

# GENERATIONS

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## This Issue:

- The Importance of Given Names
  - English Surnames with Old Norse Roots
  - In Search of Agnes Creighton
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**MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**  
**<http://www.mts.net/~mgsi>**  
**e-mail: [mgsi@mts.net](mailto:mgsi@mts.net)**

**RESOURCE CENTRE**  
**1045 St. James Street - Unit E**  
**Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 1B1**

**Telephone (204)783-9139 Fax: (204)783-0190**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:30AM - 3:30 PM**  
**Wednesday Evenings 7:00PM - 10:00PM**  
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Editor: Bill Burland



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## Pioneer Royalty

April 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 foresight and courage with which they combatted 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:

### NONAGENARIANS...

John Richardson, Napinka, 93 years of age, April 28.  
Malcolm Matheson, Belmont, 92 years of age, April 25.  
Mrs. Vigdis Thorsteinson, Belmont, 92 years of age, April 20.  
Mrs. Mary Graham, Brandon, 91 years of age, April 24.

### OCTOGENARIANS...

A. M. Rowland, Glenboro, 89 years of age, April 13.  
James Stephens, Oak Lake, 88 years of age, April 2.  
Jonas Helgason, Baldur, 87 years of age, April 7.  
Mrs. C. W. Wells, Carman, 87 years of age, April 15.  
W. J. Turner, MacGregor, 87 years of age, April 22.  
Mrs. T. Miners, Rivers, 86 years of age, April 12.  
Mrs. Catharine Morrison, Pipestone, 86 years of age, April 16.  
Walter Seward, Riding Mountain, 85 years of age, April 13.  
Mrs. J. Armitage, Boissevain, 83 years of age, April 2.  
F. W. Jones, Roland, 83 years of age, April 11.  
J. G. Jackson, Glenboro, 83 years of age, April 13.  
Mrs. T. H. Pilgrim, Neepawa, 83 years of age, April 6.  
John McKenzie, Baldur, 82 years of age, April 6.  
Mrs. Wm. Baker, Brandon, 82 years of age, April 8.  
S. E. Fennell, Roland, 81 years of age, April 6.  
Mrs. G. A. Blackwell, Neepawa, 81 years of age, April 20.  
Mrs. A. M. Carter, Strathclair, 80 years of age, April 9.  
Wm. Ledingham, Brandon, 80 years of age, April 6.

### ANNIVERSARIES...

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Castor, Homewood, married 63 years, April 1.  
Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Kenward, Birtle, married 59 years, April 7.  
Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Rodgers, Sanford, married 58 years, April 8.  
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Roth, Carman, married 52 years, April 3.  
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sherritt, Portage la Prairie, married

52 years, April 17.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Tyndall, Wawanesa, married 51 years, April 15.

Mr. and Mrs. John Coates, Morris, married 50 years, April 13.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Laycock, Foxwarren, married 50 years, April 8.

### From the Editor - Bill Burland

This issue we have two articles on names - one on using given names in research and the other on English surnames with old Norse roots. As well, I've included a brief article on research, using my own family. So, on the cover is a picture my family calls the "Three Graces" - my great-grandmother's younger sisters: Minnie, Jessie and Fanny Creighton. I'd sure like to know what happened to them!!

As usual, I am asking for articles from our membership. I'd hate to leave 4 blank pages in the June Journal because I don't have any copy!!!

### President's Report - Jayne Paradis

Seminar 2005 planning is in the works. It would be great to get some input/ideas for this seminar. While it is partly used as a fundraiser for MGS, it is also a great way to meet the other members of MGS and increase your knowledge of genealogy. Who knows what relation you might meet! So, please seriously think about attending the seminar. More info later. A big welcome to Geoff Lambert who has taken over the Ways and Means Committee. Thanks, Geoff!

### Vice-President Communications -

Daryl (McCowan) Dumanski

Congratulations & welcome to our newest branch – Beautiful Plains of M.G.S.

Chris Irwin, V.P. Administration, and I met with a very active and enthusiastic group of people in Neepawa in October. Realizing the advantages of joining with a provincial organization they decided to form a branch of the society, and this was approved by council on November 20, 2004.

Please congratulate these members on all that they have already accomplished and consider joining them at a meeting or offering to be a speaker at one of their meetings this year. Maybe a group of other branch members can head out for a spring visit!

Also – they are starting from scratch for branch holdings and I know it won't take them long to have some special projects underway – they already do research. Please consider giving their President a call or e-mail if you have some contributions of research material.

The meeting dates and locations of all of our branches are listed in a calendar section of this journal as well as on our website.

# The Importance of Given Names

by Donna Przecha

In genealogy we usually concentrate on surnames since they are the most important way of identifying people who are related. A surname is usually inherited and, while it may be changed, some form of it is usually retained. Given names are more important in a way because they represent a voluntary choice by the parents or, sometimes, by an individual. A name is usually not given lightly. It represents thought and feelings and can be significant to the researcher.

## Naming Patterns

You will often see the same names used over and over again in families. While certain names are popular in different areas in different times in history, the repetition could represent a pattern. Many cultures believe in honoring their elders and do so by naming children after them. Angus Baxter in "In Search of Your British and Irish Roots" describes a pattern that was popular in England in the 1700-1875 period:

- The first son was named after the father's father
- The second son was named after the mother's father
- The third son was named after the father
- The fourth son was named after the father's eldest brother
- The first daughter after the mother's mother
- The second daughter after the father's mother
- The third daughter after the mother
- The fourth daughter after the mother's eldest sister

If this pattern would result in a duplication of names — i.e., both grandfathers had the same name — then they would skip to the next one on the list. Similar patterns have been suggested for other nationalities. This could be a very helpful formula, but many genealogists warn against giving it too much credence. Given human nature, it would be very difficult to follow exactly. It would be pretty hard to convince a new mother of her first-born son to name him after a drunken, abusive father-in-law rather than her own beloved father who had just died.

You will probably see names of parents and grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles repeated, but not in any strict order. It is difficult to know whom a child called Ann or Mary was actually named after. While over half of the names in a family will probably appear to be repeats, there always seems to be a few totally different ones. A child might be named after a good friend or a popular hero of the times. Of the 12 names given to my grandparents' six children

born between 1881 and 1896, I can identify the family namesake of 10. Of the other two, Urquhart is somehow associated with the family because an aunt's will mentions the Urquhart coat of arms and a bequest to a person with the middle name Urquhart.

## Frequency

Even if the family did not follow this strict pattern, the repetition of names can be significant, especially if there is an unusual name. Let us say you are researching a family group that went west. The family had children named Benjamin, Obadiah and Catherine. When these children married, they tended to carry on these same names. You know they came from New England, but have no proof as to where. If you find a family of that surname in Rhode Island with children named George, John, William and Ann and another family in Vermont with children Benjamin, Obadiah and Catherine, you will probably want to put your first effort into the Vermont family. It is not any proof in itself, but goes towards the preponderance of the evidence.

Some families may show an extreme fondness for one name. In one family, Samuel and William, both with the same surname, came to America. Twenty years later William signed a power of attorney to settle the estate of Robert who had died in Ireland. Most researchers have assumed, as a working theory, that these men were brothers and Robert was their father. A partial list of 77 descendants shows that in four generations of descendants of Robert the name William occurs 10 times. By contrast, Robert only occurs four times. This makes me a bit skeptical that Robert is really the progenitor of the family. He may have been an uncle or childless relative.

## Names as a Virtue

Some of the most fascinating names come from early New England where parents sometimes named their children after virtues they hoped they would possess: Patience, Charity, Prudence, Thankful. Some names appear quite strange to modern ears. In view of 20th century meanings, "Freelove" does not seem to be an appropriate name for a daughter! Other names had special

meaning. In early New England it is believed that the name Benoni was associated with sorrow and was used when the mother was not married or died in childbirth or if the circumstances were in some way unfortunate.

### Recycled Names

Up until this century, parents could usually count on one third of their children not surviving. If a child died, the name was often used again. If a baby died, the next child of the same sex would often be given the same name. When checking birth records, you should never stop when you find the name you are looking for. You should continue for a few more years, because the first child could have died and your ancestor could have been the second child in the family with that name. If an older child died, a younger one would often be named for him or her. If you see George in the 1850 census as a six year old and then in the 1860 census as an eight year old, it may mean the first one died shortly after the 1850 census was taken.

### Surnames as Given Names

Always note carefully a surname that is a given name, even a middle name. The mother's side will often be revealed through the use of family names for her children. One woman named her first son Henry and a later son John Henry. Since Henry is a first name, that did not seem unusual, but it was very significant because the woman's maiden name turned out to be Henry.

Consider the following: Thomas Simpson married Mary. After his death, Mary married John Wiswall in 1808. Thomas and Mary had one child, Ann Simpson, who married Francis Ullathorne. Sons of Ann and Francis:

1. Thomas Simpson Ullathorne (named after Ann's father)
2. Francis Ullathorne (named after Francis, the father)
3. William Ullathorne (named after Francis' brother)
4. John Ullathorne (b. 1802, named after Francis' father)
5. Samuel Stevenson Ullathorne
6. Charles Wiswall Ullathorne (b. 1808, middle name after Ann's stepfather. By the time he was born, Ann had already named one child John which may account for the different first name.)

I didn't know Mary's maiden name and I thought finding a Catholic marriage in London for the right Simpson would be impossible. However, I found a record of Thomas Simpson marrying Mary Stephenson about a year before the birth of Ann.

The fact that Stevenson appears in family names makes me look very closely at this Mary Stevenson and I would look doubly closely at any Mary who had a father named Samuel Stevenson. Again, this is not proof but a very helpful directional indicator when trying to navigate through Stevenson records in a city like London.

In one family, a woman whose maiden name was not known had a grandson, 2 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild with the given names Joel Horton. Her maiden name turned out to be Horton, but her father was Ebenezer, not Joel. She did have a younger brother named Joel. In a case like this, the significance of the frequency was not as obvious because the later generations could have been named after the first man with that name rather than all going back to honor the maiden name. A surname as a given name does not always mean it was a family name. The numbers of "George Washingtons" and "Lincolns" as given names in the U.S. do not indicate any family connection. A couple might also name a child after a respected friend.

### Nicknames

You may think you have a relationship all figured out only to come upon a completely different name for the wife. Nicknames that were common in earlier times, especially for girls, may not be known nicknames at all today. I thought I never would figure out all the wives one man had. He was married to Ann, Margaret Agnes, Hannah and Nancy in different records. Fortunately, my life was simplified when I found out that Ann, Hannah, Nan and Nancy were all variations of the same name. Some even say that Agnes is a variation of Ann so his four wives became two at the most. Here are some others you may encounter:

- Margaret: Maggie, Rita, Madge, Greta, Peggy, even Daisy (Marguerite is the French word for Daisy)
- Mary: Polly, Minnie, Polette (Polly/Mary is very common in early America)
- Minerva: Minnie
- Alice: Lisa, Sonny
- Amelia: Milly
- Helen: Ailene, Elaine, Leonora, Nelly
- Sarah: Sadie
- Louise: Alison, Eloise, Lois

Most male nicknames are more straightforward, although Hal and Harry for Henry or Neil for Cornelius are a little less obvious. What frequently happens with men is they decide to go by their middle name. Everyone will know them by the middle name and they will be written up in county

histories under this name. John William may be called Bill most of the time. But when it comes to some official documents, he will trot out his full legal name. You may pore over the census looking for Bill or Wm. and completely overlook John. Your best piece of luck is when you encounter a document where he uses both names together.

### Baptismal Names

In Catholic churches especially, but also found in others, the Latin name will be used at the time of baptism. Most genealogists maintain that a person should be entered in the database under his baptismal name. Since this is often the only time the Latin name is used, I do not think using this name as the primary name is helpful for people trying to look up information on that individual. One person was christened Bonafacius but not one of his descendants would ever know to look under that name. All his life he went by "Bonaparte." Carolus is Latin for Charles, but not a name most people would use. I personally believe the primary name should be the name the person was known by for most of his life.

### Translated Names

When foreigners came to the U.S. they often modified the spelling of their last name or even translated the name. Thus Schneider became Taylor. This happened even more frequently with given names because most names in European languages have an English equivalent. A German named Franz, a Pole called Franciszek, and an Italian named Francesco could all easily become "Frank." John is such a widely used name that it has many forms: Jan (Belgian, Czech, Danish, Gaelic, Polish), Hanna (Arabic), Ivan (Bulgarian, Russian), Hans (Danish, German), Hannes (Finnish), Jean (French), Johannes (German), Ioannes (Greek), Yohanan (Hebrew), Sean (Irish), Giovanni (Italian), Joao (Portuguese), Ian (Scotch), Juan (Spanish), Jonam, Jens (Swedish), Yochanan (Yiddish). On the other hand a Spaniard named Diego, a Scotsman named Hamish or an Irishman called Seamus probably wouldn't change to James. What you have to do is keep an eye out for switching between the two names — in the Polish paper he may be Wojciech but in the city directory would be listed under Albert.

### German Names

In some German areas you will find that all of the sons had the same first name, frequently Johann, and all of the daughters also, often Anna. You might find a family with Johann Georg, Johann Jacob and

Johann Michael. Usually they went by their second name. But when an official record was involved, they might revert to their full name. Hans is a nickname for Johann so you might also find records for Hans Michael or Hans Jacob. In the Alsace area of France, the administration of the area went back and forth between France and Germany so you may find some records in German and some in French. Johann Jacob or Hans Jacob would become Jean Jacques. Of course, he might also just be Jean (the original Johann given to the whole family) so it is hard to tell which son it could be. Occasionally, names would be reversed so that Michael Georg became Georg Michael, probably because Georg was the name he went by and Michael was only secondary.

### "Sounds Like"

Some foreign languages do not have equivalent names so a direct translation is not possible. Asain names usually cannot be translated directly, but may be too awkward to use when dealing with Americans on a casual basis. In this case a similar sounding American name may be adopted. The Japanese Tamio became Tommy for everyday usage. Again, you have to be aware of the two names and keep an eye out for both.

### Patronymics

Given names become even more significant in the patronymic system, as in Scandinavia, where the given name of the father becomes the surname of the son. If Eric Larson has a son, he will be John Ericson and his son will be Sven Johnson. While given names do not have the importance of surnames, they should still be carefully studied because they can give valuable hints about your family history.

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### About the Author

I began genealogy in 1970 when we were living in Ogden, Utah for a short time. I was immediately hooked when, on my first visit to the local Family History Center, I found my great-grandparents in the 1850 Ohio census. I have been researching ever since on my own family and for others. I soon recognized the value of computer programs for keeping track of the data. I was a founding member of the Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego and editor of the newsletter. I have written a third party manual on ROOTS III and, with Joan Lowrey, authored two guides to genealogy software. Using ROOTS III and WordPerfect, I have written several family history books for others, but have yet to stop researching long enough to complete my own family history!

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## In Search of Agnes Creighton

In doing family research, there are many useful habits one should develop. One of these is that you must be prepared to follow all leads wherever they take you. Another is to go back over previous research looking for hints or clues to guide you in new research. It's not enough to find a document, copy it, and then file it forever. I'd like to use my own family history and research to illustrate these points.

When we began to investigate our ancestors, my sisters and I knew very little. One of my sisters knew that our grandfather (Henry Perce Burland)'s mother was Agnes Creighton and his father was William Burland. The 1881 census of Manitoba located William Burland near Rapid City, Manitoba.

Starting with that, we were able to locate their marriage in 1883. In searching the 1891 census, my younger sister found William Burland, with his wife Agnes, daughter Hattie, and son Percy living in Calgary. My grandfather was known as Percy all his life, so we are certain we had the right family. But this was the first we had heard of Hattie. Going through old newspapers from Calgary and Manitoba, we located the announcements of the birth of Hattie Burland to William (I would have thought Agnes had something to do with it!), an unnamed son (but the birthdate was our grandfather, Percy's), and the death of another son.

We were unable to find more from Calgary. The children had not been christened (or at least we could find no record of it).

Knowing our father had been born in Winnipeg, we began looking at the Henderson's Directories of the city. There we found Agnes Burland, widow of W.H. Burland, in 1901. By 1907, however, she had vanished from the City Directory. Hattie had also vanished by 1910, but we were able to follow Percy over the years.

Manitoba Vital statistics were unable to locate either a death for Agnes nor a marriage or death for Hattie. It seemed a dead end.

On one trip to do research in the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, we came across a microfilm of border crossings from Canada to the United States. By this time, we had found Agnes's father's death announced in the Brandon paper. The article mentioned his death in Detroit. It also named his surviving children, among whom were Mrs.

Agnes Burland, of Winnipeg, William Creighton of Brandon, and Mrs. (Dr.) Jessie Navaun of Detroit. Without much hope of learning anything, we went through the microfilm of border crossings and came across the entry of 1916, copied here. William Creighton and his wife were going to Detroit to join his sister Jessie Navaun. The entry confirmed his age, birthplace and occupation. It gave his sister's

address in Detroit and told us he was moving permanently.

Not being too awake at the time, I copied down the information. Much later, back in Winnipeg, I looked again at my notes. One line of the form called for his nearest relative or friend in Canada. He named Mrs. Agnes Jacobson of Logan Ave., Winnipeg. If his relative were AGNES Jacobson, this was probably his sister!!! Had she married again?

Back to the Henderson Directories. We found that Emil Jacobson had been a boarder at the home of Mrs. Burland. Then they both disappeared from the Directory, but Mr. Emil Jacobson re-appeared.

We followed him year-by-year through the directories, until in the 1919 issue his wife - Agnes Jacobson - was also listed when she went to work outside the home.

If I had not reviewed my notes, I would never have discovered this part of Agnes's life and would have thought she had died around 1907.

Emil disappeared from the directories in 1936. We found Agnes had died in 1930, and Emil in 1936. That seemed the end of the search.

But, in going back over the directories, I noticed that a Ken Jacobson had appeared in the same house in the 1930s. I assumed this was a nephew of Emil's. But, out of curiosity, I kept following Ken Jacobson year by year in the directories. He stayed at the same address in Norwood where Agnes and Emil had died. His wife, Stephanie, appeared in the directories with him. Finally they moved to a different address, but I continued to follow them. In the 1980s, Ken Jacobson disappeared from the

directories. Since I was in the MGS library when I found that, I went to the Winnipeg Newspapers Obituary Index for that year and found Kenneth had died. But, even more, I found his full name. He was Kenneth *Creighton* Jacobson. Not Emil's nephew, but likely the son of Agnes Creighton and Emil Jacobson, and therefore likely a half-brother to my grandfather!! I went to the Public library on my way home from MGS, and found his obituary. Kenneth was survived by a daughter and her husband. In an attempt to locate her, I checked the current Winnipeg phonebook for them without success. Then I thought - she'd be about my age and may be retired. Where do Winnipegers retire? British Columbia! So I went on line and looked up her husband's name in the phone directory for BC. There he was.

Wm. Henry Burland = Agnes Eckford Creighton = Emil Jacobson	
Henry Perce (Percy) Burland	Kenneth Creighton Jacobson
Raymond Henry Burland	Barbara Agnes Jacobson
William Ray Burland	

I phoned and sure enough, she (Barbara) not only knew there had been a Burland connection, but she had all her grandmother (Agnes Creighton)'s photographs. And Agnes had had her first husband (William Burland)'s family pictures as well. Suddenly, I had a new relative and pictures of my ancestors!! Attached to this article is one of these pictures, Agnes Creighton posed in a formal dress. Fortunately, it is labelled on the back "Agnes Burland, 41 Victoria". According to the Henderson's directory, Agnes was at 43 Victoria till 1905, when it was renumbered to 41 Victoria. The next year, she was on Logan Avenue. So, clearly the picture is 1905, when she was about 39 years old.

That came about from following the leads as far as possible. If I had gone with my first instinct of Kenneth Jacobson's being a nephew, I would never have found this living descendant of my great-grandmother, and my family and I would have been that much poorer for our not knowing Barbara.

Among the pictures she had was one of a tombstone for a Hattie Orr, with a date of death. Further research showed Hattie Burland (my grandfather's sister) had married - in Toronto - to a Robert Orr after she had disappeared from the Winnipeg Directory. Now, if only the picture had stated where

she had died and where the tombstone is!!! Oh, well. That simply means more research. Other pictures include Agnes's first husband (my great-grandfather), her son (my grandfather), and my great-great-grandfather, Bartholomew Burland! The moral? Follow all hints to the end. Review your material occasionally - you might have missed a clue!



Agnes Eckford Creighton Burland Jacobson  
1866 - 1930

## ENGLISH SURNAMES WITH OLD NORSE ROOTS

William J. Birtles

My father's family came to Manitoba from Yorkshire, England in 1883. During World War I Dad was a soldier stationed in the south of England. When he had leave, he went north to visit his cousins in Sheffield. On one occasion he met an elderly lady who presented him with a family pedigree drawn up by one William Birtles of Crookes Moor, Sheffield in 1846. In the top left hand corner of the parchment was a crest. Under it was a notation saying, "the name Birtles is thought to have come from Norway, some say Wales." I would say Norway. In Minnesota where there is a large Scandinavian population I have come across Bertelson and similar variations of the name.

### Historical Background:

The ancient Britons (thought to be related to the Basques in France and Spain) were the first inhabitants of the British Isles. They were followed by the Celts and other tribes from the continent. The Roman armies invaded the country in 43 B.C. "Brittania" became a remote province of the Roman Empire. The Romans occupied much of what is now England, and parts of the lowlands of Scotland. The Romans remained in Britannia for over four hundred years.

The Angles, Saxons and Jutes, the original "English" people started coming into Britain during the 5<sup>th</sup> century as the Romans were withdrawing to continental Europe. The Anglo-Saxons came from Germany; the Jutes from northern Denmark. The latter occupied Kent, parts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The Danes and the Norwegians (Vikings) came to the British Isles and continued to come from the 9th century onwards. The Danes came mostly to the north and the east of England. After clashes with the Anglo-Saxons, they settled down to farm. Meanwhile the Norwegians were moving into the western islands of Scotland, the Isle of Man and into the major harbours of Ireland - Dublin, Londonderry, Belfast and Cork. From that vantage point they invaded the west side of England - Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire. They then penetrated inland and moved across northern Yorkshire to join up with the Danes at York.

"The earliest permanent settlement of the Viking invaders was in the latter part of the 9<sup>th</sup> century when a Danish army settled in Northumbria, in particular the area around York (Jorvik). Danes later moved into Mercia (the Midlands) and occupied Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and Lincoln. Still later East Anglia was occupied. These three areas came to be known as the Danelaw, i.e. the area subject to Danish law. The boundary was defined in 886 at a treaty between the English King, Alfred, and Guthrum, leader of the East Anglian Danes"<sup>1</sup>.

Most Scandinavian place-names date from the ninth, tenth or eleventh century. Half the place-names in Lincolnshire are of Old Norse origin. For example, Grimsby and Cleethorpes. The most

common element in Old Norse is the suffix "by." This means a village or farmstead. For example, Crosby, Kirkby and Whitby. Danby and Denby mean villages where there were Danes surrounded by the English. Similarly, Normanby and Normanton were places where the Norwegians had settled.

"Thorpe" means a secondary settlement, or outlying farm. "Skali" is a temporary hut or shed, which becomes Scales, Somerscales, Sonimerskill and Summersgill. The Danish "Both" yields "Booth", a temporary shelter. Old Norse "hagi" or Old English "haga" means enclosed pasture, producing such names as Haig(h), Haugh and Hough. The Danish "bank" is a ridge, giving the names Banks and Brittlebank. The Old Norse "beck" is a stream, giving Birbeck. The mouth of the stream or river is "Munn", giving Munning and Munton.

The central part of Manchester is called Hulme (Holm), which means an island or a high place in a marsh or fen land. Hence the surnames Hulme, Holm, Holmes, Askholm, Denholm, and, indeed, Stockholm. In Yorkshire a valley is called a dale from the Old Norse "dahl." Surnames include Dale, Nithsdale and Teasdale.

Whereas the Anglo-Saxon term for a clearing in the forest is "ley" or "leigh" (e.g., Ashley or Burleigh), the Old Norse equivalent is "thwaite", often used as a compound: Braithwaite, Outhwaite and Rounthwaite. Brackenthwaite means a clearing of bracken (large, coarse, weedy ferns).

Many of the surnames are a combination of Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse. For example, Shelton is a purely English name, whereas Skelton is a hybrid of Old Norse and Anglo-Saxon.

In conclusion, let me say that my own pedigree contains Old Norse names such as Rusby, Ellaby and Biggin. The latter name belongs to the period after the Norman Conquest. It contains Middle-English "bigging" which means "building a house," a word derived from the Old Norse "bygga" which means to build. Hybrids of this name are Newbiggin and Dowbiggin.

With the help of another member of the Sheffield Family History Society I was successful in researching this surname back to the Reformation. The earliest of my ancestors known to me was

Thomas Biggin who was baptized in 1535, and is interred in the Norton parish church graveyard in Sheffield.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Kenneth Cameron: "English Place Names"

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Understanding English Surnames, Sir William Addison  
The Origin of English Surnames, P. H. Reaney  
Dictionary of Surnames, A. B. Cottle  
English Placenames, Dr. Kenneth Cameron

## Generation Gaps

All members are entitled to one free query a year.

Searching for descendants of John BARRON from village of Nenthead, Cumbria, who took an assisted passage with his extensive family to Canada on the Brig "Phillis" in 1823".

Contact: Louisa Shermerhorn 270 Sansome Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3K 0P6 or [luezir@mts.net](mailto:luezir@mts.net).

BALDWIN: - Searching for children of William E Baldwin (1854 -?) and Avis HEWITT (1855-1932) who originally lived in Plattsburgh/Woodstock area of Ontario. She is buried in Ontario

1. Mary BALDWIN - Pembina District Manitoba Apr 5 1878 - nothing known
  2. Etta (Ettie) BALDWIN Oct 19 1882 Pembina District - reported to have married a Jack SCOTT - info- one source said died Aug 3 1930 and the other Sept 6 1931. Maybe someone would check the obits from Manitou area
  3. Ralph Wm Hewitt BALDWIN May 28 1894 Pembina District - died Sept 10 1897 Manitou
  4. Gilbert Edison BALDWIN Apr 3 1899 Manitou m Martha (May) Stouffer (no record of b or d) He died in Delta BC Mar 5 1977 and buried in Crossfield, Alberta. Any information or clues would be helpful.
- Contact: Pat Hewitt 10847 147 St, Edmonton AB T5N 3E1 [pmhewitt@telusplanet.net](mailto:pmhewitt@telusplanet.net)

POST- MUNN: Ezekiel POST, b. Hebron, Ct. 1771, m. Anna MUNN, b. 1778 West Stockbridge, Mass. d/o Daniel Munn & Lydia Crompton. Moved to Trafalgar Tp., Ont. ca 1802. Ch: Lydia m. Henry SHAIN, , Andrew m. Maria ROLLO, Millicent m. Wm. DOWNS & John Curtis Post m. Nancy YEREX. Seeking descendants to help me fill in the blanks. Contact: Eleanor J. Burch, Box 269, Carberry, MB, R0K 0H0 Email: [eburch@westman.wave.ca](mailto:eburch@westman.wave.ca)

SIDDON - Looking for information on parents and/or siblings of Ellen Siddon

Ellen b. 1853 Bruce County, Ont. m. James Emmond d. 1933 Treherne MB  
A brother George Siddon m Carrie farmed at Minitonas MB

George's children (a)Harry Siddon m Fern Lee, Benito, MB believed to have lived in Winnipeg 1950/60s (b)Maggie m Walker (c) Isobel m. John McArthur (d) Myrtle m. Pat Murphy  
Contact Lois Neabel, Box 1547, Minnedosa, MB, R0J 1E0 [lneabel@mts.net](mailto:lneabel@mts.net)

## SCHULTZ/THOMAS

Schultz, Carl b. Russian Poland m. Maria (Thomas) b. 1856 Berlin, Germany (my ggrandparents) homesteaded at Langenberg, Sask. Their oldest daughter, Emma Maria, b. 1883 Berlin m. 1907 Peter Schepp b. 1881 Soltoi, Bessarabia, Rumania (my grandparents). Emma emigrated in 1887 with her parents, and Peter in 1903 with his father, Johann. Peter's father and other relatives homesteaded at Calder, Sask. Peter and Emma later settled north of Marchwell, Sask. Info on any of the above greatly appreciated.  
Contact: Shirley Erskine, 327 Kirkcaldy Drive, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 0C3 [serskine@westman.wave.ca](mailto:serskine@westman.wave.ca)

FREE PINS

FREE TOURS

FREE REFRESHMENTS

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FREE FUN

Once again the MGS is hosting Manitoba Day on Saturday, May 14, 2005 from 10AM to 4PM at the MGS Library located at Unit E, 1045 St. James Street, Winnipeg.

We look forward to seeing you during your FREE TIME. Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring a non-member, bring a pen and paper so you can write down all you learn about your family's genealogy. Remember our motto this year is the 7 Fs:

FREE FUN FOR FINDING  
FASCINATING FAMILY FACTS

See you there!!!!

Bill Pooley, Vice Pres. Of Membership Services

## Doing English Research at the MGS Resource Center

Mary Bole (#884)

The following is a guide for volunteers and patrons using the MGS Library. It is far from complete. To find other resources search the card catalog under England, Great Britain or just surf the shelves. Unless the following are marked CDR or REF they are in the Great Britain and Irish section of the library.

### **How-to start**

In search of your British and Irish Roots	929.1 BAX
Tracing ... in the Public Record Office	350 COX

### **How-to for the more advanced**

Ancestral trails (2000 ed.)	942 ANC
Parish chest	262 TAT
My ancestor was in the British Army	355.1 WAT

### **Addresses**

Whitaker's Almanack (1916-1986)	REF 310 WHI
Genealogical Resources in English Repositories	929 MOU

### **Census**

Complete 1881 census index	CDR 312
Various other counties and years	312 and CDR 312
1891, 1901 census	ancestry.com

### **Birth, marriage, deaths (BMD)**

Vital Records Index for British Isles	CDR 929.3 BRI
Various parish registers	929.3 and CDR 929.3
Vicar General Marriage licenses 1726-1750	929.3 VIC
What are bishops' registers and where	274 GUI
National Burial Index – England and Wales	CDR 942.2
International Genealogical Index	Microfiche

### **Atlases and Gazetteers**

Superscale Britain Atlas (2004)	REF 912 BRI
Genealogical Gazetteer of England	REF 910.3 ENG
Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish...	REF 929 PHI
Cassell's Gazetteer of British Isles	CDR 910.3

### **History, General**

Illustrated history of Britain	942 ILL
Lives and times of our English ancestors	942 SMI

### **Occupations**

Book of trades	331.7 BOO
Foreign Office List and Diplomatic.. 1916	341.3 FOR

### **Orphans**

Barnardo and Home Children Books	362
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### **People**

Who's Who 1930-1965	REF 920.03 WHO
Journal of One-Name Studies	929.4 REG or Periodical

### **Periodicals**

Genealogists' Magazine (for the complete country)	
Many for individual counties – e.g. Suffolk, West Middlesex, Lancashire	

### **Vertical File**

Look in England and then by the name of the county.	
Look in Great Britain	

**Library Lines**  
Mary Bole, MGS Librarian (#884)

### **Family History and Biography**

CDR 929.2 YOR *Descendants of Thomas York and Mary Dickens of Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, England, 2004. This is compiled by Shirley York Anderson from Madison, Wisconsin.* In just under 200 years the descendants of the above couple total well over 3,000. A couple of strong trends have appeared in those descendants: many are teachers and many are "non-conformist".

### **Manitoba**

282 WINN STC St. Charles Catholic Church, 2004 The history of St. Charles Church and parish – one of the oldest parishes in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and Manitoba. Includes history of the parish, the church and family histories of members.

971.27 WINN FORT 2 *Fort Garry Remembered, vol. 2, 2004.* The 2<sup>nd</sup> book of stories published by The Fort Garry Historical Society. The stories reflect the various authors' views and memories of Fort Garry.

REF 929.5 POR EAS *East Prospect Presbyterian cemetery, Portage la Prairie municipality, 1993, 2001.*

REF 929.5 POR PRO *Prospect Plains Methodist cemetery, Portage la Prairie municipality, 1993, 2001.*

### **Canada**

355.4 HIS *History of the 29<sup>th</sup> Canadian motor torpedo boat flotilla, (195-).* Motor torpedo boats are the same as the "US named" P.T. boats. These boats were built for fighting and operated only in war zones. A story of the boats and their crews.

### **Eastern Canada**

971.3 LANA BEC *Beckwith, 1991.* Lanark county, Ontario. Irish and Scottish identities in Beckwith township.

971.3 LANA MON *Montague, 1980.* Lanark county, Ontario. A social history of an Irish Ontario township, 1783-1980

### **West Canada**

971.1 THE *They were giants in those days, 1999.* This is the story of the Cariboo's (British Columbia) formative years, when people became pioneers as well as Canadians and struggled and lived in the sometimes harsh environment.

### **Great Britain and Ireland**

305.23 GOL *Golden Bridge, 2003.* Marjorie Kohli has meticulously documented the incredible story of the removal of thousands of orphans from UK and Ireland to Canada. An indispensable tool for researchers with "home child" ancestry.

CDR 312 ENG BER *Reading, Berkshire, 1891 census*

CDR 312 ENG DUR *Gateshead, Durham, 1871 census*

CDR 312 ENG LAN *Preston, Lancashire, 1871 census*

CDR 312 ENG MID *Westminster, Middlesex, 1901 census*

CDR 312 ENG YOR *Rotherham, Yorkshire, 1871 census*

CDR 312.42 LAN *Lancashire 1891 census (39 CDRs)*

CDR 312.42 YOR *Yorkshire (East) 1861 census From the Humber to the Tees.*

914.1 INS *In search of Ireland, 1931, 1984.*

914.1 IRE *Ireland, a photographic journey, 1990.*

914.2 DIS *Discovering Britain and Ireland, 1985.*

921 O'SU *Diary of an Irish countryman, 1827-1837, 1979.* A translation of Cin Lae Amhlaoibh

929 IRI *Irish genealogy, a record finder, 1987.*

929.5 SCO/DUM *Dumfriesshire, Scotland, 200-*  
A death and burial index.

941 IRE *Ireland and her people, 1953, 1970.*

941.5 BET *Ireland, 1995.*  
A genealogical guide for North Americans.

941.5 GEN *Genealogist's guide to discovering  
your Irish ancestors, 2001*

941.5 GOI *Going to Ireland, 1997.*  
A genealogical researcher's guide.

942 ANC *Ancestral Trails, 2000.*  
The complete guide to British genealogy and family  
history. Winner of the Library Association McColvin  
Medal – Outstanding Reference Work.

CDR 942.2 HAM *Hampshire parish register,  
marriages*

CDR 942.3 COR *Cornwall parish register,  
vol. 1*

CDR 942.3 WIL *Wiltshire parish register,  
marriages, vol. 1*

CDR 942.4 GLO *Gloucestershire parish  
register, vol. 1*

CDR 942.6 NOR *Norfolk parish register, vol.  
1*

## Europe

940.1 WAN *Waning of the Middle Ages,  
1967.*

This book is a study of thought, literature and art as  
found in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries in Northern  
France and Belgium. It regards that period as the  
end of the Middle Ages in Europe.

943.6 VIE *Vienna, 1977.*  
A descriptive book about the capital of Austria.

948.5 SVE *Svenskarna i Winnipeg, 1994.*  
Swedes in Winnipeg

## General

387.2 MAC *Sinking of the Titanic, 1998.*  
Originally published in 1912, the book is based on  
the personal testimony of many of the 705 survivors.

## Grandma's Apron

This is precious. (I don't think our kids know what an  
apron is!)

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect  
the dress underneath, but along with that, it served  
as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven. It  
was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on  
occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken-coop the apron was used for  
carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-  
hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.  
When company came, those aprons were ideal  
hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather  
was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow,  
bent over the hot wood cook stove. Chips and  
kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that  
apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of  
vegetables. After the peas had been shelled it  
carried out the hulls. In the fall the apron was used  
to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it  
was surprising how much furniture that old apron  
could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was  
ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved  
her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in  
from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents  
something that will replace that old-time apron that  
served so many purposes.

## REMEMBER THIS!

"Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on  
the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set  
theirs on the window sill to thaw."

Submitted by Connie McLeod

<b>Home Visits</b> Service at YOUR PLACE of convenience your "MOBILE LAW OFFICE" Wm. B.K. Pooley B.A., L.L.B. 837 Downing Street Winnipeg, MB R3G 2P6  <b>783-1632</b>  Lawyer, Notary Public Day, Evening and Weekend Appointments Available
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**PERIODICAL POTPOURRI**  
Lori Walker – MGS #1145  
Email: [lj\\_walker@shaw.ca](mailto:lj_walker@shaw.ca)

**CANADA**

Halton-Peel Newsletter, Vol. 29, #4  
- lost hamlet of Mount Charles.

Heritage, Vol. 7, #4  
- Rideau Hall; covered bridges of eastern Canada.

Lambton Lifeline, Vol. 21, #4  
- Mellen family.

Leeds & Grenville Br. OGS, Sept/Oct 2004  
- marriages in the United Church 1858-61; Richards family.  
November/December 2004  
- Sarah Shepherd descendants; marriage announcements from NY State newspapers.

Manitoba History, #48  
- Hardiman family.

NBGS, Generations, Vol. 26, #4  
- Clifton, NB, part 4; BMD's Saint John Daily Sun July 15-Oct. 2, 1906; St. William's Church cemetery MI's; School records; strays; John Wood.

Newfoundland Ancestor, Vol. 20, #3  
- Hart family of Trinity Bay; Coffin family.  
Vol. 20, #4  
- Gert Crosbie's BMD's.

Newsleaf, OGS, Vol. 34, #4  
- municipal records.

Relatively Speaking, Alta GS, Vol. 32, #4  
- on the trail of Private Loosey, part 2.

**ENGLAND & WALES**

Banyan Tree, #100  
- Dowson family.

Cleveland FHS, Vol. 9, #5  
- Stockton on Tees parish; Crowther family.

Cornwall FHS, #113  
- Cornish in Latin America; William Stratton; Kennell Vale monumental masons; Curnow and Sleep families.  
#114  
- Hugh Huddy; paupers of Paul; Mary Ann Grubb; 1710 Poll List of Cornwall; Lemkin family.

Devon Family Historian, #112  
- Brockedon family; John Honey.

Family History News & Digest, Vol. 14, #4  
- copyright law; British Music Hall; sampler index; gunmaking index.

Family Tree Magazine, Vol. 20, #10  
- Mafeking Siege Register; Hampshire Quarter Session Records, part 1; Imperial War Museum; using census CD's; George Keppen; Boer War records.  
Vol. 20, #11  
- Bede Roll of Fraternity of St. Nicholas; alcoholic ancestors; Hampshire Quarter Session records, part 2; finding living relatives; British in India; Ilkeston surnames; William Stacey; Boer War records, part 2.  
Vol. 21, #1  
- buying & selling documents; Royal Navy ancestors; Poor Laws in Scotland; Boer War records, part 4.  
Vol. 21, #2  
- out pensioners of Chelsea Hospital; Glasite & Sandemanian religious sects; Boer War records, part 5; Hebrides research; cannibalism; North Yorkshire County Record Office.

Hampshire Family Historian, Vol. 31, #3  
- Crook family; Edwin Moon.

Lancashire, Vol. 26, #4  
- Duggan family.

Norfolk Ancestor, Vol. 3, #12  
- Carter family, pt 2; Christopher Amys; Noble family.

Northumberland & Durham FHS, Vol. 23, #4  
- Reay family.

Suffolk Roots, Vo. 30 #3  
- Clapton parish; Thomas Hammond; Reed family.

Sussex Family Historian, Vol. 16, #4  
- Fitt, Miles & Stapley families; Thomas Delves.

Wiltshire FHS, #95  
- Bradford pauper families.

**IRELAND**  
Anglo-Celtic Roots, Vol. 10, #4  
- Irish research.

Irish Genealogist, Vol. 11, #3

- Farnham manuscripts; changing surnames in Co. Galway; O'Brien family of Fairfield; BMD's in Faulkners Dublin Journal July – December 1758; LDS resources.

Irish Genealogical Research Society, Vol. 4, #1  
- Swanzy manuscripts; "Limerick Chronicle" vitals.

N. Irish Roots, Vol. 15, #2 (final one of this periodical)  
- Mackey family.

The Septs, Vol. 25, #4  
- the Irish in Minnesota; surname interests.

#### ONE-NAME

Journal of One-Name Studies, Vol. 8, #9  
- a DNA project continues; are our surnames really rare?; Genes Reunited website; saving your work.

#### SCOTLAND

Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS, #93  
- Joseph Pozzi; a Robert Burns connection; Francis Robbie, part 2; Calder family.

Dumfries & Galloway FHS Newsletter, #51  
- Grieves family.

Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS, #71  
- history of Glasgow police; Police Museum; Forth & Clyde canal; Braidwood family.

Scottish Genealogist, Vol. 51, #4  
- James & Jessy McPherson; Scottish education; Monkrigg House.

#### UNITED STATES

Family Chronicle, December 2004  
- pay-only genealogy sites; military pension files; 20 sources online; online databases.

New England Ancestors, Vol. 5, #5-6  
- online Scottish research; Scottish prisoners in Maine & New Hampshire; Congregational ChurchRecords.

New England Historical & Genealogical Register, Vol. 158  
- origins of Roger & Ann Shaw; Charles Barnes; William Archer family; Benjamin Nye; John Wall; John Mighill, cont.; burial records of Dorchester, Mass. 1762-1797.

## Rural Ramblings

By Kathy Stokes

The Brandon Weekly Mail of January 26, 1888 notes that the following have been appointed as Justices of the Peace in rural Manitoba:

Samuel Handford of Snowflake  
James Doak Fleming of Medora  
Jordan Gill of Miami  
James Bryans of Morden  
David Pritchard of Carman  
John William Parker of Blythfield  
John Hall Smith of Beausejour  
John Alex Murdock of Birtle  
John Perce Shoeboltham of Carlingville  
Samuel Crawford Dinsmore of Birtle  
William Merritt Ingersoll of Shoal Lake  
Francis Middleton of Violadale  
Harry Lumsden of St. Francois Xavier

In addition, those appointed from Winnipeg were William Hespeler, Thomas Johnston Montgomery, Murray H. Miller, George Reading Crowe and Edward Amos Struthers

From the Virden Advance (undated but early in 1888) comes the following tale of adversity:

"On Tuesday last, Mr. W. J. May was examining a baby carriage outside Mr. Burgess' store when he was scared by one of Mr. Jones' terriers which was passing by. In his fright, he slipped and fell forward, breaking twenty panes of glass out of Mr. Burgess' window. Fortunately, the accident did not result in serious injury to Mr. May, but he was found to be so firmly wedged in a baby's chair (one of the perforated seat variety) that he was, with difficulty, extracted."

We are still in need of a volunteer to fill the position of Outreach Chairman.

This position calls for someone to co-ordinate our speakers and be certain that all requests for a speaker from the society are filled.

The chairman does not need to give talks, just be certain that those who can are booked.

Contact Jayne mgsi@mts.net

# COMING

Genealogical  
Garden Party

MGS fundraiser

July 16, 2005  
\$5.00 ticket

garden viewing  
light refreshments  
genealogical consultations  
craft browsing/buying

You can help:

- ..Plan to buy a ticket(s) & bring a friend(s)
- ..Donate crafts or craft supplies (garden "art",  
herb pots, gift cards, jelly/jam, Christmas  
ornaments, plant markers, garden books/tools....)
- ..Donate homemade cookies
- ..Offer musical talent
- ..Other ideas?

Complete information will be in the June issue of *Generations*  
To help please call Joyce or Mary at MGS on Tuesdays - 783-9139

## M.G.S. Branch Information

### **Beautiful Plains Branch**

Contact: Don McGillivray [djmcgillivray@mb.sympatico.ca](mailto:djmcgillivray@mb.sympatico.ca)

P.O. Box 2620  
Neepawa, Manitoba  
R0J 1H0

meets: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
where: Neepawa & Area Public Library

### **Dauphin Branch**

Contact: Jean Tucker (204) 638-8929

21 – 11 Davidson Avenue East  
Dauphin, Manitoba  
R7N 0C5

meets: last Thursday of each month  
where: R.M. of Dauphin boardroom

### **South West Branch**

Contact: Eleanor Burch  
Library: Beth Wall  
53 Almond Cres.

Brandon, Manitoba  
R7B 1A2

[eburch@westman.wave.ca](mailto:eburch@westman.wave.ca)  
[bwall@inetlink.ca](mailto:bwall@inetlink.ca)

meets: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
where: Crocus Plains High School, Rm.123

### **Swan Valley Branch**

Contact: Eric Neufeld  
Box 6  
Swan River, Manitoba  
R0L 1Z0

[eneufeld@mts.net](mailto:eneufeld@mts.net)  
(204) 734-2170  
meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
where: Swan River town office basement

### **Winnipeg Branch**

Contact: Wayne Neily  
Box 1244,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 2Y4

[neilywp@hotmail.com](mailto:neilywp@hotmail.com)  
meets: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month  
where: MGS Resource Centre, 1045 St.James St

### **Manitoba Genealogical Society**

Contact: Jayne Paradis  
Unit E - 1045 St. James St.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3H 1B1

[mgsi@mts.net](mailto:mgsi@mts.net)  
annual general meeting October 15, 2005  
location to be announced



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## **Winnipeg Branch – Upcoming Events**

By Daryl Dumanski – MGS #1031 - Secretary – Winnipeg Branch

All M.G.S. members & guests are invited to attend our events as a visitor but we would encourage you to consider joining our branch for \$10.00 if you would like to attend more often. As you fully realize these fees assist us in our programming for the year amongst other things.

Updates will be made on the Branch web page as confirmed.

### **March Meeting**

Monday March 21, 2005 at 7:30 at the Provincial Archives, Vaughan St.

Anne Morton will be providing us with a tour of the Hudson Bay Company archives.

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives (HBCA) offers a wealth of information on the human and natural history of western and northern Canada and the western USA. Whether you are an historian, genealogist, ethnologist, environmental scientist or land claims researcher, the HBCA may be able to help.

In 1974 the Hudson's Bay Company Archives were transported across the Atlantic and deposited in the Archives of Manitoba. The collection was opened to public access in 1975. There are more than two kilometres of documents now stored in a special climate-controlled vault in the Manitoba Archives Building. The early records of the Company have also been microfilmed. All records prior to 1870 have been microfilmed; microfilming of more recent records (for the years 1871-1904) and of historic HBC maps is in progress. More than four thousand microfilm reels of HBC archives are now available for research use

Founded in 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company's (HBC) chief interests for its first two centuries were the fur trade, exploration and settlement. After 1870, when its territory of Rupert's Land was incorporated into the Dominion of Canada, its interests became more varied.

HBC's head office is located in Toronto, Ontario. In 1994, the Company and the Province of Manitoba entered into an agreement by which the archives were donated to the Province. These records are now part of the Archives of Manitoba in Winnipeg. They are administered as a separate division of the archives called the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Archives of Manitoba. The Company manages its corporate records to its ongoing activities in Toronto, Ontario.

*For more information on the HBCA <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/index.html>*

### **April Meeting**

Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at the M.G.S. Resource Centre

Collection, Editing & Preparing Your Photos for Scrapbooking

Will be facilitated by our executive members Jim Oke, David Sutherland & Gord McBean with any suggestions welcome by those in attendance.

### **Heritage Scrapbooking Workshop**

Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (bring a lunch) at Forum Art Institute, 120 Eugenie Street & Tache.

There will be a workshop fee of \$7.00 per person for the day & we would like you to reserve your spot by registering with payment at M.G.S. Any concerns call Daryl at 668-9366 or e-mail at [ddportfolios@shaw.ca](mailto:ddportfolios@shaw.ca).

A Creative Memories Consultant – Jaime Hoover will give us a demonstration of methods & tools for creating heritage pages. Materials & a sample paper packet will be available for purchase but is not mandatory. She will be allowing us to use many of her tools at no cost. We will break for lunch. (facility has fridge, kettle, coffee maker & microwave) We will spend the afternoon scrapbooking some heritage pages. Great chance to do some sorting & idea exchanging as well. Bring some of the duplicated photos that you created after the April meeting.

### **May Meeting**

Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at the M.G.S. Resource Centre

Annual General Meeting & program t.b.a.

Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – tentative tour of the resources at the Family History Centre of L.D.S.

**June Meeting**

Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – transcribing Morden cemetery – arrangements to be confirmed. Rain date will be Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**SOUTH WEST BRANCH**

Eleanor J. Burch, MGS #2252, President

The past year has been a learning experience as a completely new executive of the South West Branch took office in March 2004. All but one had less than 4 years' membership. We have held regular monthly meetings, except during the summer, with interesting speakers on a variety of topics.

Our annual Heritage Dinner was held February 2nd at the Canadian Inn Travelodge in Brandon with an excellent turnout. The Ruth Tester Award was presented to a very surprised Doug Freeman in recognition and appreciation of his service to genealogy. Doug has been the contact for doing genealogy in the Virden area. Doug also keeps the many cemeteries in the Virden area updated on a yearly basis. He is currently doing a matchup of people buried in the Virden cemetery to the 1901 Census. Doug has also been happy to do research for other people on his frequent visits to Scotland.

Fred McGuiness was the guest speaker at the Heritage Dinner. His topic was "Heritage, the stories of our ancestors." A journalist and story-teller, Fred can be counted on to be entertaining. In addition, we enjoyed the musical talents of Simple Green, a jazz choir from Neelin High School in Brandon.

**A NEW BRANCH**

**INTRODUCING OURSELVES:**

**THE BEAUTIFUL PLAINS BRANCH of the Manitoba Genealogical Society**

We had our organizational meeting 24 October 2004. This new branch encompasses the Town of Neepawa; the Rural Municipalities of Rosedale, Langford, Lansdowne, Glenella, Westbourne, and Lakeview. This also includes the towns and villages within these RM's.

There were approximately 20 members at the inauguration and we have already grown to 26!

We meet in the Neepawa Public Library, 250 Davidson St. (east side door) at 7:30 P.M> the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Because one of our future meetings could be cancelled due to another commitment at the library, we ask that anyone coming a distance to visit, please contact one of the Executive.

**Our Executive:**

Chair	Don McGillivray	476-5131
Co-Chair	Hector Swanson	476-2514
Secretary	Norma Forsman	476-5230
Treasurer	Victor Deacon	476-2021
Publicity	Darlene Perrett	368-2261

We follow a basic agenda of Business: Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports, Correspondence, New Business, Program, and Show and Tell. Our program portion consists of either a guest speaker or something the Executive has pre-planned of interest for our members. In the Show and Tell segment a member volunteers to present something they feel passionate about in their family history. It might be a cherished heirloom, their most interesting ancestor, or even how they have decided to collect and compile their research.

The 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting was held 17 November 2004. The guest speaker was Eleanor Burch of Carberry, Manitoba who captivated all in attendance as she presented her recently published family

history "McVicor-Post Ancestry". Our Chair, Don McGillivray, spoke in the Show and Tell segment about his ancestors who were United Empire Loyalists and some who were Red River Settlers.

**GENE TOONS** by Wendell Washer



**Great Uncle Bertrand didn't have a computer in 1880, so how will you find him on line?**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting held 9 December 2004 was a group discussion and our computer wizard, Vic Deacon, entertained us. This meeting produced this intriguing question: Does anyone know the location of KUZMAK'S POINT? Family lore says that if a trapper or a hunter became lost and came to this POINT he would regain his bearings and be able to find his way. It is thought that this locale is northwest of Riding Mountain, Manitoba, and north of Dauphin, Manitoba, or else northeast of Riding Mountain along Lake Manitoba and north of

Dauphin. Of course, the true location is a mystery. Mr. Kuzmak was a trapper by winter and a railroader by summer so he could have travelled by rail to trap anywhere in Manitoba. Can someone help? In Show and Tell, our member Edith Burnside spoke of her grandmother and then her GGGrandfather "W.R." Smith, a clerk of the court and council for the Hudson Bay Co. in the mid-1800s in the Red River Settlement at Fort Garry. He had 2 wives and produced 22 children!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting was to be held 19 January 2005, but unfortunately was cancelled because of bad weather.

It is proposed that our branch transcribe the memorial inscriptions on the tombstones in the Riverside Cemetery, Neepawa; collect and prepare an on-going binder of the "hatched, matched and dispatched" of the people within our Branch boundaries; and also catalogue the private museum of the Murrays of Mentmore district. These are just some of the several projects in the works.

On behalf of the Executive and the members of the Beautiful Plains Branch, please consider this an open invitation to one and all to join us at any future meeting.

Yours in Genealogy,  
Darlene Parrett, Publicity

The sympathy of the Society is extended to the Witmann and Peterson families on the death in January of their mother and grandmother, Helene de Wit, UE, after a long illness.

Helene was a long-time member of the MGS and had been very active in the United Empire Loyalists.

Our condolences to Jim and Shirley Rutherford on the recent death of Jim's sister. Mrs. Barbara Meaden passed away in Vernon, B.C. on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Our sympathy is belatedly extended to Gordon McBean and his family on the loss of his mother-in-law, Margaret Eleanor McLeod (nee Flock) in November, 2004.

## **"WHO'S YOUR DADDY?" SEMINAR 2005**

MGS is planning a seminar for October 15th, 2005. We have booked the CanadInns on Pembina Highway (near Bishop Grandin). We have booked Brian Hutchison, Director of Gen-Find Research, for a couple of sessions. (A short biography follows on Brian.) While it is still in the planning stages, the seminar looks to be an interesting day. If anyone has any suggestions, please feel free to call me at 254-6926 or e-mail me at [jparadis@mts.net](mailto:jparadis@mts.net)

Jayne Paradis, President MGS

**BRIAN W. HUTCHISON, BComm, CMA, CG, FSA(Scot)** - As Chairman and C.E.O. of GEN-FIND Research Associates Inc, a research & consulting company dealing with forensic genealogy for clients such as public trustees & law firms, Mr. Hutchison is a professional forensic genealogist with an action-oriented focus of almost thirty-five years of related experience. Familiar with extensive project & task management, Brian has a solid education history: a university graduate, professional accountant, postgraduate work in paralegal studies & Canadian history, genealogical certificate course-work (BYU) and a board-certified genealogist.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and granted armorial bearings by the Chief Herald of Canada in 1994 for his social contributions. To remain current on standards & practices, he is active with organizations such as the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and many other international genealogical bodies. He has been a longtime member of numerous genealogical societies worldwide and has served on many executive committees & board directorships over the past fifteen years.

Brian remains active as a lecturer, teacher, and author of numerous manuscripts. Brian travels extensively for clients and has worked in numerous provincial/state and regional repositories throughout Canada, Scotland, and Ireland. He also works frequently at the National Archives at Ottawa, the National Archives of Ireland at Dublin, the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh, and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. As a certified specialist in genealogical research for Scotland, Ireland, Canada his interests are primarily in these areas with particular emphasis on research methodologies for successful contemporary investigations on forensic & heir searches.

Mr. Hutchison has lectured at numerous genealogical seminars & conferences, as well as those for other organizations such as paralegal bodies, held on an international, national, and regional level. He shares with his listeners many tips on underused records: how to access them; where to find them; evaluating evidence; research methodologies for successful 20th/21st century investigations; and much more. Brian enjoys sharing his zest for genealogy with his listeners. His hope is that each will leave with new sources and ideas, and an enthusiasm to renew their own family history search.

Our congratulations to Lynn Francis and family on a plethora of 5s!!

A 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandchild for Lynn Francis, a girl Ayiana, a sister to Angelica, cousin to Thayden, Kayla and Julianna.

This makes the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of 5s:

5 greats 2000 - 2004

5 grands 1970 - 1980

5 children 1946 - 1953

Lynn and her husband each 1 of 5 - 1920s

His father 1 of 5 - 1800s

## ARE THESE YOUR ANCESTORS?

By Kathy Stokes

In these current times of marriages, divorces, permanent live-in arrangements, sequential sharing of living spaces and all other combinations we face, it is noteworthy to remember that our ancestors took the institution of marriage much more seriously, and that there were penalties attached when irregularities were attempted. Such was the case in the autumn of 1887 when the following tale was described in detail in the Manitoba Free Press, The Sun and the Brandon Weekly Mail of late September and into October. If such a story were to be described today, it is likely that the name of the woman involved would not be made public in order to protect her privacy, but no such restrictions hampered the press of that time.

The headlines in The Sun of September 21, 1888 screamed, 'Sensational 'Marriage'" and described the situation in rather lurid fashion.

"The sensation of the street Friday was the illegal marriage performed between "James W. McLea" and Eliza Harriet Betsworth, daughter of a respected CPR employee. The man in question is said to be James M. McKay, an employee in the CPR ticket office. Some weeks ago, McKay, alias Mc Lea cultivated the acquaintance of the girl. Possessing a pleasing manner and a glib tongue, he succeeded in winning the girl's affections, and, representing himself as a single man, though married, his attentions were reciprocated by the apparently unsuspecting girl...An offer of marriage was accepted. ...The alleged lover was not satisfied with wrongs already committed and went about accomplishing a scheme whereby he could make the girl believe they had been married without performing the ceremony legally."

McKay and the girl went to the home of a friend on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and a rigmarole was gone through, the two being pronounced married. No license was produced, thus making the girl suspicious. Two days later, McKay and friend, W.R. Strachan, went before an issuer of marriage licenses, W. G. Fonseca. McKay swore that he was a single man and had the consent of the girl's parents for the wedding. A license was obtained with Strachan acting as bondsman, calling himself Charles Strong. A "minister" who signed the documents proved to be yet another friend of McKay's, one Thomas D. Deegan, who signed as R.T. Rowan. Shortly after the "wedding", McKay left for Banff.

The "marriage" was kept secret for a number of weeks, but Eliza became suspicious and confided in her mother. The Sun describes the

story,

"Mrs. Betsworth, wrathful, as a parent would be under such circumstances, visited the residence of the man who had led her daughter astray, and there the principal actor in the sensational drama was upbraided and denounced, the scene, it is said, being decidedly lively for a while."

Although there was some attempt to hush up the scandal, the Crown decided to follow through. Warrants were sworn against McKay, Strachan and Deegan. McKay, upon hearing of the charges, took the train south and crossed into the United States. The two other men were charged with aiding and assisting in a feigned marriage. Although McKay had left the country to avoid arrest, Police Chief McRae noted that feeling against him was so strong that many citizens suggested that the "Cat" (o' nine tails) was too good for him.

The Crown apparently thought that the charges laid against Strachan and Deegan were not strong enough. A few days later, they laid forgery charges against the pair. Forgery at that time was punishable by life imprisonment and was an extraditable offense, meaning that, if McKay were located, he could be brought back to face similar charges.

In October, the Free Press reported that McKay had been seen in Montreal after making his way there from St. Paul, Minnesota. He had tramped through miles of swamp and bush and presented a pitiable sight. He had no money and the newspaper said it did not know where he was stopping or where he would go next.

Later in the fall, Thomas Deegan went on trial on the forgery charge. Deegan described the scene

in his room on Main St. where the phony marriage took place. McKay had mentioned that everything was to be kept secret because he was expecting money from his father. McKay paid Deegan \$15.00. Deegan described the whole episode "as a lark". The jury, after two half hour sessions, told the judge that they were deadlocked because they could not decide if there was fraudulent intent on the part of the accused so Deegan was bound over for trial in the Spring Assizes.

Strachan was tried immediately after Deegan, before an exhausted jury. Strachan had several character witnesses who spoke on his behalf of his youth and the fact that he worked under McKay and was asked to sign the papers, not knowing the consequences. The jury debated briefly and acquitted Strachan.

If further information on this case appears in the newspapers, it will be reported here. Stay tuned.

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Fort Lance & MacDonald News 23 Aug 1956

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Burton, 933 Calrossie Blvd., Fort Garry celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 20, 1956. They were married 20 August 1906 in Point Douglas Church, Winnipeg. Mrs. Burton, nee Mabel Bonnick was born in St. Boniface 26 May 1881 and her husband was born in Norwich, England 31 March 1883. They have a son, Aubrey, one grandson and two granddaughters.

The Burtons have lived on Calrossie for 34 years. The article includes Mr. Burton's reminiscences of life in Fort Garry during their time here.

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From the Winnipeg Tribune 10 April 1897:

"Five boys from Toronto Children's Aid Shelter arrived in Winnipeg on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. They are to be adopted by different persons in Manitoba. Their names and destinations are:

Willie Lewis to Lauder, Willie Mc Clary to Oxbow (Assa.), George Mensell to Shellmouth, Cecil Fox to Saltcoats (Assa.), Frank Heather to Rokeby (Assa.)."

From the Winnipeg Tribune 8 March 1897:

### They Won't Starve in Portage la Prairie

Portage la Prairie: "Miss Livingston's school of cookery was formally opened on Tuesday afternoon with attendance of about 100 ladies and gentlemen. Mrs. John McLeod introduced the teacher in a speech which was appropriate, showing the value of understanding the science of cookery. Rev McMorine also made a short speech.

Miss Livingston then took up the subject of soups, showing compositions and relative values of meat and bone required for stock. On Wednesday, the first lesson was given to about 80 ladies who have become members and interest appears to be growing. Miss Livingston is greatly pleased with the interest the ladies are taking.

## FIFE ROOTSEARCH



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## Book Reviews

We are fortunate to have two reviews this issue. Our regular reviewer, Geoff Lambert, has contributed his views on the Correspondence of James Wikes Taylor. And Ann Morton, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, has contributed a review on tracing Orcadian ancestors.

### James Wickes Taylor Correspondence, 1859-1970

A volume in the series published by the Manitoba Record Society, ed. William D. Smith, 1968.

This is one of several books written by or about James Wickes Taylor (1819-1893), US Consul in Winnipeg, 1870-1893. This volume covers his correspondence for the period immediately before Manitoba became a province.

The book is of limited interest from a genealogical perspective. However, Taylor was clearly an engaging individual, with a wider range of business, legal, political and cultural involvements. The importance of some of his correspondents, and the things they wrote about, make this volume interesting enough. Mr. Taylor was interested in what we may call the 3Rs—Reciprocity (Free Trade), Railways (central to provincial politics for years after Manitoba joined Canada) and Riel. Mr. Taylor had an abiding sympathy for the “great rebel” As for his correspondents, they included a President of the United States, as well as a couple of Secretaries of State.

This will take you back to a more opulent, luxurious and optimistic time when the danger of annexation to Minnesota loomed. It’s a book you won’t need for genealogy, but it might be a tonic for a few hours at the weekend.

Mr. Taylor is noted in Professor Jack Bumstead’s dictionary of Manitoba Biography.

Geoff Lambert

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### Trace Your Orkney Ancestors: A Guide To Sources for Orcadian Family and Local History

James M. Irvine, *Trace Your Orkney Ancestors: A Guide To Sources for Orcadian Family and Local History*. Printed by The Orcadian Limited, Kirkwall, Orkney, 2004. 76pp, illustrations (colour & b&w), maps, appendices, index. £8.50. [Copies available from The Orcadian at Hell’s Half Acre, Hatston, Kirkwall Orkney KW 15 1DW, [www.orcadian.co.uk](http://www.orcadian.co.uk) or

the author at 11 Agates Lane, Ashtead Surrey KT21 2NG or [james.irvine@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:james.irvine@ukonline.co.uk)]

The name Orkney, which comes from the Norse and means ‘seal islands’, belongs to a group of islands north of Scotland. Many Manitobans number among their ancestors men who came from there to work for the Hudson’s Bay Company. Their distinctive names, such as Flett, Linklater, Spence, Isbister, are part of the fabric of Manitoba both past and present. So this book should be of wide interest to MGS members.

James Irvine is a genealogist of long standing. He has spent 40 years researching his Orkney ancestors. He also has formal training in Scottish and Orcadian genealogy and history. In this book he shares what he has learned about Orkney sources and ways to get the best from them. He states in the Preface: “God has been kind to those seeking their Orcadian roots....Local interest in genealogy has a long tradition, the supporting records are extensive, and their accessibility is much improved.” [p.6] His book proves the truth of this. It is beautifully organized and provides lots of information in a convenient and compact format.

Chapter 1, “Access to Sources”, provides the location of sources for Orkney genealogy, including internet sources. Chapter 2, “Research Principles”, while only a page in length would be helpful to any genealogist, especially the beginner. Chapter 3 gives tips on “Old Handwriting, Language, and Legal and Technical Terminology”, very necessary as Orkney’s historical background is both Norse and Scottish and many an unfamiliar word may be encountered. The next five chapters deal with “Records and Their Use”: Chapter 4, “Census Returns”, Chapter 5, “Hatches, Matches & Dispatches” [BMD], Chapter 6, “Transfers of Land Ownership”, Chapter 7, “Census Substitutes” [such as school, tax and electoral records] and Chapter 8, “Other Sources” [such as church records and Manitoba’s own Hudson’s Bay Company Archives]. Further details of these sources can be found in the 25 appendices.

The ninth and final chapter is on “The Context: Orkney’s Topography and History.” It offers

guidance to Orkney web sites and books. Irvine writes in the introduction: "A full appreciation of Orcadian genealogy involves some awareness of Orkney's unique topographical, climatic, historical, economic and social context. The lives of our ancestors were profoundly influenced by their surroundings and history." [p. 37] Orkney is indeed a special place and those with roots there will appreciate learning as much as they can about it. As George Mackay Brown, the great Orkney poet, wrote, "We cannot live fully without the treasury our ancestors left us." [quoted by Irvine on p.6]

Of course, the best way to get to know Orkney is to go there. The book includes attractive colour pictures of the new Orkney Library and Archive Building in Kirkwall, guaranteed to entice the genealogist.

### **JUST WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

By Kathy Stokes

Surely most of us, in the course of our research, have come across a word, a phrase or an expression which is unfamiliar and for which we cannot locate a meaning. I found one such phrase, a legal term, in some very old English records. Inquiries of a local lawyer in Winnipeg proved fruitless.

Just what does "abjured the realm" mean? Thanks to Mrs. A. Malin of the Northamptonshire Family History Society, I now know. And perhaps it is a timely find, in view of the recent suggestions from Canadian federal immigration officials that church sanctuary be abolished for refugees who are asked to leave this country.

"Ecclesiastical sanctuary extended to the curtilage (area attached to the church as part of its enclosure) of a church from which a criminal could not be removed. Within 40 days a prisoner was permitted to take an oath by which he confessed his crime and swore to abjure the realm. This meant that the person was banished from the country. He named his port of departure and had to leave by the most direct route. Failing to do so meant that he became an outlaw and could be arrested by anyone.

"Amercement" or "In the King's Mercy" meant just that - the criminal was at the mercy of the King. Any chattels were confiscated.

The "first finder" is the person reporting the crime to

the justices. Sanctuary for crime was abolished in 1623.

The phrase "In the name of God, Amen" in an English will means that the testator (person writing the will) is an Anglican. If these words do not appear, the assumption is that the person belongs to some other religion.

### **Free Forms**

If you need pedigree charts or family group sheets or other forms regularly used by genealogists, they can be downloaded on your home computer and printed out on your printer.

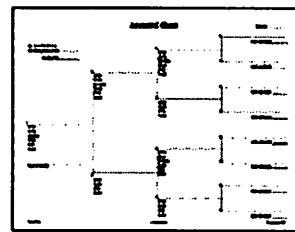
A simple source is available to all at Cyndi's List ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) Drop down her alphabetical menu to Supplies, Charts, Forms, Etc. Then select Online Charts & Forms to Print or Download

Then browse through the different sites to find what you want.

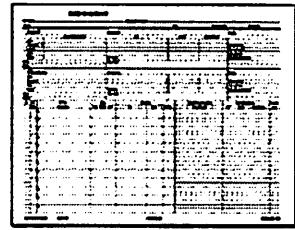
Some good forms are available at Ancestry.com - Ancestral Chart

Thumbnails of two of them are included:

A pedigree chart:



A pedigree chart:



Both of these forms download easily and print clearly on regular sized paper.

If you are working on a census tape, download forms appropriate to that census - it makes entering data much easier. Use FamilySearch Research Guidance - Document Types

Check what's available, and choose what you need.

## Genealogy and Computers

Bill Burland

Computers and genealogy are becoming more and more intertwined. Over the last few years, a vast number of genealogical sites have come on-line, and more family historians than ever are using the internet as a source of data. Given this increasing connection, I feel we should open our Journal to twenty-first century genealogy.

I would be the first to insist that nothing can replace the searching of original records and careful evaluation of sources. I know that much that is on-line - if not all - is not primary source material. Most of it is transcriptions - copies - of data stored somewhere else. Some of it is no more than someone's wishful thinking without substance. But, there is much on-line that is worth looking at from a genealogical standpoint. Although someone's posted family tree may be neither accurate nor complete with sources, it can point you in the right direction. Contact with others who are interested in the same family can lead both of you to discoveries you might not have been able to make alone.

This edition, I want to recommend to all of you who have computers to investigate and participate in RootsWeb. RootsWeb is simply "the oldest and largest free genealogy site". Although they have had to accept ads and financial support from Ancestry.com, they still provide the best means I know to contact and communicate with others who have similar genealogy interests. (And, the advertisements are not intrusive!)

To begin, go to <http://rootsweb.com/>. On this opening page you will get some idea of the scope of this site. There are "hotlinks" to a vast array of sites and articles to help you. [For those of you not familiar with the term, a "hotlink" is an underlined word or phrase on a webpage which, if you click on it, will direct you to another page.] Take time to browse through different links - certainly Getting Started at RootsWeb, possibly Social Security Death Index, perhaps Free BMD.

I strongly recommend looking at the Lists and joining at least one. Under Mailing Lists, click on Index. As I write this, there are over 26,000 mailing lists run by volunteers for RootsWeb. What is a "Mailing List", I hear you ask. (I don't really hear you, but . . .) A mailing list is a list to which you subscribe. Once you are a member (absolutely free, and they don't sell members' e-mail addresses!!), you will receive messages posted by others on the topic of the list. You can reply, and your message will be received by all other members. Usually a "list master" will keep an eye on the postings to make sure that members obey the simple rules and warn offenders. Two of the most common rules are "stick to the topic of the list", and "don't flame" ["Flaming" is being offensively critical of others]

To give an example and show how this works, I will refer to my own experience. My maternal grandmother was born in a small fishing village on the coast of Fife, Scotland. Years ago I joined the list for Fife. Although it began with very few members, it has really grown over the years. Through this list, I have found distant relatives - in Ottawa, Fife, Australia, all over the world. I have been helped in my research by these people, and, I hope, I have been able to help them. One fairly recent contact has sent me many photographs of the region my grandmother came from, plus scanned postcards of the region. Another chap on the list lives in Fife and since he has retired his hobby is to photograph tombstones. He will photograph a whole cemetery, sort the inscriptions, and then post to the list the names and dates. If you ask him, he will send the whole inscription to you, on the list, and a digital photo of the stone you want to your e-mail address. [RootsWeb does not allow attachments and thus avoids spreading viruses.]

One posting on the Fife list many years ago asked if anyone had information on the REEKIE family of St. Monance. Well, since my grandmother was Ann REEKIE, I replied. We were distant cousins, and she had a whole branch of the family which had moved to Australia. I was able to share the branch which had moved to Canada. We still are in contact when we have new data to share.

Now, take a look at the lists that exist. They are sorted by category to make it easier to find what you want. Look under *Surnames* - one you are researching may be listed and you could be immediately in touch with others searching that name. Look by *US State* if you have an interest in American Genealogy. Look at *International*. Click the country you are interested in, and then select the list that relates to your interest. Or, look at *Other*, miscellaneous sites relating to genealogy.

Joining a list is simple. When you click on a list, the first thing you will see is instructions on how to join and how to quit. Basically, you send an e-mail to the list address simply saying "subscribe" on the subject line. Before or after you join a list, you may wish to look at past e-mails. They are all archived. You can

"Browse" the archives - just read at random to get the flavour of the site & its members, or you can "Search" the archives - look for references to a name, for instance. If I have an interest in the Chisholm family from Oak River, Manitoba, I could click *Index*, then *Canada*, then *CAN-MB-WESTERN*. Here are instructions on joining, and near the bottom of the page I could click Search the CAN-MB-WESTERN Archives. This would open up a search form which contains instructions on searching and asks which database I want to search. In this case, there are 4 databases - one for each year (2001 to 2004) this particular list has been in existence. There I would find in the 2002 Archives that someone had posted deaths from the Oak River Paper and included was the obituary of Homer Delamater, husband of Ellen Smith Chisholm, whose grandparents were my ggggggrandparents.

The list you join will probably give a choice of "L" or "D". If you choose the "L", each posting will come to you as a separate e-mail. If you choose "D" (Digest), several postings will come as one combined e-mail. Many lists do not have much activity - not enough members have joined - but some are very active. I receive 3 to 15 postings each day from my Fife List. It is simple to delete those in which I have no interest, and reply to those I am interested in.

If you find that you do not get the information you wanted from a list after belonging for a while, it is simple to unsubscribe (just send an e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line). You will be removed almost immediately and will not be bothered again.

Another example: If you have Loyalist ancestors, under *International*, click *Canada*, then at the bottom of the list, click *UNITED-EMPIRE-LOYALIST*. The opening page gives you the topic of the list: A mailing list for anyone with a genealogical, cultural or historical interest in the United Empire loyalists who came to Canada from the United States during and after the American Revolution.

This is followed with clear instructions on how to subscribe (to either the List or Digest format), and then links to the Archives.

AND, IT'S FREE!!!

So, take an evening to go to the RootsWeb site, browse around, pick a list and join. There is nothing to lose and a potential to gain information and meet new people!

You won't regret it.

## Recommended Website

In case you haven't yet tried it, I want to recommend Automated Genealogy to you this issue.

The URL for this site is as follows:

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/index.html>

This will take you to the Index for the 1901 census of Canada. As of this writing, they are 99.98% complete in transcribing the census.

The site provides an amazingly good search engine for the census. You can first select the province you want to search and search the whole province. Or you can next choose the district you want and search it. Or, you can do a national search. You select the first letter of the surname you want, and then locate the surname. If there are alternate spellings, the search engine allows you to choose them as well. If there are many entries under that surname, they give you the option of putting in the first initial of the first name.

Next, you are given an index of all the matches. You can then look at the data to see the best match and click on it. That calls up a screen containing the transcription of the relevant portions of the actual census page, with the name you selected highlighted in yellow. If this is the person you wanted, a simple click will take you to the National Archives site and the exact page of the census.

If there has been an error in transcribing the census entry (for instance, the transcriber read "Ellen" as "Allen"), there is a method to report the error. It will then be checked and corrected.

Although they are not finished proofreading the 1901 index (only 18.4% complete), it is still a great device for searching the census.

The same organization is also working on the 1906 census of the three Prairie Provinces. Only 146,623 lines of it have been transcribed so far. That does include a portion of Winnipeg.

There is a need for more volunteers, and the site provides a form for volunteering. Even a few pages each would bring the completion that much closer!!

And just think, soon (with a lot of luck) the passage of Bill S-18 will mean the release of the 1911 Canadian census. I hope the folks behind Automated Genealogy will take on the job of getting it indexed, too.

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