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generations

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GENERATIONS

The Journal Of The Manitoba Genealogical Society

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COVER: Riel House - This Winnipeg landmark was built 150 to 200 years ago by Louis Riel's parents. It now houses a museum of interest to those researching their roots in the French manitoban or metis societies of that era.

Generations is published quarterly by the Manitoba Genealogical Society, Box 2066, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3R4. The Chairman Of Publications invites articles and news items from all members of the Society and from anyone else having an interest in Genealogy. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced, with adequate margins.

NEWS BRIEF

Ottawa, August 18, 1981 - The Public Archives of Canada recently acquired a collection of papers belonging to the Ramezay family, constituting a major source of documentation on the era of New France.

The collection, recently located in France, consists of forty centimeters of original papers and parchment documents, which had been lost without trace for a number of decades.

It comprises primarily business letters, legal documents, accounts, bills, deeds signed by Intendant Bigot, architectural drawings and documents dealing with properties owned by the Ramezay family both in France and in Canada, some of which date back to 1553, as well as papers concerning activities of family members who served in the army.

According to the Head of the French Archives Section of the Manuscript Division of the Public Archives, Victorin Chabot, "The acquisition of a private collection such as this represents a major contribution to the study of social, economic and military history of New France. Many of the documents reveal the activities of the Ramezay family which had an illustrious career in Canada."

Claude de Ramezay (1659-1724) was officially the first Ramezay to arrive in New France in 1685. He was Commander of the troops of the colony, Governor of Trois-Rivieres and of Montreal and was named acting Governor of the whole of New France from 1714-1716. Heir to several manors in France and in Canada, it was he who constructed the famous Chateau in Montreal which now bears his name. His son, Jean-Baptiste-Nicholas-Roch, is well-remembered for having signed the surrender of Quebec in 1759. Since this son had no male heirs to carry on his name, the Ramezay line ended with his death in 1777.

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The Ramezay collection was acquired in France by the Public Archives through a grant from the Minister of Communications under the Cultural Property Export and Import Act. It has been registered in the Manuscript Division and is available on microfilm, while an inventory of its contents is being prepared.

Down Memory Lane In Colchester
CONTRIBUTED BY MRS H. HIEBNER

This book is 8½" x 11" soft covered and contains 348 pages. Each page is double spaced and typed. It contains three maps, 305 pictures and family stories. The book at the time of publication cost $15.00 and it is unknown if copies are still available.

Colchester is a small rural community eight miles south east of Edmonton and takes in 80 quarter sections of land or approximately 12,800 acres of land. Under general history this book contains the following; first land survey of 1882-83, geography of the area, natural resources, early settlement and memoirs, pioneer days, dairying in the early days, industries, early blacksmiths, community activities, community league, hobby fair, 4-H Club, agriculture society, women's institute, friendly circle club, farm awards, war veterans, 50th and 60th Wedding anniversaries, one store, one post office, rural mail delivery, the Colchester old and new school, Clover Bar School Division, brief history of Bruederfeld Moravian Church, brief history of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, a few poems, and a few historical bills of sales and articles.

The family stories contained within this book are not genealogically inclined but are informative as to the happenings and offspring.

Index to "Down Memory Lane In Colchester"

The family stories contained within this book are not that genealogically inclined but are informative as to the happenings and offspring.

Year To Canada	Name	Birth & Death Years		Years In Area	Origin
1912	Adamson, Andrew		1972	1919-74	Scotland
1927	Arps, Otto			1949-	Germany
	Arthur, Frank		1971	1965-	
1896	Aspinal, Hugh	1878	1964	1923-34	England
	Batson, C.			1902-	England
	Bussiere, Louis	1903		1943-54	French
	Carnagie, Arnold			1965-80	
	Ceretzke, Irvin				German-Russian
	Ceretzke, Rudolph		1959	1919-	German-Russian
1927	Christie, William		1972	1945-72	Scotland
	Cooper, Tom			1911-47	
1880's	Crosswhite, John		1958		
	Currie, William		1975	1935-75	
1893	Drebert, Wilhelm	1852	1929	1893-1918	German-Russian
1898	Dreger, Rudolph		1973	1916-56	German-Russian
1898	Dreger, William	1862	1922	1898-1948	German-Russian
	Easton, Reginald			-59	
	Edwards, E.C. (Ted)			1939-80	
	Ertman, August				
1893	Fenske, William	1870	1936	1895-	German-Russian
	Fleming, Robert		1957	1921-46	Ireland
1898	Frauenfeld, Paul	1859	1942	1898-1945	German-Russian
1911	Gahr, Ludwig	1857	1918	1921-80	German-Russian
	Galley, Sam			1890s-1902	
1910	Ginter, August	1888	1970	-30s	German-Russian
	Goble, Barney			1957-68	
	Gramatovich, Bill			1954-80	
	Gray, Sydney		1968	1934-80	
	Grosser, Nelson		1978	1963-80	
	Habke, Emil	1894	1968	1938-	German-Russian
	Hacking, Alberta			1964-80	
1898	Harke, Ferdinand	1858	1933	1898-1980	German-Russian
1897	Harke, William	1889	1946	1897-	German-Russian
	Hawrish, William				
1893	Henkelman, Ludwig Sr.	1846	1935	1893-1903	German-Russian
	Henkelman, Martin			1941-47	German-Russian
1896	Henschell, August	1884	1929		German-Russian
	Henschell, Gerhard			1942-80	German-Russian
1897	Henschell, Gottfried	1860	1907	1897-1980	German-Russian
1929	Heppner, Waldemar	1908	1966	1932-	German-Russian
	Hickman, Wilhelm	1906	1963	1946-80	German-Russian
1900	Hicks, Roe		1909	1900-09	

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Year To Canada	Name	Birth & Death Years		Years In Area	Origin
1900	Hildebrand, Frederick		1946		German-Russian
1873	Hill, Charles		1936	-08	England
	Hipkin, Percy			1930-	England
	Holland, Joe		1975	1955-55	
1898	Hoppe, Adolph	1885		1898-1946	German-Russian
	Inkpen, Walter		1977	1919-22	
1928	Janke, Fred			1945-	German-Russian
1897	Jantz, Gottlieb			1897-	German-Russian
1895	Job, John	1851	1922		German-Russian
1890	Johannsen, William	1905		1905-21	Denmark
	Kadatz, Wilfred	1931	1957		German-Russian
	Kelm, John		1938		
	Kittlitz, Edward	1895	1970	1918-58	German-Russian
1897	Kittlitz, Karl	1865	1943		German-Russian
	Kraemer, Wallace			1892-1913	
	Lang, Fred		1961	1938-69	
1898	Lentz, Christoph	1843	1910	1898-1926	German-Russian
	Lentz, Julius	1896	1927	-79	German-Russian
1895	Martin, David Sr.	1841	1913	1895-1913	German-Russian
	Martin, David Jr.	1881	1928		German-Russian
	Martin, Charles				
	Martin, Leonard				German-Russian
1893	Martin, Ludwig	1871	1929	1893-1946	German-Russian
	Martin, Wilfred		1980		
	Matthews, Charles			1894	
	McAllister, Roy			1891	Scotland
	McEachern, Albert			1895-1926	Scotland
	Missel, August	1905	1976		German-Russian
1894	Missel, Edward		1958	1894	German-Russian
1953	Mol, John			1968-80	Holland
	Murphy, Charles	1879	1962	1905-53	
	Murphy, Edward			1900s-1920	
	Neuman, August			1914-55	German-Russian
1901	Neuman, Julius	1900	1974	1901-74	German-Russian
	Neuman, Leonard	1939		-80	German-Russian
	Neuman, Rupert	1943		-80	German-Russian
1901	Neuman, Wilhelm	1862	1938	1901-80	German-Russian
1898	Otto, Bernard	1898	1908	1898-1908	German-Russian
1902	Ott, William	1856	1920	1902-	German-Russian
1895	Paul, Christian	1851	1943	1895-1943	German-Russian
1895	Paul, Emil	1892-1970		1895-1970	German-Russian
1895	Paul, Nickolaus	1831	1903	1895-	German-Russian
1902	Pheasey, George		1926	1902-08	
	Preus, Ed			1947-54	
1898	Pronick, Egnot		1950	1929-39	Poland
1912	Reed, Tom Sr.			1912-52	England
	Reed, Tom Jr.			-80	England
1898	Rentz, William	1855	1934	1898-1927	German-Russian
1900	Riske, William	1887	1963	1900-80	German-Russian
1921	Savage, Septimus	1898		1921-43	England
	Schiewe, Kurt				Germany
1925	Schiewe, Samuel	1891	1968	1925	Germany
1907	Schmidt, Ephraim	1887	1959	1901-	German-Russian

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Year To Canada	Name	Birth & Death Years		Years In Area	Origin
1896	Schultz, Samuel	1872	1932	1896-1920	German-Russian
1899	Seutter, Christian			1907-1938	Germany
	Seutter, Ewald	1907-57		1907-80	Germany
1897	Seutter, Gustav			1897-80	Germany
1897	Seutter, Jacob	1869	1957		Germany
	Seutter, Julius			1928-80	Germany
	Shaw, Jim			1966	
	Sherwin, Carl (Charles)			1919-28	
1894	Siegel, Gottlieb		1956		German-Russian
1900	Soch, Wilhelm	1882	1965	1914-60	German-Russian
	Sommers, Henry			1934-62	
1907	Spitzer, Leopold		1951	-80	
	Steinbach, Walter			1960-69	German
1925	Stefanich, George		1962	1925-65	Yugoslavia
	Stephenson, William		1967	1917-36	
	Teske, Dan			1945	German
	Timwell		1939		
1948	Traas, Jacobus		1975	-80	Holland
	Trelenberg, Martin			1920-54	German-Russian
	Trevithick, Alfred			1948-	
1896	Vogel, John			1896-28	German-Russian
1954	Wanke, Christian	1905	1977		Romania
	Weeks, Bert			1918-	
	Weiss, Fredrich	1965	1922	1918-80	German
1928	Weismantel, Joe		1956	1949-68	Hungary
	Wilson, Ernest				
1950	Winarski, John			1950-80	Austria
	Wingrove, William		1923	1912-52	
1902	Wyard-Scott				England
	Ziemmer, Daniel			1964	

I am willing to type an exact transcript of any of the above mentioned families for the cost of $1.00 to cover the cost of stamp, envelope and paper.

For any further information on the above send $1.00 and your question to:

Mrs. Helen Hiebner
9743 - 64 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 0J4

*** German-Russian means German ancestry that once lived in Russia.

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THE BECKONING PAST

SOME HELP IN CLIMBING THE FAMILY TREE

BY JAMES McGIVERN

The brig Hero, Capt. William Heard, commander, made a very stormy crossing from Cork, Ire., to Saint John, N.B., in 1834, and the Irish emigrant passengers suffered accordingly. Twenty-four-year-old Richard Pattison McGivern wrote in his diary: "May 31st about 4:30 o'clock in the morning the gale was so high that the captain considered it unsafe to run any longer for fear of shipping any of the seas that were running mountains high and which might be attended with very fatal consequences. We lay to until about 6 o'clock Sunday morning, 1st June, when it became moderate - wind north. This evening I was taken very ill of dysentery and obliged to take to my bed where I had to remain until Friday the 6th."

Richard's Atlantic voyage may be of slight interest to the world at large - many thousands like him had a similar experience - but it interests me for he was my great-grandfather, the first of my father's family to reach the New World. If he had not made it I might not have been born in Canada. Indeed, I might not have been born at all. To the McGiverns, and those Savarys, Snyders, Campbells, MacDonalds, Taylors, and Chisholms who are linked to them, the voyage of the Hero was a notable event in family history; just as the fall of a tree on a Cape Breton farm in 1802 was a significant tragedy, because it killed a pioneer Chisholm.

Obviously some family histories are intrinsically more interesting than others, just as the lives of kings, martyrs, and prominent villains are more exciting than those of farmers. But every family history, no matter how quiet and apparently uneventful, is fascinating to the members of that family. And the search for one's ancestors is one of the most exciting quests anyone can embark upon. It is high adventure.

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Genealogy was long considered to be a dull recitation of names and dates, as boring as a Victorian history textbook or those passages in the Bible that list, interminably, who begat whom. Yet it is now the third most popular hobby in North America, after stamp and coin collecting. You can't buy or trade ancestors, but they're much more fun than stamps.

Ancestor collecting got its big boost from Roots, Alex Haley's best-selling history of his own, fairly typical black family. The first television series based on the book gained a record audience and caused a 70 percent increase in requests for genealogical information from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Haley penetrated what sociologist Wyatt Tee Walker called the "cultural blackout" shrouding the history of slave families. His story started millions of black Americans thinking about their own roots. Surprisingly, millions of whites did the same. Haley wrote: "In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know about our heritage - to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainment in life there is still a vacuum, an emptiness and the most disquieting loneliness."

Roots is genealogy at its best, not just a list of names, but portrayals of the captured African Kunta Kinte and his descendants as feeling, breathing people, set against the background of their times. Haley took some of this background from the accounts of others, which is perfectly permissible in a family history. We want to know, not just who our ancestors were, but how they lived, and if they have omitted to tell us in their own letters or diaries we are entitled to look elsewhere.

Every North American family not of pure native stock has a Kunta Kinte, an original immigrant, somewhere in its past. He may have arrived many generations past or only a few years ago. Mine is Richard, the lad from County Cork, who sailed, not in chains, but in fare-paying discomfort with testimonials in his pocket recommending him for "any situation either in the mercantile or any other department of trade." They didn't help much. After trying his luck in New York he settled in Saint John, N.B., and did quite well in the shipping business. He chose this country and made it his. While I am proud that my ancestors came here a long time ago, I regret that some of this sense of choosing has been lost to those of us who are born here. So it is important for us to realize our roots, not just in Canada, but in the old lands and to understand why the original immigrants came here and the traditions they brought with them.

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I began compiling my family history in the late 1950s after a 12-year-old nephew came home from Upper Canada College in Toronto and wanted to know what has our family done to help make Canada? His class had been told to bring stories of their families and their achievements. I assured him that his family had done a great deal. Then I said to myself: I know this but I can't prove it. To convince the boy, I should have something written down.

I began late, having turning 50. Although I have since completed five volumes, the job would have been much easier if I had started earlier in life. Memories fade and people die. I wrote to my father, asking him what he knew about the family and received five pages of notes containing, as I later discovered, an error on each page. Fortunately I had some aged relatives still alive with good memories - a great-aunt, who lived to be 93, provided the story of her quiet but important life - and old family journals and a goodly number of documents had been preserved.

The bare bones of a family history is the pedigree chart or family tree. The old form, favored by professional genealogists in England, begins with an important ancestor and traces his descendants in ever-widening lines down to the present time. The more popular and practical way is to start with the present generation - meaning you - and work backward in time. Later, your children and grandchildren can carry the story forward, for the foundation will have been laid. So begin your chart with your own names as number one, leaving two spaces for your parents, four for your grandparents, eight for great-grandparents, 16 for the generation before that, and so on. Once you have the names of your relations, plus dates of births and deaths and lists of children, you go on to the details you can find of their lives, occupations, achievements, and clues to their personalities.

The ideal time to start is on your wedding day. You're young, presumably, and you know your own story and that of your spouse. (If you don't know his or her story you can soon learn it). There will be parents at the wedding, possibly grandparents, aunts, uncles, and distant cousins you might never meet again. I'm not suggesting you let the champagne go flat while you whip out a tape recorder and interview them on the spot. Just remember where they can be contacted later, for their stories should provide the basic record of four generations of family history. The parents will remember their parents and so will the grandparents. Allowing 25 to 30 years per generation, that's more than a century of family life. There are recently-titled families in Britain who cannot trace their ancestry any further than that. This basic story can be written without delving into ancient records or scraping

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moss off tombstones. You may wish to stop there, but chances are you won't. For the fascination of ancestor hunting soon takes hold and leads you into the real detective work, probing back beyond living memories and hunting for long-hidden clues. Many of these are to be found in attics and basements. The average Canadian family moves house fairly frequently and, while attic treasures get lost or thrown out, there is still genealogical gold to be found in old trunks and boxes.

The old family Bible, with its list of births, marriages, and deaths carefully inscribed on the flyleaf, is a prime source of information, although the names and dates should be checked, for the writers are not always to be trusted. Look for old diaries, letters, newspaper clippings, and photograph albums; also any legal documents, school records, birth, marriage, and baptismal certificates, and government documents, such as passports, licenses, military paybooks, and income-tax forms. When interviewing or writing to relatives ask for access to this kind of material. And don't overlook old books, which may have names and dates written in them, and calling cards, letters or bills slipped between the pages long ago for safekeeping.

The search for roots begins as a personal matter, but you soon find you're not alone in the quest. Genealogy serves to remind us that the world was all one family in the beginning. Although no one can trace his line that far back, it's remarkable how many common roots emerge when we go back a century or two. Once you have identified your family's original immigrant and where he came from, the search may become easier, for you may find a link to a prominent family whose history has already been charted. Most families that have lived in Canada for several generations come from the farming or middle-classes, but I maintain that everyone will strike nobel or even royal blood if he goes back far enough. Sir Anthony Wagner, formerly garter king of arms and premier herald of England, says any family originating in Britain can produce at least one noble ancestor in the previous eight generations. The advantage here is that records of royalty and nobility are better preserved than those of farmers, because kingdoms, titles, and lands were at stake, and the slip of a genealogist's pen could start a lawsuit or a war.

Pursuing the McGiverns and their kin back into the Celtic twilight, I found a 12th-century Irish King, Niall of the Nine Hostages, and his descendant, Uidhrin, meaning he of the fair or sandy hair. His sons were Mag-Uidhrin, meaning son of Uidhrin, which became McGivern.

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My mother was a MacDonald - Mary Ellen, from Port Hood - and once I had picked my way through the legions of MacDonalds (to use just one spelling of the name) in Nova Scotia, and found the original immigrant from Scotland, I could turn to existing research on the Clan Donald. Highland families seldom kept written records, but the clansmen had a remarkable memory for names and preserved their stories by learning and reciting them. In my mother's family the head of the household would gather the boys together every Sunday after Mass - the girls could come, too, if they wished - and make them recite the names of their ancestors for 21 generations. This custom has, with the loss of the Gaelic language, been largely abandoned.

The first of my mother's line to settle in Canada arrived dramatically at a turning point in Canadian history. Early in the morning of Sept. 13, 1759, in the kilt of the Fraser Highlanders, Ronald MacDonald climbed the cliffs at Quebec with the vanguard of Wolfe's invaders. His company commander was Captain Donald McDonald, the French-speaking officer who fooled the French sentries into believing Wolfe's landing craft were friendly supply boats. Ronald is said to have told his captain the heights of Abraham were not nearly as steep as the cliffs around his home at Arisaig in Inverness-shire, which he had often climbed as a boy.

After the British victory at Quebec and the French surrender the following year, the Frasers were disbanded in Canada, and Ronald settled first in Prince Edward Island, then in Nova Scotia. He applied for a land grant of about 160 hectares in Broad Cove, Cape Breton. His brother, Angus, arrived in the 1780s in "the briganteen Peggy, Capt. Ritchie, from Glasgow" and was granted 40 hectares. I have no letters or diaries written by Ronald or Angus to describe their daily lives, but I know from contemporary accounts how they must have lived, so I have included these in my history. Everyone faced the same grim conditions. The pioneer farmer had to tackle virgin bush with an axe, a shovel, and a sack of seed potatoes. It's unlikely that he could afford a gun. His only enemy seems to have been the bear, which is why so many Cape Breton genealogies begin with "Rory the Bear" or "John the Bear," meaning that Rory or John had won fame by routing a bear with his axe.

Another danger was being hit by a tree while felling it. This is a frequent cause of death listed in parish records. However, the particular tree that killed Alexander Chisholm in Cape Breton in 1802 was the vital clue that enabled me to trace the Chisholm branch of my family back to Scotland and beyond, even to Charlemagne, to Alfred, to St. Louis of France, and to a host of others, among them El Cid, the great hero of Spain. I found a record of

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Alexander's fatal accident (and a record of his children), but no name of his widow. There were dozens of Alexander Chisholms in the area and no way of telling which was which. A history of the Chisholm family in Scotland showed that one of the many Alexanders had sailed for Canada about that time with his wife, Helen, and her two brothers. But was he the right Alexander? The Public Archives of Nova Scotia showed that a widow, Helen Chisholm, had petitioned for a land grant, mentioning that her husband had been killed by a falling tree, but she didn't give the husband's first name. More proof was needed. Finally, I found a ship's passenger list printed in the Antigonish Casket, listing Alexander, Helen, and their children, together with her brothers.

That clinched it. I could now trace the Chisholm line through its Scottish history back to Hereward, the English patriot who fought William the Conqueror at Ely in 1070. And I could add six saints to my family tree, not to mention innumerable others, some royal, some scoundrels.

It was a thrilling moment after a fascinating piece of detective work. There are similar thrills waiting for everyone who joins the ancestor hunt, although I should add that it's easier to find scoundrels than saints. More than that, there is satisfaction to be found in leaving a priceless treasury of family lore to your children and generations to come.

And on the following page, here's how...

DIGGING FOR YOUR TREE

Begin your family history by writing down your own name. This is easy for you, but think how many times you've seen it misspelled by quite literate clerks, typists, and officials who didn't bother to get it right. Then imagine what may have happened to it in the past when literacy levels were low, writing was often illegible, and spelling wildly erratic. Write your name again and add every misspelling and mispronunciation you can think of, because any or all of these may crop up as you trace the name back. There are 400 possible spellings for Shakespeare, 13 for Smith, and 31 for one of my family names, Snyder. The churchmen who kept most early records of births, marriages, and deaths were literate - the word clerk comes from cleric - but sometimes too literate. English records were kept either in Latin, English, or Norman French and spellings changed accordingly. In recent times immigration officers at Canadian and U.S. entry points bluntly refused to spell difficult foreign names and changed them to the nearest English-sounding word. They created a great many "Smiths."

Forewarned, you advance into the spelling jungle. Buy or borrow a cassette tape recorder and interview your relatives about their lives, careers, children, and parentages. Talk to them one at a time, ask the important questions first and don't let the interviews drag on more than an hour and a half. If you use a recorder with a built-in microphone they'll relax and forget it's there.

Try to get full names, exact addresses of family homes, and dates of family events, because you'll need to check these in official records in order to go farther back. When writing for information about friends and relatives explain that you're writing a family history, thank them for their cooperation in advance and again afterwards and, once more, try to get full and accurate names, dates and place names.

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With this information you should have enough material for three generations of history. Start a pedigree chart, beginning with yourself and adding your parents, their parents and so on. (You can obtain chart forms from any of the many genealogical societies or stores dealing with family research). The word pedigree may remind you of prize poodles, but is the correct genealogical term and cannot be avoided. Each name on the chart is given a number. Put this number on a separate sheet containing all the additional information you have about the person and file the sheets in a loose-leaf binder.

To trace your line back beyond your grandparents you will probably require birth, marriage, and death certificates. These are available, for a search fee of $3 to $5 from provincial registrars, if the ancestor was born, married or died in Canada. By this time you'll have a good idea where your family came from and how easy or difficult it will be to trace your roots. This will depend on where they came from and when. Put in very general terms, Indian and Inuit people were here first, followed by the Acadian and Quebec French, several waves of Scots and Irish, Loyalists, mainly of English descent, who left the United States at the time of the revolution, then a wide variety of European and other groups.

French-Canadian roots are by far the easiest to trace, since nearly all the six million Canadians and two million Americans of French descent stem from the 60,000 who remained in New France after the colony surrendered in 1763. The keeping of records was compulsory in France before the colony was founded, so almost every French Canadian can trace his line back to the old country. Quebec records date back to about 1615 when the first priests arrived. The principal authority is the Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes, compiled by the Abbe Cyprien Tanguay in the 1850s and updated in the 1950s. It is an enormous work. The Abbe searched baptismal records in Quebec and listed every name he could find up to the Conquest.

Records in English Canada are poor by comparison, incomplete and often missing when you get back to the mid-1800s. But the genealogical societies across Canada can advise you where to look for them. Public and church archives, cemetery records, local libraries that contain local histories, county court registries of wills - which provide revealing details of family relationships - are all useful. Census information would be more useful still, but the latest census open for public inspection is the first Dominion-wide one, taken in 1871. It's the pet peeve of

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all genealogists that they can't get at the information collected after that. Censuses taken in Upper Canada in 1841 to 1851 and in 1861 are available.

When you have found your original family immigrant, the temptation is to leap aboard a plane and fly to his homeland to discover more about him. This takes time and money. But you can get a great deal of information without leaving home. The world's greatest genealogy collection lies in bomb-proof vaults beneath a mountain near Salt Lake City, Ut. More than a million rolls of microfilm, recording 60 million ancestors from 126 countries, are kept there. It was gathered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormons). Mormons are the world's most industrious genealogists, because they baptize their ancestors by proxy into their church, which was founded in the 1830s. Since ancestors living before that time were not Mormons the church members collect names from all faiths, and their great library is open to everyone. Apply to the nearest Mormon library - there are 220 in the United States and Canada - and for a modest service charge you can view its microfilms or order rare records from Salt Lake City. More than 500,000 searchers visit the central library each year where they can view, for example, most of the parish records available in England. There are also pedigree researchers who will, for a fee (often less than $50), follow you own chart back as far as they can. They may draw a blank or add 15 generations to your family tree. The General Church Distribution Centre, P.O. Box 11627, Salt Lake City, Ut., 84111, has lists of genealogical information and sources in many countries, available for about $1.40 each. State which country interests you.

When searching for records abroad you'll find that some countries maintain central registries, others leave this to states, provinces, or municipalities. The earliest records were kept by churches, beginning in the 16th century, but many of these are incomplete or have been lost or destroyed during wars and religious upheavals. Some eastern European countries suspect genealogists of trying to prove noble descent - frowned upon in Communist society - and refuse to provide information. But no matter where your ancestors come from it's worth asking the Canadian embassy or consulate of the country how to get information.

Sources of birth, marriage, and death records in the United Kingdom are:

England and Wales: The General Register Office, St. Catharine's House, 10 The Kingsway, London WC2.

Scotland: The General Register Office, New Register House, Edinburgh.

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Northern Ireland: The General Register Office, Oxford House, Chichester Street 1, Belfast.

For Republic of Ireland records write the Register General, Custom House, Dublin, 1.

An excellent reference source for other countries is Searching for your Ancestors, by Gilbert H. Duane, Bantam Books, New York.

For researching in France, a good reference book is La Genealogie by Pierre Durye, published in the series Que sais-je? (no. 917).

GHOST TOWNS REVISITED

BY G. F. HOLM

Many towns sprang up where railways were planned to go and where railroads and dreams used to be, but are now only memories of the active places that were. Within the agricultural regions of our province the trend has been for larger communities to become larger and smaller communities to become smaller. In some cases the change from a 'boom town' to ghost town took but a few years and in others the trend still continues.

The following ghost towns resulted from the railroad boom of late 1800's, places that became ghost towns overnight because the rails never came.

ASESSIPPI -

Located on the Shell River halfway between Russell and Roblin, Asessippi was one of the numerous small communities which sprang up during the 1880's in anticipation of the railway, only to be abandoned shortly thereafter as they were bypassed in favour of neighbouring villages. The name Asessippi can be traced back to the Indian inhabitants. John Sutherland of the Hudson's Bay Company was stationed at a trading post near the Shell River in the late 18th century. On January 15th, 1795 he wrote introducing himself as "a Person in charge at a Place Cald Essa seepy by ye natives or Shell River". The Cree name "Essa seepy' was compounded by the settlers into "Asessippi".

In 1882 the first settlers arrived and in 1883 the post office named Asessippi was opened. By 1883 some 50 immigrants from Ontario had settled at the Village founded by the Shell River Colonization Co. A dam, a grist mill, a saw mill, a shingle factory, a brickyard and a cheese factory were all built.

When the Manitoba and North Western Railway stopped at Russell, Asessippi enterprises could no longer compete with nearby companies because of poor access to markets.

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Soon after the turn of the century, it was announced that the Canadian Northern Railway would pass through Roblin. It was obvious by this time that a railway would not come to Asessippi. By 1920 few of the early enterprises had survived and now all that is left are a cluster of buildings - a true 'ghost town'.

MILLFORD -

In 1879 Dominion Land Surveyor F. C. Caddy surveyed the town of Millford, North West Territories (Manitoba was still the original postage stamp size), being parts of Sections 3 and 4 in Township 8, Range 16 West and Section 34, Township 7, Range 16 West. Some 500 home lots were laid out in the beautiful valley near the junction of the Souris River and Oak Creek, about 10 Km N.E. of present day Wawanesa. The plan also showed the expected location of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The name Millford was based on the fact that a small grist 'mill' already existed and a good 'ford' across the Souris River was nearby.

Early in 1880 the building started and hotels, blacksmith shops, stores and homes sprung up. When the C.P.R. was built through the area in 1887, it bypassed an expectant Millford and went from Glenboro to Stockton instead. The disappointed citizens moved their dwellings and businesses by skids to neighbouring communities and by 1890 Millford was a 'ghost town'.

MOUNTAIN CITY -

A thriving village located 8 Km. southwest of Morden on the International Boundary trail between Emerson and the Turtle Mountain, hence the name.

Unfortunately, the dreams of the 'city' were doomed as the railroad bypassed them.

NELSON -

This village was named Nelsonville after the first settler. Adam Nelson who arrived there in the mid 1870's. It was located about 9.6 Km. northwest of Morden in portions of 34, 35-3-6 W.P.M. and 2, 3-4-6 W.P.M. In 1879/80 Nelsonville was incorporated as a Town and the name was shortened to Nelson. The businesses consisted of a small mill and grist mill, two hotels, a land office, doctor and lawyer offices which served a population of approximately 800. It was a 'boom town' until 1882 when the railway was completed from Winnipeg to Morden, leaving Nelson stranded.

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NORQUAY -

Named after Honorable John Norquay, Premier of Manitoba 1878-87, Norquay was a thriving village in the mid 1880's. With high hopes of the railroad coming, it was started by C. Holland and T. H. Pentland on Section 17, Township 6 and Range 10 W.P.M.

In 1889 two railroads bypassed Norquay, one 6.5 Km. south in the Swan Lake district and one 13 Km. north through the Holland district. Soon after, Norquay was abandoned as the residents moved to other communities.

SOURIS CITY -

Not far from Millford in 1879 was a settlement named Souris City on the Souris River about 3.2 Km southwest of present day Wawanesa. It was the point at which settlers south of the river could cross the Souris to take their wheat to Brandon. The settlement flourished until the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway reached Brandon in 1889 after crossing the Souris at Wawanesa.

TOTOGAN -

Totogan was a community northwest of Portage la Prairie near the mouth of the Whitemud River on Lake Manitoba. Gypsum and limestone from the east side of Lake Manitoba was brought by lake steamer to Totogan, a railway junction. However, the Canadian National Railway extended its line up the west side of Lake Manitoba and in 1910, up the east side to Gypsumville. Thus the gypsum, fish, stove wood, lumber and passengers stopped coming to Totogan and the 'booming settlement' disappeared with the loss of business. It is ironic that the railroad which gave Totogan its 'boom times' also took them away.

This part of the article discusses reasons for other ghost towns as well as abandoned school and farm yards which leave 'ghostly memorials' dotting the countryside.

LETTONIA

Around 1930 several Latvian families homesteaded on the southeast side of Lac du Bonnet and they named their community Lettonia (Latvia in French). Because there were no roads to town (Lac du Bonnet) the mode of transportation was by boat via Lac du Bonnet and the Winnipeg River, being approximately 21 km. They commenced clearing land, developing their farms and eventually built Lettonia Hall where they held many meetings and social functions.

The post office closed in 1953 when Manitoba Hydro expropriated the settlement land for water storage purposes under the McArthur Falls hydro electric project. The closely knit community became scattered over a wide area and many old neighbours and friends have subsequently lost contact with each other.

BENDER HAMLET

In 1903 Jacob Bender established a Jewish colony 3.2 km east of Narcisse modelled on the European plan of a quarter section for each family and one for the village. Centrally located, the village was on NW¼ Section 36 Township 19 Range 1 West of the Principal Meridian. It was divided into 18 strips of 8.5 acres each and the remaining one of 7.7 acres.

Even though the colony flourished for some years after battling with the prairie elements to become established, there were several reasons for its decline: after World War I settlers were unable to get cash for cord wood or labour in the sawmills so they went outside to work on railways, farms or small businesses; the price of cattle dropped drastically during the war; many were unable to

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repay their loans; much of the land was unsuitable for agriculture; the roads were poor; the young people left for 'greener pastures' etc.

Not one of the original settlers nor their descendants stayed behind. Little is left to identify this Inter-lake community enterprise where upwards of 125 colonists once lived.

BISSETT

Gold was first discovered near this mining community 235 km northeast of Winnipeg in 1911. Since the mines went into production in 1931 the town has come full circle from a 'boom' town of 1200 residents to a mere tenth of that by 1968 when the mine closed. The town took on a ghost-like appearance and it was the camping and fishing industry that kept it alive. A recent announcement to reopen the mines and provide 200 full time jobs is a reward to those who 'stuck it out'.

Bissett was named after Dr. E. D. R. Bissett, a former M.P. for Springfield. The name first appeared in the postal guide in 1928.

There are many 'ghost-like' vacant buildings in the rural areas of Manitoba. Many associate failure with abandoned farmyards and communities, never realizing that consolidation and progress were also key factors. Some reasons for this population shift from agricultural regions to larger centres leaving these 'ghostly memorials' are:

(a) Consolidation of schools during the late 1950's and early 1960's caused the closing of one-roomed schools. In 1914 there were 1754 school districts and 2,688 schools in operation and today there are 47 divisions, 10 remote districts and a total of 796 schools including 73 private ones. Some schools still stand as memorials to those pioneering days but the names of others on old maps and in local histories are the only traces our next generation will have of these once active localities.

(b) Our records indicate at least 434 post offices have been closing including Allegra, Bethel, Crocus, Delta Beach, Edrans, Jackhead Harbour, Kilkenny, Lavinia, Mill Park, Norgate, Rembrandt, Silver Plains, The Halfway, Umatillo, Wadhope and Zelena. Their closing meant that usual meetings of friends and neighbours at the post office for a chit-chat would be fewer and farther between. It also meant that the commerical establishments in which the offices were generally located had one more reason to close their doors.

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(c) The curtailment of the full service of the railroads and in some cases the abandonment of lines were sufficient reasons for some businesses to move to larger centres.

(d) The automation of farming and transportation led to the expansion of large farms at the expense of the homestead farms.

(e) Fewer family farms are passed on today as sons and daughters have taken up careers other than farming.

A reversal of the population decline in agricultural regions can be witnessed today if you visit the 'bedroom communities' of the large urban centres. For example, around Winnipeg, the once dying farming communities of St. Francois Xavier, Rosser, Grosse Isle, Warren, Lorette, Oakbank and Sanford are expanding again.

Even though the abandoned towns, schools and post offices did not 'live happily ever after', their names will live on in the written memories of the hard times and good times prevalent in the growth of Manitoba.

GENERATION GAPS

"Generation Gaps" is the query section of Generations where researchers can seek the help of others who may be researching the same families. Members may place up to two free queries each year. Additional queries, or those placed by non-members, may be inserted for a fee of $2.50 each time the query is printed.

Ellis

John Ellis was born in England on May 22, 1817 and died on November 3, 1896. He was buried in Zion cemetary. John came to Manitoba from Nova Scotia in1882. Married whom? when? The following children issued from the marriage: Rupert Dennis (married Henriette nee Guyer), Scott R., Thomas, and Mary. Any help appreciated. Ms. Frances Blelloch, box 474, Birtle, Man. R0M 0C0.

McAuley

Seeking information on George Robert McAuley, his parents and his grandparents. McAuley's came from Hebrides Island, then to Ireland, and then to Quebec. George came west in the 1880's or 1890's from Megantic County. McAuley, Manitoba was named in honour of George Rupert McAuley. George Robert was born in Ireland in 1865 and died on August 20, 1919. He was buried in McAuley, Man. He married Jessie (nee Thompson) on January 1, 1891. Jessie was born in St. Thomas, Ont. in 1869 and died on 1936. They had 15 children. Ms. Frances Belloch, box 474, Birtle, Man. R0M0C0.

Baillie

Seeking information on the descendants of my great-great-grandfather Alexander Baillie (1782-1866) who came from parish of Clyne in Sutherlandshire, Scotland to Nova Scotia in 1820. Ms. Minnie Smith, R.R. no.1, Carroll, Man. R0k0K0.

MacKenzie

Seeking information on descendants of my great-great-grandfather Donald MacKenzie who came from Stornoway, Scotland to Nova Scotia. Ms. Minnie Smith, R.R.no1, Carroll, Man. R0K0K0.

McCurdy

Margaret McCurdy b.1845,? Ont.;d. July 16 1908, Roblin, Man. Married Abraham Fulkerson 1869, Ont. Resided in Roblin and Dauphin. Who were her parents? Mrs. A. Jean Tucker, R.R. #3, Dauphin, Man,R7N 2T6.

Arkils-Tucker
Gleason-Tucker
Tucker-Bradley

Sally Tucker, b.circa 1847, married Austin Arkils. She had a sister, Elizabeth (Tucker) Gleason & brothers, George and Joseph, all children of James Tucker and Mary Bradley. Information on any of the above welcome. Mrs. A. Jean Tucker R.R.#3, Dauphin, Man. R7N 2T6.

Hunter

Richard Hunter b. Ireland ca 1831 & wife Leticia ? b. Ireland ca 1834. Both Presbytarians. Younger children : George, Leticia, Ellen, Isaac, Ed - all born in Ontario. Apparently left Bruce county in 1880's.
Son Richard &wife Barbara McNaughton moved to Brandon. Did Richard & Leticia move there as well? Are they buried there? Info. appreciated by Mrs. Vera M. Jackson, 28 Silver Ridge Court, Calgary, Alta. T3B 4V5.

More

GEORGE,b. c. 1879, Firth of Fourth, Scotland. Prts. George More & Madyeline Drysdale. Blacksmith. Immigrated to Canada alone c. 1908. m. Jane Kay (b. 3 Sept. 1876, Dumfries, Scotland. d. 6 Jan. 1953, Transcona, Man.) 17 June 1909, Winnipeg. Employed by C.N.R. Resided at 409 Victoria ave. East Transcona from Jan.1913 until c. 1962. d.27 Sept. 1966, Grey Nuns' Home, St-Boniface, Man. Was town Councillor 1928-29-30.
Member of Transcona Caledonia Club &C.N.R. Pensioners ASSoc.
Children: George Graham (b.1910, m.Lillian May Gilbey, d. 1939) David William (b.1913, m. Nell ?, d. 1971)
Would appreciate any information on these people or will exchange information. Mrs. Ellen J. Glinka, 7111 Delwood Road, Edmonton, Alta. T5C 3A8.