

# GENERATIONS

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# **MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**

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

**Membership and Branch Information is available on page 27 of this issue or on our website.** Full members receive four issues of *Generations*, general mailings, and are also entitled to one free Query per year, plus library privileges. Correspondence should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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# **GENERATIONS**

Volume 38

Number 2

June 2013

**The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.**



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



For many years I have 'complained' that my ancestors were a dull lot. We had no horse thieves, scoundrels, scandals or even celebrities. Recently I came across a gentleman who turned out to be my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, one Russell Farmer. Seems Russell was either in hard times or was perhaps not a nice gentleman. In 1794 he was arrested for stealing a letter containing, what appeared to be a rather small sum of money. Poor Russell was found guilty and in April 1795, Russell Farmer was hung for his misdoings, outside of Newgate Prison. So I guess the morale of the story is that if you look long enough you will find a story of every kind.

To help you enjoy summer, this issue has some very good articles to go with your afternoon tea or coffee. An especially good read are the two articles on the MGS Library, the early years by Louisa Shermerhorn and the latter years by Mary Bole. I found both articles to be very interesting and I am sure they will bring back a lot of memories for many of our readers.

Rural Ramblings is a story of tragedy this issue, but it gives a fascinating insight into how life was 'back then'. Life is definitely different today and, in many ways, much better and easier.

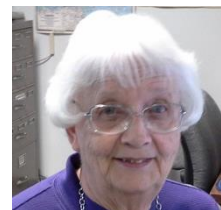
We also have the conclusion of Elizabeth Briggs' excellent exposé of the Hudson Bay Company's Servants Contracts and how we can read and understand them. I find it fascinating to read this and get a glimpse into the past. I don't know about you, but my imagination runs wild with images of these fur traders and employees and how they lived.

Of course we have all our regular features, providing lots of great information. We also have an update on the 2013 Capital Fund-Raising Campaign, and many thanks to all who have donated.

Have a great summer (I have heard it is coming) and hope you enjoy this issue.

## From the President

Kathy Stokes #125



Is it really time to put away our earmuffs and get down to the serious business of enjoying spring and summer? After this past winter, I'm inclined to take the good weather with some cynicism, expecting a payback from Mother Nature for every warm or hot day we are able to enjoy.

MGS members have had a very busy spring. There are new executives in two of our branches. South West Branch is now under the direction of Laura Crookshank and her capable crew. In the Dauphin Branch, Shirle McGimpsey heads up an executive with some new faces. Welcome ladies, to the world of non-profit management!

In early April, several MGS members from Winnipeg journeyed to Brandon for a one-day workshop. We all enjoyed the day, along with some fifty workshop attendees. It was a great chance to get to know SW Branch members better.

Later in April, MGS Council met for the second of its three yearly meetings. Council approved the signing of a three year lease on our current premises at a favourable rate. Council also decided to form an In-House Audit Committee to go over our books and present a financial statement to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Early in May, MGS held a large garage sale as part of our fundraising campaign. More than \$600.00 was realized. Many thanks to all who helped and contributed with this sale.

Our Capital Campaign continues until the end of June. A large amount has been raised through donations from our generous members and we have managed to utilize gifts-in-kind as well. Many of the funds from the campaign are targeted towards the updating of our computer system and the work is well underway as I write this. It will take quite a bit more time to complete this computer project as we are dependent, in part, on students at Red River



College and their professors and we must work around their term assignments.

By the time you read this, it will be summer and our Nominations Chair, Daryl Dumanski will be on the hunt for members willing to step up and contribute time to the running of MGS. We have long been without a Finance Vice-President which we need to assist with our long-range financial planning. In my contacts with other family history societies, I see that our problems are not unique. Other societies are losing members to Internet resources as are we. We need volunteers to help spread the word that family history is so much more than simply researching with a computer. Many of our long-time volunteers feel the need to retire. Can you help us fill their very large shoes? Please think about what you could contribute and contact us.

Enjoy your summer.

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## The Front Cover

This issue's Front Cover graphic is once again the Capital Fundraising tree. The difference is that in this issue the tree shows the number of donations (each leaf represents a donation), as well as the total amount of money raised. As of press time, the donations received total \$14,535.00. The master tree is on display at the Resource Centre.

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## MGS VOLUNTEERS

### An Award Winner

Congratulations to MGS President Kathy Stokes for being awarded one of the Lieutenant Governor's prestigious "Make a Difference Community Awards". The award was presented by the Honourable Philip S. Lee, C.M. O.M. to Kathleen Stokes "in recognition of her volunteer efforts at The Manitoba Genealogical Society, Fort Garry Historical Society and Manitoba Heritage Federation and her dedication to preserving history". The presentation took place

at Volunteer Manitoba's gala Awards Dinner at the Convention Centre on April 24. A contingent from MGS attended to offer congratulations and cheer her on.



PHOTO: Honourable Philip Lee and Kathy Stokes

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## A New Look for the Resource Centre Kitchen

*Virginia Braid, #868*  
*V.P. Administration*



PHOTO: Joyce Elias and Dave Farmer painting MGS's kitchen

Thanks to a couple of volunteers, our kitchen has a nice new clean look. It is off-yellow, and really brightens up the place. Many volunteers have commented on how nice it looks. If you are in the Resource Centre take a peek.



PHOTO: Some of our first members enjoying lunch in the new kitchen

## Help Wanted!

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



### A Help Wanted SUCCESS story.

In a recent "Help Wanted!" column (*Generations*, Vol 38, No.1, March 2013), there was an item about 'Angela, UK' looking for information for her brother Richard. Seems he was trying to find information about his birth father Eric D. Cunningham-Greenlaw.

I read the article, put the publication away but kept going back to it. There was an Eric D. Greenlaw on my extended Family Tree. I emailed cousin Bev in BC, then e-mailed Angela for further information. End result was a match. Richard's Eric Cunningham-

Greenlaw is the Eric D Greenlaw on my Family Tree. Have since done further research for Richard and shared what information that Bev and I had.

Excitement is shared by all parties involved. Perhaps not a direct connection, but it is a Greenlaw connection nevertheless. Research is ongoing to hopefully find actual descendants of Eric David Greenlaw born Eric Mirzan Greenlaw.

Gail,  
Winnipeg

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The Manitoba Genealogical Society has a reciprocal agreement with the **Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS)** and the **Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS)**

If you present proof of current membership in **MGS**, you are entitled to a \$5.00 discount on your membership fee to either OGS or SGS.

Members of OGS and SGS, when presenting proof of current membership in one of those societies, are entitled to a \$5.00 discount on their MGS membership.

Proof of membership can be a copy of your current membership card or current receipt for membership dues.



## 2013 Capital Campaign Update

Janice Butcher #4499

Chair, 2013 Capital Campaign

What a great start!! As of May 22, 2013 MGS has received \$14,535.00 in contributions from 113 people. Since our Campaign goal is \$30,000.00 we are almost half way there. A big **thank you** to the many donors who have been so generous. The Campaign runs until June 30, so we are hoping that contributions will continue to flow in. Just as a reminder, the proceeds from the Capital Campaign will provide funds for several new initiatives which will positively impact MGS for many years to come:

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

A full report on the Campaign and the progress of the above initiatives will be presented in the September issue of *Generations*.

If you are interested in statistics, of the 113 people who have contributed so far, 100 (88.5%) are current MGS members and 13 (11.5%) are former MGS members. Of the 100 current member donors, 63 reside in Winnipeg and 37 reside outside of Winnipeg, with some living in other provinces and the United States.



## From the Past

### Rural Ramblings

Kathy Stokes #125

*Winnipeg Tribune* January 5, 1912

Joseph Tees, an old time Manitoba settler died in Montreal on January 3 of this year. Currently, he had been living in the USA and was visiting friends in Montreal at the time of his death. Joe first settled in Manitou more than thirty years ago and was once a candidate for the Liberal party in an election. Some twelve years ago he moved to Winnipeg and a few years later left for the United States. He is survived by sons J.M. and Dr. John both of Winnipeg and Joseph of Victoria B.C. His daughter, Mrs. Thomas Bryan lives in Calgary.

### *Brandon Mail*

16 April 1897

Alejo Gine, a strong man from Chile, was killed recently while giving an exhibition of his strength. Gine was balancing a plow on his chin when it slipped and pierced his breast. He had given several performances in Neepawa last July.

Four cars of settlers' effects recently came to Hamiota from Ontario. Among the new settlers are: John Merriott, John Barr, William Fletcher, J.L. Switzer, and Wilbur Shier and wife, all from Kirkton, ON; William, Thomas and Samuel Sheardown of Richmond Hill, ON; J. Couke with wife and family from Embro, ON; Mr. Townsend with wife and family as well as W.A. Leslie all from Acton West, ON.

8 April 1897

Post offices at Gartmore and Lake Dauphin have been closed and a new post office has been opened in the Dauphin townsit with Thomas Iredale as postmaster.

Burnside Post Office has been renamed Ridgeland Post Office and Burnside Station is now called simply Burnside Post Office.

31 December 1896

P. Pearson of the CPR Bridge department in Virden went down into a well to measure the

depth of water there. When section men came in at noon, they found his clothes in the tank. A further search revealed Mr. Pearson at the bottom of the well, dead.

24 December 1896

Councillor Isaac Mossop and Miss Jessie Rintoul were married at Reston on December 16, 1896.

?? October 1896

A young man from Minnedosa, out shooting last Saturday shot a prairie chicken and, probably thinking of the old adage about killing two birds with one stone, hit a farmer's wife who was driving along the trail at the same time. One pellet from the shot hit her in the face just below her eye and she sustained a painful wound. Her heavy clothing saved her body from harm but her legs caught some of the pellets. It took some time for her to recover. Young men should be more careful!!

16 July 1896

The sudden and unexpected death of Mrs. J. W. Cooper of Alexander occurred recently at Souris and was a sad occasion. She had accompanied her husband to town in the best of health to have a day's enjoyment and came home a corpse. After shaking hands with D.H. Watson, she fell to the ground unconscious and expired minutes later. It is believed that she suffered heart failure from excessive heat. She was the daughter of D.H. Scott of Winnipeg and had been married but a few months.

(see Vital Statistics site) Note: John Wesley Cooper and Isabella Elizabeth Scott were married in Winnipeg on December 27, 1894.

2 July 1896

Men of Brandon and vicinity are usually up to date. If not, it is because they lack opportunity. When they get a chance, they take it and catch right up to the procession.

For that reason, when Professor Dorenwend arrives in Brandon, they will visit him and provide themselves with first class wigs and toupees. Gentlemen who are bald and from prejudice will not wear coverments should remember that they take great risks – any candid physician will tell them so. The best men in the

land will wear these scientific coverments for no other reason than head protection and they need no recommendation. Read the advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper and bear in mind that you should come to the Grand View Hotel.



## Are These Your Ancestors?

Kathy Stokes #125

*(From reports in the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Tribune of the day.)*

The Fort Garry I remember from my youth was a great place to grow up. Up against the southern boundary of the City of Winnipeg, it was sparsely populated as it extended down the main road, Pembina Highway. Settlement was slow with almost no buildings or homes built during WWII. In the western part of the municipality were dairy farms settled largely by Belgian immigrants. Running water was not available in all parts of the area, particularly in parts on the west side of Pembina. Fort Garry was not yet city, but not completely rural either. Such is the setting for the story of the Frank's Cabins fire.

Frank's Cabins were one of several establishments of what were then called tourist camps. Located on the east side of Pembina Highway between Crane Avenue and what is now Nesbitt Bay, the cabins were nestled in an attractive lot with many large trees. Frank Sarka of 1620 Pembina Highway was the owner.

During WWII, housing was very difficult to find anywhere. Mr. Sarka had decided to turn some of his cabins into housing by joining two together and winterizing them. The cabin where the fire occurred was described as a three room house, created when two cabins were joined together and measuring in total 12 feet by 28 feet. It was heated by a four plate wood stove.

During the early morning hours of Sunday, October 16, 1943 families in the surrounding area were awakened by the light cast from a fire at Frank's Cabins and by the screams of children, three of whom were found outside the burning building. A close neighbor, Mrs. Jack



Patluck took them to the nearby home of Mr. Sarka.

Mr. Sarka immediately phoned Police Chief Alex Martin, and then went to the Manahan home of the Fort Garry Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Plouffe, who had no telephone. Under Plouffe's direction, a hose was connected to the Crane Avenue hydrant and concentrated on the remaining cabins to keep them from being set alight. Meanwhile several men set up a bucket brigade which was ineffectual in dealing with the fire, although it did prevent the next door cabin from being set ablaze. The nearest water supply on the site was located in a washroom at the rear of Mr. Sarka's home. A tap closer to the burning cabin had been shut off some days earlier because of a burst pipe.

Who were the victims of this tragic fire? They were Mrs. Frances Coward and her infant daughter Carol. The other family members, children Patricia 6, Jackaline 4, and Jimmie 3, were able to escape the blaze, thanks to the courageous efforts of little Patricia. The Cowards had lived in the enlarged cabin for about a year. The children's father, Sgt. Harold Coward of the RCAF had been posted a week previously to Calgary where he was a radio instructor.

An inquest into the fire, conducted in the week following by Dr. A. W. Hogg, the coroner for the area, described the circumstances of that fatal night. Mrs. Coward and friends had been out for the evening and had returned briefly to the cabin where Mrs. Coward proudly displayed her baby, little Carol. Someone lit the stove at that time. Some of the party then left for Jack's Place, a roadhouse farther south on Pembina Highway. Mrs. Coward returned about 1.30 am.

By 5.15 am, the cabin was burning. Patricia, the oldest child, managed to get her small brother and sister out of the building but was unable to lift baby Carol from her crib. Efforts to awaken Mrs. Coward, who was sleeping on the couch in the front room and was described at the inquest as a heavy sleeper proved unsuccessful. Thus the mother and baby perished. Mrs. Cowan's body was found on the floor, near the front

door. Efforts to rescue the crying baby were unsuccessful, even though a bystander, George Gratton, tried and failed. The three surviving children were eventually taken to the home of Mrs. Coward's maternal uncle, Andrew Robertson of 20 Knappen Avenue.

The inquest found that death was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. There were recommendations for better training and equipment for Fort Garry firefighters and for adequate numbers of fire extinguishers to be placed in tourist camp cabins.

Dr. Hogg was especially impressed with little Patricia Coward. He noted "... the outstanding and very remarkable - really heroic - action of this six year old in guiding her brother and sister to safety after failing to waken her mother."

The cause of the fire was never determined. Witnesses agreed that the fire in the stove had been lit during the time they were in the cabin between 12.30 and 1.30 am. One witness thought that there was a lid missing from one of the rings on the stove and that there was a smell of smoke in the cabin; however all lids were accounted for by fire investigators.

I was a child of eight when all this happened, but I can recall the shock of Fort Garry residents and the conversations among my parents and the neighbours. I so wanted to go down Pembina Highway from our Riverwood Avenue home, but my father thought that it was something I should not see. Fortunately for me, my older cousin who lived down the street, came along and said I could go with her and her friend. I have never forgotten the sight of that burned out cabin, with part of a wall standing and all the charred wood around it. It was really the first time I had been to the scene of a tragedy and it brought home the reality of the situation in a way that no newspaper description or radio newscast could.

I have never been able to forget this event and, over the years I have wondered how RCAF Sergeant Coward and his three young children managed as a family. It was wartime; they had no home and more important, they had no wife and mother to keep the family together.

This story also gives a picture of life during wartime in our country. There was not enough housing for those who needed it. Imagine a mother whose husband was away trying to manage in such inadequate accommodation with four small children, the oldest being only six. Imagine having to use a washroom located some distance from your living quarters in the chill of a Winnipeg winter when you had four children to keep clean. In a yet-to-be fully developed suburb like Fort Garry, many modern day amenities were lacking. Imagine a deputy fire chief without a telephone. Imagine the hydrant so far from the source of the fire.

Mrs. Coward and baby Carol were indirectly casualties of war because of the situation in which they were forced to live - less than adequate housing. They were but two of many whose lives were made so difficult by a war far away.

Whatever happened to this family?

### **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.

### **How To Be Insulted and Like It!**

With the advent of Twitter, Facebook, and instant messaging, some would say that the art of using the English language has been lost. As a reminder of the 'old days', these outstanding insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words and 140 characters.

- *A Member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."*

*"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."*

- *"He had delusions of adequacy."*  
- Walter Kerr
- *"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."*  
- Winston Churchill
- *"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."*  
- Clarence Darrow
- *"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."*  
-William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).
- *"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."*  
- Moses Hadas
- *"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."*  
- Mark Twain
- *"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.."*  
- Oscar Wilde
- *"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one."*  
- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill
- *"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ....if there is one."*  
- Winston Churchill, in response.
- *"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."*  
- Stephen Bishop
- *"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."*  
- John Bright
- *"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."*  
- Irvin S. Cobb
- *"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."*  
- Samuel Johnson

- *"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."*  
- Paul Keating
  - *"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."*  
- Charles, Count Talleyrand
  - *"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."*  
- Forrest Tucker
  - *"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"*  
- Mark Twain
  - *"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."*  
- Mae West
- "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."*  
- Oscar Wilde
- "He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts...for support rather than illumination."*  
- Andrew Lang (1844-1912)
- *"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."*  
- Billy Wilder
- "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."*  
- Groucho Marx



## Our Library Indeed!

David Farmer #2244, Editor

Without a doubt, one of the most valuable assets of the Manitoba Genealogical Society is the Library within the Resource Centre. Many members have used the Library over the years and are familiar with its holdings. But newer members may not be so well-versed. The following two articles written from the perspective of two of our longest members and who have played an integral part in developing what we currently have, provides us with a perspective many of us may not have. The

articles are written from the Point of View of the author's actual involvement and recollections; they are filled with historical, as well as anecdotal information. They are both a very good read and will bring back many memories for most of you. For us newer members, these articles will give us a better understanding of the work and effort that has gone into the building of the Library we have today.

In addition to the Library information, these articles serve as a history of the growth of MGS, from very humble, simple beginnings to what it is today. The Library is more than just a collection of books; it is truly the heart of the Resource Centre.

Mary Bole is our current Librarian, you will be familiar with her regular feature in Generations I am sure. Louisa Shermerhorn preceded her in that role. In both their articles you will get a flavour of the kind of volunteers that they are and have been. Both of them are very quick to highlight the efforts of others during the years it took to build the Library.

We should all be very proud of our Library.

## The Manitoba Genealogical Society Library – In the Beginning, 1976 – 2003

Louisa Shermerhorn, MGS #567L

*"On June 12, 2008 I had a chat with Roy McLeod, last Sunday, while attending a Field Day at Inkster Park. Roy was an early volunteer with MGS back in the 1980s when I first became involved with the MGS Library. This meeting prompted me to do as Mary Bole, our current librarian, had asked me to do some time ago – write an outline of the Library Committee through the years. With luck I may get it finished. One of my main considerations was always to acknowledge those volunteers who spent so much time setting up, manning, maintaining, and promoting our library. I think I will do it year by year but may not necessarily list all volunteers each year, as many served for a number of years."*

- Louisa Shermerhorn

The Library has been an important part of MGS since its founding in 1976; as the first mention of it was in *Generations*, Volume 1 #2 Winter 1976. At that time we were exchanging journals with 14 other Canadian societies and had 8 books. Iris Rosser, a founding member, was appointed librarian. The *Harrod Family* by Lorne Harris was our first family history book. By the winter of 1977 the library had spent \$12.86. Books were briefly housed at 2031 Portage Avenue, and then moved to the Winnipeg School Division Teachers' Library at 436 William Avenue. In 1981 the books were moved to the Teachers' Library at 1180 Notre Dame Avenue, which is where they were when I became involved.

In 1978 the Library was allotted \$300.00 for the purchase of books. The books had been catalogued, a list of holdings made, and all were on display at our Seminar, September 28-29, 1979. In December of that year, the Library Committee became one of the Standing Committees of the Society. By 1980 Nan Florence and Gerald (Gerry) Brown were writing book reviews for *Generations* and MGS was on Notre Dame Avenue. At that time the budget was \$800.00 and books, periodicals and journals could be borrowed by members. Gerry was always instrumental in the Library's development.

Iris resigned and in 1980 Dorothy Wilson became the librarian; she remained so until the end of 1982. A system of lending boxes of books to the Branches was started, which continued for a number of years. A report in December noted that there were already some missing books!

Dorothy resigned at the end of 1982 and I was listed as Library Committee Chairperson in the January 1983 issue of *Generations*. In September 1983 the Library and offices of MGS moved to Room 311 at 504 Main Street (Royal Bank Building). We were open Monday through Friday from 12:30 – 4:30 and the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 – 1:00. We had a donation of library shelving from the Winnipeg Public Library (some is still in use for supplies in 2013). We had also acquired a 6-drawer card

catalogue, a step stool, bookends, some binding tape, as well as some office equipment. And we reported the loss of 13 books with a rough replacement value of \$175.00. Barbara Page, editor of *Generations*, had started including reviews of new books in our journal and we were also listing new library acquisitions, which we still do today. Roy McLeod, Connie McLeod, and Kathy Stokes were volunteering in order to keep the office and Library open. Kathy also began her 22 year stint of indexing Anglican records.

In the spring of 1985 the MGS office and Library moved to Room 420, 167 Lombard Avenue (Grain Exchange Building). Here we had a separate room for the library holdings. In April we asked for donations towards the purchase of microfiche – specifically for the 1984 International Genealogical Index (IGI). In October we advertised the sale of *MGS Library Holdings 1985* for \$7.50. Mavis Menzies was hired as the MGS Administration Assistant and our library was open for more hours. By December that year Mavis and Maureen Smith were volunteering to help with the Library. In her report to Seminar 85, Mavis Menzies noted that the library had over 1,200 books, many of them community histories. She suggested that members might consider indexing such books but, unfortunately, few did. The indexes which were done have been very useful. One volunteer who did 3 or 4 such indexes was Bill Olmstead, who also became our "bookie" volunteer – he posted books to out-of-town members upon request. This service is still being provided, for the past 4-5 years by Josie Stemerowicz and currently by Joyce Elias. Mavis also mentioned our Vertical File which contained miscellaneous clippings. These have since been put into binders and catalogued by geographical area. We were awarded a Manitoba Heritage Foundation grant to purchase a microfilm reader/printer so we were adding sources on microfilm as well. By the end of 1985 the Library and office were open 9:00-4:30 Monday through Friday, the first Saturday of the month from 10:00-1:00, and the second Wednesday of the month; they were open until 7:30pm.



From my records here are some excerpts from February 1988: 3<sup>rd</sup> – computer input into 1988 Supplement for 2½ hours. (I did much of this work at home, as do Mary, Enid and Joyce now), then went to MGS to see about computer program. 7<sup>th</sup> – at MGS. Aileen and Joyce in, latter also on computer, did a lot of entries. Beth, Bill, and Mabel also in. 11<sup>th</sup> – Council meeting 1:00-4:00, worked in library in a.m., typing, etc. 14<sup>th</sup> – MGS 7 hours.

Some new volunteers to the Library; Carolyn Lumsden doing book reviews for *Generations* and Beryl Robbins and Candy Kelner helping to keep the Library open on evenings and Saturdays. Lori (Frank) Walker began doing periodical reviews and lists for *Generations*, a task she continued to do until 2008. Joan Bailey began cataloguing our materials. In 1987 we produced a *Supplement to Library Holdings*. Cecile Alarie-Skene joined the committee doing reviews for our French language issues. In 1989 we bought our first computer from Arnold's Computers in St Boniface and began to enter library holdings. In 1991, thanks to a grant from Manitoba Heritage Foundation, we acquired a computer program for library cataloguing. Mary Bole still uses that same program, albeit on a newer computer. Joyce Elias was one of our first computer entry people. It is interesting to note that many of the volunteers back then are still active and many are still volunteering for the library – Orma Sozansky, Joyce Elias, and myself. Others at that time were Beth Audette, Mabel Hykaway, Don Hyde, Brenda McConnell, Roger Andre, and Ian McGregor. Some worked days keeping the Library open and doing library tasks such as processing books. Some wrote book reviews. We also started sending duplicate books and journals to the Branches.

Some more records for 1989 from my own memoirs: we opened Jan 3; Beth was in. The Education Committee must have asked for a special book order. For some reason we seemed to have trouble keeping typing volunteers – a Donna and a Gillian both declined to continue. At that point Joan Whiston was working on Research. We got, or considered getting,

Library Technician trainees from RRCC for work experience – can't remember if we did – may be in the Annual Report.

For December 1991 I noted the following volunteers on the Library Committee: Beth Audette acted as my Co-Chair and did periodicals – we exchanged with 46 other societies and subscribed to 6,284 members signed-out periodicals. Joyce Elias did computer entry, book reviews, and helped patrons. George Glenn did shelf reading, and shelving. Mabel Hykaway was indexing members' pedigree charts. Pat Kelly recorded all donations and sent thank you cards – more than 90 people donated books and periodicals. Denise Kolesar became our computer trouble-shooter. Alison McKinnon helped with miscellaneous tasks including “overdues” and she started acquisitions. Brian Lenius helped with computer programming. Bill Olmstead was still mailing books and indexing local histories. Lillian Ramsay came once a month to file catalogue cards. Elsie Smith did the Vertical File. Mavis Smith processed books and typed catalogue cards. Lori Walker continued reviewing English periodicals. Mavis Menzies took care of daily circulation and patron assistance, and also did book reviews. Over 4,000 books and periodicals, plus more than 1,000 microfiches and microfilms were used by patrons.

Orma Sozansky started shelving and indexing books and Eleanor Corbett began writing book reviews. She continued volunteering, mainly with the Research Committee, until the late 1990s when she moved east. Thelma Findlay and Hilda Matsuo also began composing book reviews. We also adopted a new rule: “The library would not open unless there were two people working.” In August 1992 we purchased the Minolta Microfiche/Microfilm reader for \$865.00 gathered by donations. We spent \$1,795.16 on library materials that year, plus we had many donations. I see that circulation, including “in-library” use, remained about the same. The summer of 1993 saw us move to 885 Notre Dame Avenue (Scouts building). I mentioned that some of the same persons who had helped us move to the Grain Exchange also

helped us move out, and then move again to the present Ellice Avenue location. It was on Notre Dame that we started to arrange our collection by geographical areas, each identified with a coloured dot, or a red maple leaf for Canada. Mary Bole, who soon began to do the cataloguing of our materials, says that her first task for MGS' Library was putting dots on some of the books! Another new volunteer was Linda White. Marilyn Thomas, who became VP of Resource Management, (now Administration), suggested keeping the Library open on Sunday afternoon and one evening per week. Mike Muth, Winnipeg Branch president at the time, was one of the staff persons at those times. Joyce Elias and various helpers started 17 years of transcribing records at the United Church Archives.

In December 1994 I made a list of volunteers – hopefully complete. It is quite remarkable: Pat Allan, Beth Audette, Alma Bentley, Mary Bole, Ruth Breckman, Eleanor Corbett, Flo Cox, Daryl Dumanski, Joyce Elias, Lynn Francis, George Glenn, Mabel Hykaway, Lorna Karman, Pat Kelly, Fredrica Knight, Walt McCaw, Mavis Menzies, Carol Moore, Pat Moreau, Jim Oke, Bill Olmstead, Len Perron, Lillian Ramsay, Beryl Robbins, Orma Sozansky, Marlene Gillespie and myself. Many are still actively volunteering.

1995 remained busy and we tried collecting fines for overdue books. This was a disaster, but we did shorten the borrowing time to three weeks from six, and one week for a CD-ROM. Daryl Dumanski began to reorganize the Vertical File of miscellaneous clippings. We produced a new *Library Holdings* publication.

Sadly in 1996 the East European Branch decided to withdraw from MGS to form their own society. A section of books (belonging to the Branch) relating to Eastern European countries was removed from MGS' Library. Conversely, we were adding more Manitoba sources, such as the aforementioned United Church Index. About this time we also began trying to obtain second copies of books which are usually considered "Reference" so they could be added to the circulating stacks. This

included "Manitoba Local Histories" and now we have two copies of many of those histories.

1997: New volunteers were Bill Birtles doing book reviews and Marion Eisler working on miscellaneous tasks such as shelving. We updated *Library Holdings*, inclusive to the end of 1995.

In August 1998 MGS moved to Unit E, 1045 St James Street where we still are today. This resulted in a much better organized library, thanks to the many volunteers who helped pack up and relocate the books – notably (then President) Chris Irwin and Walt McCaw. Walt was, for many years, MGS' book mender and general maintenance man. For fear of missing someone I will not name names but some still work on Tuesdays (Library Committee day) – a wonderful group. We had new periodical and journal shelves which displayed them to better advantage. After the Annual Meeting in October we held an Open House to show our new premises to members and others.

1999: Allan Pickard and Vivian Mitchell started working – also Bill Burland. Allan manned the front desk on Tuesdays until 2006, when Vivian, who had been doing various tasks, took over. Bill became our Computer chairperson.

2000: By June we were charging \$3.00/hour for Internet access (no longer done).

2001: Now that computers were becoming more useful for research and we had made Internet service available to patrons, we noticed a drop in the usage of print materials except for Manitoba sources. Circulation of CD-ROMs had increased.

2002: We put greater concentration on producing local interest indexes. We procured a special Library Rate from Canada Post for sending circulating library material to Canadian members. Josie Stemerowicz travelled in from Kenora once a month to post books as requested. She also took over the task of recording statistics for the Annual Report.

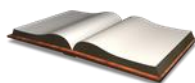
2003-04: I had requested \$4,000 for the Library budget - not sure we got it. We did get the "Ancestry" computer database about this time

(\$309.80USD\year). During the year we developed a policy about duplicate materials that are donated and donors were asked to sign a form allowing us to decide whether we would keep the material, donate it to a branch, or discard it.

At the end of 2003 Mary Bole accepted the position of Library Chair, as I had decided that it was time for me to resign. So from 2004 to the present I will let her continue this history.

Two other names which have not been mentioned are Aileen Shotten and Rae McFarlane, both of whom did some volunteering for the Library Committee. I hope I have not missed anyone else. Volunteers on days other than Tuesdays are commended also. Everyone who helps a patron find a book, CD-ROM, etc. is of course, doing a library task – THANK YOU. Also, the donations you give us – books, journals, money, also help the Library and our Society. Needless to say, without all the volunteers, we would not have anything.

The way to inner peace is to finish all the things one starts - but a library is never finished – there is always more to do. It has been a joy to work on the MGS Library Committee, and in other areas of MGS, and I will continue to help as I can.



### **The Manitoba Genealogical Society Library – The Current Years, 2004 – 2013**

*Mary Bole #884, Library Chair*

The position of Library Chair fell to me in time for the March 2004 edition of *Generations*, after Louisa had done the job for 25 years. I continued putting in lists of books acquired, in “Library Lines” (new and donated items), and added another article about finding aids for using the Library. Lori Walker went through all the periodicals arriving at the library and wrote a review called “Periodical Potpourri” for *Generations*.

I had volunteered at the Library on Tuesdays and fortunately all the Tuesday volunteers stayed on: Lorna Karman, Pat Allan, Allan Pickard, Walt McCaw, Lynn Francis, Joyce Elias, Josie Stemerowicz, and, of course, Louisa Shermerhorn. Vivian Mitchell, Enid Dorward, Mavis Gray, Karin Clegg, Judith Roe and Jan Cowan joined us in following years. Many others worked in and for the Library on days other than Tuesday as documented by Louisa. I echo her gratitude.

In 2004 we decided it was time to computerize the Library. The computer committee, headed by Bill Burland, had us online, but service was slow and undependable. Computers were largely used to read CD-ROMs. Moreover, the Library holdings were indexed on cards. Rather than utilizing a data base such as Excel we located a free library software program called KOHA. I called on the expertise and assistance of my daughter, Amber, who is a computer programmer. She soon adapted KOHA for our use, and dedicated a spare computer in her home as a CPU. We set up a team of volunteers, including Sharon Albo, Pat Allan and Enid Dorward, to input about 9,000 catalog cards into KOHA. Data entry was done online at their homes or at the MGS Resource Centre. By 2007 the project was completed; volunteers and patrons could search our holdings in the library, and it became available to everyone on their home computers. KOHA is a much more powerful research engine and an invaluable tool for inventory. Now we just need someone who understands the operating system, Linux, so we can bring KOHA home.

In 2004 and 2005 the Library Committee suggested to Council that we purchase a subscription to *Ancestry.com*. This was a new concept and brought about some debate, but with Bill Burland, the Computer Chair on board, we were able to get it. We started with an experimental six month subscription. It has become a major genealogical tool in our Library and has brought many patrons to the society.

At this time we decided that our purchase of books would concentrate on Manitoba local history. Today we have 842 different titles in

the Manitoba local history, school history and church history categories. This is an exceptional collection. We have over 10,000 items in the library including Manitoba, the remainder of Canada, Great Britain and Ireland.

Our first Genealogical Garden Party was held at the home of Joyce Elias in 2005. It included light refreshments, crafts, and genealogical consultations; that year we included a garage sale. Entertainment was supplied by 'Matchstalk Men'. We raised a total of \$1,322.40.

The Library received a special Postal Rate, which enabled us to send out library books and receive them back at a very reasonable rate. This allowed us to better service non-Winnipeg MGS members; unfortunately this "perk" is underutilized.

Manitoba Day became an annual event. The Library and Resource Centre is open to the public on the second Saturday in May. Volunteers are on hand to guide visitors through the facility. We always attract 30-50 visitors and recruit a few new members.

In 2006 we had our second Garden Party, hosted by the Tuesday Group, at the garden of Joyce Elias. Joan Whiston and Louisa Shermerhorn did genealogical consultations.

At this time our computerization project was coming into its own; indexes added included the "Obituary Index" of *The Winnipeg Free Press*, *Strays* (Manitobans dying outside of Manitoba) and *U of M Graduates Deaths*. The Library Committee started a surname index of all issues of *Generations*. This can now be found on the Library computers. Work for this project was coordinated by Sandra Havig and Vivian Mitchell, with many volunteers assisting them.

Joyce Elias and Kelly Southworth were purchasing books. Enid Dorward took on the "Book Review" section of *Generations*.

In 2007 we began a subscription to *Newspaperarchive.com* which has become our second most useful research tool. Allan Pickard, the longtime front desk man on Tuesday, passed away.

In 2008 we held our third Genealogical Garden Party. In *Generations*, Malcolm Dewar took over compiling "Periodical Potpourri" from Lori Walker.

Times were changing – computers coming more to the fore. Gord McBean was Computer Chair, Bill Burland became VP of Information Technology, as well as Editor of *Generations*.

In 2009, Joyce Elias finished the Indexing of the United Church Archive birth, marriage, and death project. Many members helped during the seventeen years.

Enid Dorward took on the job of "Periodical Potpourri", and has been at it since. The reporting of articles has a new format.

In 2010, Kelly Southworth took over the purchasing of books from Joyce Elias. Times are still changing; the main push of the society is adding databases to the library computers to make better use of the new computers and internet connection.

Kelly Southworth compiled a list of all local history books available for Manitoba, including what is available at MGS.

2011 saw the first digital copy of *Generations* sent out by e-mail; another sign of change. Thank you notes and overdue "threats" are now sent out by e-mail.

Kelly Southworth compiled another aid for the library: a list of all Manitoba communities, schools, districts, post offices and railway stations.

Mavis Gray has joined the Tuesday Library ranks. She has taken over the job of cataloguing the books, and now the writing of the article "Our Library" for *Generations*. Mavis was a charter member of MGS; her membership number is 008.

The *People File* was indexed. We have a number of Library volunteers who have inputted information and done indexing at home. The index is on the library computers.

In 2012, Vivian Mitchell, longtime front desk person for the Tuesday group, resigned from the



position. We miss her, and appreciate all the work she has done for us. She and Enid Dorward received the Flo Cox Award.

Two longtime volunteers died within a day of each other. Josie Stermerowicz used to come in from Kenora, Ontario one day a month, on the Greyhound Bus. What dedication. She looked after statistics and Books by Mail. Walt MaCaw hadn't been with us for awhile because of health reasons.

The Portage la Prairie Public Library compiled an index and made a copy of all the obituaries appearing in the *Portage Daily Graphic* from 1978 to 2010, and donated a copy to the MGS Library. Volunteers have also prepared similar indexes of Morris Municipality (Joyce Elias) and Manitoba Jewish Cemeteries (Lynn Roseman).

The daily user fee for the Library usage was raised to \$10.00 from \$5.00.

Now in 2013, membership is declining, funds are 'drying up'. To compensate, MGS has initiated a Capital Fund-Raising Campaign to boost our revenue. Computers are the new way to do research. We are purchasing more databases and computer programs than previously and, as a result, fewer books. We now have to compete with the Manitoba Library Consortium who has recently put some 200 local history books online. Nevertheless, we now have over 10,000 items catalogued on KOHA and are able to provide a very valuable resource to genealogists.

Hopefully this is not the end of the Resource Centre but a new and vibrant beginning with the introduction of the New Master Index coming to MGS in the near future.

For the 2004 Annual Report I wrote "We are sorry to see Louisa Shermerhorn step down as the Library Chair after 25 years. She is, however, still volunteering on Tuesdays and supervising us all very carefully. We are still learning from her. She is a hard act to follow." And those words are as true today as they were in 2004.

## Our Library

Mary Bole #884,  
MGS Librarian



## Researching Icelandic Ancestors

The MGS Library and Resource Centre has books and other materials which may be of use in researching Icelandic ancestry. Those listed below are merely a selection – there are many others.

### General

*Icelanders in North America: the first settlers.* Jonas Thor. 2002. (Europe 949.1 ICE)

*Nyja Island: saga of the journey to New Iceland.* Gudjon Arngrimsson. 2000. (Europe 949.1 NYJ)

*Iceland, the first American republic.* Vilhjalmur Stefansson. 1939. (Europe 914.12 STE)

*The New Icelanders: a North American community.* edited by David Arnason and Vincent Arnason. 1994. (Europe 949.12 NEW)

*Icelandic settlers in America.* Elva Simundsson. 1981. (Europe 971.27 GIML ICE)

*Selected resource material on Canadians of Icelandic descent.* prepared by the Icelandic National League. 1991. (Europe 949.1 SEL)

*Veterans of Icelandic descent, World War II, 1939-1945.* 1990. (Europe 949.1 VET)

*Islendingadagurinn [i.e. the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba]: an illustrated history.* Jonas Thor. 1989. (Manitoba 971.27 GIML ISL)

### Biography and Family History

*My parents: memoirs of New World Icelanders.* by Birna Bjarnadottir. 2007. (Europe 949.1 MYP)

*Vestur Islendingar: Icelanders in the West: the Brandsons.* Magnus Gudbrandsson and Gudrun Gudbrandsdottir. 2010. (Family History 929.2 BRA)

*Blessed: portrait of Asdis Sigrun Anderson.* compiled by Katrina Anderson. 2007. (Family History 929.2 AND4)

*Helgi Einarsson, a Manitoba fisherman.* Helgi Einarsson. 1982. (Family History 921 EIN)

*Sveinn Thorvaldson MBE: a family chronicle.* Skapti O. Thorvaldson. 1984. (Family History 921 THO)

*My Amma and me.* Evelyn K. Thorvaldson. 1993. (Family History 929.2 PAL)

### Local Histories

*Hnausa reflections: a history of the Breidavik district, 1876-2004.* Hnausa History Book Committee. 2004. (Manitoba 971.27 BIFR HNA)

*Icelandic River saga.* Nelson S. Gerrard. 1985. (Manitoba 971.27 BIFR ICE)

*The point and beyond: Arnes and district, 1876-1990.* Arnes History Book Committee. (Manitoba 971.27 GIML POI)

*Mikley, the magnificent island: treasure of memories: Hecla Island, 1876-1976.* Ingibjorg Sigurgeirsson McKillop. 1979. (Manitoba 971.27 BIFR MIK)

*Riverton and the Icelandic River settlement: the early years.* Steinn O. Thompson. 1976. (Manitoba 971.27 BIFR RIV)

*New Iceland farm names [map]:* based on a map prepared by the Icelandic Fron. (Maps 912 MAN GIML)

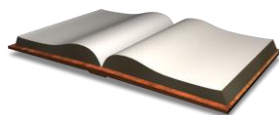
### Cemetery Records

*Big Grass Icelandic Settlement cemetery [aka Marshland cemetery].* (Cemeteries 1361)

*Gimli Cemetery* (Cemeteries 43)

*Riverton Lutheran Cemetery* (Cemeteries 221)

*Vidir Icelandic Cemetery* (Cemeteries 898)



## Library Lines

*Mary Bole #884*

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

### Manitoba

371 Boo *Boots, Buggies and Buses*, 1998. [Swan River, Man.]

371.2 SteR *Extracts from Province of Manitoba Public School Daily Register for Recording Attendance ... S.D. Ste Amelie #1222.*

796.4 Off *Office Program, 46<sup>th</sup> Annual National Open Track and Field Championships ... Canada, [1935?]*

929.06 Man *Strategic Plan 2012-2015, 2013.* [GS]

971.27 Daup *Dauphin Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration, 1898-1958.*

971.27 Daup *Town of Dauphin, Golden Jubilee and Reunion, 1948.*

971.27 Saaa *A Chronological History of the Parish of Notre Dame, formerly St. Michael, Selkirk, Manitoba, Index.*

### Eastern Canada

929.3 Pei *Prince Edward Island. Miscellaneous BMD.*

929.5 Ont *Osmond Protestant Cemetery, Dundas County, Ontario.*

929.5 Ont *Clinton Public Cemetery, Huron County, Ontario.*

929.5 Ont *Blyth Union Cemetery, Huron County, Ontario.*

- 971.03 Sto Stott, G. *Taken and Destroyed*, 2011. [1812 War]
- 971.3 AAA *Farmer's and Business Directory for the Counties of Frontenac, Hastings, Lennox, Addington, Prince Edward, for 1899*. [CD-ROM]
- 971.3 Durh Wood, W. *Past Years in Pickering*, 2007. [CD-ROM]
- 971.3 Huro Pattison, J. *Museum Musings: Brief Glimpses of Wingham's Past*, 1982.
- 971.6 Des DesBrisay, M. *History of the County of Lunenburg*, 2005. [Nova Scotia].

### Western Canada

- 378 Sas 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Directory, University of Saskatchewan 1998,
- 910.3 Sask *Age Shall Not Weary Them: Saskatchewan Remembers its War Dead*, 2005.

### Canada

- 363.12 Fam *The Families Remember*, 2007. [Bombing of Air India].
658. Eat *1908 Editions of the T. Eaton Co. Limited Catalogue*, 1970.

### Great Britain and Ireland

- 941.5 Ind *Indexes to Irish Wills*, 1970. [CD-ROM]
- 941.5 Vic 2 *Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland, 1536-1810*, 2005. [CD-ROM]
- 973.3 Wat Watt, G. *The British Campaign of 1771*, 2010. [CD-ROM]

### General

- 357 Hut Hutchins, J. *Boots and Saddles at the Little Bighorn*, 1976.
- 929.1 One 1 2 3 *Family Tree*, 2007.
- 974.4 Atw Atwood, W. *The Pilgrim Story*, 1940.

### Family History and Biography

- 921 Bun Gladys A. Bunn, *Pioneer Piano Teacher and Artist*, 1981.
- 929.2 Hay *Journal of the Clan Hay Society*
- 929.2 Haw *Nykola Hawryluk, 1874-1939*, 2011.
- 929.2 Lev Lever, S. *Letters from the Prairie*, 2012.
- 929.2 Por 3 James, M. *The War Years of Muriel Porteous*, 2012.
- 929.2 Cri5 Veldhuis, O. *A Promise Fulfilled*, 2012.

### Book Reviews

Enid Dorward #4502

*You can borrow these materials from the MGS library!*



### Using the MGS Library to Research Manitoba Schools

The MGS library has numerous resources to help you if you are seeking information about schools in Manitoba. Besides the books mentioned below, there are many books about individual schools. You can search for them by name in the KOHA online catalogue or you can search for "Manitoba schools".

This latter search will bring up 121 titles in the MGS library. Many are shelved with other

books about the rural municipality in which the schools are located.

**Manitoba Communities Alphabetical Listing** compiled by Kelly Southworth. Winnipeg, 2011. (MGS library call number REF 917.7127)

“Includes: current and former hamlets, villages, towns and cities; also includes former schools and districts, post offices, railway stations and sidings. It is a detailed listing of virtually any name that might appear as an address in documentation, relating to Manitoba ancestors. Also Includes legal land description and rural municipality.”

Example: Eddystone School was located at 36-24-13 W in the rural municipality of Alonsa.

Example: Ryerson School was at 30-10-23 W in Woodworth municipality.

**The Rural Schools of Manitoba: One Hundred Years in the History of the Rural Schools of Manitoba: Their Formation, Reorganization and Dissolution (1871 – 1971)** by Mary Brewster Perfect. Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, 1978. 325 p. (MGS library call no. REF 371 SCH)

Charts give name, number, dates of formation and dissolution, also reorganization.

Example: index shows Ryerson School, SW30-10-23W, page 79. That page shows it was formed 5/1/85 and dissolved 1/1/67. It was reorganized as part of Oak Lake SD # 439.

There are also maps of school divisions showing the areas of districts within them, as well as examples of records and correspondence relating the schools.

**Schools in Manitoba, du Ecoles Manitoba 1993.** Manitoba Education and Training, 1993. 58 p. (MGS library call no. REF MAN 371 SCH)

This book is a 1993 listing of schools within divisions, contact information, and grades taught.

## Periodical Potpourri

Enid Dorward #4502

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

### MANITOBA

**Dauphin Pioneers Association** (March 2013)  
Information about their website.

**Dumfries & Galloway FHS Newsletter** (March 2013) Selkirk Settlement, Winnipeg, MB Canada

**Manitoba History** (winter 2013)  
This is a special issue devoted to the Red River settlement.

**Mennonite Historian** (March 2013)  
Information about a Mennonite genealogy search engine.

**The New Leaf** (Dec. 2012) West-Man news from 100 years ago.  
- (March 2013) Important events in southwestern Manitoba 100 years ago.

**Time Lines** (Feb.–May 2013)  
Inter-active web site map of historic sites in Manitoba.

### CANADA

**Anglo-Celtic Roots** (spring 2013) Privateering during the War of 1812.

**Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia** (Fall 2012)  
German-Russian settlements in Canada.

**Relatively Speaking** (Nov. 2012) Canadian cap badges – description and illustrations.

### WESTERN CANADA

**Ancestry** (summer 2012) List of names of victims of the Nanaimo mine explosion 1887.  
- (fall 2012) Another source for those with BC roots.

**The British Columbia Genealogist**  
(June 2012) Victoria, BC county court 1859 – oaths of allegiance. (A list of names.) Also there is a brief guide to genealogical research sources for Victoria.



- (Dec. 2012) A list of winners of a Vancouver outdoor lighting contest, *Vancouver Sun*, 3 January 1933.

**Cariboo Notes** (summer/fall 2012)

A list of marriages in Quesnel, BC in 1912.

**Chinook** (Oct. 2012) Several articles about DNA in genealogy.

- (April 2013) Your family history of Canadian and British newspapers.

**East European Genealogist** (summer 2012) Immigration lists from the Edmonton immigration hall, with names, number in family, place of origin, nationality, value of effects.

**Family Footsteps** (May 2012) A chronological list of some major events in Kamloops from 1812 to 2005.

**Grapevines** (March & Oct. 2012) Strays from *The Summerland Review* and *The Oliver Chronicle*, British Columbia.

**Qualicum Beach FHS** (Sept 2012) The “Brown property” of Qualicum Beach.

- (Dec. 2012) Canadian genealogy online: BC research resources.

**Relatively Speaking** (Feb. 2013) The first Jewish agricultural settlement in Alberta – Blank’s Lake (est. 1893).

**Roots Around the World** (summer 2012) An article provides information about several WWII British servicemen who are buried in British Columbia.

**Roots Around the World** (winter 2012) Burial records from St. Matthew’s Anglican Church register 1916-1946 (Abbotsford, BC).

**Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin** (March 2012) Includes an article about genealogical resources for Craik, Saskatchewan.

**Tree Tracer** (Sept 2012) Early education in BC.

**The Treehouse** (Dec. 2012) Images of historical birth, marriage & death records available for the first time online via BC Archives.

**Victoria Genealogical Society Journal** (winter 2012) Images of historical birth, marriage and death records online via BC Archives.

## CARIBBEAN AND WEST INDIES

**Families** (Aug. 2012) Life of a Guyanese in Guelph.

**Practical Family History** (Oct. 2010) Web resources for the Caribbean and West Indies.

## GENEALOGICAL HOW-TOS

**American Ancestors** (spring 2012) Weighing the evidence – an article about genealogical proof.

**Ancestry** (spring 2013) Four important record sources for family historians.

**Branching Out** (Twin Ports Genealogical Society) (July 2012) Scrapbooking your family history.

**Chinook** (Jan. 2013) One article focuses on preparation for research in a library.

Another article discusses finding the living: not an easy task for genealogists.

**Internet Genealogy** (Oct/Nov. 2012) 25 sources for death information.

**Qualicum Beach FHS** (Sept. 2012) Developing a genealogical research plan.

- (Dec. 2012) Planning a research trip.

**SGS Bulletin** (Seattle) (fall 2012 – winter 2013) Skill-building: reading historic newspapers.

**Who Do You Think You Are?** (April 2012) Tips for getting the most out of the FamilySearch website.

## IRELAND

**Family Tree** (Aug/12) Records of Catholic ancestors.

- (Sept. 2012) Church of Ireland ancestors.

- (Oct. 2012) Ireland’s Presbyterians and Methodists.

**Lancashire** (Nov. 2012) The leaving of Belfast - 4,500 orphan Irish girls were shipped to Australia in 1850.

**IGRS research update** (July 2012) Expert tips regarding graveyards in Ireland.

-(Oct. 2012) Pre-Griffiths valuation manuscripts (1828-1864).

*Irish Genealogical Research Society Newsletter* (Aug 2012 & April 2013) Irish burials at St. Peter's Catholic Church (now St. Mary's Basilica) in Halifax, NS 1833-34.

*The Irish Genealogist* (vol. 13 no.3, 2012) Spanish archives of primary source material for the Irish.

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[mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=generations](http://mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=generations)

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## **An Introduction to the Database for HBC Servants' Contracts 1776 - 1926 (Conclusion)**

*Elizabeth Briggs #0484*

### **Reading the Index to the Servants' Contracts**

#### **Payment**

Servants of the Hudson's Bay Company had their salary quoted on an annual basis. For example, in the eighteenth century a labourer would receive £8 per year. The time period for this contract would range from one to five years, with the exception of apprentices where a contract would extend to seven years and permission from the father would be noted on the document. Sometimes the father would be named and he might sign the contract. If an apprentice seaman signed a contract in London it was more likely to be an *Apprenticeship Indenture* and it would be written on parchment. In Canada apprentices would sign regular contracts.

Men were employed in inland water transport, for example the canoes and more commonly, the York boats. Their summer duties would include transporting furs and goods to a coastal depot such as York Factory for transport to

London in September. Three positions in the canoe represented:

- Middleman or *Milieu*, the least skilled boatman who would receive the lowest wage;
- Bowsman or *Devant* at the front of the boat would receive a higher wage; and
- Steersman or *Gouvernail* at the back of the boat was the most skilled position, and he would receive the highest wage.

In 1865 the contract for John Irvine (A.32/34 fo.63) quotes each wage for eleven 'tripmen' named on the document as middleman £7, bowsman £7.10.0 and steersman as £9. The majority of men manning the canoes were French Canadian or Métis.

In 1846 Joseph Tiarona, a middleman [A.32/56 fo.243-243] received 10 piastres in advance of wages. This amounted to £2.10.0 [A.32/56 fo.243-244]

Some French Canadian [Québec] employees continued the long standing practice established in the eighteenth century by receiving part of their wages as:

- Money up front
- Equipment and supplies
- Clothing.

Money was often advanced to Scottish employees. A.32/40 fo.85 states clearly that money advanced was charged interest and deducted from wages:

*And I further agree that any advance made by me on account of such wages ....shall be charged twenty per cent on the advance and be deducted from the amount due me by my Employer.*

Normally up to half the first year's salary could be paid in advance. It was unusual to increase this amount. Some French Canadian employees carried a debt over from year to year. The Company would charge up to twenty per cent of their wages to reduce this debt. If he signed a new contract the balance was carried over from the old contract. Once the debt was paid and the

employee left the service he received any money owed to him in cash.

Money and equipment was advanced to French Canadian employees, e.g. Steersman Equipment [A.32/49 fo.464] spelling and abbreviations have been changed to current format.

- 1 Blanket 3 point
- 1 Blanket 2.5 point
- 2 yds Cloth
- 2 Shirts Cotton
- 9 lbs Tobacco

Some men received goods in addition to annual wages. The contract for a guide in 1862 allows François Roy to receive:

- £30 per annum wages
- 20 lbs sugar
- 2 lbs tea
- 25 lbs flour
- 10 lbs grease

Libre or lb is the abbreviation for one pound weight (mass) of supplies. The “s” is added when more than one pound is mentioned. This is equivalent to 16 oz or ounces. One ounce (oz) is approximately 28 grams (g).

During the period of the contract it was customary for employees to be paid by a credit note recorded in the account ledger. Debit notes on the opposite page would record the amount of goods purchased during each year. The balance at the end of the contract was given to each employee. In addition to an agreed annual wage there were benefits such as board and lodging and an allowance for tea and sugar. Many employees could purchase items from the Company post at a reduced rate.

Occasionally payments were made in guineas. This is an old British monetary term which was in common use until after the Second World War. One guinea was £1.1.0 [one pound one shilling or twenty-one shillings] and multiples of this figure would be expressed in the same number of pounds and shillings.

French Canadian employees were more likely to carry a debt reported in the new contracts. This differed from an advance in money; common with contracts for Scottish employees for the

advance would be paid in the first year of employment. Some French Canadian employees carried debts from one contract to another and the amount of money deducted from the wages would often be written in pencil at the back of the latest contract [A.32/22 fo.55] Jean Baptiste Boucher had 800 livres deducted from his wages “from his old debt.”

### Currency for Canadian Contracts

Some Canadians received their salary in British sterling [£], others elected to be paid in local currency. Payments included:

Livres	Pounds, equivalent to British Currency if statement contains “sterling”
Piastre	Piastres d’Espagne
Prix du Poste	Salary paid at the post

### Settlement

Some contracts carry an agreement written in the margin allowing the employee to settle in the country with a grant of land:

*..... in the event of the said John Spence being desirous on quitting the service of the Company in accordance with the terms of this contract to settle in the Country he shall be allowed to do so at Red River Settlement where ...a free grant of land will be apportioned.....out of the Company's provisions to the extent of Twenty five acres.*

Employees would be required to complete the full term of the contract usually five years before the grant was made to them.

### The Evolution of Servants' Contracts

Lawrence Lande's book *The Development of the Voyageur Contract 1686-1821*, should be consulted as it offers a detailed discussion on how early seventeenth and eighteenth century contracts were written by notaries public in Québec. Contracts are discussed from earliest times to the amalgamation of the North West Company with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821.

Early contracts focused on the career of the voyageur and these men were considered to be partners with the individual or group who sponsored the forthcoming expedition. As a result a portion of the goods the voyageurs carried to Québec was given to the financial sponsor of the expedition and a portion of the goods were owned by the voyageur himself. The term *hivernant* or *winterer* probably evolved from this symbiotic relationship between the voyageur and his sponsor. This term was familiar in many HBC contracts of later years.

The currency of this trade was beaver and a beaver note was a contract to pay for goods in prepared beaver pelts. Beaver pelts might be wet meaning they were worn close to the body and oil from the skin left sheen on the fur, or dry which meant they were newly skinned. Early voyageurs traveled in three man canoes, these expanded to five and later to ten man canoes for large expeditions.

Voyageurs formed an intimate relationship with First Nation People. They shared a mutual trust and inter-married giving rise to the Métis people. Men with British heritage envied the relationship between Frenchmen from Normandy and the First Nation People, but the majority of British men abhorred the consideration of marriage with native groups.

Nineteenth century contracts between the Hudson's Bay Company representatives and French Canadians followed the pattern of the early voyageur contract. These contracts were handwritten in French by a notary public and not all were signed or marked by the employee. They covered many types of employees including labourers, voyageurs, interpreters, guides and fishermen. When new contracts were signed in western posts they were completed in French on pre-printed forms. Currency could be given in livres, the ancient currency of Québec or pounds sterling.

For background information on Servants' Contracts and records which can be accessed in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives the following books can be consulted:

Briggs, Elizabeth & Anne Morton, *Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Volume One*. Westgarth: Winnipeg 1996

Briggs, Elizabeth & Anne Morton, *Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Volume Two*. Westgarth: Winnipeg 2003

Burley, Edith. *Servants of the Honourable Company: Work, Discipline, and Conflict in the Hudson's Bay Company, 1670-1870*. Oxford University Press: Toronto, 1997.

Lande, Lawrence *The Development of the Voyageur Contract (1686-1821)*. Lawrence Lande Foundation for Canadian Historical Research /McLennan Library, McGill University: Montreal, 1989.

Rich, E. E. *The Hudson's Bay Company, 1670-1870*. McClelland & Stewart: Toronto, 1960.



## So Are You Up for Some Change? (Version 2)

David Farmer #2277, Editor

It seems that the *Generations* gremlins were busy last issue. In my original item under this name, it seems that the e-mail address somehow changed, and so it was impossible for you to get any information on changes to *Generations*, to me. So this issue I will try again. (please refer to the March issue for the detailed item).

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

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

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

Feel free to address any issue, all submissions will be considered confidential, you don't have to put your name on it if you prefer not to. You can submit your thoughts to me at **(and this time it is the correct e-mail address)** [generations@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:generations@mbgenealogy.com) or you can write them out, put them in an envelope marked "*Generations* Survey" and leave them in the office at the Resource Centre. I will give you until July 31, 2012 to submit your thoughts and ideas and hopefully we can incorporate some of them into the September issue. And, for all those who submit something (paper or electronically), I will put your names in a hat and draw TWO names for a Tim Horton's gift card.

Thanks and I look forward to some really great ideas.

## Make a Donation

(extracted from the MGS website, posted by Deb Clark)

Donations now accepted on-line.

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Either way, you have the gratitude of MGS for any amount you choose to send.





## Branch News

There were some recent changes in the Branch Executives of the following Branches of the MGS:

### Dauphin Branch – New Branch Executive

President -	Shirle Mc Gimpsey
Vice President -	Gloria Baxter
Secretary –	Tammy Zorba
Treasurer -	Irene Nicholson
Past President -	Tammy Zorba

### South West Branch – New Branch Executive

President -	Laura Crookshanks
VP Administration -	Wayne Blair
VP Operations -	Grace Desjardins
Secretary -	Sylvia Nicholson
Treasurer -	Janice Cameron
Past President -	Eleanor Burch


## An Interesting Manitoba Resource



### Magnacca Research Centre Archives

Major Genealogical Holdings:

- Vital Statistics Clippings from The Brandon Sun.
- Local History Books
- Henderson City of Brandon Directories (1909-1998)
- City of Brandon Electoral Lists (1882-1924) listing all the registered voters in the City of Brandon. The list includes the individual's occupation, where they lived and if they owned the property.
- Southwestern Manitoba Loyal Orange Lodge Records. These records include memberships and minutes of various Loyal Orange Lodges of Southwestern Manitoba
- Photographs of the City of Brandon and other surrounding areas.



Photograph from the Leslie Liversidge Collection, Magnacca Research Centre

Daly House Museum  
122-18th Street  
Brandon, Manitoba, R7A 5A4  
Phone: 204-727-1722  
Fax: 204-727-1722  
Email: [dalymuseum@wcgwa.ca](mailto:dalymuseum@wcgwa.ca)  
Website: [www.dalyhousemuseum.ca](http://www.dalyhousemuseum.ca)

Please email or call ahead to book an appointment to access the Magnacca Research Centre's holdings and for information on our research fees.

Magnacca Research Centre is located on the third floor of Daly House Museum. The archives was named in honor of Stephen Magnacca, former Brandon Mayor and one of the Daly House Museum's founders.

Note: The Museum is not handicap accessible

Other Archival Holdings:

- Brandon and Westman Registered Music Teacher's Association Fonds. This collection includes minutes, membership lists and recital program information
- Records of the IODE, Brandon's Woman's Civic Association, Brandon Women's Institute, Canadian Council of Women Brandon Branch, Women's Canadian Club (1913-1917)
- Canadian Order of Foresters, Brandon Branch #2
- Canadian Order of Lady Forester, Brandon Branch
- Assiniboine Historical Society Records
- Brandon Normal School Photographs (1905-1938)
- Photographs of the City of Brandon and other surrounding areas.

## Winnipeg and Southeast Branch Seminar – October 19, 2013

### PROGRAM & EVENTS

Southeast and Winnipeg Branch  
Manitoba Genealogical Society

### New Directions

#### Keynote Presenter

Mrs. Robin D. Shimpa  
Member of APG  
Association of Professional  
Genealogists

#### Presenter

Mr. Louis Kessler  
Member of APG  
Association of Professional  
Genealogists

### SATURDAY, October 19

8:00 – 8:55  
Registration at Entry  
Refreshments

9:00 – 9:15  
Welcome - Chairperson

9:15 – 10:45  
***"Crossing the Border –  
Minnesota and North Dakota  
to Manitoba – and back,"***  
Part 1~ Robin D. Shimpa

10:45 – 11:00  
Refreshment Break

11:00 – 12:30

***"Crossing the Border –  
Minnesota and North Dakota  
to Manitoba – and back,"***  
Part 2~ Robin D. Shimpa

12:30 – 1:45  
Lunch

1:45 – 3:15  
***"Ideas and More Ideas for Your  
Genealogy Society"***  
Louis Kessler

3:15 – 3:30  
Refreshment Break

3:30 – 3:45  
Farewells and Thank You's

4:00 - 5:00  
Annual General Meeting  
Manitoba Genealogical Society

### SUNDAY, October 20

10:00 - 4:00  
MGS Library and Resource  
Centre  
Open Extended Hours for  
Seminar Attendees

Program accurate at time of printing,  
see [www.mbgenealogy.com](http://www.mbgenealogy.com) for up-to-  
date information.

### NEW DIRECTIONS



Southeast & Winnipeg  
Branch (MGS)

Presents...

### NEW DIRECTIONS

#### A Genealogical Seminar

Saturday, October 19, 2013  
Silver Heights United Church  
199 Garrioch Avenue,  
St. James, Winnipeg, MB

Manitoba Genealogical Society

## REGISTRATION FORM

One Form per Applicant  
Please Copy as Needed

Please complete the Registration Form & Mail it  
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Southeast and Winnipeg Branch (MGS)  
Unit E – 1045 St. James Street  
Winnipeg, MB. Canada R3H 1B1

Please make cheque or money order payable to:  
Southeast and Winnipeg Branch (MGS)

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Early Bird Fee:	\$55.00
(postmarked by September 6, 2013)	\$ _____
Regular Fee:	\$65.00
(A Hot Turkey Dinner is included in your fee.)	_____
Donation towards Seminar	\$ _____
(Thank-you for your support)	_____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

*Proceeds will be donated to MGS for  
Computer Upgrades  
at the MGS Resource Centre.*

## CANCELLATION POLICY

A cancellation fee of \$25.00 will be charged for administration purposes on all cancelled registrations. The Deadline for cancellations is October 11, 2013.

## SPEAKERS & SESSIONS

### *"Crossing the Border – Minnesota and North Dakota to Manitoba – and back"* ~ Robin D. Shimpa

This two-part class will illustrate the migration pattern between Canada and the United States, specifically the province of Manitoba and the states of Minnesota and North Dakota.

- What is the historical background of migration to this part of the continent?
- Who migrated and when into these areas?
- What laws applied to new emigrants of Manitoba and the upper Midwest states?
- What research problems exist and how to effectively research on either side of the border will be the goal of this class.

### *"Ideas and More Ideas for Your Genealogy Society"* ~Louis Kessler

- How do you keep your members interested, active and involved?
- What can you do to gain publicity and attract new members?
- What kind of programs will be useful, interesting, and maybe even make money?

You need ideas. This is where to find them.

## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

### Robin D. Shimpa

Robin D. Shimpa has been "climbing her family tree" since a teen in the early 1970s. While juggling life duties of family, children, and work commitments through the next three decades, she continued to pursue genealogy knowledge. From 1991, Robin has taught others how to find their own roots while living in many states. For Robin "teaching others" is as enjoyable a pursuit as completing her own research!

Born in Michigan, growing up in California, raising a family and working across the United States finally landed Robin in Minnesota in 2003. Since her genealogy research is centered in the upper Midwest, she prefers Minnesota as her "retired" residence.

Finishing a history degree in 2008, running her genealogy research business, and volunteering many hours in local historical societies (including the president duties of the McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center) fills in her days completely.

### Louis Kessler

Louis started his genealogy over 35 years ago, about the same time he started computer programming. His University degrees in Statistics and Computer Science have given Louis a very different and innovative perspective on Genealogy research. Louis spent many years as Chair of the Archives Committee, as a Board Member and then as President of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada. He built his website in 1997 and designed and operates the GenSoftReviews.com website where people go to review and rate their genealogy software. Louis is an active member of the BetterGEDCOM initiative to create a new standard for genealogy data transfer. In 2011, Louis released Version 1 of his own genealogy software Behold, designed to become the world's first report-based data editor for genealogy.

Louis lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada with his wife Cheryl and two daughters. He works full time as the Manager of the Forecasting Department at his province's electric and gas utility company. Genealogy and programming are his after-hour passions.

### ***Generations Editorial Team***

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

Editor – *David Farmer*

Editorial Consultant – *Linda White*

Proof Reader – *Joyce Elias*

Advertising Sales – *David Farmer*

Features:

Book Reviews – *Enid Dorward*

From the Past – *Kathy Stokes*

Library/Library Lines – *Mary Bole*

Periodical Potpourri – *Enid Dorward*

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A6	An INDEX of BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH NOTICES FROM MANITOBA NEWSPAPERS Volume 1 (1859 – 1881) Marr / Deaths only	each \$25.00	_____
A7	Volume 2 (1882 – 1884)	each \$49.00	_____
A8	Volume 3 (1885) ( <i>currently unavailable</i> )	each \$20.00	_____
A9	Volume 4 (1886)	each \$20.00	_____
A10	Volume 5 (1887)	each \$20.00	_____

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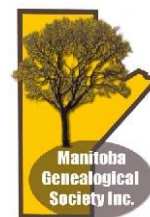


## Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

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

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Quarter Page/1 column width	\$ 40.00	\$ 90.00

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#### **Guidelines**

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

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

Revised January 2012.



## **LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTRE**

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:30 to 3:30  
Wednesday Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 (September through June)  
Sunday Noon to 4:00 (mid-October to mid-May)

(It is always best to confirm Wednesday evening and Sunday opening times)

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT #40050442

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:

**Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.**

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

**Is the EXPIRY DATE on your address label one of the following dates?**

**2013/06/30, 2013/07/31, or 2013/08/31**

**If so, your membership is expiring with this issue.**

**PLEASE RENEW SOON. Membership form is on page 27.**