



CANADA 150

MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Wednesday Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 (Closed December 9 through March 15, 2016)

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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Editor: David Farmer

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

From the Editor

David Farmer #2277



Yay! Its summer! As I write this I am taking a break from doing some yard work, and it dawned on me, that what I did today, is the same yard work I did this weekend, last year. Maybe it is time to move?

By the time you read this, the MGS Annual General Meeting will be over. I hope we all attended as it is important to participate in the 'governing' of the MGS Society – perhaps there will be new faces in the coming year.

This issue is full of good reading. We highlight two of our Award winning volunteers (*see Award Winning Volunteers on page 3*), and we have an excellent article on MGS' favourite project – MANI. Version 3.0 is here and there are lots of new features, so be sure to read *MANI 3.0 – How Did We Get Here on page 7*.

We have our regular features, some pleas for help in research and for volunteers, some new writers with interesting stories and, of course, a few laughs to keep us all sane.

As always, *Generations* is looking for stories, interesting tales, research how-tos and things that our readers would be interested in. So while you are visiting family and learning more over the summer, consider writing a short piece on what you found, or your favourite odd aunt or uncle.

Enjoy the issue.

***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

From the President

Jim Oke #2729



By the time this issue of *Generations* reaches you, the MGS Annual General Meeting will be history and a new Executive Committee will be in place. I shall begin by wishing them well and hoping that the MGS Membership will continue its support as it has during my time as President.

The last few months have been a busy time at MGS with considerable work done on the MANI system, under Gordon McBean's leadership, to correct some less functional areas and provide the system with a better look and feel for users. A lot of work has also been done to move some of the older MGS data collections into MANI, by reformatting and checking old computer records and even re-typing some of the older paper records. The MANI records count has been steadily increasing, but there is still plenty of work ahead for this part of the project. Gordon has also been successful in creating links to other on-line data sets such as Winnipeg's Brookside Cemetery. A MANI Cemetery Update module will be coming soon to begin updating older cemetery transcripts, some of which date back thirty years or more.

I would like to emphasize that access to MANI is part of MGS membership, so please make use of it and apply for the necessary access password. I think you will be impressed with the latest updates to MANI.

I would like to congratulate the South West Branch for organizing an interesting and useful seminar in April, in Brandon. Those attending were impressed with the enthusiasm and interest of the presenters and the activities.

An MGS Council meeting was held in Portage la Prairie in May, to ease the travel needs for Council members outside Winnipeg and gain some views from outside Winnipeg. It was a good productive meeting and something we should do annually in the future.

This will be perhaps my final President's message for *Generations*, so I want to close by

thanking the Council and Executive members I have worked with over the past years and by recognizing the volunteers who have done the real work of keeping MGS functioning so smoothly and well. Thank you one and all!

Have a good summer, everyone. Hope to see you in the fall!

The Front Cover

This issue's cover highlights two important events.

The first is the changing of the MGS logo. You have may have seen the new updated image and colours on other documents, but this is the first time it has been used on the *Generations* cover.

And of course the other event is CANADA150. The logo is one of several produced for use this year. The symbolic design shows a variety of 'compartments' which make up the whole, representative of the make-up of the Canadian population.



Kathleen Stokes 2017 Award Recipient

Kathy Stokes of Winnipeg has been an active member of the Manitoba Genealogical Society since 1976, having served as its President twice and the Chair of its Special Projects Committee since 1980. Among her many activities on behalf of the Society, she was instrumental in the creation, preservation, and public presentation of transcription records for over 1,300 cemeteries throughout Manitoba, and is now helping to transfer this information into an online computer database. She gives regular seminars on genealogy and has written numerous columns for the Society's newsletter, as well as several books on family history in Manitoba. She has also worked with the Fort Garry Historical Society and the Manitoba Heritage Federation. In 2013, her work was recognized with the Lieutenant-Governor's "Make a Difference Community Award."

Other recipients of this year's award were:

Jan Sirki (Dauphin), Al Thorleifson (Manitou), Bob Holliday (Winnipeg) and Jacqueline Blay (Winnipeg).



Award Winning MGS Members



Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion

This award, presented by the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba in consultation with the Manitoba Historical Society, recognizes people who have rendered prolonged, meritorious service in the preservation and promotion of Manitoba's history and heritage. In May 2011, the first group of recipients were presented at a ceremony at Government House.

Certificate of Appreciation



Virginia Braid, President of the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch presenting the Certificate of Appreciation to Orma Sozansky at the Branch's AGM, May 8 2017

ORMA SOZANSKY May 8, 2017

Southeast and Winnipeg Branch Certificate of Appreciation Recipient

It was a great honour for the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch to present its 2016-2017 *Certificate of Appreciation* award to Orma Sozansky.

Orma has been a member of the Manitoba Genealogical Society since 1988. She has been a stalwart volunteer for the Society for almost 30 years. Orma does many of the small jobs that keep our Society running: looking after mailings, purchasing stamps, correcting data entry for MANI, shredding, taking our recycling to her recycling bin and taking the kitchen garbage home each Wednesday. She even helps carry boxes and books around the Centre or out to peoples' cars.

We appreciate these things that she does; however, there is one special job that the Branch appreciates very, very much. Each week Orma keeps the Resource Centre clean and tidy. Last year Orma had an unfortunate accident and broke her ankle, so she was unable to do her cleaning job. It took the volunteers from the three open days and some extra volunteers to do her many cleaning tasks.

Cleaning the washrooms, vacuuming and dusting, keeping the kitchen tidy and clean, and washing the towels, were the tasks this crew did.

They all agreed that they did not know how Orma managed to do all of these jobs and do them so well, by herself. Each volunteer gained a deeper appreciation of Orma after their experience of looking after the everyday house-keeping of the Resource Centre.

The Southeast and Winnipeg Branch shares the Resource Centre with MGS and we appreciate Orma for all she does to help make our lives here at the Centre more productive and pleasant. Orma always works without any fanfare or complaints. She is truly a most worthy recipient of the *Certificate of Appreciation*. The Branch members thank you, Orma, for your dedication, hard work and helpful ways.



Looking for a Book

I am researching my family and am looking for a book that is out of print. My father's side of the family comes from the Shetland Isles and Foula Isle in particular. The family names are HENRY and BOLT. The book I am looking for is *The Sons and Daughters of Shetland 1800 - 1900* by Margaret Robertson. I am told my family is mentioned in this book and would like to get a copy if at all possible. Perhaps there is someone in our membership who has this book and would part with it. I would be willing to buy it from them.

Judi Collison MGS # 5024
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OOOPS

As sometimes happens, when we highlighted the new MGS brochure, some things went awry. Some fonts changed and we lost a bit of the image. So we have tried again.

Our apologies to the designer who worked so hard to give us a great looking brochure and for any inconvenience.

Here is what it is supposed to look like:



The New MGS Brochure

Brochure: Page 1



Brochure: Page 2

Preparing Tables for MANI – One Volunteer’s Story

Sheila Woods #4629

Because I had been keeping the old Access database “WinPap” of obituaries in Winnipeg newspapers up to date, I volunteered to transfer it to MANI. This database runs from 1968 to the present, and for many years Jim Rutherford has been doing the work of reading the obituaries and indexing them. I just reformat them and import them into WinPap or MANI.

A woman may have had more than one surname over her lifetime, a maiden name and one or more married names, and it is tricky to extract those names from her obituary. Often the maiden name is inferred from the name of a parent, brother or unmarried sister. The name of a former husband may be inferred from the name of a son or unmarried daughter. Sometimes an alternate surname is given in parentheses, with no indication of whether it is her maiden name or a former married name.

In the early years the database contained a separate entry for each surname, but nothing linking those entries for an individual. Ideally each entry should contain the other surnames in parentheses after the given names. For example, if Annie Adams married Bertie Brown and later married Charlie Clark, her three entries should be

ADAMS	Annie (CLARK) (BROWN)
BROWN	Annie (CLARK) (ADAMS)
CLARK	Annie (ADAMS) (BROWN)

To work with, I had the old Access file and Jim’s original Excel files going back to 2005. The easy part was working from Jim’s files, which had one line for each person and extra columns for the alternate surnames. The main surname column contained the final surname (at the time of death). I had already worked out a system for converting them to the desired format.

Next I exported the years 1968 to 2004 from the Access database to an Excel file and started

working on one year at a time. Each year contained about 10,000 entries. I sorted by first name and date (alphabetically) and checked out the pairs that matched. If the first name was unusual, I assumed that the two entries were for the same person, but a more common name required looking up the *Free Press* obituary page. (The *Tribune* and *Sun* obituaries are not online and have not been checked.) I soon learned that I should save the obituary pages I visited, because I was sure to need them again. In either case I inserted the alternate surnames.

After finishing 1972 I learned that I should include “Mrs.” before each married name and “nee” before the maiden name. That meant checking every obituary page where there was a match, and the process became even slower. Part way through 1975 it was decided that it was better to have incomplete information in MANI than none at all. That resulted in “quick” uploads (without alternate surnames) for 1980 to 1999. The quick cleanup involved correcting invalid dates, removing periods, moving titles like “Dr.” to the end in parentheses, replacing double quotes around nicknames with parentheses, and sorting out the Nuns. For Nuns I used the English term **Sister** instead of the French **Soeur** or the abbreviation **Sr.** This took me two or three days per year.

As it turned out, some alternate surnames were included in the old database starting in 1994. Entries for former surnames included the final surname, but not the other way around. In two years the alternate surnames were in mixed case, and I took the time to convert them to uppercase without converting the given names. The remaining alternate surnames will be added at a later date, but the first priority is to complete 1975 and to upload initial data for the missing years 1976 to 1979 and 2000 to 2004. Starting with 2016, I would like to include “Mrs.” and “nee” from the beginning. They are not in Jim’s files, but I have a large shopping bag full of obituary pages from the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

There have been some additional challenges. Entries in the *Free Press* and *Tribune/Sun* columns may be single dates or ranges such as

April 14,15 or April 14-16. To prevent Excel from misinterpreting them, I end each entry with the ‘>’ character, which I remove just before uploading to MANI. Certain characters are not allowed in the data, and the rules have changed over time. Because commas are not allowed, they have been replaced with the backslash, e.g. Apr 14\15. The apostrophe or single quote was allowed when I started, but it was not allowed originally and in Version 3.0 it requires special handling. In some of the names it has been replaced with the “back-quote” or grave accent (top left on the keyboard), in names like O’Connor and L’Heureux.

Understanding MANI’s structure and quirks and the scope of a table will allow you to search more effectively and understand the results. When searching for a name like O’Connor, you should try “O’Connor” as well as “O’Connor”, or simply “Connor” which will return both of them. To find a former surname in a year with incomplete alternate surnames, look for the final surname in the given names column. For example, suppose you are looking for Annie (or Anna) Clark. First, search for “Ann Clark” in an appropriate date range, including records with no date values. (This search will pick up Anna and Annie.) Click on the link and note the dates. Then search just for Ann, narrowing the date range if possible. On the search results page, type “Clark” in the box at the top of the ‘FirstName’ column. You can also filter the record type and sort by year or first name. Click on the link to check that the dates are a good match to the dates you noted. There is no point searching in MANI for a *Free Press* obituary before 1968.

This has been time-consuming, but challenging and rewarding. Some volunteers have been working much longer and harder than I have. On the other hand, there are many smaller tasks that you can do for MANI, such as indexing a local history or taking part in re-reading a cemetery. MANI needs your help.

“TAPHOPHILIA - an excessive, sometimes morbid interest in graves, cemeteries and funerals”

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MANI 3.0 - How did we get here?

Gord McBean #3033



Until you sit down and do the math you don't realize how much MGS has done on MANI this year. As volunteers we never really sit down and count the time we donate or the value of this unpaid

work. In meetings with politicians and government officials we often put forward the value of the work done by volunteers, but it is hard to put a figure on what it is worth. But our volunteers have accomplished a lot this year.

Any progress we have made couldn't have been done without the 41 years of effort put in by our MGS volunteers since our beginning in 1976. There are 1,751 individual cemeteries, plaques, monuments and burial sites recorded along with over 80 individual indexes created. Almost weekly Mary Bole and her crew uncover yet another index or collection needing to be indexed or added to MANI. The value of MANI is in the records indexed and preserved by our volunteers.

This year alone 2,268.5 MGS volunteer hours have gone into MANI and this translates into \$43,365.00 worth of labour. In addition, MGS has worked with Red River College: four students from the Accounting and Computer Education (ACE) department have worked full time for one term (4 months) developing the Cemetery Transcription Module and upgrading the system. This labour is worth (4 students x 6

hrs. per day x 5 days/wk. x 16 weeks) about \$29,000.00, a total labour value of about \$72,365 – a significant amount.

Through the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch, MGS was able to secure a \$5,000.00 grant from The Winnipeg Foundation and additionally, a \$5,000.00 grant from the Manitoba Government - Heritage Grants Program. A big thank you is in order to the volunteers who came out to work the bingo in order to secure the grant. They will be glad to know that this was the last bingo to be worked as we will no longer be required to work bingos in the future.

The MGS's Capital Campaign Fund, through your donations, allowed us to move forward with planning and arranging our partnership with Red River College before we had the confirmation on the grants. Having the security of this nest egg, and being able to move ahead with development, has been critical to our success. In the end we will be drawing about \$5,426.00 from the capital fund to cover the cost of the MANI and MGS computer infrastructure upgrades.

Our current project is the MANI Cemetery Transcription (CT) module. Its objective was to provide a system to update and protect the MGS Cemetery Transcriptions and Indexes, which are a unique resource created by MGS over the last 41 years. We developed the CT module in MANI to manage and update these valuable Manitoba resources.

MGS has worked with a team of 4 students from Red River College's Accounting and Computer Education Department. The students worked full time on the project for one term (4 months). I have had meetings with them on a weekly basis, often on multiple occasions. The students and their instructor also visited MGS and met with the Wednesday volunteers to discuss the project.

The new CT module created by the student team provides a system to verify record and update the 1,751 cemeteries, burial locations and monuments, which MGS has recorded in Manitoba since 1976. The students added a table to MANI allowing us to store the complete information recorded for each cemetery and

produce a PDF document (Cemetery Transcription booklet).

The team created a portable Windows Application (app) that allows MGS volunteers to view this information in the field. They can edit and make corrections, as well as add new burials that have taken place since the last time the cemetery was read. This app can also be used to create records for any new cemetery found that has not already been recorded.

A mock-up of the Cemetery Transcription tool (CT Tool). You will be able to load it on a PC running Windows and take a digital copy of the cemetery record with you and edit on location at the cemetery

There have been many other MANI upgrades as well. As part of the development process, the student programmers modified many of the tables in MANI to allow them to link to external digital data, providing additional information. They also added the ability to attach pictures to individual interments. The students have improved security by upgrading software packages and providing the ability to encrypt user information. MANI 3.0 allows users to link directly to the digital book or record in some cases.

The team has created a process giving the capability to search the database of the City of Winnipeg Cemeteries. This provides the capability to automatically search over 128,000 burials in the City-owned cemeteries, and provide the search results to the MANI user. These burials were not originally part of our collection.

MANI 3.0 has had many features added:

- The ability to create Cemetery Transcription booklets that are always up to date will improve the recorded history of Manitoba.
- The searches in MANI will provide the ability to look at this information online as well as photographs of the gravestones.
- The new process and tools will allow us to have a more distributive workflow and allow us to better utilize our volunteers.
- The ability to access the City of Winnipeg Open Data Cemetery records will provide us with the most up-to-date information without volunteers having to read the cemetery.

“Gordon Goldsborough, from the Manitoba Historical Society, has expressed that the MANI database is always open on his computer.”

He, like many genealogists searching in Manitoba, is finding leads to over 80 information types, which in the fall of 2016 exceeded the 1,000,000th record uploaded.

A New Way to Search

MANI has created a new way to search for information about Manitoba people. With version 3.0, we have made a significant change to how the data base is structured and the type of records we can house in MANI. The expansion of the linking ability will connect more information sources to your search results. What exactly we have changed and added will be covered in detail in the next edition of *Generations*.

What about the future? (Where do we go from here?)

Now that we have a mature, secure and stable platform in MANI, we can concentrate on adding additional content. To that aim, we will be working with our partners, such as the Manitoba Historical Society (MHS). We have been working with MHS for a number of years now sharing information on the cemeteries in Manitoba. We are linking each cemetery or burial site to pages created about them by the

MHS; in return they are linking each site back to MANI, with text explaining that people can order Cemetery Transcriptions from MGS.

We are also working with the MHS in a pilot project to link our records to books digitized by the Mantobia.ca Consortium. We will be working with them to identify and loan books from our local history collection, which is one of the most complete in Manitoba.

Meanwhile, we are working on cooperating agreements with many cultural and historical groups that will expand MANI's access to information. We have been working with the MHS sharing information on churches and linking our results to their pages. Recently MGS has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Friends of Elmwood Cemetery and have provided our Cemetery Transcription information to them. In return they will be providing information to update our collection from the time it was last read up to the present.

We will soon be launching the MGS online eStore to sell MGS publications and Cemetery Transcriptions.

As part of a new initiative, MGS is undertaking to update all of the 1,751 sites, as a *Manitoba150* project. This would not have been possible using the original manual methods. It will not be possible without you volunteering as well.

In addition to the technical work, to promote MANI and more widely, MGS, new banners have been created, to use at displays and events.

There have been a large number of changes to MANI. As a result, existing User Manuals will have to be updated, which will take a considerable amount of time. In order to provide useful chunks of information, we have launched a MANI Facebook page. If you are on *Facebook*, search for MANI and then look under "Pages". We will be posting updates on MANI and helpful information on how to use it, as well as training videos. *Facebook* is the fastest and cheapest way of setting up communications. We will eventually make a transition to a MANI blog site.

The project with Red River College finished at the end of April this year. We continue to work with some of the students, on a fee-for-service basis, to address issues, modifications needed, and bugs.

Some of the lessons learned are that the MANI project will never be completed! As part of the process, we have discovered new sources of records that MGS can index. We have discovered new ways of using the technology to provide a much richer search experience for our users. With MANI 3.0 we have a mature tool and we are looking for volunteers to create indexes that we can load into MANI.



The New Members Only area. Even if you are not searching in Manitoba it is worth activating your MANI access to get access to the Members Only Area and the ability to manage your profile in the MGS Membership system.

The People behind MANI

MANI builds on the work of Volunteers over the past 41 years. For it to continue to grow, it will depend on your volunteer help in the future.





South West Branch executive with new computer during MANI training.



The BIT- ACE student Team and their instructor visited the MGS Resource Centre to meet with the Wednesday Volunteers to discuss the Cemetery Transcription module the students were working on.

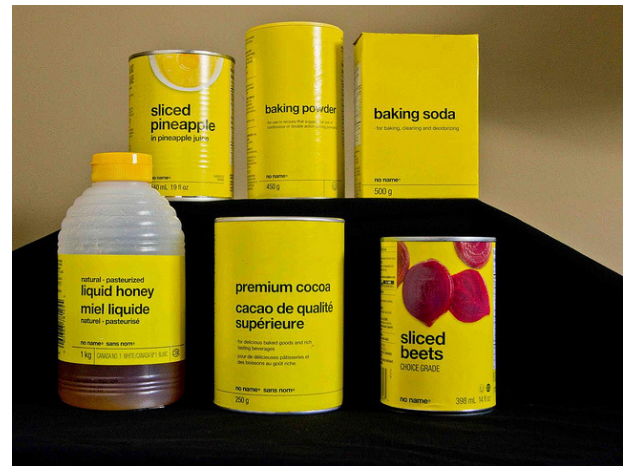
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What A Tangled Web We Weave

Anne Letain

Anne is a former teacher-librarian who took up genealogy with a vengeance as a hobby about five years ago. To her delight, she has a family tree that is quite unexpected and constantly surprising even if she hasn't discovered that she's related to royalty. The genealogy has also provided a perfect excuse to travel to find out more and to meet far flung family members.

I was standing in the grocery store examining a tin of yellow no name soup. Could I trust it? Would it work for what I wanted? I turned the can over in my hand and replaced it back on the shelf, admitting to myself that I was a lot more



Are names all that important?

comfortable with a brand name that I knew and felt comfortable with. Perhaps, too, there was a subconscious inkling of another struggle I've been having lately with the idea of "identity" and what it personally means.

Ever since I married, the identity issue has been latent and lingering. Not one person in our small nuclear family uses a name that is genetically linked to us. Frank was legally adopted by a new stepfather at the age of ten. I, following the conventions of the time, took my husband's name when I married. Our daughters then received their father's adopted surname.

Frank's mother had already been widowed when he was born, so that meant that he had no big emotional connections towards his own father. But, he always felt angst about using an adoptive name that he had not been permitted any input.

The journey to the family identity crisis began in earnest after a trip to Normandy and windswept sands of Juno Beach. Afterwards, a visit to the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* website raised some critical questions and led to the conclusion that the name on Frank's birth certificate was not that of his biological father, unless his mother had experienced an exceptionally long gestation period.

Thus began a quest to discover who Frank's biological father was. There was a miniscule amount of information to work with – an almost centenarian-aged aunt provided two clues – that

the first name was likely “John” and that the last name ended in “chuk”. As this was Edmonton with its strong Eastern European roots, it meant that the task was akin to seeking the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Still, we persevered seeking out anyone who could help. It was truly a secret deeply buried. Finally, a friend who had been perusing the paper version of the *Henderson’s Directories* at the Public Library during his lunch hours turned over the first viable clue.

From there the route to revelation was relatively straightforward. As a Ukrainian name, it was quite uncommon and led to two separate, but linked, family lines in Alberta, both originating in Bukovina.

But as a project to discover a possible meaningful surname, the whole endeavor was a total bust. Frank’s biological father, like so many of Ukrainian background, had been deeply ambivalent about his name and anglicized it when he joined the Edmonton Police Force in the 1950s. His other children were registered with the new and improved neutral version.

If Frank’s adoptive name was strike one in the family name game, then the revealed biological name had to be strike two. Likewise, I have always experienced some degree of regret for failing to keep my birth name when I married. I have come to have a great regard for the lawmakers in Quebec and their insistence that women keep their own names. Funnily, I even felt a degree of distress when my nephews married and their wives assumed their husbands’ names. It just felt so retro, so 1970s to me.

After the grand search for my husband’s real name, I became seriously involved in researching my own family roots. There were some gaping holes in my paternal history and it became evident in the great cousin round-up, that no one knew any more than I did. It wasn’t so much that there were secrets and deceit. It was more that by tacit consent among his nine children, that my paternal grandfather had not been spoken about.

My paternal grandfather was born and raised in the market garden world of Kent in England, and came to Canada around 1912 or 1913. It appears that he may have been joining some cousins who had gone to Winnipeg. When the Great War broke out, my grandfather enlisted with the Winnipeg Rifles as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). He named his father in England as his next of kin and stated his occupation as “Farmer” although he happened to be living in the St. James Hotel at the time. The top left hand corner of the front page of his attestation is clearly marked “DESERTER”.

Remorse must have set in during the following months. About a year later my grandfather is found in Saskatoon re-enlisting in the Saskatchewan battalion of the CEF. He cannily changes just enough of his new attestation so that it will not be connected to the first. Desertion is, after all, a treasonable offense. He changes his next of kin to his sister, and where she lives to “Kansas”. Most importantly, he added two letters to his last name which subsequently altered the identity of his nine children and the many grandchildren he did not live to see, including me.

So, consider this change strike three in the name sweepstakes. My birth name is as much a lie as Frank’s is. The larger question is whether I would want the original as everything I have been able to uncover about my grandfather points to a truth that he was difficult and demanding, with a life that ignobly ended in the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford at the age of 50.

Is it important to have a name that is meaningful to you? Perhaps, more than you believe. By the time you have as many rings on your trunk as Frank and I do, you have a pretty firm idea of who and what you are. Yet, when I asked Frank whether what he now knew about his past had changed him in any way, he strongly affirmed that it had definitely altered his own self-concept and caused him to query his own long held story of himself. Likewise, my own discovery of the truth of my name was a shock that kind of recurs like an infrequently repeating

dream. Then, I stop, hesitate, and wonder, "Who am I?"

Names are Very Important!



A Need for Volunteers

The Special Projects Committee is looking for assistance this summer in updating cemeteries which we have already transcribed around the province. Many have not been updated for 30 years. Perhaps some members know of small cemeteries near their homes or summer camps. It would not be necessary to reread an entire cemetery.

MGS can tell you when a cemetery was last read and the transcriber would only have to check existing stones for additions and new stones more recently added to the cemetery.

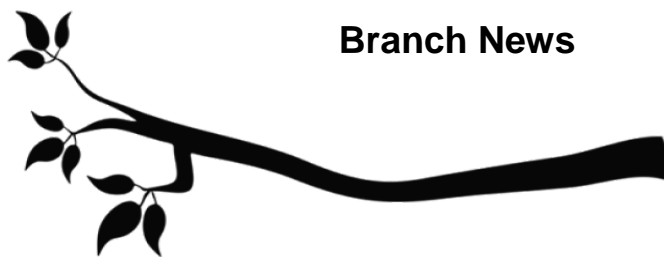
Working this way on behalf of MGS would be much appreciated as we can then continue to add names to our MANI index, as well as keeping our more than 1,370 cemeteries up to date. An afternoon working in a cemetery can be a very pleasant interlude.

Instructions for updating are available at MGS and can be emailed to you upon request. Just call MGS for information and or the date of the last reading of a given cemetery. Thank you.

In a Silver City, Nevada cemetery:

*Here lays The Kid,
We planted him raw.
He was quick on the trigger,
But slow on the draw.*

Branch News



Southeast & Winnipeg Branch

The Southeast & Winnipeg Branch held its Annual General Meeting on May 8, 2017

The executive was selected by acclamation:

President - Virginia Braid
1st. Vice President - Barbara Becker
2nd. Vice President - Sheila Woods
Secretary - Jill Glover
Treasurer - Virginia Braun
Councillor Ted Becker
Councillor - Kathleen Kristjansson
Councillor - Vacant

The recipient of the Branch's Certificate of Appreciation was Orma Sozansky. (*see page 4*). Orma was honoured with this Certificate for the many tasks she does around the Resource Centre, especially keeping it clean and tidy.

The speaker of the evening was Tricia Logan who spoke about "The Missing Children - Truth and Reconciliation".

Refreshments were served and the members had an opportunity to chat with the speaker.



Donations to MGS October 2016 to March 2017

The Manitoba Genealogical Society would like to recognize and thank all who have made memorial donations, cash donations, and material donations for the Library between October 2016 and March 2017. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Cecile Alarie-Skene
Edward Alexander
Jean Ammeter
Bonnie Batchelor
Mary Bole
Virginia Braid
Elizabeth Briggs
James Carcary
Elaine Chadney
Bonnie Clement
Roy De'Ath
Susan Drayson
Isabella Dryden
Daryl Dumanski
Terence Gordon
Mavis Gray

Robert Haglund
Teresa Hamilton
Herb Hayward
Hugh Heal
Josephine Herndler
Lorna Karman
Terry Lindell
John McDonald
Jim McGregor
Rick McLellan
Anne E. Malyon
Arthur Mogk
Denise Neufeld
James G. Osborne
John Peach
Darlene Buchanan Perrett

Gail Petrov
Julia D. Pierce
William Pooley
Edward Roe
Robert Roe
Randy Runnells
Jim Rutherford
Karn Sandy
Katharine Schulz
Louisa Shermerhorn
Kathy Stokes
Vivian Sullivan
Linda Toews
Don White
Stephanie Wood

United Firefighters

**MANY
THANKS**

From the Past

Rural Ramblings

Kathy Stokes #0125

Manitoba Free Press March 14, 1917

Elmer GILPIN of Camper died recently. He was born in Iowa and had lived in Camper for the past four years. Mr. GILPIN leaves a wife and seven children. He will be buried at Camper.

Manitoba Free Press September 10, 1917

Annie Stephens TURNER, 70 years, widow of John TURNER, died at Carroll on September 2. She came west in 1892 to Griswold and moved to Carroll five years later. A Presbyterian, she was active in many community endeavors. She is survived by seven sons – William, James, Andrew, John, Thornton, Murray and John and four daughters – Mrs. Peter Lamb of Toronto, Mrs. Graham of Bengough, Saskatchewan, Mrs. McDonald of Glenboro and Marian at home. (Note that cemetery transcription records indicate that her husband died 31 October 1927, aged 83 years).

Did you know that the Portage la Prairie Library donated a marvelous collection of obituaries from the local newspaper to MGS several years ago? The rest of this column contains information from some of these obituaries. The obituaries below are from the Portage la Prairie *Daily Graphic* of January and September 1929, and March of 1934.

Bernard VIVIER, 87 years, died 14 January 1929. He had been born near Raeburn in July 1841 and moved to Portage in 1910. Besides his widow, he is survived by son Charles and daughters Maudisse, Milley and Christine. A son, Joseph Gabriel, was killed in WWI. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

Elizabeth CONNOR, nee SISSONS, wife of John CONNOR, died in January 1929 in her 90th year. Born in Ontario, she came with her husband to Manitoba and settled in the

Portage area in 1870. Sons are Frank of Portage and William of Vancouver. Her daughters are Mrs. Alfred Leathwood and Mrs. Henry Leathwood. A brother is Thomas Sissons and her sisters are Mrs. Hargrave of Medicine Hat and Mrs. George Kitson of Riding Mountain. Mrs. Connor was buried at Hillside cemetery.

Also in January 1929 there occurred the death of William STRAIT Sr. Mr. Strait was born in Worcester, England on February 14, 1840. Beginning in 1848, he lived a few years in Paisley, Ontario. Later, he took the train to Fort Garry and then rode a covered wagon to Ingleside. In 1900 he settled in Portage la Prairie. He died in Windsor, Ontario. His wife died in eastern Canada on October 27, 1928.

Surviving are sons William Jr. of High Bluff, Thomas of Winnipeg and daughters Mrs. Wm. Bell of Windsor, Ontario and Mrs. James Ingram of Oakville. There are 17 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

In the February 9, 1929 edition of *The Graphic* the death was noted of Arni HELGASON who had recently died in Langruth. Born in Iceland on June 10, 1857, he came to North America in 1890, lived a while in North Dakota, later moved to Marshland about 1909, then to Beaver and finally to Langruth in 1926. He leaves his widow and daughters, Signy at home and Mrs. G. Johnson of Westbourne. There are four brothers and one sister still residing in Iceland as well as a sister in Blaine, Washington.

In September 1929, *The Graphic* wrote about the death of Mrs. George KITSON, (Note that Vital Stats. lists her name as Mary Ann), who was born in Kent County, Ontario, on June 16, 1837. She married George in 1855 and together they had eleven children, eight of whom survived. They lived in Michigan from 1867 and George died there in about 1895. In 1914 she came

to the district with one of her sons. Her children are T.W. and J. of the Queen Charlotte Islands, John of Portage, Mrs. Roy Bishop of Detroit, Mrs. D.C. Tyler of Riding Mountain and Daniel, Howard and Harry also of Riding Mountain. There are 30 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren.

The Graphic of March 20, 1934 gives information about the death of Richard Hugh ROE, 59 years, who was born in Howick Twp., Huron County, Ontario, on October 26, 1864, the sixth son of Letitia Walsh and Richard ROE, and one of 14 children born to his parents. He came to Portage in 1886 and married Hattie May MacLELLAND. He was a stock dealer and mail contractor. He was survived by his wife, son Richard Hugh Jr., daughters Letitia May and June Rose Roe, all at home. Siblings include sisters Mrs. John Fulton of Portage, Mrs. J. Merriman of Vancouver and brothers J.W. Roe of Arden, W.J. of Canora, Saskatchewan, and Robert H. of Portage.

On July 19, 1934, William WILTON, 58 years, of High Bluff died. He had been born to Maxwell WILTON and his wife in High Bluff. William was a farmer, an implement dealer and a gravel hauler for the Highways department. He was a Presbyterian and belonged to the Masonic Order and the Orange Lodge. His wife and children survive him – Clifford and William, both of High Bluff, Walter of Star City and Marguerite of High Bluff. Brother Max and sisters Mrs. Judd of Portage, Mrs. Billings of MacGregor, Mrs. F. Brown of Glenboro, Mrs. J. Rivers of Victoria and Mrs. J. Law of Winnipeg also are left to mourn him.

In January 1935, there was an extensive obituary about Mrs. Elspeth McLENAGHEN, who had died in Vancouver, on January 25, 1935. Born in Lanark County, Ontario, on April 7, 1850, she came to Portage with her husband John and family in 1905 and retired to Vancouver

in 1919. The McLENAGHAMs celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary there on March 28, 1928, six months prior to the death of Mr. McLENAGHEM. Mrs. McLENAGHEM is survived by six daughters and one son: Mrs. James H. Surtees and Mrs. R.J. McTaggart and Miss Elsie of Vancouver, Mrs. McLymont of Prince Rupert, Mrs. H.L. Midford of Winnipeg. Miss Jessie of Victoria, and James O., MLA of Selkirk, Manitoba.

Are These Your Ancestors?

Kathy Stokes #0125

Occasionally, anyone who reads a great deal finds something quite unexpected in a book which, from its cover, appears to hold little promise.

I was poking around the MGS library and found such a book published in 1920, titled *The Village Labourer 1760 - 1832* by J.L. and Barbara Hammond. It was a detailed explanation of what happened to a large section of Britain's population of day labourers after new land enclosure rules were instituted. This new way of managing land had a profound effect on the "lower classes" of the day. Since a number of my ancestors were labourers in the very centre of England, I decided to take a look. The authors note that the upper classes considered it "the duty of the poor man to adapt himself, his tastes, habits and his ambitions to the arrangements of a society whom it pleased Providence to organise." In other words, it was the prevailing attitude that as long as legislation benefitted those in power, then others must simply learn to cope.

Sir Frederick M. Eden, 2nd Baronet of Maryland (England), was a noted writer about social conditions. He wrote a portrait of the ideal poor woman and how she could face poverty with the proper spirit.

“Annie Hurst was born at Witley in Surrey; there she lived the whole period of a long life, and there she died. As soon as she was thought able to work, she went into service: then, before she was twenty she married James Strudwick who, like her own father, was a day labourer. With this husband she lived a prolific, hardworking, contented life for somewhat more than fifty years. James worked more than three score years on one farm and his wages, summer and winter were regularly a shilling a day....They had between them seven children and lived to see six daughters married and three the mothers of sixteen children, all the boys of whom were being brought up to be day labourers. Strudwick at the age of four score in 1787 died after a not inglorious life for to the day of his death he never received a farthing of parochial aid.

Annie survived him by seven years, though bent with age and infirmities and little able to work, excepting as a weeder in a gentleman's garden as she was also too proud to ask or receive any parish relief. A kind person, name unknown, gave Annie twenty shillings per year. With all her virtue, she yet was not much liked in the neighborhood; people in affluence thought her haughty and the parish paupers felt that her life was a reproach to theirs.

The worst thing they said about her was that she was proud and used as evidence for this, the manner in which she had buried her husband complete with a proper funeral, handles on the coffin and a plate mentioning his age. She was also charged by the neighborhood with crossly berating a son-in-law who was a mason and went regularly on Saturday evening to an ale house to drink a pot of beer. In reprimanding him, she mentioned that her husband never spent any money in idleness.

Annie lived to a great age, but still was the subject of much discussion, because she

became unable to work and, in a “fit of distempered despondency peevishly exclaimed that God Almighty, by suffering her to remain so long upon the earth, actually seemed to have forgotten her.”

The historian who recorded this tale lamented that “such village memoirs have not oftener been sought for and recorded.”

And what about poor Annie Strudwick herself? In trying her very best to live a blameless and productive life, she was disliked by her peers; and was dismissed by the powerful people who changed the course of English social history to a profound degree, without giving thought to the repercussions which followed, for those who had no influence on the political decisions which affected the entire population, either for good or for bad.

The comment of the unknown person who recorded Annie's story is applicable in today's busy world. There seems to be little time devoted in our society to recording the seemingly unimportant, everyday happenings. Family historians can help with this situation by detailing the ordinary events in the lives of their families and neighbours. Future generations will find this helpful, particularly if you submit such stories to the editor of the MGS journal, *Generations*, who is always looking for material. You could also publish a sort of diary of the happenings in your family history, complete with anecdotes about the people who predeceased you.

Cleveland Snowbank Is Maternity Ward

Cleveland, Dec. 30, (AP). — The stork fell over a snowbank in front of St. Luke's hospital today — and Teri-Ann Zelman had a shivering reception into this world.



Mrs. Harry Zelman, being helped into the hospital by her husband and brother-in-law, slipped and fell on the snow and was carried into the hospital's maternity ward.

A few minutes later, a motorist entered the hospital and shouted, "Hey, there's a baby lying outside in the snow."

It was Teri-Ann protesting the situation with all the strength in the lungs of a minutes-old baby.

Taken into the hospital, the infant was placed in an incubator and nurses report her little the worse for the experience.

Mrs. Zelman, via bedside telephone late today, said when the shouting motorist entered the hospital, "I knew what had happened." "My husband," she added, "ran out, grabbed a leather jacket. Nurses took it from him and the next thing I realized I was in bed and they were telling me everything was all right."



Our Library

Mavis Gray #0008



Many of the hospitals, nursing homes and seniors' residences in Manitoba have produced histories of their facilities. These books describe their work, their staff and their residents/patients/clients, and outline the changes which have taken place over the years. The MGS Library and Resource Centre has a good selection of these books, such as the following:

Eighty Years of Grace by Frances E. Wagner. 1973. Manitoba 362.1 WAG

Misericordia General Hospital Diamond Jubilee, 1898-1973. Manitoba 610.73 MIS

BGH – 100: A History of the Brandon General Hospital, 1883-1983 by Madeline Perry. 1983. Manitoba 610.73 PER

A Vision Fulfilled: The Story of the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg by Harry Medovy. 1979. Manitoba 362.7 VIS

Concordia Hospital: Faith, Health and Community, 75 Years, 1928-2003 by Abe J. Dueck. 2003. Manitoba 362.1 WINN CON

Heartbeats of a Hospital: Beausejour, Stonewall & District. 1994. Manitoba 971.27 ROCK HEA

For Those We Serve: Medical Memoirs of Argyle, 1880-1985. 1985. Manitoba 971.27 ARGY FOR

A Centennial History of the Brandon Asylum. 1991. Manitoba 971.27 BRAN HIS

Winnipeg Municipal Hospital, 1911-1986: 75 Years of Service. Manitoba 610.73 WIN

Nursing Homes and Seniors' Residences

Our Heritage: The Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg, 1883-1996. 1996. Manitoba 362.605 OUR

50 Years of Rest Haven, 1946-1996. 1996. Manitoba 362.605 FIF

Lions Manor. 1974. Manitoba 362.605 LIO

One Hundred Years of Caring: the History of the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg, 1883-1983 by Lesley Thomson. 1982. Manitoba 362.16 THO



Library Lines

Mary Bole #0884

MGS Librarian



We are discarding books mainly because of lack of space and some because the information is on the Internet, or Ancestry, etc. Some are just not genealogical topics. Once a number are discarded a list is made and will be posted on our MGS website. If you want one please contact me at library@mbgenealogy.com – they are free to take.

However good genealogy books which we have duplicates of, or newer additions, will be offered to branches first.

We are still looking for members willing to index Manitoba books for MANI – but remember first to check with Pat Allan or me so time is not wasted on duplication.

We do have a good collection of CDRs – please check them out. We have tested them, and all work, but they are slow to show up on the screen.

Manitoba

282 Winn *Blessing of St. Joseph's Church, June 6, 1971*. [Winnipeg, corner Mountain and Andrews]

282 Winn *St. Joseph's Parish, St. Joseph's School, 60th Anniversary, 1966*.

970.3 Mor *Manitoba Scrip*, 2015. [Reference]

971.27 Wlan *Along the Mission Trail*, 1988. [Lake Francis, Bonnie Doon, Graysfield, Glennie]

Canada

355.1 Can2 *Canadian Honours and Awards Bestowed Upon Members of the Canadian Forces*, 2011.

917.1 Cha Chappell, E. *Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay in His Majesty's Ship Rosamund*, 1970.

970.1 Rec *Records of the Department of Indian Affairs at Library and Archives Canada*, 2004. [Reference]

970.1 Tra *Tracing Your Aboriginal Ancestors in the Prairie Provinces*, 2013.

Great Britain and Ireland

929 Tom Tomaselli, P. *Tracing Your Air Force Ancestors*, 2007.

929.3 Ola O'Laughlin, M. *The Book of Irish Families*, 1992.

941.1 Cai *Caithness Monumental Inscriptions, Pre-1855*, 1992. [4 volumes, Scotland]

941.2 Sco *Angus Monumental Inscriptions, Pre-1855, 1979-*. [2 volumes, Scotland]

941.4 Gle2 *Glencairn Parish Church Graveyard Memorial Inscriptions*, 2009. [Dumfries, Scotland]

941.4 Gle *Glencairn Memorial Book*, 2007. [Scotland]

941.4 Kir *Kirkmahoe Parish Church Graveyard Memorial Inscriptions*, 2009. [Dumfries, Scotland]

941.5 Pat Paton, C. *Discover Irish Land Records*, 2015.

941.5 Pat2 Paton, C. *British and Irish Newspapers*, 2014.

941.5 Pat3 Paton, C. *Irish Family History Resources Online*, 2015.

941.5 Pat4 Paton, C. *A Beginner's Guide to British and Irish Genealogy*, 2016.

941.5 Pat5 Paton, C. *Researching Ireland, 1912-1923*, 2016.

942.7 Rib *Ribchester Parish Registers 1694-1736*, 1990. [Microfiche, Lancashire, England]

942.7 Rib2 *Ribchester Parish Registers 1736-1779*, 2000. [Microfiche]

942.7 Rib3 *The Registers of Ribchester, 1780-1837*, 2000. [Microfiche]

General

929.1 Led Ledoux, D. *Turning Memories Into Memoirs* 1993. [Writing life stories]

Family History and Biography

929.5 Bry Brydon J. *The Stalwart Brydons*, 2016.



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.)

Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay in His Majesty's Ship Rosamond Containing Some Accounts of the North-Eastern Coast of America and of the Tribes Inhabiting That Remote Region by Lieut. Edward Chappell, R.N. London, printed for J. Mawman, Ludgate Street, 1817. Facsimile edition reprinted in 1970 by Coles Publishing, Toronto. 279 p. Illus. (MGS library call no. CAN 917.1 CHA)

Yes, that date really is 1817, and the wonderful long title of this book is very descriptive of the

contents. Along with the account of the voyage, the lieutenant included many details of the lives of the indigenous people in the area the ship visited. Following the main body of the book, several appendices cover such things as a list of voyages of the company's ships to Hudson's Bay, a temperature chart from Oxford House in 1811, and a vocabulary of the Cree language.

The Stalwart Brydons from Scotland to Galt to Portage la Prairie: a Family History of 100 Years in Canada by James Emerson Brydon and Dianne Brydon. c2016. 265 p. Illus.

The story of the Brydon family begins in 1744 in Roxburghshire, Scotland. From that time through to the early years of the next century, it became increasingly difficult to find work and there was little prospect of ever owning land. The earliest Brydons to immigrate to Canada came to their new country about 1828. They lived in the Galt [Ontario] area for a number of years, and eventually came to Manitoba, where they lived in the Portage la Prairie area. The authors have provided a well-researched and detailed account of the lives of the Brydon family. The book is generously illustrated and attractively presented. The appendices focus on numerous related topics, the first being a Brydon family tree. There is a comprehensive list of primary and secondary sources.

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

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

East European Genealogist (Winter 2016) Identity, integration, and assimilation recorded in Manitoba's Polish and Ukrainian cemeteries.

Sib Folk News (March 2017) Researching ancestors in the Hudson's Bay Company (by Elizabeth Briggs).

CANADA

Anglo-Celtic Roots (Spring 2017) The Quarriers Children: From Scotland to Canada.

Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants (March 2017) Ancestors that missed *The Mayflower*.

AFRICA

Family Tree (Jan. 2017) Investigating the work and life of a colonial officer in Kenya, early 20th century.

GALLUS (Glasgow) (March 2017) Finding your ancestors in South Africa.

DNA

Origins (July 2016) DNA tests for family historians.

EASTERN CANADA

Connections (Quebec FHS) (Winter 2017) A meeting postponed for 275 years! A Quebec couple relate the story of both their ancestors who came to Canada from France during the 1660s.

Generations (NB) (Spring 2017) Loyalist grantees at Parrrtown, Sunbury County, Nova Scotia 1783-1784. Surnames C – M.

ENGLAND

Berkshire Family Historian (Dec. 2016) List of persons from Lambourn (Berks) wanting to emigrate to South Australia, and of those arriving on the *Bolton* in 1848.

Cleveland FHS (Jan. 2017) Middlesbrough Old Pottery: many Middlesbrough residents were employed at the pottery during the 19th century, sometimes including entire families. The article lists numerous people who, according to census records, worked there for lengthy periods of time.

– Also a listing of executions of Teesside area residents 1771 – 1912.

– This issue contains a supplement listing a remarkable number of publications produced by the family history society.

Cornwall Family History Society (Dec. 2016) Millbrook War Memorial, with names from both WWI and WWII.

– (Sept 2016) The transcription of the 1637/8 will of Stephen Hore at Roche.

Devon Family Historian (Nov. 2016) The story of the discovery of Flight Sergeant Basil Carnell RAF and several others whose names are on the memorial at Kingsteignton, Devon.

– (Feb. 2017) What to do about lost birth registrations?

Family Tree (Jan. 2017) How to find British historical newspapers online – an extensive listing.

– (Feb. 2017) - Tracing your agricultural labourers.

Easy family history steps for children.

– (April 2017) How to research your ancestor in the shipbuilding industry.

– (May 2017) Best websites and archives for researching nonconformist ancestors.

Genealogists' Magazine (March 2017) Royal Navy ancestors.

Gloucestershire Family History Society (Winter 2016) A fascinating story about a very old clock (made around 1800) handed down in the writer's family.

Lancashire (Feb. 2017) World War I memorial at Chester teacher training college.

EUROPE

Internet Genealogy (Feb/March 2017)

Exploring a recently released collection of digitized Italian civil registration records.

– (April/May 2017) Yad VaShem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center: searchable record collections.

Your Genealogy Today (Jan./Feb. 2017) Germanic research.

IRELAND

Family Tree (UK) (March 2017) Researching Irish ancestors.

Glamorgan Family History Society (March 2017) The Irish in South Wales. This issue contains several articles about the Irish in Wales.

ONTARIO

Leeds & Grenville Branch News & Views (March/April 2017) War of 1812 Upper Canada militia muster rolls and pay lists.

SCAN (Simcoe County) (Feb. 2017) Finding ancestors in unusual places.

SCOTLAND

Borders Family History Society Magazine (Feb. 2017). Information about the Snaresbrook Institute for the Merchant Seamen's Orphans Asylum.

GALLUS (Glasgow) (March 2017) List of names of those from the Glasgow area who were killed or presumed killed when HMS Vimiera was sunk in 1942.

The Scottish Genealogist (March 2017) Information about records in the Brechin (Angus) Diocesan Archives.

Sib Folk News (March 2017) How to get the most out of the Orkney FHS website.

TAHITI

Your Genealogy Today (March/April 2017) Researching in the Island of Tahiti.

USA

Geer Family Association (Summer 2016)
A newsletter for members of the Geer/Gere/Gehr family.

Internet Genealogy (Feb./March 2017)
Researching civil war damage claims.

Oregon Genealogical Society Journal (Spring 2017) Lessons from the church register.

Red River Valley Genealogical Society Newsletter (Jan./2017) A listing of businesses affected by a major fire in LaMoure, ND in

1894.

Your Genealogy Today (March/April 2017)
Honouring World War II service together.

WALES

Family Tree (UK) (March 2017) Tips and websites for researching your Welsh ancestors.

Glamorgan Family History Society (Dec. 2016)
Information about an Elizabethan parish register from Llantrithyd.

* When you visit the MGS Resource Centre, don't forget to check the publications that are received by e-mail and are only available to read on MGS computers. Here's how to find them.

- Click on MGS indexes icon.
- Click on Journals shortcut.
- Select desired journal title.
- Click on the edition you want to see.

Perth County Profiles (Feb. 2017)
-1858 voters' list for Fullerton Township
- List of letters remaining in Listowel P.O. from Listowel Banner Oct. 1, 1868.

Roots Around the World (Abbotsford) (March 2017) Thoughts on photographs.
- Interviewing resistant relatives.

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (April 2017) England and Wales probate records.

Qualicum Beach (March 2017) Proving native ancestry using scrip records.

Ancestry (Nanaimo) (spring 2017)
Pre-confederation ancestors in Nanaimo.

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.

William Shirritt 1832-1917

Raymond Shirritt-Beaumont

Raymond is an avid genealogist and has been researching his family at all levels, for more than four decades. An educator and administrator by profession, Raymond has taught in Manitoba's North, in such remote locations as York Factory. Also a big history buff, Raymond can speak to many topics relating to Manitoba history, native history and his own family history. Originally from the Neepawa area, Raymond now lives in Winnipeg with his wife and three children.



William Shirritt, circa 1834

For those of us who were born in Canada and often take for granted how lucky we are to be Canadian, the sesquicentennial anniversary of Confederation may come and go with little appreciation of what it means. However, for those of our ancestors who came here from other parts of the world, this land represented an opportunity to improve their economic and social circumstances. Certainly this was the case

for my great-great-grandfather William Shirritt, who came to Manitoba in 1885 from Chicago, where he had lived since arriving in North America from Scotland in 1882.

Although much of his early history is still shrouded in mystery, we do know that he was born in Ireland, but where is still unconfirmed. Dr. Wm. Sirett, a well-known veterinarian in Minnedosa, once told my mother, Eva Shirritt Beaumont, that William was born in Dublin, Ireland, which may in fact be true. However, his mother, Mary Vaughan, came from County Down, where William was located from at least 1850 to the early 1860s. We know nothing of his youth or adolescence, but it coincided with the horrors of the Potato Famine that ravaged Ireland and led to the starvation of upwards of a million people. Whether his family was directly affected by the worst aspects of that time period is unknown, but we do have some clues. William's father, another William, was described in existing records as a "servant" or "gardiner", which suggests that he was employed by someone with means, a circumstance that could have insulated his family somewhat from the distress others were experiencing. Whatever the case, his children grew up in hard economic times.

By 1850, two of those children, William and his brother John, were living in the Parish of Greyabbey, County Down, not far from Dromore, where their mother Mary Vaughan had been born. Existing records describe them as "labourers," neither being able to write his name. Both married into Greyabbey families, John to Nancy McCormick in July 1850 and William to Isabella Tate in April 1853. Although John's specific occupation is unknown, William was described as a "weaver" in 1858, when one of his children died. There is no record of Isabella's death, but it must have been around this same time, leaving William with two children, William Tate, born in 1853, and Mary Ann, born in 1856. William married his second wife, Ann Hill, in March 1860, and in November their daughter Margaret was born.

It is not clear when William decided to move across the Irish Sea to Scotland, but his brother

John was already there by 1855. Economic conditions were still poor in Ireland, and nearly a million Irish people immigrated to the United States in the 1850s, an exodus that saw a sharp decline in handloom weaving in Eastern Ulster, where William resided. People were on the move.

With a wife and three young children to support, William decided to join his brother in Scotland, where there was work available in a flourishing coal-mining industry. Many of his Tate and Hill relatives also crossed the Irish Sea, although most of them settled in Cumberland in Northern England, where coal-mining was also important. By 1864, William was living in Kilwinning, Ayr, Scotland, where his youngest daughter, Helen Rainey Shirritt was born in July of that year.



The four Williams: (left to right) William Andrew (great-grandson), William Shirritt (grandson), William Tate Shirritt (son), William Shirritt (father)

William remained in Scotland for over fifteen years. In 1874, his only son William Tate Shirritt married Mary Johnstone, whose family was also from County Down, and in 1875, his eldest daughter Mary Ann married John Allan, also from an Irish immigrant family. By this time, William Tate was a coal miner, like his father, but neither was content in his situation. John Allan, a fireman on the Glasgow and Southwestern Railway, was likewise looking for a better future. Intrigued by advertisements about farmland in Western Canada, John began to dream of becoming a wheat farmer out on the Canadian prairies. In 1879, he and his cousin James Willoughby sailed for Quebec on the *Waldensian*, and arrived there in April. However, they did not proceed to the Prairies

immediately. They had no money, so they decided to head for Chicago, where a booming economy offered work. Mary Anne and their children soon followed. The Shirritts were not long in joining them. William Tate arrived in Chicago in 1881 and the following year William Sr., a widower once more, and his younger daughters Margaret and Ellen also made the crossing.

Although Chicago became the permanent home of some of the Shirritts, John Allan still had his dream, and in 1882, he and Mary Ann headed north to Manitoba through de Winton, later Carberry, from which they proceeded in a lumber wagon drawn by oxen to their homestead in Odanah. It was tough for them in the early years, but eventually John Allan became a very successful farmer, Reeve of the municipality, and one of the founders of the Grain Growers' Grain Co., later United Grain Growers. He raised a large family of eleven children, whose descendants are all scattered throughout Western Canada.

In 1885 William Shirritt Sr. joined the Allans, with whom he lived until 1888, when he moved to his homestead one mile east of his son-in-law in the Municipality of Langford. In the meantime, he started breaking the land, nine acres in 1885, fourteen acres in 1886, and an additional five acres in 1887. As soon as the land was broken, he put in a crop the following year. In July 1888, he built a 12 x 14 frame house, which was valued at \$75.00, when he made his declaration in 1889. He also bought three head of cattle, built a 14 x 16 stable valued at \$30.00, and fenced three sides of his quarter section.

In addition to farming, William was involved in the Orange Lodge in Minnedosa, and when a preceptory of the Royal Black Knights of Ireland was organised in 1890, he and James Willoughby were elected lecturers. A staunch Conservative, William also attended political gatherings locally and took a keen interest in community affairs. Although illiterate in his youth, he learned to read and write before he came to Canada, so he was able to keep abreast

of what was happening through the *Minnedosa Tribune* or *Neepawa Press*.

William dreamed of establishing a farm that would provide economic stability for many generations, but by 1901, he was sixty-nine years of age and alone. Whether it was on his initiative or his family's recognition of his need, a grandson, another William Shirritt, came up from Chicago to assist with the farm work. This younger William never returned to the United States, but married and remained in Manitoba. Prior to his death in 1917, William Sr. could look with some satisfaction at what he had accomplished. After his grandson's death in 1951, the Shirritt land passed on to his great-granddaughter, Eva Charlotte and her husband Richard Middleton Beaumont. Since then it has passed on to his great-great-grandson Dennis Beaumont, and in all likelihood will pass on again to his great-great-great grandson, James Beaumont, the sixth generation of William's descendants to possess the farm.

Canada turned out to be a good choice for the Shirritts. As we celebrate the hundred and fiftieth year of this great nation of ours, it is instructive to reflect on the pioneer accomplishments that have built this country in the past and to anticipate those of the future by pioneers arriving here now from all corners of the world.



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

A New Publication

(There is good information for all involved in genealogy, whether formally or informally).

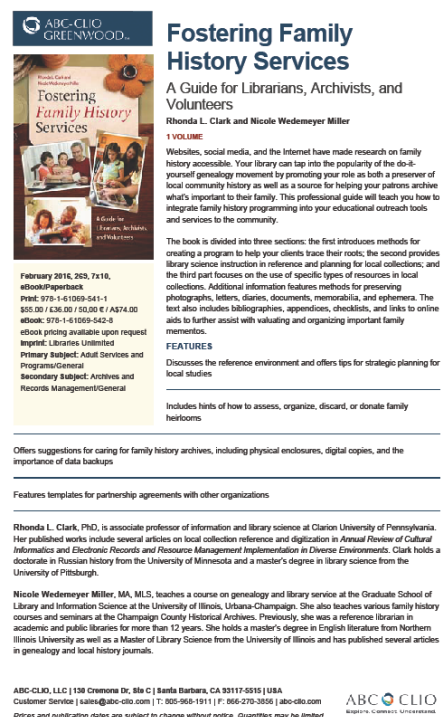
My co-author Rhonda Clark and I (Nicole Wedemeyer Miller) wanted to let you know that

we have just published a new book called *Fostering Family History Services: A Guide for Librarians, Archivists, and Volunteers*. This is not a how-to genealogy title, rather a guide for those of us who work with other genealogists. A variety of topics are covered including how to conduct a genealogical reference interview, planning programming, oral history projects, dealing with old photographs, providing good collection access, digitization projects, and more. This is the first book to cover this subject.

Further information on the book can be found online. A short video explaining how this writing project began can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/fosteringfamilyhistoryservices/>.

A review from *Library Journal* is here: <http://reviews.libraryjournal.com/2016/05/books/nonfic/soc-sci/professional-media-social-sciences-reviews-june-1-2016/>.

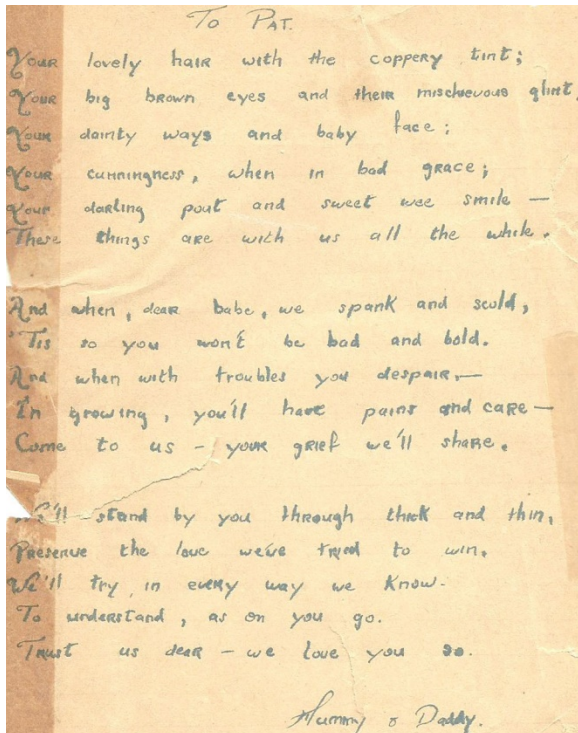
Excerpts can be found both on Amazon and Google Books. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!



My Mom, the Poet!

Pat Allan #2513

Though it's been many years since she wrote any, my Mom, Muriel, who just turned 101, used to write poems for special occasions. When we attended Porteous (her maiden name) reunions in Scotland together in 1990 and 1995, she penned something for each and sent one with me for the next one in 2000, which she was unable to attend.



Muriel's poem to her daughter, Pat.


When my folks moved from their house about 15 years ago, I took possession of a set of books which I remembered having as a child. Recently I was given the poem and when I flipped the page over, I realized it had been removed from the first volume of this set of books. I expect Mom worried the books might be given away and she didn't want to lose this precious poem. I've now put the poem back where it came from and the photo shows us sharing it once again – she told me she remembers writing it as she considered me a very special gift.

I am so glad that her friend returned this paper and that we were able to share it once again.



Pat Allan (nee James), with her mother, Muriel reading the original book containing the poem.

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The 27th Character

Did you know that the ampersand (&) was once part of the English alphabet? It all began with Roman scribes who used to link together the letters in the word *et*, meaning "and". Over time, the combined letters came to signify "and" in English as well. In fact, schoolchildren used to include the ampersand at the end of their recitations of the alphabet.

Wikipedia says, in part, "The word *ampersand* is a corruption of the phrase "and *per se* & (and)". And, further, The recitation of the alphabet would end in "X, Y, Z, and *per se* and." (ampersand).

"The 27th character" info came from a real estate "newsletter".

Sad but True

An obituary printed in the London Times

(Taken from The Banyan Tree, the Journal of the East Yorkshire FHS, October 2010 No. 124)

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common SENSE, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (do not spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but over-bearing regulations were set in place; reports of a 6 year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a class-mate; teams suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student; which only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. He declined even further when

schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student become pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as churches become businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. He suffered a very severe beating when he learned that you could no longer defend yourself from a burglar in your own home, and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights.
- I want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm a Victim

Not many attended the funeral as few realised he was gone.

If you still remember him you might like to help spread the word and pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

In a cemetery in England:

*Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so shall you be,
Remember this and follow me.*

To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

*To follow you I'll not consent,
Until I know which way you went.*

The Last Laugh



Some Fun Puns -

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

What's the definition of a will?
(It's a dead give away.)

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia - the LAN down under.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted - taint yours and taint mine.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.

Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.



Generations Editorial Team

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

Editor – *David Farmer*

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

Your financial support helps with:

- developing programs, collections and research resources
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- providing and maintaining a comfortable facility for our members and the public

You receive:

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

Time to Renew?

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

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Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

Unit E-1045 St. James Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 1B1

Telephone: 204-783-9139

Email: contact@mbgenealogy.com

Web: www.mbgenealogy.com

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

Please contact me re volunteer opportunities at MGS. ☐

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Telephone: 204-783-9139

E-mail: generations@mbgenealogy.com



Generations: Advertising Rates Schedule

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

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

Classified Ads

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

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

Changes

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

Copy Deadlines

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

Guidelines

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

- All advertisements shall conform to MGS policy. The following outline of principles constitutes the policy of the Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. on advertising. **Purposes:** [1] to advance the cause of genealogy; [2] to promote the interests of the Society; [3] to provide information to the public. **Content:** any advertising placed by the Society or appearing in Society publications shall: [1] conform to the policies of the Society; [2] contain no statements that are false or misleading to the best of our knowledge; [3] ensure a regard for public safety and shall not depict situations which might encourage inappropriate, unsafe or dangerous practices; and [4] conform to the public standards of taste and decency. **Placement:** advertising shall not be placed by the Society in any publication or media program that discriminates in its content on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, marital status, family status, source of income, or age. Advertising that appears in any publications of the Society shall not discriminate in its content on the basis of race, sex, language, religion, marital status, family status, source of income, or age. **Application of the Policy:** Where any doubt exists as to the application of the policy, the Vice-President of Communications and the Journal Editor of the Society shall decide.
- Advertisements in MGS publications shall be directly relevant to members of the Society.
- All advertisements shall be subject to the approval of the Editorial Committee. Where doubt exists as to the appropriateness of any advertisement, the Vice-President of Communications & Vice-President of Administration shall have the right to deny its publication.
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Revised January 2012.



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