

# GENERATIONS

Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

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- **MANI – Bits, Bots, Bolts**
- **A Forever Home**
- **The Joan Whiston Volunteer Award**

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# MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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

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

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

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# ***GENERATIONS***

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Editor: David Farmer

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

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

## From the Editor

David Farmer #2277



These past few days, as I have been putting *Generations* together, I was pretty sure Spring had arrived. It has been an unusual winter for sure.

This issue has some excellent material in it. We introduce several of our volunteers who work during the week on a wide variety of tasks and projects. Together these folks represent nearly 400 years of volunteer service, check out "Volunteers – the Heart of MGS".

We also have another MANI update from Gord McBean, our MGS computer wizard. MANI is having a positive impact on how we serve our members and clients; and is in a position to bring additional revenue to the MGS coffers. See "MANI – Bits, Bots, Blogs" for the latest information on progress.

We have our regular features: Rural Ramblings, Are These your Ancestors and of course Our Library; plus more. The MGS Executive is announcing the Joan Whiston Volunteer Award in this issue.

Although a final decision regarding the distribution of *Generations* has not been made as yet, starting with this issue we are going to try a new approach. Each of you who receives a printed copy of the journal and who have an e-mail on file at MGS, will also receive an electronic copy. This will give you an opportunity to compare the two formats.

Enjoy the issue.

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***Generations* can be e-mailed!** Sign up for your electronic copy! Sign up today, for the next issue, at: [mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=generations](http://mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=generations)

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## From the President

Jim Oke #2729



I would like to begin by mentioning the creation of the Joan Whiston Award. Joan was, of course, a long time MGS member and served twice as the Society's President. Sadly Joan passed away just before Christmas last year and the Executive has decided to create a volunteer award in her name, as a means of recognizing her long service and significant contribution to MGS. Further details about this new and important award will appear elsewhere in this issue of *Generations*.

The coming of spring means the end of our financial year and the MGS Annual General Meeting must take place not long afterwards. So please "save the date" of June 10th for the 2017 MGS AGM; additional meeting details will be announced at a later date. A Nominations Committee has been struck to seek new and willing members to serve on the MGS Council and Executive. Please consider how you might serve and contribute to the Society, because it is *your* Society. There are no special skills or talents required, just a willingness to meet occasionally with like-minded individuals, and look for ways to sustain and improve MGS.

I am glad to report that another group of Red River College computer students is working on the Manitoba Names Index (MANI) application, guided by our VP of Information Technology, Gordon McBean. A variety of minor issues are being corrected; work is also continuing on additional modules, to make the system of even greater benefit to MGS members, the general public, and to distant researchers on a fee-for-use basis. Thanks also to the many MGS volunteers who are working away to convert and add existing paper and electronic records to the MANI system.

I hope everyone had a very good Christmas season and can look forward to a healthy and active 2017!

## The Front Cover

Surely there can be no more recognizable sign of spring, than a bunch of Crocus poking through the last remaining snow cover.

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**JOAN  
McMURDO  
WHISTON**  
May 27, 1937 –  
Oct 23, 2016

As was mentioned in the December 2016 (Vol. 41 Issue 4) of *Generations*, Joan recently passed away. She was a long time and stalwart member of the Manitoba Genealogical Society.

Joan was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on May 27, 1937. She immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1955, crossing the Atlantic on the *Empress of Scotland*. Joan made her way across the country by train and arrived in Flin Flon, Manitoba, to employment with the Hudson Bay Company. Perhaps it was this that resulted in her great interest in genealogy.

As a member of MGS, Joan worked for many years helping on the Awards committee; ensuring volunteers were recognized for their efforts. She served as Treasurer for several years before taking on the role of President for 2 terms.

Joan was always interested in what was going on at MGS and stayed in touch with several members who were good friends.

Joan was an inspiration to all when it came to volunteering!

## The Joan Whiston Volunteer Award

Any MGS volunteer is eligible to receive this award, with preference to those not serving on the Executive or Council, for outstanding volunteer service over time, which has aided MGS in providing value to its members and clients. (For example, a member of the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday groups doing indexing, transcribing, cataloguing, fund raising, promotion, education, etc.). This award is open to any member of MGS, including local branches.

Any member can recommend a deserving volunteer and should provide this, in writing, along with a write-up of the service and contribution of the nominee to any member of the MGS Executive. The Executive will make the final selection.

The Award recipient will be announced at the June Annual General Meeting with the award being presented at the Annual Meeting if possible. If not possible, the award will be presented at an appropriate time and place after the announcement. A photo of the presentation (certificate and winner) will be posted in *Generations* as appropriate.

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## A Little Publicity

*Daryl Dumanski #1031  
Publicity Chairman*

*(Daryl has recently taken over Publicity for MGS.  
We hope to hear from her on a regular basis.)*



Maybe we need a jingle? You know – the ones that stick in your head and you can recite by heart. Marketing and publicity can be challenging for any registered charity on a limited budget. Especially to be heard or seen over the daily inundation of information we seem to receive.

We're trying to reinforce our basics at MGS. We have a strong, newly designed website that is a wealth of current information and strong presence in the heritage community. We've also updated our print media format with a brand new brochure for those people and locations that prefer something tactile. Our social media voice is growing as well; but we still could use your help!

My question to you is: If you were starting out on your family history research how would you do it? If you have done some genealogy for a while do you tell other people about MGS and if not, why? What can we do to help you spread our information?

Myself – I talk to everyone about genealogy and MGS and have for about 33 years. So I've always been promoting MGS – I just thought it was time to wear the hat.

I welcome your suggestions/sponsorship opportunities/contacts/volunteers, so please forward them to [mgspublicity@shaw.ca](mailto:mgspublicity@shaw.ca).



## The New MGS Brochure



Brochure: Page 1



Brochure: Page 2

## Manitoba Pensions Update from the Fall of 2016

*Elizabeth Briggs #0484*

Many weeks ago in 2016 I had sent a letter for pension information, following the guidelines I included in the last edition of *Generations*. I did not hear from the government for many weeks. Here is the latest information in that department.

### Manitoba Family Services and Labour

- a letter was prepared and sent, weeks later the letter was returned to me as the department had moved; sometime in 2017 it will move again.
- I called and left a message. Robyn was kind enough to return my call and gave me some valuable information:
  - the records available for the period I needed, 50s-80s, were sent to the Federal Government and they have been destroyed to the 1980s; early records before the 1950s are in Manitoba.
  - The records did include a lot of information from people who applied for pensions many years ago; they had to be over 65 and did not have a means to support

themselves. These people were able to gather documents from the old country to prove their birth date and other details.

- The new address will be Department of Families, Director for Legislation and Strategic Policy, 500-326 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0S5 Tele: 1-204-945-0811. email [pped@gov.mb.ca](mailto:pped@gov.mb.ca)

## GRO Records

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>

The pilot project continues but remember there are more details in this index than any other extracted index of Births and Deaths for England and Wales. The information may help with searches. Everyone has to register and be given a password before searching can occur.

Good hunting and I hope your searching is successful.



## Rose Sanna - King George and King Edward Hospitals

Becky Johnson # 5389

Rose Porlier (née Sanna) was my son's great-grandmother on his father's paternal side. She was a special person in our lives and I feel very lucky to have known her for over thirty years. Rose spent most of her long life in Kenora, Ontario, but during the First World War she lived in Winnipeg for awhile and worked at the King George and King Edward Hospitals.

Rose was born in Kenora (known as Rat Portage at the time) in September 1903. Her parents, Charles Sanna and Anna Blaha, had moved there from Chicago earlier that same year. Rose had an older sister Lillian, born in Chicago in 1902 and; Charles also had a daughter from a

previous marriage. Seven more children followed after Rose, two daughters and five sons. Rose worked hard from an early age, helping out her mother at home and assisting her father who was a carpenter and builder.

It was late in 1917 or early in 1918 that Rose and her sister Lillian went to Winnipeg to work at the King George and King Edward Hospitals. Rose was only 14 years old and Lillie was about 16. Rose never mentioned why they went, but it was likely to help out the family financially. All of their earnings were sent home except for a very small allowance. Rose and Lillie boarded with other girls who worked at the hospitals, living in a dormitory in the basement of one of the hospital buildings.

The King Edward Memorial Hospital had officially opened in July 1912 for the treatment of tubercular patients. It had about 65 beds plus accommodation for staff. When the King George opened nearby in February 1914, the public was invited to tour the building. The new hospital was for patients with infectious diseases including typhoid fever, smallpox, scarlet fever and diphtheria, and it had about 180 beds. At the time the King Edward and King George were considered to be among the most modern hospitals in the world for the care of people with communicable diseases.



**PHOTO:** King George Isolation Hospital courtesy of Archives of Manitoba, George Harris fonds, King George Isolation Hospital, [193-]P7447, Album 4, Page 20.

Rose's job when she first started was cleaning the patients' rooms. The war was in its fourth year by then and she said some of the patients were returned soldiers, a few with amputated

limbs. She had quite a fright one day when she was sweeping under a bed and the elderly man in it suddenly let out a loud yell and died. After that she was happy to get transferred to a job in the employees' dining hall. She did really well there and liked the work, and she was soon moved to the doctors' dining hall.

Rose was very independent and it must have been exciting to be living away from home in the city at such a young age. Sometimes the girls walked downtown in the evening to see a show or just to get out for a bit. One night Rose and a few friends returned to the dormitory after curfew and the doors were locked so they had to climb in through a window. At lights-out time a supervisor would usually check on the girls to make sure they were in bed. If they were still up when they heard him coming they would jump under the covers fully dressed. One supervisor had a watch that glowed in the dark and they could see it as he walked between the rows of cots. The girls even snuck down to the hospital morgue late one night to see the bodies.

Sometime after the war ended Rose was either needed at home or not needed at the hospital anymore, and she returned to Kenora. She lived there the rest of her life, marrying at age 26 and raising three children. For 50 years she ran a small convenience store that was attached to her home, finally closing it and retiring when she was about 82. She passed away in June 2006 at the grand age of 102 years and 9 months.

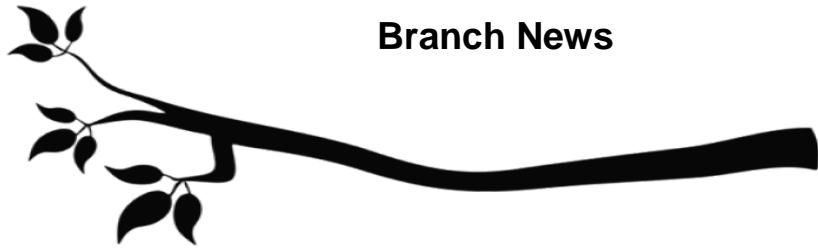
Rose got to see the King Edward and King George one last time in the early 1990s, before they were demolished to make way for the Riverview Health Centre. I'm hoping to visit the Riverview Heritage Museum soon to learn more about the unique history of these hospitals. If anyone else had a relative or friend who worked and boarded there around the same time as Rose I'd be very interested in hearing from you.

*Information on the King Edward and King George Hospitals is from the Winnipeg Tribune July 11, 1912, page 1, and February 27, 1914, page 5.*

## Student Who Obtained 0% On An Exam

Would you have given him 100%! Each answer is absolutely grammatically correct and funny too. The teacher had no sense of humor.

- Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die?  
*\*His last battle*
- Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?  
*\*At the bottom of the page*
- Q3. River Ravi flows in which state?  
*\*Liquid*
- Q4. What is the main reason for divorce?  
*\*Marriage*
- Q5. What is the main reason for failure?  
*\*Exams*
- Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast?  
*\*Lunch & dinner*
- Q7. What looks like half an apple?  
*\*The other half*
- Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea, what will it become?  
*\*Wet*
- Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping?  
*\*No problem, he sleeps at night.*
- Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?  
*\*You will never find an elephant that has one hand.*
- Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have?  
*\*Very large hands*
- Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?  
*\*No time at all, the wall is already built.*



## Branch News

### Monday Night Genealogy - Southeast & Winnipeg Branch

If you are an MGS member living in the Southeast or Winnipeg area, consider joining the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch. We run an educational program at the MGS Resource Centre on St. James Street on Monday evenings starting at 7:00, and are usually finished before 9:00. Branch members can attend at no extra charge but non-members are requested to pay \$5.00 each time they attend. Branch membership costs just \$12.00 a year and members receive the monthly e-Zine which gives more details of upcoming programs, summaries of past programs and other items of interest to Branch members. Here is our remaining schedule until June 2017.. ("General" meetings may start with a very brief business meeting. "Presentations" usually don't. At a "12 Heads" meeting, a facilitator introduces the topic and then everyone has a chance to speak.)

Southeast & Winnipeg Branch Programs September 2016 – June 2017 at 7:00 PM <b>Monday Night Programs May Be <u>Changed Without Notice.</u></b>			
Date	Meeting Type	Topic	Presenter
March 13	GENERAL	Travelling to the Orkneys	Mary Anne Inkster
March 20	PRESENTATION	Scottish Postcards – Edwardian Era	Barbara Becker
March 27	12 HEADS		
April 10	GENERAL	Update on MANI	Gord McBean
April 17	12 HEADS	Genealogy Software	Kathleen Kristjansson
May 8	AGM	The Missing Children – Truth and Reconciliation	Anne Lindsay
May 15	GENERAL		
June 12	TOUR	Police Museum – 245 Smith St (Police Headquarters)	Randy James

Watch the **E-Zine** for detailed descriptions, programming changes, and other educational opportunities.  
Or check postings at MGS Resource Centre and on the [MGS Calendar](#).

## **From the Past**

### **Rural Ramblings**

*Kathy Stokes #0125*

*Gladstone Age* September 23, 1896

The remains of Thomas Scott, who was shot by Riel's order, have been found on Portage Avenue by some workmen.

*Hamiota Echo* February 10, 1910

William MCDONALD of Viola Dale died recently, from pleurisy and pneumonia, leaving a wife and two children.

Charles GREYSON, a pioneer of the Yorkton, Saskatchewan area, died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. J. T. Pearson of Virden, on January 28. His wife had recently predeceased him.

Lorne TAYLOR recently purchased the harness shop previously run by F.T Venables and is now the proprietor. He had been employed by Venables for the past 6 years. He was noted as being a capable and efficient workman and meted out courteous treatment to all.

The January report for Arrowton School (Grades one to eight) was produced in this issue. Listed are the pupils attending the school:

*Grade One* – Gladys Anderson; *Grade Two* – Victoria and Richard Thompson; *Grade Three* – Iva Lipsett, Wesley McKay; *Grade Four* – Violet Wallace, Irene Thompson, Greta Phillips; *Grade Five* – Doris Little, Eldon Lipsett, Gertie Young, Bertha Bedford; *Grade Six* – Myrtle Hanna, Tina Lipsett, Willie Irvine, Ida Bedford; *Grade Seven* – Evelyn and Magnus Little; *Grade Eight* – Vera Little, Hattie Young, Jeanie Anderson, Ernest Bedford, Arthur Anderson, and Elsie Phillips.

The daughter of G.A.Wright, (Vital Statistics shows the name as Mary Agnes), was born February 7, in Hamiota

The daughter of Fred Fish, (Vital Statistics shows the name as Verna Jane Lill), was born in Isabella, on February 5.

Donald George McDONALD married Annie, daughter of Mr. George Stowe, at Beulah, on February 2.

Joe SKYMAN and J. DENNIS recently returned from a month long holiday in British Columbia. While there they invested in land and made a quick turnover, which produced for them a nice sum of money.

On February 8, Margaret Pearl WARREN was given in marriage, by her youngest brother John, to Robert Christie COCHRAN, highly respected Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Blanchard and President of the Dominion Municipal Union business.

*Baldur Gazette* June 16, 1910

Bessie Jane SHULZ and Mansell Allen DAVIS were married on June 15 in the district.

Stanley CONDER, 15, drowned in the Red River recently. Although he was a skilled boatman, he was unable to get to shore after his boat tipped. He had just started his first job an office boy.

*MacGregor Herald* January 20, 1927

Will the parties who have taken the shovels and parts of the stove from the Beaver cemetery please return them and save further trouble, as the parties are known?

*Winnipeg Tribune* August 1928

August 1

Eighty-four year old Joseph RICHARDSON, of the Beaver district, died in McGregor on July 31. Originally from the USA, Mr. Richardson came to Canada 49 years ago and farmed in the Beaver area for 30 years, before moving to McGregor. He leaves his wife, sons Ben and William and daughter Mrs. Tom Annison.

Angus GILLIS, 81, died at the Middlechurch Home, on July 31, after 50 years in western Canada. He joined the Hudson's Bay Company in Winnipeg and helped defend Fort Garry during the Riel uprising. Angus was a charter member of Knox Church, being among those who signed the original communion registry, after the church's first communion in 1872. He

was unmarried and a native of the Lewis Islands. At one point he had farmed in Saskatchewan.

Ruby Margaret PATTON was married on the front lawn of her home, on July 25 to Carl STOVER of Roland.

Fred ALLBRIGHT married Margaret Isabelle PERRIN in Bredenbury, Saskatchewan, on July 28. They will reside in Zora, Saskatchewan.

E.A. MOONEY of Elkhorn died there on July 31. He was born in Gladstone in 1875 and had farmed in the Virden area. He is survived by his children Gordon, Norman, Jack and Edward, Kathleen Dorothy, Sileen, and Gladys, as well as brothers John of Elkhorn and R.H. (MLA) of Woodnorth; and sisters Mrs. A.C. Shoemaker of Woodnorth and Mrs. F.C. Norris of Elkhorn. Burial was in Virden.

#### August 2

Stella Staples FRASER, daughter of Frank W. of Swan River, was married to Eddie Lorne STEWART of the same place, on July 27. They plan to take up residence in Avonlea, Saskatchewan. A lengthy write-up about the wedding is contained with the announcement.

Ethel Beatrice DELGATTY, daughter of Robert was married to Charles B. RANDELL, the son of Robert Randell, on July 25th in Gilbert Plains.

#### August 14

Farmer William T. WHITTEN died in Souris, on August 13. He was born in Shelburne Ontario and came west in 1896. His wife Ada, son Fred of Souris and daughter Velma of Winnipeg, survive as well as his father Robert John Whitten, four brothers and two sisters who live in Corbetton, Ontario.

#### August 15

Two young girls were drowned in the Boyne River, near Graysville, recently. They were Jean OSTRANDER, 12 years old and Moira DEWAR, aged 13, both of Graysville. Two other young girls with them, Dorothy Ostrander and Marie Walsh managed to survive when the four were wading in the river and stepped into a deep hole.

*Winnipeg Free Press April 17, 1934*

Mrs. Bessie GILBERTS celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday recently. Bessie was born in Co. Tyrone, Ireland and came to Canada on a sailing ship with her mother, at the age of three, to meet with her father in Stratford, Perth Co., Ontario. She resided in Neepawa for 25 years. Her first marriage was to James Buchanan who died after nine years. She later married Henry Gilberts of Neepawa in 1895. They lived for some time in the USA as well as in Winnipeg. Three daughters of her family of five girls and 3 boys survive – Mrs. Robert Berch and Mrs. Frank Grasby of Neepawa and Mrs. Kating of Binscarth. A family group photo accompanies the write-up.

### Are These Your Ancestors?

*Kathy Stokes #0125*

For more than forty years, my husband and I have spent our spare time looking for our ancestors. It has been an interesting hobby and has taken us to Salt Lake City several times. As well we have travelled to Nova Scotia, to trace Bob's United Empire Loyalist ancestry and up the Ottawa valley as well. We have been to the United Kingdom several times, visiting both England and Scotland. Most recently we spent a few days in Copenhagen, photographing churches and buildings that were there in the times of my Danish great grandparents; who later immigrated to South Africa. My distant German roots still remain a mystery.

I have tried to keep careful records of all my findings, which now include several drawers in a filing cabinet as well as many photos, both those held online and, the hard copies which I treasure more than those on the computer. At some time, however, it becomes necessary to do something with all this information. We just can't leave it for a child or grandchild to pitch out when we are gone. These pieces of our history are, in my mind, some of the best things we can leave to our descendants, even though they may not be appreciated until they too reach their later years.

What to do with my collection? I know, I'll write a small book! No! I'll write four small books, one for each grandparent.

In my case I have been very fortunate. All four of my grandparents lived in Winnipeg until their deaths between 1957 and 1965. They were highly involved with our family all through our lives and contributed much to my appreciation of family history. These books will be my thank you to each of them.

And so my journey began.

After much thought, I decided to begin with my maternal grandmother first. A couple of years went by, as I first decided how I remembered her and what and how I wanted to tell her story. What should I include in the way of her ancestry; how many photos would be appropriate; how could I write something that would appeal to her descendants; how to explain legal and social events in her life, so that someone unfamiliar with family history could better understand her. In other words, I needed to write a coherent, yet informative word picture about this little lady in a way that captured the essence of her, set in the period in which she lived (1880 – 1965).



PHOTO: Maud Emma Lawley (Nanie), the grandmother

Once I had made these decisions, I began to write. Some days it was easy and, at other times I just made a mess of things; so I would get up from my chair at the computer and leave the

writing for another day. The hardest part in writing the narrative was figuring out how to describe each generation so that I kept the interest of the readers without confusing them. So many Saddingtons with so many children in each generation – how could I keep them all in the right order in each generation, along with their marriage partners and at the same time not bore any reader? I finally decided that I would not go into great detail on each child, only on the parents in each generation. I offered the readers of Nanie's story further information which I had on those who were not in the direct line of the family tree.

Besides the people in my story, I tried to give a feeling of the areas in the centre of England where they lived. I sometimes gave the meanings of the names of their towns. I told the story of Harry, my great grandfather, a long-time resident of the small city of Leicester. As I was writing my story it so happened that the long sought after bones of slain King Richard III, of England, were located under a parking lot in Leicester. I imagined that Harry may often have walked across that lot and over the King's bones.

Because Nanie was an actress before she came to Canada, I looked, with the help of my brother-in-law, for mention of her in newspaper reviews. We were lucky enough to find a few. As well, I had many professional photos of Nanie at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when she travelled the circuit around England performing.

I also tried to give a word picture of some of the occupations of my other ancestors. With the help of several journals to which MGS subscribes, I was able to find out a great deal about such occupations as a framework knitter, an ostler and a tallow chandler and how these occupations were affected by the changing times in England.

I placed most of the many photos we have, in a section after Nanie's story was completed. Also included was a basic map of England with the counties outlined. An index, of all the names of direct ancestors and others central to my story, was at the end of the narrative. A list and brief

explanation of important legislation enacted by the British parliament over the centuries, such as the Civil Registration Act of 1837, which affected all residents of England and Wales and made the job of family historians a great deal easier, was also explained.



PHOTO: Maud Emma Lawley (Nanie), the actress.

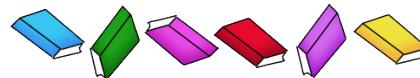
The last twenty pages of my book contained a set of pedigree charts for Nanie.

As I have absolutely no artistic talent, I needed help in putting everything I had written, into something that I could send to all my cousins and their children. Fortunately, a family member is a graphic designer who used his talents to put my story into an eye pleasing package – a coil bound, soft cover 68 pages.

I know that many family historians say that they plan to write a book someday, when they have completed their research. Safe to say in these days of computers that research is never finished. I have written this article to show that a simple, interesting and attractive book can be produced by anyone who has the ambition and likes to write. It is not necessary for any family historian to write the great Canadian family history book. Target your audience and keep them in mind while you toil. They will be glad you did. Don't work to a tight deadline or you may find yourself feeling too much pressure. Most of your relatives will greatly appreciate

your handiwork. Besides, it makes a great Christmas present. So get busy!

And now on to my next grandparent! Which one I am going to do, I have not yet decided. Do I stay with the women and do my other grandmother, or do I write about Nanie's husband Grampie? Whichever I do, it shouldn't take me quite as long as I have learned a great deal in my journey with Nanie.



## Our Library

### Nursing Schools and Student Nurses *Mavis Gray #0008*



For more than 100 years from the time of Florence Nightingale, nurses were generally trained in hospital-based programs, with a strong emphasis on practical skills. Nurses are now generally trained in college and university-based programs; but for more than a century, many hospitals had their own nursing schools. The MGS Library and Resource Centre has several yearbooks and other publications relating to these nursing schools.

### YEARBOOKS

*Echoes of the Glee Club, 1927* [Yearbook of the St. Boniface Hospital School of Nursing].

#### **Manitoba 610.73 STB**

*Blue and White* [Yearbook of the nursing school, Winnipeg Municipal Hospital (later Winnipeg General Hospital)]. **Manitoba 610.73 WIN2**

*Blue and Gold, 1931* [Yearbook, Misericordia Hospital School of Nursing].

#### **Manitoba 610.73 BLU**

*White Wings : Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing Yearbook*.

#### **Manitoba 610.63 VIC**

*The Blue Peter, 1969* [University of Manitoba School of Nursing Yearbook]. **Manitoba 610.73 UofM**

## HISTORY

*Winnipeg General Hospital and Health Sciences Centre School of Nursing, 1887-1987* by Ethel Johns.

**Manitoba 610.73 WIN**

*Donald Jean (Johnston) Hamilton, 1925-2000* by Karen Mitchell. A biographical note about a nurse who trained and worked in Manitoba.

**Family History and Biography 929.2 HAM3**

*Intercom [Newsletter of St. Boniface General Hospital]*. Graduation issues [nurses and technologists], 1967-1970. **Manitoba 610.73 INT**

## ALUMNAE PUBLICATIONS

*Nurses' Alumnae Journal* [issued by the Alumnae Association of the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing]. Selected years.

**Manitoba 610.73 ALU**

*Favourite Recipes of Nurses Alumnae* [includes index of contributors]. Issued by Grace Hospital Alumnae Association. **Manitoba 610.73 FAV**

## Library Lines

Mary Bole #0884  
MGS Librarian



For further information on any of the following books check KOHA, our on-line catalogue.

The link can be found on the MGS web site.

We are still encouraging members to index a book. If you have an area your family lived in, perhaps you can tackle the local history book. If that is too large, try some of our many early Manitoba books for the first settlers.

We are still looking for volunteers to help index a local history book.

Here is a list of the new books we have received.

## Manitoba

**378 BU** *Brandon College, Class of TTC 56 Anniversary Booklet, 60 Years of Memories, 1956-2016.*

**912.192 His** *Historical Atlas of the East Reserve.*

**971.27 Ale** *From the Beaches to the Falls: a Winnipeg River-Lake Winnipeg Heritage.* 1988. [Alexander municipality)

## Western Canada

**971.24 Sco** *Lang Syne – a History of Long, Saskatchewan.* 1980.

## Canada

**355.3 Fra** Always a Strathcona. [Military]

## Great Britain and Ireland

**929.5 Art3** *Kilraughts Old Church Graveyard,* 2014.

**941.8 Fre** *An Alphabetical List of the Freemen of the City of Dublin, 1774-1824.* [1983]

**942.7 Ald** *The Parish Church of Aldingham in Furness, Registers 1642-1695.* [Microfiche]

**942.7 Bla** *The Parish Church of Blawith and Lowick, Registers, 1728-1837.* [Microfiche]

**942.7 Dal** The Parish Church of Dalton-in-Furness, Registers, 1595-1691 [Microfiche]

**942.7 Tor** *The Parish Church (i.e. Torver), Registers, 1599-1792.* [Microfiche]

**942.7 Ulv** *The Registers of Ulverston Parish Church, 1545-1812.* [Microfiche]

## General

**929.1 Fit** *Forensic Genealogy,* 2005

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

Donations can be made to the Memorial Fund, the Library Fund, or the General Fund. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$15.00 and are much appreciated

## **Book Reviews**

*Enid Dorward #4502*

*The following books are all in the Reference Section of the MGS library, and are available for you to peruse when you visit the Resource Centre.*



*These books have recently been added to the MGS library collection and are available for loan. (Ask about low postage rates for out-of-town members.)*

***Marie-Anne: the Extraordinary Life of Louis Riel's Grandmother***, by Maggie Siggins. Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 2008. 308 p., bibliography, index. (MGS library call number FH & BIO 921 GAB 3)

This is a well-researched and well-written biography of Louis Riel's grandmother, a remarkable woman who came to Manitoba in 1807 with her husband Jean-Baptiste Lagimodière.

*The following are histories of two neighbouring villages in the rural municipality of Woodworth, in southwestern Manitoba.*

***Home to Harding*** 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Compiled by Harding Community Club, 325 p. Illus. Index. (MGS library call number MAN 971.27 WWOR HOM2)

In addition to a brief history of the village of Harding, Manitoba, there are: family histories arranged alphabetically, a landowners' map, and a listing of Harding families by section, township and range.

***Cradle to Combine*** pub. by Kenton Historical Book Club. 3 Vol. (MGS library call number MAN 971.27 WWOR KEN)

Three volumes, describing the history of Kenton, Manitoba. Vol. 1 - 1881-1956, Vol. 2 - 1881-1981, Vol. 3 - 1981-2005.



## **Periodical Potpourri**

*Enid Dorward #4502*

*All publications mentioned in this column are available for loan from the MGS Resource Centre. Also, when you visit the Resource Centre, don't forget to check the journals that were received electronically – available on all the computers.*

### **MANITOBA**

***Anglo-Celtic Roots*** (Winter 2016) An article about Capt. Shaver Eadie of the 90<sup>th</sup> Winnipeg Rifles, part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Battalion, who died in France in 1916.

***Manitoba History*** (Fall 2016)

Indigenous people and Canada's First World War. Plus numerous other articles related to WWI.

***Your Genealogy Today*** (Nov/Dec. 2016) Information about the Jewish Heritage Centre of the Western Canada Archives, located in Winnipeg.

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

***Generations*** (New Brunswick) (Winter 2016) A list of Loyalist grantees at Parrtown, Sunbury County, Nova Scotia, 1783-1784. (Names A to C.). Also Salt Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

***Newfoundland Ancestor*** (Vol 32,4 2016) Chinese graves at the General Protestant Cemetery St. John's.

**Perth County Profiles** (Nov. 2016)  
1858 Voters List for Fullarton Township  
(includes name with concession and lot.)

## ENGLAND

**Family Tree** (Christmas 2016) A special edition focusing on the Victorian era. Numerous articles provide information on ways to search this time period.

**Genealogists' Magazine** (Dec. 2016)  
Wedgewood Pottery roots – Daniel family.

**Gloucestershire FHS Journal** (Autumn 2016)  
Includes a brief story about a private in the Glos. Hussars during (WWI).

**Lancashire** (Nov. 2016) Cockerham plague.

## EUROPE

**East European Genealogist** (Fall 2016) Part Two of an extensive article about Galicia.

**Mennonite Historian** (Dec. 2016) Early Russian Mennonite census lists.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Families** (OGS) (Nov. 2016) Determining reliability of evidence.

**Glamorgan Family History Society** (June 2016)  
Genealogy and family health history.

## IRELAND

**Family Tree** (UK) (Dec. 2016) Ten sources for Irish ancestors.

**Internet Genealogy** (Dec/Jan. 2017)  
New online Irish civil registration records!

**Timberline** (Fall 2016) Irish naming patterns.

## ONTARIO

**Bruce Bulletin** (Nov. 2016) Bruce County cemeteries.

**Gallus** (Glasgow) (Oct. 2016) Ontario's British home children.

**Quinte Kin** (Fall 2016) Information about Charles S. Rutherford, who was the last surviving Canadian to have received the Victoria Cross in WWI, when he died in 1989 at

the age of 97.

**Sault Channels** (Dec. 2016) Contains a listing of deaths from 1961-62 in Sault newspapers. Includes name, birthdate, birthplace, father's name, newspaper date and page.

**SCAN** (Simcoe Co.) (Nov. 2016) An extensive article about the Kitchen family of Matchedash Township.

## USA

**Red River Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter** (Jan-June 2016) Bonanza farming in the Red River Valley.

–(June-Dec. 2016) List of baby boomers who wrote essays about their ancestors for a contest.

**Internet Genealogy** (June/July 2016) Online sources for researching the Great Depression.

– (Oct/Nov 2016) Online records of North Dakota settlers.

**Oregon Genealogical Society Journal** (Fall 2016) 1895 personals column from *The Plaindealer* newspaper (Roseburg, Oregon).

**Your Genealogy Today** (Nov/Dec. 2015)  
Cholera in Wisconsin 1849-1851.

– (Sept/Oct 2016) Locating missing children in your genealogy.

– (Jan-Feb. 2017) A look at information contained in the United States Federal Mortality Census.

## SCOTLAND

**Aberdeen and North-East Scotland FHS**  
(August 2016) Ten sample entries describing details of the lives of people on the Poor Register for the Parish of Elgin 1845-1891.

– (Nov. 2016) A look at Byron's Aberdeenshire with *ScotlandsPlaces*.

**Family Tree** (Nov. 2016) Ten essential records for Scottish ancestors.

**Gallus** (Oct. 2016) Glasgow/Irish links.

**Sib Folk News** (Sept. 2016) Schooldays at Stymilders (Orkney).

– (Dec. 2016) The story of the life and career of William Stevenson Bremner, Royal Navy shipwright, 1875-1960.

## WESTERN CANADA

**British Columbia Genealogist** (Sept. 2016) A list of donors to the Machine Gun Fund, Rock Bay, BC, 1915.

—(Dec. 2016) The story of Georgina Cambray, born in a workhouse in Gloucestershire, emigrated to Canada as a teenager, lived in Ontario, then Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, and finally British Columbia.

**Grapevines** (Oct. 2016) How memories and stories find their way home.

**Heritage** (Vol. XIX, No. 3, 2016) A tiny synagogue, originally built in eastern Alberta 100 years ago, has been restored.

**Past Tents** (Dec. 2016) Information about the Regina Indian Industrial School Cemetery.

**Relatively Speaking** (August 2016) This issue is dedicated to articles that celebrate the history of the NWMP (North West Mounted Police).

### MGS Research Services

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

## The Life and Times of Michael Howard Cook

*Mary Ruth Noiles*

Michael Howard, the fourth child of Michael Cook and Mary Ann Howard, was born April 2, 1885 at 105 St George Rd, London, in a pub called The Gun Boat. His father was the proprietor of the pub, in this very rough and tumble part of London, just a few blocks east of the Tower and just north of the Thames.

Michael's older siblings were listed on the 1881 census as "Howard" along with Ann Howard,

barmaid. I have not found a marriage for their parents, but by 1891 they were all living in Camberwell under the name of Cook.

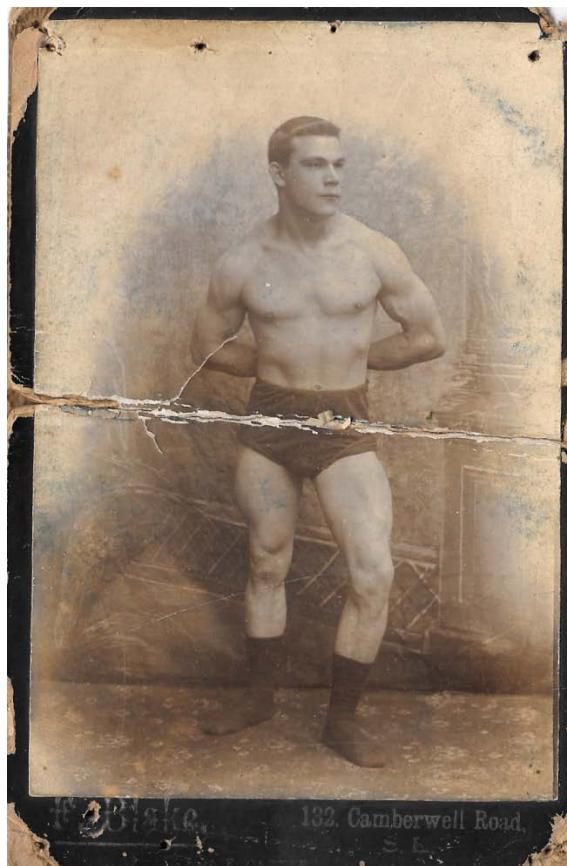


PHOTO: Young Michael, the body builder

Young Michael was always very interested in bodybuilding and followed the career and writings of George Hackenschmidt, wrestler and strongman. At the time, 1908-1911, Hackenschmidt was touring the local fairs and music halls challenging anyone to try to pin him to the mat. Michael's favourite story was that after going the required time in the ring and holding him down, the promoter refused to pay up.

In Camberwell, father and son were involved with the Cricket Club and both were in a picture taken at the Winchester Brewery. Perhaps Michael Sr. had retired from the pub business. He passed away in 1908.

One by one the brothers came to Canada and settled in the Beachville/Ingersoll area of Oxford County, Ontario.

William Cook came first in 1906 and began to work in the Beachville Quarry, a huge limestone pit that ran for miles along the highway to Ingersoll. Benjamin arrived next in 1910 and joined Bill at the Quarry. Michael and Alice Louisa arrived in 1911, and Michael went to work for Harvey Woods in Woodstock. He was a master carpenter by trade. The last of the brothers to come was Henry George and his wife and 3 children. They settled in Ingersoll. All the brothers volunteered for service in WWI.

Michael had married Alice Louisa Birdsey in the district of West Ham in 1910. They were enumerated at 42 Russell Rd. in Walthamstow on April 2 for the 1911 census and May 9, 1911 landed at Halifax, NS. Their son, Michael James, was born Mar 13, 1913 in Woodstock, ON.

When war was declared Michael joined the Oxford Rifles and was sent overseas with the 71st Battalion. He was wounded on the Somme in the fall of 1916 and invalided to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bear Wood, Wokingham. He was a sniper and was wounded above the right eye. In his own words he “enjoyed the work”.

This was a common injury for snipers as they worked from behind a small metal shield and the object of your enemy was to strike the edge and chip off a piece of shrapnel. Once out of the hospital he was not sent back to the front because his doctors were not convinced that he didn’t still have double vision.

He was sent to Aldershot to train as a Drill Instructor. While there he met and trained with the Welsh boxer, Jimmy Wilde, proudly sending his brothers postcards.

He also sent postcards to his young son at home regularly...always funny ones and cheerfully upbeat.

On Nov. 30, 1917 he returned to Canada and was sent to the Gymnastics Corps in London, ON to train the new recruits at Wolseley Barracks.

Alice Louisa gave birth to their second son, Arthur Sidney, April 13, 1921. Sadly he died 20

days later of meningitis. His mother had predeceased him on April 28 suffering from Chronic Nephritis.

Alice’s sister Kathleen had come to help and was listed on the June 1921 census as housekeeper, but she couldn’t stay.

Rose Isabel Burman was a war widow who had come to Woodstock at the end of the war, to be near her brother Arthur Farmer and his family. She also had a son, Alfred Edward Charles Burman, named for his father and two uncles. Not one of the three had survived the War.

She had briefly worked at Harvey Woods too, but was doing housekeeping at the time. Their local United Church ladies convinced her to help out Michael Cook with his young son. They were married May 1, 1922.



PHOTO: Michael and Rose with their two sons.

To help ease the blending of both little families, Michael built each child a large wooden train set that would be joined together after the wedding. The boys were delighted and couldn’t wait to live under the same roof. In winter the train ran

a complete circle through the house and in summer around the garden for years.

He adopted Alfred but refused to change his last name (as was customary) to ensure that Alfred John Burman would never be forgotten. It was in the same spirit that he made sure that the King's Scroll and "Dead Man's Penny" were on display in his house. In 1929 he sent Rose and Alf back to England for the summer so that young Alf could visit his father's grave in Amiens and get to know his English cousins.

Always a passionate fan of Canadian Hockey he never missed a Saturday night broadcast; cautioning his dog Prince not to cross the Blue Line from the dining room to the living room. He built furniture and toys for his grandchildren and garden. He never lost his military bearing and physique. In fact, soon after his arrival he was on the Championship Oxford tug of war team, Thanksgiving 1912.

He passed away Nov. 16, 1965, eight years after Rose. He was a quiet, soft spoken man with an interesting and colourful life behind him. He was the last of the Cook brothers.

I am writing this tribute, Nov. 8, 2016, on the 98th anniversary of the death of Alfred John Burman, my grandfather. However, Michael Cook was the only grandfather we ever knew and he filled that role perfectly.



## **It's all Relative(s) ... England Trip 2016**

*Kathleen Kristjansson #5193*

When one thinks of traveling for genealogy, one thinks of visiting cemeteries, archives and relatives. This past fall, I traveled England by train, saw none of the first two, but let the relatives and historical sights define the visit.

My husband and I spent only one night in London, as we'd seen the major attractions on previous trips. After resting up from our jet lag,

we journeyed south to Hastings. There, we were guests of John and Elisabeth MacNab. During the Second World War, John's Scottish parents evacuated him to Canada, in what became known as "Operation Pied Piper". He was to have stayed with relatives in Winnipeg, but due to illness in his family, he ended up in my grandparent's care. He was a much loved temporary addition to the family. Having re-established contact years ago, John and his wife visited us in Winnipeg, and now it was time to visit him in Hastings.

We had a wonderful stay with them, walking the "shingle" beach, where fishers stowed their boats for the winter, as had been done for centuries. John drove us to Battle, the designated site of the Battle of Hastings. We saw the Abbey ruins and had tea in a 600 year old teahouse.

From Hastings we journeyed to Peterborough, where we toured the splendid cathedral and met the cousins who sought us out to repatriate my great-grandfather's WWI Memorial Medal. It was lovely to meet people who cared enough to seek out the descendants of a man killed in action in Ypres and get to thank them in person.

Our next stop, York, was a tourist delight. There are wonderful museums depicting the social history of the city and the lives of working people specifically. There is a wonderful Railway museum featuring a slew of engines and passenger cars and a high speed train from Japan. The York Minster attracts thousands of visitors, and now features a display of its Roman history in its lower level.

We took a day trip from there up to Newcastle to meet friends for lunch and ran into a National Trust building converted into a museum. It had been owned by Lord Gort, a Prendergast who had ties to Winnipeg through the Viscount Gort Hotel. He is also a rumoured part of my ancestral tree, though not proven. One of those genealogical coincidences, indeed.

Our next stop was Birmingham. England's second largest city, located in the Midlands, it is the ancestral home of my immigrant Powles family. Research had uncovered many relatives

still living in the area, two that I was able to meet. My namesake, Kathleen, and her husband drove up from Devon to meet us. We enjoyed a lovely lunch at Yvonne's home in nearby Sutton Coldfield. The men took a walk while we, the cousins, talked genealogy.

Birmingham is a canal city, and has always been a major industrial powerhouse. It was a centre for jewellery making and pen manufacturing and has museums dedicated to these. The centre of the city boasts a beautiful red-brick parish church, St. Martin in the Bull Ring, and a large, historic market alongside a huge modern mall named after the church.

A most interesting sight, operated by the National Trust, is the "Birmingham Back to Backs". These are a series of row houses sharing a back wall with a neighbour, centred on a courtyard. These small residences were built all around the north of England beginning in the 1820s. All that remains is a few units along Hurst Street in Birmingham, the rest having fallen to the wrecking ball. Now open to the public as a museum, individual homes are set up in the periods 1840, 1870s, 1930s and 1970s. A sweets shop and a tailor's shop front the street. Genealogical research of the families that lived in the Hurst Street "Court 15" provided the inspiration for the homes for each decade.



PHOTO: Birmingham Back-to-Back Houses

The homes were tiny, and in the 1840s had neither running water nor electricity. Cooking and heating took place at the single, open

fireplace. Three outhouse bathrooms stood in the courtyard, for use by about 60 residents. Watchmakers, glass makers, chimney sweeps, pearl button makers and fortune tellers all lived in Court 15. Many, it is thought, worked from these homes as well. At its height, some 20,000 homes in Birmingham were "back to backs" and provided cheap housing for the working class.

There is no substitute that will match the experience of seeing this housing up close. It really puts the times in perspective. Imagine the ancestors hearing stories of the vast land in the new world and how attractive that must have seemed. In his autobiography, my three times great-grandfather Henry Powles wrote of a house he and his son built in Montreal, "It is worthy of note, as he being the first to my knowledge in the family possessing freehold property." After decades of "trade being very bad at that time (1862)" leaving Birmingham behind to strike out for Canada meant hope for a new, prosperous future.

The trip gave us an up-front perspective on conditions that led to my ancestors leaving their world to come to the new. How lovely it was to realize that those left behind managed, too. And they are there with welcoming arms to greet us when we return.

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## Forever Home!

*Shirle McGimpsey #0473*

I felt it was time to find a forever home for the portrait of my great grandmother, Agnes Catherine Georgina McKenzie that has hung in my home for over 20 years. Family members were hesitant and I didn't feel she belonged in a storage area, garage or basement. I contacted the Hudson's Bay Company, Manitoba Archives, and after a number of emails, showing actual proof that this portrait was an original, the Manitoba Archives offered Agnes a forever home.



PHOTO: Agnes Catherine Georgina McKenzie

Agnes Catherine Georgina McKenzie was the daughter of Chief Trader of the Hudson's Bay Co., Samuel McKenzie and his wife, Anne (Spencer) McKenzie and; granddaughter of Chief Factor Roderick and Angelique (Mallette) McKenzie. Agnes was born and baptized in 1872, in the Anglican faith at Île-a-la-Crosse, N. Saskatchewan, part of the English River District, North West Territories.

Samuel was in the service of the Hudson's Bay Co. at Île-a-la-Crosse, Stanley Mission, area before settling in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. After the death of Samuel (1879), Anne met and married Walter Aldorus Farewell (Farwell) (1883) from Grimsby, Ontario. Anne's father, William Spencer, also of the Hudson's Bay Co., claimed Walter had a wife and family living in Grimsby. Walter stood trial and was jailed (1884) as a bigamist. While serving his time the jailor left a window open and Walter's friends helped him escape, along with Anne and her children, to the United States. Their son, Walter, was born there in

1886. The family then settled in Deloraine, Manitoba.

Anne passed away in 1888 at Deloraine, leaving Agnes and her siblings in Walter's care; he moved the family to Hartney, Manitoba. Agnes and Walter became partners and had six children, my grandmother Laura, being one of them. Agnes passed away on September 22, 1897, of consumption, when her youngest child was one year old. Agnes she was 26 years old. My grandmother, Laura, helped raise her sister and brothers.

Agnes is buried in an unmarked grave in the Riverside Cemetery, Hartney, Manitoba. My sister, brother and I have been given permission to place a marker on her grave.

So after over 100 years, Agnes will have a Forever Home and a marker showing her life.

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## Volunteers – the Heart of MGS

According to the Oxford English dictionary, a volunteer is:

**Volunteer (noun):** *a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task; a person who works for an organization without being paid.*

**Volunteer (verb):** *freely offer to do something; offer (help) freely.*

Certainly those two definitions apply to people within the Manitoba Genealogical Society, without whom the Society would cease to function. The only aspect of volunteering that is missing from the above definitions is the concept of longevity. Many who volunteer, do so for lengthy periods of time. There are many individuals who volunteer to perform a task or fill a position on their own. There are others who prefer to volunteer to be part of a group and work within that group towards a common goal.

This article will focus on the latter group, those who work in a group to accomplish tasks towards a goal. It is not the intention to slight those individuals who volunteer outside of these specific groups (eg. Executive members, Council members, special projects or one-time projects); their day will come!

For some time I have heard about these volunteers who work at the MGS Resource Centre certain days of the week, but never really have known them or fully understood what they do. So without further ado, let me introduce you to the TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY VOLUNTEERS.

These volunteers work as a group on one of the aforementioned days of the week. The group as a whole focuses on a particular aspect of the Resource Centre; but there are also a myriad of routine tasks that must also be performed and these tasks are also divided across the three days.

### Tuesday Volunteers

This group is by far the largest of the three volunteer groups, with more than 12 members. It is commonly known as the Library Group,

with much of its task centred on some function of maintaining the MGS Library. But many other things are done as well. These volunteers represent nearly 200 years of volunteer service!



**PHOTO:** Tuesday Volunteers: Back (l to r): Stephanie Wood, Jan Gowan, Lesley Curtis, Joyce Elias, Judith Roe, Mavis Gray, Pat Allan. Front (l to r): Mary Bole, Enid Dorward, Sandra Havig.

The Library consists of more than 10,000 volumes, plus CDs, Microfiche, Microfilm, periodicals and journals; quite an impressive collection of predominantly Manitoba-based information. It is well worth checking out.

At the front desk you can find either Sandra or Stephanie, welcoming visitors and showing them what MGS has to offer. Stephanie moved in from Gimli, and was looking for something to do. She loves history and genealogy, so MGS seemed like a good fit. She loves the work, the people and she is always finding out something new. Sandra does indexing for the MANI project, and like many, contributes “many, many hours working at home”. She enjoys ‘giving tours’ of the Resource Centre to those new clients who drop in. ‘They are always impressed with what we have here.’

You will see several of our regular contributors to *Generations*, in the ‘Our Library’ feature, on Tuesdays. Mary oversees the group and does acquisitions and removal of books; Enid works on MANI content – BMDs indexing. She also looks after the periodicals, putting her Library skills to good use.

Mavis does all the cataloguing (she is a professional Librarian after all) and helps with

culling out unused or duplicate books. She catalogues books into KOHA and works on cemetery transcriptions as well. She has updated KOHA to reflect more than 13,300 articles. Mavis feels she is ‘doing something useful’ and enjoys the social aspect of the group.

In addition to her many roles with *Generations*, (proofreading, distribution, etc.), Joyce processes donations and writes the thankyou letters. Joyce came to the Library, liked it and stayed. She works on MANI indexing. Leslie is the newest member of the group and helps wherever she is needed, while she learns more of what goes on. Her husband, Bill, is responsible for the OutReach program, so they have lots to chat about over the dinner table.

Jan works with the Journals which MGS receives from other sources, culling out articles which should be kept and filed. She enjoys her time with the group and looks forward to Tuesdays. Pat works inputting records into MANI and assists Gord McBean, the MANI guru, as required. Her contribution to the MANI database is a key reason for the value of the MANI system.

Judith is the MGS celebrity! In addition to looking after fund-raising and ensuring the Resource Centre is well decorated with assorted displays such as Remembrance Day, Judith works with the media, appearing on local TV to promote MGS and events. She is currently working on a Canada150 display featuring the Fathers of Confederation.

Recently, 3 long time members of the group retired after a combined total of nearly 90 years of service: Lynn Francis, Lorna Karman, and Louisa Shermerhorn. They served well.

The group is very social, enjoying each other’s company as much as they enjoy what they do. In addition, they are still doing their own genealogy and manage to find some time to do some research on Tuesdays.

They all agree that one of the biggest challenges for the library is that people are not reading

books like they used to. Everyone thinks it can all be found on the Internet.

There is no doubt that the amount of volunteer service, the work that is done and the general ‘feel good’ of the Tuesday Group, is impressive. Thank you to all and I encourage you to drop in and get to know them; the experience will be well worth it. (and there is often cake, too!)

## **Wednesday Volunteers**

The Wednesday group has been in existence for more than 20 years. This is a group of people whose MGS membership numbers are just 1 or 2 digits! The focus of the Group is Cemetery Transcriptions, which they have been working on for several years. In addition to the actual transcriptions, much work is being done to input these records into MANI. This work is resulting in many people accessing MANI to see these records.

For many years the Cemetery Transcriptions has been an integral part of what MGS has been able to offer members and the public, who are looking for family information. There are 1000s of cemeteries in Manitoba with tens of thousands headstones. It is a monumental task.

The Group edits the physical and computer records, making corrections, making the records look professional and then updating the records into MANI.



**PHOTO:** Back (l to r): Mona Phillip, David Jenkins, Orma Sozansky . Front (l-r): Linda Toews, Kathy Stokes. Absent: Kenda Wood

The length of volunteering differs significantly within the group with Kathy and Orma having over 30 years of service, and Linda, 17 years. Mona and Dave are relative newcomers to the group with 5 – 10 years. The group has a lot of fun while working on their various tasks.

Kenda Wood, who was not there when I dropped in, handles the membership for MGS, looking after renewals, new memberships and any issues that might arise.

Orma is known as ‘Mrs. Clean’, keeping the Resource Library spotless and presentable at all times. She is always the first one in on Wednesday mornings, and even has her own parking spot. (It is understood that the spot closest to the MGS door is Orma’s. When she was away for a period of time, no one parked in her spot.). Kathy has spot 2 and Kenda has spot 3 – volunteering does have its perks!

Orma also re-shelves books, and enters ‘strays’ into the MANI database. Orma recently was awarded the Jonasson Award, resulting from more than 25 years of volunteer service.

Kathy has been MGS President on two separate occasions and for the past several years has been working on special projects. Her name is familiar from her *Generations* articles “From the Past”. She did the background cemetery research for the book “Carved in Stone”, which highlights all the known cemeteries in Manitoba. As well Kathy is indexing several newspapers prior to 1888. She expects to be working on cemeteries until she ‘retires’. “I do it because it keeps my brain busy and besides, I am nosy.”

Two weeks after Dave retired, he enquired at MGS as to whether there were any volunteer opportunities. He was put to work the same day! Dave works on cemetery listings, transcribing headstones and entering the information online. He is currently working on Ukrainian Orthodox cemeteries, of which there are 78 in the province. He will be busy for a while. He likes to help people get started on their genealogy.

Linda started at MGS in 2000, originally on Thursdays, doing research. Because of her personal schedule she found it more convenient to switch to the Wednesday group shortly after. She is an integral part of the group working on a variety of tasks. Linda very much enjoys the social aspect of working with the group.

Mona has genealogy as a hobby, so it was only natural to volunteer to help out. She has considerable experience working with computer software, which is and has been very helpful, especially in the area of document imaging. She loves the people, finds it very friendly and fun on Wednesdays. She too likes to help people get started and thinks it is very worthwhile to ‘know your history’.

The cemetery transcriptions are a vital part of the new MANI offering and its availability has already attracted customers. The work to be done is tedious (at least in my mind), challenging due to the condition of headstones and the engraving, but rewarding.

The Wednesday Volunteers could use some more volunteers, so if you want to make a contribution, come down to the MGS Resource Centre on any Wednesday and sign up.

## **Thursday Volunteers**

The Thursday Volunteer group is the MGS Research Group, and for many years has been a source of income for MGS. Today the workload varies, as many people use the information available on the Internet, through one or more of the commercial offerings. But as this group is quick to point out, there is much more to genealogy than just a listing of names, dates and places.

The Thursday volunteers respond to requests for assistance that come from all over the world, asking for information or help regarding a Manitoba ancestor. All requests should have a Manitoba connection, and for a reasonable fee the group will provide a minimum of 6 hours of research. In reality, most undertakings result in much more than the 6 hours.



**PHOTO:** Back (l to r): Bonnie Batchelor, Jim Rutherford. Front (l to r): Myrna Mackey, Sheila Woods. Absent: Kathleen Kristjansson, Rick McLellan.

A variety of resources are used, including newspaper archives, commercial Internet based tools (for which MGS has licenses) as well as the local books housed in the MGS Library. The research can be directed to answering a specific question or a broader range enquiry. Of course client privacy and respect for the sensitivity of the information is always a foremost consideration.

The Group likes ‘the thrill of the chase’, searching for, and finding information to help clear up an issue for a client. Clients are very happy with the results and the professionalism of the Thursday Volunteers, and often make a donation, in addition to the fee, to help MGS ‘keep up the good work.’

But this work is not without its challenges. Easier access to online information, together with more complete listing of records, makes it easier for people to do their own research from home. As well, with the issues of privacy becoming more and more prevalent, researchers are having more difficulty in accessing data. Some sources have closed the door to anyone other than family looking at certain records.

Jim Rutherford, ‘the Sherlock Holmes of MGS’ and overseer of the group loves what he does. He loves the detective work, and has had some interesting finds, hence the nickname. Jim started his own genealogy at 17, researching a great-uncle who served in the Boer War and

remained in Africa afterwards. Over the 25 years, the group has been much bigger with more people and more paid researchers on the list of clients. Today the work load varies, but sometimes it is still too busy for the group members to do their own research.

Jim also takes care of all the e-mails that arrive at MGS, forwarding them on, deleting the unwanted and answering others. This can take most of the day sometimes. He also indexes obituaries from the local newspapers.

Jim also has a ‘pet project’ that he won’t discuss in detail, due to the nature of the information, but he has a 2-inch file of information to share with the client. He continues to work on it, when he has some spare time.

Myrna is a professional genealogist with a degree in Genealogical Studies, from St. Michaels College at the University of Toronto. She specialized in Irish and Canadian Studies. With these skills she does a lot of private research for a variety of clients, from her home. As part of the MGS Research group, she researches all types of backgrounds. She starts at the present, working her way back via BMD records, cemetery information and of course the many history books housed at the MGS Library. She says there is ‘always a surprise’.

Bonnie looks after the front desk. She greets visitors, gives them the tour and directs them to where they need to be. In addition she looks after the cash and does the filing. She does her own research on Thursday as time permits because ‘it is better than housework!’ She got started in genealogy at 13 as part of a school project researching the men who built the Rideau Canal. She discovered a tombstone with her family name on it, and her curiosity was piqued. She has since extensively researched her own family.

Sheila retired in 2007 and the next year joined MGS and immediately was bitten by the research bug. She works on various projects and tasks as the opportunities arise. I personally met Sheila for the first time 2 years ago while attending the Camp Hughes Open House

(training camp for WWI soldiers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan). She is a keen genealogist.

The Thursday Volunteers could use more help. As people realize the Internet does not have all the information they might want, especially as it relates to Manitoba, more requests come in. In order to respond in a timely manner, having more folks would help. If you are interested, drop in on any Thursday and you might become 'Watson' to Jim Rutherford's 'Sherlock'.

Two members of the group were unavailable on the day I visited: Kathleen Kristjansson and Rick McLellan, both experienced researchers. Rick also takes care of MGS finances.

Without a doubt the strength of MGS is the volunteers. This article has highlighted three groups, but there are so many more that work hard at making MGS a valuable resource in the hunt for family information. If you are a member or not, and local to Winnipeg (or the Province, or just like to travel), come to the Resource Centre and see what is available. You will be pleasantly surprised with what you find.

Thank you Volunteers!

++++++



## **MANI – “BITS, BOTS, BLOGS”**

Computer language is full of jargon and acronyms. I will try to avoid or at least explain any I use in this article. MANI is the MGS Online Database which will include all of the MGS created indexes. MANI stands for the **M**anitoba **N**ame **I**ndex. We are currently working with a group of Red River College computer students to expand it.

Since 2014 the Manitoba Genealogical Society (MGS) has been working on a major project called MANI, an online database of MGS

resources – newspaper obituaries, local history books, and cemetery transcriptions, etc. Because of its size it has been developed over several phases. When the MANI project is finished it will combine about 80 different MGS indexes, with 1,250,000+ entries into one searchable database.

### **A Look At 2016**

In the fall of 2016 we uploaded the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> record into MANI! Hitting 1,000,000 records would not have been possible without our dedicated MGS volunteers. First, those that worked to create the original individual indexes that were located in the MGS Resource Centre and then the volunteers that digitized and formatted the indexes so that they could be uploaded into MANI. As we expand MANI we will need additional volunteers to prepare content for MANI and to re-read cemeteries.

During this past fall, we worked with a designer to add new graphic elements to MANI so that it matched the new look of the MGS website, the MGS Facebook page and KOHA, our online Library catalogue. We have also adopted the new designs in our print material.

### **MANI 3.0 – What’s In Store for 2017?**

Software versions increase to a new number when major change takes place. Small changes are marked by point something changes, 2.1 etc. At the end of this winter you will see major changes in MANI. We are adding a new module, improving functionality, fixing bugs and continually adding content.

### **ACE Project Space**

We have been very lucky to have been able to partner with the Accounting and Computer Education department of Red River College during the development of MANI. This is our fifth project cycle that we have partnered with the Business Information Technology student teams. MGS has received an estimate of what it would cost to create the current project, the CT Module (Cemetery Transcription Module) as well as to rewrite what we currently had using a different set of software. The price was \$130,000. That is the value of what we will

have created once the current project cycle is finished.



**PHOTO:** The 2017 ACE project team: Instructor Ralph Dueck, Joshua Sadiua, Matthew Isliefson and Qichen Zhao



**PHOTO:** The team working in newly acquired space located in the local “Innovation Alley” (<http://www.innovationalley.com>). This is a very exciting space right in the heart of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The students work full time for one term on the projects and in return we provide money to the College’s Bursary and Scholarship fund from which they receive an award.

The student teams work in sprints where they focus on specific goals for a limited time period. The initial sprints were designed to allow them to learn the structure of the MANI code by investigating and solving some of the MANI known bugs. They also worked on some of the ideas for the module and did “Proof of Concept” development to prove what was possible. As part of this initial process, they also set up a new server that they will use while they refine the design for the new MANI features.

## CT Module and App

This project will create a new module in the MGS MANI database, to enable the online storage, editing and updating of Manitoba cemetery transcriptions. MGS currently has 1,400 print-based Manitoba cemeteries transcribed, but only the indexes are uploaded and supported in MANI.

Updating and expanding the records of Manitoba cemeteries has been an important project of MGS for many years. It is a very labour intensive process. To prepare transcripts, volunteers visit a cemetery and record all information on each stone. The data is checked for accuracy. Many cemeteries have not been updated since the 1970s. One of the earliest collections uploaded to MANI was the current, but incomplete, MGS Cemetery Transcription Index. This collection consists of over 1,400 indexes of Manitoba cemeteries, memorials and burial sites completed by MGS. MANI currently includes over 400,000 burial records in its indexes. The addition of this cemetery module will eventually become the management tool and document repository for Cemetery Transcriptions in Manitoba.

This module will also allow for the publishing of the most current Cemetery Transcriptions for printing or PDF downloads. To facilitate the field work, an app is being developed that can be downloaded and installed on the MGS volunteer’s computer. It will allow them to view existing data from the cemetery as well as update or add new records of burials.

## API

API refers to “Application Program Interface” and it is the way that two servers can talk to each other and exchange data. We will be adding an API that will allow MANI to search an additional 125,000 burials located in the City of Winnipeg and Brandon cemetery databases. Both Winnipeg and Brandon have declared an open-access model for these records which allows us to query their databases at the same time that our members query our internal MANI records. This will allow us to have the most up-to-date information available included in your search results.

## **Distributive Process**

The proposed module procedure will enable a distributive workflow as all of the required software and files will be housed on our server (MANI) and be accessible online. The current documents will be digitized and stored in the MANI development module. Online access will allow our volunteers to work from wherever they have Internet access to update proof and edit the data. The MANI database will always have the most current information in it and digital access and publishing-on-demand will be available through the MGS Resource Centre or from our online e-store, as printed or downloadable pdfs. It will include a description of the Cemetery and update that information in MANI. The pages from the transcripts will be linked to the index search results and the complete Transcripts will be available from the MGS e-Store.

## **Bug Fixes and New Features**

When we launch MANI v3.0, many of our documented bugs will be addressed. It will also add some of the features requested by users. The automated membership renewal reminder is an example of a feature added to MANI, as part of the MGS membership module, but one that did not function due to changes by one of our vendors. It now works and we continue to refine it.

## **Server Upgrades both Processing Power and SSL**

Demand on the MANI server has increased as MGS members activated their accounts and, we attracted new members because of the MANI database. Demand also increased as members used the MANI database more often, as they became comfortable with how to use it and discovered how useful it was. We have upgraded the server by expanding storage space as well as RAM, the computer's working memory. This should solve the problem that some users have experienced, when heavy demand caused the server to slow to a crawl. We are also installing an SSL certificate that will make MANI a secure website. (SSL = Secure Sockets Layer, a computing protocol that

ensures the security of data sent via the Internet by using encryption.)

## **Members Only Space**

Many of you have noted the "Members Only" space, added this fall to the existing MANI server. Additional programming was needed in order to make the files added to this space visible to MGS members. This feature will be available with the release of MANI v3.0. It will allow MGS to share information designed for our members.

We will also be launching the MGS e-Store and Research Request features, once additional features needed, are added.

## **Our Future**

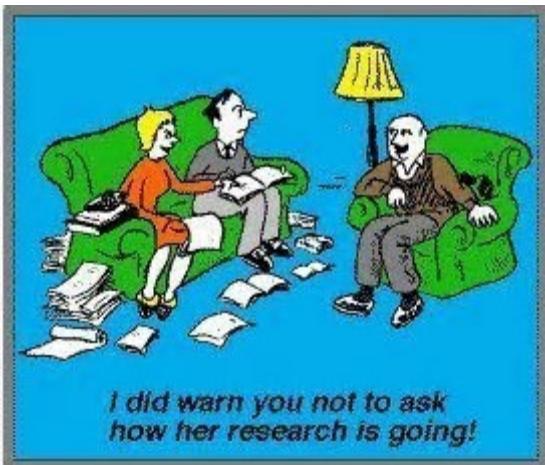
We need to preserve this precious and unique collection of Manitoba data. Through the many phases of MANI, we have been upgrading and updating our various collections, and ensuring they are in a format that ensures their preservation for access into the future. Having a tool that enables efficient updating of the cemetery collection will help us add burials, since the 1970s and 1980s. Cemeteries that have been updated more recently can be maintained and kept up-to-date without major effort, and our users will always have access to current data. Having MANI as an up-to-date database will attract new members and casual users.

Preservation of these Manitoba historic records is vital as we continue to see headstones damaged by vandals or weather, making them unreadable.



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

## The Last Laugh



**GENE TOONS** by Wendell Washer



Some family records conjure up strange images.

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

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Editorial Consultant – *Janice Butcher*

Proof Reader – *Joyce Elias*

Advertising Sales – *David Farmer*

Features:

Book Reviews – *Enid Dorward*

From the Past – *Kathy Stokes*

Library/Library Lines – *Mary Bole*

Periodical Potpourri – *Enid Dorward*

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Your financial support helps with:

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**Unit E-1045 St. James Street**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 1B1**

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**Email: [contact@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:contact@mbgenealogy.com)**

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# **Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.**

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Please supply your ad as a Word document of the correct size in an e-mail attachment. A proof will be sent for your approval before printing. Photos should be supplied as a jpeg (300 dpi). Minimum photo manipulation charge \$15.00 and \$15.00 each additional 15 minutes .

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Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 to 3:00  
Wednesday Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 (September through June)  
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