandon, MB, R7A 6R5

TAYLOR family who arrived in Winnipeg from London, England, in 1905/6. Benjamin TAYLOR was a London Life Insurance Superintendent. His wife was Emmeline. He had 2 sons from a previous marriage: John Crosby TAYLOR (1891-1918) and Harry Bishop TAYLOR (b. 1893), who both fought in the Great War. Frank TAYLOR (b. 1899) was the son of Emmeline and Benjamin. It is believed that Benjamin and Frank went to Toronto about 1930 to live with Diana, Benjamin's daughter from his previous marriage.

Contact Ruth Blair, 1144 Lindsay Drive, Oakville, Ontario, L6M 3B4 or rblair1@cogeco.ca.

My grandfather, George Alexander HAYES had a half-brother. All I know is this: Rev. Arthur HAYES married Edith BLOOMIER, 15 July 1920 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Any information would be appreciated. Contact Nadine (Hayes) Donlon, 3645 McKay Ave., Windsor, Ontario, N9E 2S3 or nfdonlon@yahoo.com

HETHERINGTON, John (b. 1812 County Armaugh, Ireland. D. 1869, bur. St. Helen's Cemetery, Lucknow Village, Ontario. Married (1) Hanna FORD (c.1832-1843) 5 Children (2) Eliza BRIGGS (- 1908) died in Souris, Manitoba. 10 children.

Information on & birth dates for these children wanted.

Contact: Dorothy Earley, 4101 – 662 Kenaston Blvd, Winnipeg, MB, R3N 2A1 (Phone: 204-488-3721)

ALLBRIGHT, William Henry (Harry) b. Aug 4, 1855 in St. Andrews Argenteuil, Quebec, d. Dec 8, 1931. Buried Castleavery, Manitoba. Second marriage to Mary ROBERTSON, Jan 26, 1888. Born 8 Sept 1861 & d. 18 Feb 1924. Appreciate information on first wife & marriage as well. Contact: Dorothy Earley, 4101 – 662 Kenaston Blvd, Winnipeg, MB, R3N 2A1 (Phone: 204-488-3721)

Any additional detail on this family?

.1 John James PORTEOUS b: Abt. 1843 ENG d: 1922 Southwick, KKD SCT

+Sarah SMITH b: Abt. 1842 Colvend, KKD SCT m: 29 Sep 1865 Colvend, KKD SCT d: 1896 Colvend, KKD SCT

.2 John PORTEOUS b: 16 Jun 1870 Colvend, KKD SCT

possibly this is same John as above?

.1 John PORTEOUS b: abt 1871 d: 27 Feb 1963 Winnipeg, MAN CDA

+Annie b: Abt. 1880 d: 19 Apr 1945 Winnipeg, MAN CDA

.2 John James PORTEOUS b: 5 Sep 1902 d: 24 Jan 1937 Winnipeg, MAN CDA

.+Margaret M b: 1904 d: 2 Jun 1977 Winnipeg, MAN CDA

.2 Jean PORTEOUS m: QUINN

.2 Nan PORTEOUS m: GRISDALE

.2 Peggy PORTEOUS

.2 Elizabeth Margaret PORTEOUS b: Abt. 1910 d: 22 May 1982 Winnipeg, MAN CDA m: Samuel HANNA

Pat Allan (MGS #2513), 27 Bramwell Ave., Winnipeg MB Canada R2C 3J6

The Manitoba genealogical Society expresses its sincere condolences to the following:

Girnith Stewart (#2360) whose husband, Lawrence Stewart, died on Oct 11, 2005 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

Jean Klohn (#2554) whose husband, Alwin Frank Klohn, died on 27 Sep 2005 in Edmonton, Alberta.

James Beyette (Life Member #698) whose father, Garnet James Beyette, died 16 Sep 2005 in Beausejour, Manitoba.

Walt McCaw (#1522) and family on the death of his grandson, Scott Michael Coolidge McCaw, in November, 2005.

PERIODICAL POTPOURRI

Lori Walker – MGS #1145
Email: lj_walker@shaw.ca

AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND

The Genealogist, Vol. 11, #7

- Rajah quilt; George Deall.

Heritage, Vol. 8, #3

- historic gardens of Quebec; York House.

CANADA

Anglo-Celtic Roots, Vol. 11, #1

- Middlemore project, part 4; John Rumble; church records in Ireland;

The Beaver, Feb/March 2005

- Scots ancestors in Quebec; William Luke; whaling; growing tobacco in Alberta; the "Irish Princess" of Newfoundland

B.C. Genealogist, Vol. 34, #3

- Scottish marriages of yesteryear; resources at Simon Fraser University.

Generations, NBGS, Vol. 27, #3

- Royal West India Regiment of Rangers; pioneer settlers of Stanley & Harvey; Hannah Underhill; Thomas Blundell; John Currie family.

Newfoundland Ancestry, Vol. 21, #2

- Deserters 1813-14.

Our Waterloo Kin, Vol. 5, #2/3

- Elmira Mennonites; Frederick Sandys & the Sands family.

PEI GS Newsletter, Vol. 30, #3

- Flood family of Kelly's Cross; Cooper family

Relatively Speaking, Alta GS, Vol. 33, #3

- Alberta Homestead records on-line;

Tree Tracer, Prince George GS, Vol. 26, #2

- Davis-Lee family.

Vol. 26, #3

- Furphy family, Boyd family

COMPUTERS

Genealogical Computing, Vol. 24, #4

- sharing families through the web; 'Master Genealogist 6.0'; 'Roots Magic 2.0'; tips for FTM; ancestors with disabilities.

Vol. 25, #1

- editing photos; FTM tips; 'FTM 2005'.

EASTERN EUROPE

East European Genealogist, Vol. 13, #3

- Cadastral Survey of the Austrian Empire.

Palatine Emigrant, Vol. 30, #4

- State Archive at Speyer.

ENGLAND & WALES

Cleveland FHS, Vol. 9, #8

- Loftus parish.

Cornwall FHS, #117

- Courtenay family; Cornish people in Pennsylvania; Cornish in S. Africa; Penrose family.

Derbyshire FHS, issue 114

- Howard family; wedding traditions through the ages.

Devon Family Historian, #115

- Thomas Vanstone, missionary;

Family Tree Magazine, Vol. 21, #8

- military police; Ching family of Cornwall; surname changes; Manor of Brierley; "Master Genealogist" and other family tree program reviews; emigrants to NZ; ERY Archive Service.

Genealogists Magazine, Vol. 28, #7

- editing the Heralds' visitation; Manuscript Commission; Francis Day; Cockerell family, heirs of Samuel Pepys.

Hampshire Family Historian, Vol. 32, #3

- Pritchard, Ball families; King's College records;

Norfolk Ancestor, Vol. 4, #3

- Harrod, Press families.

Northumberland & Durham FHS, Vol. 30, #3

- William Marley.

Oxfordshire Family Historian, Vol. 19, #2

- deaths by drowning; Gibbons, Wilkins, Bazeley families;

Suffolk Roots, Vol. 31, #2

- Malefactors Register; Frost family.

Sussex Family Historian, Vol. 16, #7

- Stapley family; Hollingdale family; Wildegos family

West Mdsx FHS Journal, Vol. 23, #3

- Harmondsworth parish; Elizabeth Brandish and her child.

IRELAND

Irish Roots, #55

- descent from Niall; Frongach Internment camp;

The Septs, Vol. 26, #3

- O'Meara family; Buckley family; surname interests.

Vol. 26, #4

- Scotch-Irish in Pennsylvania; the white slave trade.

ONE-NAME

Geer Family Assn. Newsletter, Vol. 22, #3

- Geer family stories.

Journal of One-Name Studies, Vol. 8, #12

- family souvenirs from Ebay; finding Trafalgar ancestors; the Marriage challenge for members.

SCOTLAND

Dumfries & Galloway FHS Newsletter, #53

- William Brown family.

Scottish Genealogist, Vol. 52, #3

- Andrew Barclay, engineer; Neidpath Castle.

UNITED STATES

Ancestry, Vol. 23, #1

- library and online records; organizing your research.

Vol. 23, #2

- athletic ancestors & their records; panoramic photos; the vault at Salt Lake City; courthouse research; *fraktur* research in Dutch families; Vol. 23, #3

- railroad research; small town newspapers; tracing Polish ancestors.

British Connections, Vol. 6, #2 (final issue)

- origin of Christianity in Scotland and the Catholic church.

Family Chronicle, Sept/Oct. 2005

- photo editing software; forensic genealogy.

New England Ancestors, Vol. 6, #4

- history of Cambridge, Mass; West Indies research; presidential kinships of Barbara Bush; Leiden House.

New England Historical & Genealogical

Register, Vol. 159

- Marriages in Boston 1655-1737 by the Revs. Mather; John Booth; Henry & Elizabeth Clark; Arthur Harris, William James and Abel Shorey.

Also we have received some donations of the following unreviewed miscellaneous periodicals:

Largs & North Ayrshire FHS
Doncaster Ancestor, Scotland

RURAL RAMBLINGS

Kathy Stokes

From the Winnipeg Free Press of December 1936:

Albert Ernest Thompson, 55 years, died December 8 at Ninette, Manitoba. He was buried in Glenboro cemetery. Mr. Thompson was born in London, England and came to Canada in 1904. He resided for three years in Belleville, Ontario and then came to Glenboro where he developed a painting and decorating business. He is survived by his wife, the former Rose Emily Wanstall, son Ralph of Nelson, B.C., daughters Grace, Joyce and Bernice, all at home and one brother, Arthur, in Vancouver.

Alexander Muir, about 70 years old, dropped dead suddenly at Ochre River on December 11. Surviving are his widow, daughter Jean at home and daughter Mrs. William Bennett, all of Ochre River and brother John of Leslie Saskatchewan. Mr. Muir was buried at Turtle River cemetery.

From the Winnipeg Free Press of 1 May 1919

The funeral for James Chapman of Winnipeg will be held at Brookside cemetery on April 30, 1919. Mr. Chapman, 89 years, was born at Chapman's Settlement, Amherst, Nova Scotia where two surviving brothers still live. Mr. Chapman came west 40 years ago after selling his bakery in Amherst. He spent five years working at the CPR shops in Winnipeg, then went to the United States where he established bakeries in Superior and later Lake Nabagam, Wisconsin. Ten years ago, he moved back to Winnipeg to reside with his daughter, Mrs. Alice McGill of Lipton St. Last year he applied for a homestead at Fisher River, Manitoba, probably the oldest person ever to apply for one.

Letter written in 1850 by Martha Guest

Submitted by Judy Labossière

My family's ancestors are the Guests of Innisfil and in 2003 we attended the Manitoba Guest Family Reunion. Ross Wallace of Innisfil, Ontario, a descendant of James Guest, has been researching the Guest Family since the late 1950's. Ross has an original letter written in 1850 by Martha Guest in England to her son James Guest in Innisfil. The letter has been copied as it was written and is re-published here with the permission of Ross Wallace.

*Excerpted in part from
'The Guests of Innisfil' 1842 – 1960
By Ross Wallace*

James Guest of the Manchester district (Oldham) of Lancashire County, England, arrived in Innisfil; it is believed, in 1842 at the age of 24. He came to the farm of his uncle, Mr. Robert Fitten, at the southwest corner of Concession 13 and side road 25 (Con. 12, north half lot 26).

James arrived in Canada one year after the Act of Union had united the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada and one year after the election of township officials had begun in Innisfil.

Little is known of James Guest's background. His mother, Martha Guest wrote in 1850 to inform him of the death of his father on September 17, 1850. His father had caught a severe cold the previous Christmas from which he never recovered.

2/2 (seemed to be the postage)
Postmarked Liverpool Dec. 3, 1850
Postmarked Innisfil Jan. 5 – 51 – U C
Postmarked Middleton no date
Postmarked Manchester 1850 Dec

To Mr. James Guest
Innisfil, Lake Simcoe
Upper Canada, North America

Threepits November 30, 1850

Dear Son and Daughter in Law it is With Deep Regret that I now take the Opportunity of Writing a Few Lines to you Hopeing they Will Find you all in Good Health as it Leaves us all at Present excepting Myself and I ham as Well as can be expected Considering The circumstances of my case for I Ham Sorry to Inform you that your Father is Dead and the Trials and Difficulties that have Appeared in our Family since We Wrote to you before Feel almost More than I Ham able to Bare but to show you the more Plain I will Return to Myself on January the 19th 1849 I was Afflicted With a Stroke that Completely tooke the use of one Side for a Long time and I was for a Bout Nine Weeks and could not Help Myself at all but

had to be lifted in and out of Bed for all that time but Thanks Be to God I ham no so far Recovered that I ham able to Walk about a little and Follow My Imployment. But as one Trouble all ways follows another I Will Now Return to your Father for you are a Ware that all your Brothers and Sisters Ware got Married and Left us except your Brother Thomas and their Was a Difference arose Betwixt him and his father Which Caused him to Lave Home and then we Ware Left Intirely to Fend For our selves and the Trial Seemd More to him than He Was able to Bare for He has Never seemed like the same Man since I was Afflicted and about last Crisitmas he Caut a Severe Cold With Rideing on the Coach from Manchester and he never could Recover himself Afterwards He Was about Nine Weeks so that He could Not follow His imployment but he Was only about a Fortnight Confined to his Bed Before he Died but thanks be to God He Bare it patiently and Ernestly Prayed to God Night and Day that He Would Pardon His Sins and I Verily believe that the Lord Heard His Prayer and Granted His Request For Which I think We all aught Earnestly to Thank Almighty God that it Hath Pleased Him of His Great Mercy to Bestow His Grace Upon Him in so Late an Houre and Let us all Earnestly Indeavour while it is Day to Work out our own Salvation With Fear and Trembling
Before the Night Cometh When no Man Can Work you will Praps Want to Know after all these trials and Changes What is Become of Mee and I Will endeavour to show you as Plainly as Possible for It Was the Wish of your Father Before He Died that a Place should be Provided for Me so He Asked your Brother in Law and sister Thomas and Rachel Fitton if The Would Consent for Mee to go and Live With Them as He Thought it Would be the most Comfortable Place for Mee as their Was no Little Children and His Request Was Granted and He thought that owing to My Affliction it Was not Likely that Even I Should be able at all times to get My own Living so He Requested Me that at His Death all that Belonged to us Should Be Sold as soon as Possible after his Funeral and made into Money and that Money Given to Mee to Live upon so this Request Was obeyed and He

Manitoba Public Accounts Records

By Ron Isaak, #4111

Did a family member or relative ever worked for the Manitoba government? If so you might be able to find a record of service in the Manitoba Public Accounts records. Oral family history said that Margaret Wotherspoon came to Canada from Scotland in about 1905 as a domestic and that at some point she worked at the Selkirk Asylum in Manitoba. It was said this is where she met William Davidson whom she later married (we presumed in Manitoba). Later we discovered that they had been married in October of 1909 in Vancouver.

On a trip to Winnipeg we stopped at the Provincial Library and enquired as to any records for employees of the Selkirk Asylum. We were directed the Public Accounts records which are bound in volumes covering several years. I asked for the period covering 1906/1910. As I started my search I noted that not all years contain employee names, some had just dollar values of salaries paid per department of government.

After searching under the accounts for the Public Accounts for the Selkirk Asylum and finding nothing I noticed entries for the Asylum for the Insane, Brandon. Checking further, and to our great delight, there was an entry in the Public Account for 1909, page 97 for M. Wotherspoon who had been paid a total of \$54.44 for work as a cook. It is not known what period that covered but as she was married in October of that year in Vancouver, so it is assumed she worked there only part of 1909. Unfortunately I did not record what the fiscal year for the Government of

Manitoba was in 1909 and there was no record of Margaret being employed there in 1908 or earlier.

While the name Wotherspoon is somewhat unique and with the initial M we were virtually certain we had the right person, I continued to scan the records as she was said to have met her future husband while working there. On page 96 of the 1909 record I found that W. Davidson had been paid the sum of \$53.66 for working at the same asylum as an Assistant Farmer! It is highly likely this is where the couple met.

We have been unable to obtain any further records for employees of this Asylum (apparently inmate records exist but not for staff) but given the oral history and these Manitoba Public Accounts records we are confident that we have found another piece of family history.

Perhaps you will have the same success.

Parsons \$143.94, M. Parkes \$113, E. Rutter \$166.44, Lila Ritchy \$245.32, L. Radford \$134.50, A. Rogers \$14.03, M. M. Sharpe \$62.67, C. Smith \$20, F. Schenk \$82, M. Stokley \$37.25, F. Thomas \$157, E. Townend \$17.42, A. P. Thom \$129,	4,106.98
Houskeeper—Netta Imlah	360.00
Cooks— Mary Duffield \$33.39, L. Gibbons \$89.16, M. Keith \$00, M. McNeill \$30.48, R. Mellor \$160, C. Mellor \$45, N. Parkes \$55.89, A. Parker \$292.50, F. Parkes \$41.48, E. Reinhert \$14.20, A. Taylor \$45, M. Wotherspoon \$54.44	951.54
Servants— R. Mellor \$60, M. Parkes \$160, F. Parkes \$40, M. Russell \$39.16..	299.16

Manitoba Public Accounts, 1909, Asylum for the Insane, Brandon, page 97

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