

# GENERATIONS

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## MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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## BEYOND NAMES AND DATES

Pat Sundmark, MGS #3834

A few days before Remembrance Day, a newspaper article by Dave O' Brien was published in the *Winnipeg Free Press*. The article mentioned the numbers of Canadian soldiers who were buried in foreign countries from the time when soldiers were basically buried where they died with their comrades. As I read the article, while having my morning coffee, one name jumped off the page at me. "Warrant Officer Ronald Winfred Harbottle, of Winnipeg, is buried in Basra War Cemetery in Iraq. The airman died there in March, 1943."

Ronald Harbottle was my mother-in-law's cousin and I had done some basic research to find out something about him for our family history. Finding a mention of him in the Remembrance Day article made me think...there he was, a short life commemorated in a couple of lines of print. I suddenly realized that, although I had never known Ron, he had become a real person to me because of the research I had done to find out about him.

He was born in 1916 on a farm in Dummer, Saskatchewan, the second son of Alex Harbottle and Jessie Hamilton. His father died when Ron was one year old. His mother remarried four years later and had a third son.

Ron wanted desperately to become a pilot, and when I sent for his military records, I found in the material I received just how hard he worked to become one. From the military records I knew he had weighed 150 lbs, was 5 feet 8 inches tall and had blue eyes and brown hair. He was in good health and his teeth were in fairly good condition. Included was a complete set of his fingerprints. He had worked as a foreman for a contractor before signing up with the RCAF. There was a listing of all the schools he had attended from grade one and his employment record since completing his schooling.

Of interest to me was the fact that he had always been interested in flying and by July, 1940, he had obtained 34 hours of ground school, had 2 hours and 10 minutes flying dual, approximately 35 hours flying as a passenger, and was a member of the Winnipeg Flying Club. He also played recreational baseball.

He was an average pilot and was given marks for being above average for persistence and initiative but marked down as his formation flying needed watching. He placed 40<sup>th</sup> in a class of 238 and the remarks on his report were: "Very keen; Energetic type, Alert, Dependable, Fair background, Very frank, Talks easily, Plenty of nerve, Splendid type for Aircrew".

He was engaged by the RAF on 3 February, 1941 as a pilot experienced with the Tomahawk Hurricane and Tiger Moth Harvard and stationed in the mid east. He was hospitalized there in 1942, for infectious hepatitis and malaria both noted as endemic to the area. Each time, he was sent back to flying after treatment.

Ron had married in 1941, but without permission from the military, and the entry is noted without permission and then amended as permission was granted after the fact.



I was able to obtain a wedding photo from his niece in Saskatchewan so I could put a face to this young fellow. I rummaged through pictures that had belonged to my mother-in - law and found a photo taken of a group of young children, cousins, including Ron and another cousin who also died as a pilot during World War II. I found that particularly moving as I have a picture of my own grandchildren taken some 80 years later looking much like that group of bright eyed youngsters.



#### The Cousins:

Right front: Ron Harbottle  
Left front: F. Maitland Harris  
Both killed as pilots during WWII.

Finally in the material from the military was the notation "Missing 13/3/43 and Presumed dead 13/3/43 after a flying accident overseas, between Isfahan and Imeshk, Persia." Both his mother and wife were notified.

The following was found in *They Shall Not Grow Old, a Book of Remembrance*, Brandon: Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum, Inc., p 300:

"Harbottle, Ronald Winfred WO2(P) R 91806 From Dummer, Saskatchewan. Killed March 13, (19)43 age 27 # 134 M V Anti Locust Flight Aircraft # K6349 crashed between Isfahan and Imeshk, Persia during an anti locust flight. Two of the crew, not Canadians, were also killed. Warrant Officer Class II Pilot Harbottle was buried in the Military Cemetery at Marggil, exhumed, and reburied in the Basra War Cemetery, Basra, Iraq."

The official transcript from the military reporting his death stated:  
"Flying accident between Isfahan and Imeshk 1300 hours on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1943."  
"Notified as missing from 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1943.  
Body discovered by Mouri tribe 22<sup>nd</sup> March,

1944. Body in perfect state of preservation due to ice formation. Death clearly due to exposure and not hunger. Body recovered 22 July, 1944, in advanced state of decomposition. Remains cremated at Immarah 23 July, 1944. Ashes interred [sic] in Military Cemetery, Basrah, 3 Aug. 1944". The Memorial Cross was awarded and sent to his widow.

Warrant Officer Ronald Winfred Harbottle was so much more than an airman who died 60 years ago in far off Iraq. He was a son, a brother, a nephew, a cousin, a young husband with all the hopes and dreams for a lifetime left behind when his plane crashed. By checking all the available material from several sources it is possible to flesh out the bare facts about a person; it certainly makes your family history more interesting than just the recitation of dates, places and names.

All military records are not necessarily as detailed as this one was although they certainly provide a lot of information and often in triplicate.

To obtain a service record you can go to the following website:

<http://www.archives.ca/index.html>  
or type in "Library and Archives Canada" to your search engine. I use Google. Select "War", scroll down to "Military and Personnel Records", and follow the prompts to obtain an application form.

You need at least the full name of the person and birthdate. If possible the serviceman's number can be helpful. If the person was killed in action the record is readily available but otherwise you need proof of death (an obituary will do). Any one can obtain this information 20 years after death. There is a small cost for duplicating but I have been charged less than ten dollars for each person's record that I have requested.

Also any servicemen who were killed in wartime have their names enscribed in the Books of Remembrance which are displayed on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. These pages can be viewed on the web at:

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/books/remember.htm>

Or place "Canada Books of Remembrance" in your search engine.

If you wish a copy of the page you may request one and the accompanying letter will give you the date each year that particular page will be the one open for viewing. For example: Ronald Harbottle's name is inscribed on page 168 and this page is displayed for public viewing every year on April 7<sup>th</sup> in the Memorial Chamber of the Parliament of Canada.

*The Book of Remembrance* published by the Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum is available in the MGS library. The Maple Leaf Legacy program has been set up with volunteers who are photographing all the gravesites of all the servicemen and women around the world. This is a huge ongoing task. Requests for photos for a fee can be made and when they are available you are notified. Iraq has a volunteer on the ground but due to the problems there I am on a waiting list for a photo from the cemetery. To make your request, go to:  
<http://www.mapleleaflegacy.ca>, or enter Maple Leaf Legacy in your search engine.

Also there is a program, Geonames, whereby each serviceman who died during the war has a geographical feature named for him in the province in which he enlisted. For this information go to:  
<http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/index.html>

You may search by the surname of the deceased person, for places of that name, or you can use the contact us button and you will receive a reply.

In response to my inquiry, the additional information from Geonames (Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) provided me with the map coordinates of Harbottle Lake, Manitoba and the details that it had been named for WO2 Ronald W Harbottle and the date named. The site allowed me to calculate the distance between Harbottle Lake and Harris Rapids which had been named for F Maitland Harris, Ronald's cousin. I was pleased to find that these two geographical features recognizing the lives of these pilots are only 25 km apart!

## RURAL ROOTS - Down By the Farm Myrna Mackey, #MGS 3188

Two years and some months ago I decided to leave city life behind and relocate to my "little house by the prairie" and get back to my roots so to speak. In this column I will share some of my thoughts and experiences from the last two years as well as some challenges and rewards of doing research in rural Manitoba. My main focus this time will be local cemeteries and the burial practices as I have found them to be from my research.

I am writing this column in my home office and from my window I can clearly view the impending signs of winter. The fields are silent and the sky is the color of gray slate today and the very old Manitoba maple tree outside my window is decorated only with bare branches and full bird feeders. I can look over at the next section and see the house that my great grandfather built in 1885 after he left his birth province of Ontario. What courage and foresight it must have taken to leave all that was familiar and take on an unknown challenge in the west.

As a genealogy senior grade I have learned much over the past eight years. I began "searching my roots" as all of us do by looking at only names, places and dates. Eight years later I have found that genealogy is a combined science so to speak and that in order to do proper research one must look at maps, geography, study history, understand genetics, and then throw in a bit of sociology and psychology for good measure.

For myself I also have a hint of "ghostly apparitions" thrown into the mix. It seems that my Clark ancestor's 120 year old house also has some ghostly inhabitants. As everyone knows ghosts do not use the known methods of communication so supernatural gifts are a valuable tool for the inhabitants of this house. An attempt at building a waterfall a few years ago produced much opposition from the ghostly relatives so the project was halted and the ghostly picketing stopped. This only reinforced my goals to research local cemeteries and burial practices as it is possible that this area in the bush may have

been a burial ground. To this date we cannot find any missing relatives but stay tuned.

This brings me to the subject of cemeteries in rural areas and what a treasure trove they offer. My ghostly great grandparents are buried in a little cemetery called West Prospect north of Portage la Prairie.

This burial spot was one of the first ones established in this area and it is here that one of the Clark sons was buried when he died at four months of age in 1885. Subsequently the Clark parents were buried there as well and a stone tells me the dates of each burial. However the dates do not tell me about the little church that was nearby or about the grief and helplessness that my Clark great grandfather must have felt when he was left to raise all of those children on his own. Why didn't he marry again as most men did at the time? This is where the study of sociology comes to play in the big picture.

As a small child, I remember the absolute boredom of being "dragged" to the cemetery to tend to the graves of my relatives. The lawn mower was on duty for far more than mowing the home farmyard. Then the family had the graves covered with cement as many of the descendants left the rural areas to find their fortunes in the big city. As time went by the church itself was closed and moved to the museum in Portage la Prairie and with no one left to mow the cemeteries many became unkempt and forgotten. Then along came a couple named Grogan and they adopted West Prospect Cemetery and have become its part time caretakers along with some farmers from the area. I am told that this couple has no "relations" buried here and that they adopt neglected cemeteries and care for them. Bravo to them not only from me but from all of the public who care about our heritage and the need to protect our past in the future.

Along the Trans Canada #1 West at the intersection with the Yellowhead lies Burnside Cemetery. This also falls in the category of a cemetery that is not cared for by any level of government. The proceeds of the Burnside history book take care of the annual maintenance and care. However, Burnside was not always located at this particular spot. Local history tells us that it

began on the other side of the highway near Rat Creek on land donated by Matthew Ferris. After a few years it became apparent that this location would no longer suffice as it was very much like a wet slough so a meeting was held in January 1890 to begin the process of finding a new burial ground. Land was donated by the McKenzie family and it is on this spot that Burnside Cemetery stands today. What happened to the graves that were already at the old site? Were they excavated and moved to the new location? How would the pioneers know where the graves were if there was no plot map? Did they just pick the stones up and move them and leave the deceased behind? What were the legal or spiritual requirements to move a grave then? The cairn at the cemetery speaks of the burial ground beginning in the 1890s so why are there stones there from before those dates? So many questions and no apparent answers.

Hillside Cemetery lies on the outskirts of Portage adjacent to Highway #1West but it was not always called Hillside. It began life as the West End Cemetery and it was on land donated by a pioneer family as well. As a child I was again subjected by my parents to Sunday drives and these often included visits to Hillside. I now know that I owe them a debt of gratitude as these visits not only showed me where my relatives were laid to rest but also included instruction on the graves nearby and I learned the oral histories and anecdotes of many other early pioneers and the hardships they faced and conquered. Little did I know at the time that the lessons learned would help me find other relations in other countries by using the same parameters from my parents. My father often talked about a sister that died of diphtheria in 1903, years before he was born, and when I searched for her grave I could not locate it anywhere. My last resort was to go to the Provincial Library in Winnipeg and search all burial records for 1903. The *Daily Graphic* contained the notice and told me she was buried at the West End Cemetery. It took me some time to establish that West End became Hillside and that the section West End is the old part of the original cemetery. I also discovered that there had been a prairie fire in the early part of the twentieth century and that many of the wooden markers had been burned

along with the plot layout of the cemetery. Therefore no one knows where the original graves are so no more burials take place there. Hillside is a fairly easy cemetery to search as the burials are usually arranged by date or religious persuasion and the staff at the cemetery office are very courteous and helpful. This past spring I found myself questioning practices of bygone times. I was researching the name Ector and found records for two Ector babies and two parents buried at Hillside. As often happened during these times the Ectors had lost two of their three children at a young age. The Ector parents had died later with the father dying last and being buried in 1928. There is a large stone marking the spot as well as a small gray stone kitty corner in front with the babies' names and dates of death. I looked at this picture and I knew there was something out of place. Then I realized that burial in the 1880s were in the Westend section and that this area was not likely even being used as a cemetery at that time. Did the father put the babies' stone there so they would be close to their mother? Did the daughter place it there when she buried her father in 1928? Once again so many questions and so few answers.

In closing I wish to emphasize the use of cemeteries as a resource as they not only offer names and dates but also snapshots of our past and if we listen closely we may hear our ancestors' hopes for our future. Manitoba Genealogical Society has transcriptions of almost all of the cemeteries in Manitoba and these transcriptions are now also available at many libraries and genealogical societies in Canada. See the Manitoba Genealogical Society web site for purchase details.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jayne Paradis, MGS #45

This will be my last issue as Editor of *Generations* but my first as President. The Society has come along way since that first meeting on June 16, 1976. I was at that meeting – a teenager in high school with a keen interest in the past of her grandparents. I've learned a lot since then but I've learned even more since I started volunteering at MGS 7 years ago – so many things that I couldn't even begin to list them all. As well, I've made friends with fellow genealogists that will last me a lifetime. MGS is a vibrant society with a wealth of committed volunteers that I feel are parallel to none.

But, we need more volunteers. This could very well be the last issue of *Generations* without a volunteer to commit to the job for the upcoming year.

Volunteers keep the society going – why not add your name to our list?

Please see the following list; contact either Chris or Daryl at MGS' Resource Centre.

### Volunteer Opportunities with MGS

Here are some of the MGS activities with which you could become involved:

- as a Coordinator of other volunteers
- editing a journal or newsletter
- assisting with MGS' public displays and presentations
- preparing articles for publication
- grant inquiries and submission writing
- fundraising activities
- researching genealogical queries from out-of-province
- patron assistance at the Resource Centre
- library and data-entry tasks
- reading and indexing microfilms
- developing MGS display materials
- and much, much more!

If you have an interest in volunteering or are just plain curious, please contact:  
VP Administration, Chris Irwin, 661-8410, or  
VP Communications: Daryl Dumanski, 668-9366, or anyone associated with an activity in which you have an interest.



## **PERIODICAL POTPOURRI**

Lori Walker, MGS #1145  
E-mail: [ljwalker@escape.ca](mailto:ljwalker@escape.ca)

### **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

*New Zealand Family Tree*, Vol. 35, #2  
Dahl/Dale family.

### **CANADA**

*The Archivist*, #121

New site: [www.genealogy.gc.ca](http://www.genealogy.gc.ca);  
Japanese-Canadian children during the war.

*Branches*, OGS, Vol. 23, #3

*Brantford Daily Courier* vitals 1899.

*Connections*, Quebec FHS, Vol. 20, #1

Predictions from 100 years ago; McLoughlin family.

*Families*, OGS, Vol. 42, #3

1867 confederation medal / Lyons family;  
Metsala twins.

*Family Footsteps*, Kamloops FHS, V.19, #1

Mary Jane Freethey; Willoughby John Astley.

*Generations*, NBGS, Vol. 25, #3

Masters & mates, part 3 / Fishery officers 1878 / A Reid family / Kings Co. death register 1888-1919 E-Mc / Cemetery MI's.

*Heritage*, Vol. 6, #3

Winnipeg's Exchange District / Maison Gabrielle-Roy museum.

*Newfoundland Ancestor*, Vol. 19, #3

William Clarke family / Cemetery MI & strays / Wills of Newfoundlanders London's PRO.

*Nova Scotia Genealogist*, Vol. 21, #2

Naturalization of foreign Protestants 1758 / NS's married in Massachusetts / Search for American Civil War vets in Canada.

*Ottawa Branch News*, OGS, Vol. 36, #5

Several Canadian web sites for research.

*Our Waterloo Kin*, OGS, Vol. 3, #3

North family.

*PEI Gen Society Inc.*, Vol. 28, #3

Male inhabitants of Applecross 1984-86 / Charlottetown of 1885.

*Relatively Speaking*, Alberta GS, Vol. 31, #3  
1918 flu epidemic in Edmonton / Chamberlin family.

*Toronto Tree*, OGS, Vol. 34, #5

Priscilla Wilson bio of 100 years.

*Victoria GS Journal*, Vol. 26, #3

Naturalization indexes.

### **COMPUTERS**

*Genealogical Computing*,

Vol. 23, #1: Three program reviews.

Vol. 23, #2: 1880 US Census online / Digital photo albums.

### **EASTERN EUROPE**

*East European Genealogist*

Vol. 11, #4: Jewish Internet resources / Galizien German Descendants.

#35: Several ancestral visit stories / some family charts / GGD

#36: Felizienthal village includes maps, ancestor charts etc. / Lang and Becker families.

*Palatine Immigrant*, Vol. 28, #4

Hermann, a German war hero.

### **ENGLAND & WALES**

*Banyan Tree*, East York FHS, #95

Moston village / Carill, Kirby, Graham and Mollon families.

*British Connections*, Vol. \$, #3

Researching British railways.

*Cleveland FHS*

Vol. 8, #11: Stockton on Tees parish / Sayer family.

Vol. 8, #12: Robert Howe / Sayer family.

*Derbyshire FHS*, issue 106

Arthur Stokes / Joseph Smith murder.

*Family Tree Magazine*

Vol. 19, #9: Railway navvies, part 2 / Irish in England / Software reviews / Missing fire fighters.

Vol. 19, #10: Italians in England / Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll / New Family Tree software / Poor relief in 20<sup>th</sup> century Scotland / Intestacy / John Taylor, pastor in S. Africa.

- Vol. 19, #11: Surnames in Cambridge / digital camera reviews / John Steinbeck's roots.
- Genealogists Magazine*, Vol. 27, #11  
Dissolution of the monasteries / John Keats' family / Church of England patrons.
- Glamorgan FHS*, #71  
William Thomas family / Jane Edwards / 1861 scandals from newspapers.
- Hampshire Family Historian*, Vol. 30, #2  
Maturin, Pearman and Barnes families.
- Lancashire*, Vol. 25, #4  
Rudman family / the Quaker Gills.
- Metropolitan*  
Vol. 25, #4: Churches of St. Marylebone.  
Vol. 26, #1: Haydon family.
- Oxfordshire Family Historian*, Vol. 17, #2  
Afflet or Harflett family / Military resources / Fitchett family.
- Northumberland & Durham FHS*, Vol. 28, #3  
1851 census railway navvies of Alston.
- Suffolk Roots*, Vol. 29, #2  
Bradfield St. George / Josselyn, Sparks and Shimman families.
- Sussex Family Historian*, Vol. 15, #7  
Allwin/Alwyn family / Mary Wratten / Dianna Cornwall.
- West Mdsx FHS Journal*, Vol. 21, #3  
Hedges & Sanders families / Deserted mediaeval villages.
- Wiltshire FHS*:  
July 2003: Cusse family / An innkeeper / Biford chapel.  
October 2003: Second name index.
- IRELAND**  
*Irish Roots*, Issue #47  
Surnames of Kilkenny / Johns- town castle / Civil servants in New York City / Irish schools in 1615.
- The Septs*, Vol. 24, #3  
Co. Sligo / Surnames being researched.
- MISCELLANEOUS**  
*The Prairie Treasure*, Vol. 1, #1  
New periodical about heraldry, especially on the Canadian prairies.
- ONE-NAME**  
*Journal of One-Name Studies*, Vol. 8, #3  
Fraudulent birth & death registrations of the 1840s / On-line electoral rolls / Access to archives online.
- SCOTLAND**  
*Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS*, #88  
Town drummers / Hay family, part 3.
- Glasgow & West of Scotland FHS*, #68  
Burns, MacIver and MacFarlane families / Village of Grahamston.
- Scottish Genealogist*, Vol. 50, #3  
Thomas Purves family / Clan Mackellar, final part / Knights Templars.
- UNITED STATES**  
*Family Chronicle*  
October 2003: Medieval English genealogy / DNA testing / Using on-line censuses / Some web sites.  
December 2003: Federal immigration records / Land records / Overcoming research obstacles / Do we need GSs?.
- Family History Magazine*, Sept/Oct 2003  
Land records research / Louisiana research / Scottish census indexes / Guild records / Fillis family of Nova Scotia / Directory of professional researchers.
- New England Ancestors*  
Vol. 4, #3: Researching seafaring ancestors / New England on-line / Avery family / Pilgrim life.  
Vol. 4, #4: Educating daughters in the 19<sup>th</sup> century / Plymouth church records / Cemetery resources.
- New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, Vol. 157  
Elizabeth Waldo / John & Elizabeth Hyland and descendants / Martha Ruggles / Ross families.
- Oregon GS Quarterly*,  
Vol. 41, #3: Walton family.  
Vol. 41, #4: Vaughan and Coggan families.

## "ARE YOU MY DADDY?" ©

Chris Irwin, MGS #2458

People for what ever reason make the decision to do their genealogy at different points in their lifetime. I joined one of those quests in the line of my grandmother, Margaret Spring 1880 - 1969, which then becomes known as an obsession to some.

Our originating ancestor to America was Andreas Spring who stepped ashore in Philadelphia 26 September 1743 leaving from Rotterdam, being of German origin, on the ship "Rosanna". Tracking my direct lineage from this ancestor has led me through Pennsylvania, North Carolina and into the now Toronto, Canada [York County] area by 1801. Then on to Manitoba in 1882. Other lines have led me through many states in the United States and many provinces in Canada. Some tried tricking us by returning to the United States after a stint in Canada.

Albright Spring was the ancestor that arrived in Canada from North Carolina in 1801. He had with him 8 children, 3 girls, 4 boys and a male orphan child. It is believed the orphan boy was Michael McEwan aged 14 in 1804. My line [David] for the most part remained in Canada. On the other hand, the eldest brother Andrew, many of his off spring returned to the United States through Michigan.

This search led me to a very sincere and colourful lady named Sue Gilmore. She now hails from the Nashville, Tennessee area. We met through a common cause - looking for genes in Michigan State on the Internet.

Besides the welcome addition, she is a published songwriter - singer. Playing guitar by age 14 and being self taught is an accomplishment in itself. Sue has toured successfully in Canada and the United States. Sue released a CD version of her works called "Such A Girl As I" in 2000. In listening to the songs it took me back in time and one in particular hit home. I have used it as the title for this article. She is a very sincere artist who also has a sense of humour. An excellent personality in anyone's family tree.

As a bonus, I found Sue married to Bobby Bates who also is a well known musician who has worked with Emmylou Harris, Gordon Lightfoot, Allman Brothers, Doc & Merle Watson, Buddy Rich, Tom Jones, John Kay, Peter Wolf, Ronnie Hawkins, Richie Havens and John Mayall to name a few.

The song "Are you My Daddy?"(c) hit me very quickly inside as the lyrics were similar to the many questions asked by people who are searching out their birth parents either from being adopted or through the foster parent plan at a very young age. The search for birth parents is much longer, more tedious and asks the same questions this song's message sent to me.

I asked Sue if this song was written with genealogy in mind. What encouraged her to write the song was not what I was getting from it. After some thought on her part, the song could be conceived that way [but not the intent] - with genealogy in mind, which gave way for me to write this article.

What inspires someone to write differs but this song made me think of a time I had coffee with the same group each morning before work. It turned to genealogy. A man was looking for his birth father. Through discussion giving him ideas on how to locate his birth father, he was successful. He delayed the going to the apartment block as he needed a sort of courage to enter and talk to the man - his father. Not long after he was driving by noticing the front door to the block was open and said, "What the heck?". He parked his car and entered, with courage in hand, walked up the stairs. In the hallway of his birth father, an elderly woman asked him his business. Announcing his seeking of the man in question, the elderly lady expressed her regrets as he had passed the night before. Again over the coffee counter the next morning he related this story, but added two nights before he was very restless and thoughts came of the man he was seeking. He said that maybe he was just tapping him on the shoulder on the way out.

This is only one story. I have heard many and helped in some to find their birth parent.

Please take them to heart, lend a thought and hand. There are agencies that do tracing on these people but let us also help.

What follows are the copyrighted words to her song:

**ARE YOU MY DADDY?**

Sue Gilmore

Copyright Pau 2-003-073/075151198

I've spent so many years looking for you;

It's taken years just to know what to do.  
I only know I'll do what I have to  
To reach my goal and that is finding you.

Ref: I can't wait to say, "Are you my Daddy?"  
Those little words that join you to me.  
I can miss something that I never had.  
I need to find you, I need to know my Dad.

Dif'rent men I see I can't help wonder,  
Are you the one that I am looking for?  
I guess I could be searching endlessly  
With no chance to say, "Are you my  
Daddy?"  
(Ref.)

I don't want to disrupt your lifestyle;  
Wouldn't want that by a country mile.  
Still, I just can't help but wonder,  
Is yours the face that I see in the mirror?  
(Ref)  
(Repeat 1st verse & Ref.)

Sue's web sites:

<http://www.netease.net/members/bsbates/>  
<http://www.cdbaby.com/suegilmore>

The City Archives are open:

Monday to Friday: 8:30-4:30

Closed all holidays

Phone: 204 / 986-5325

Fax: 204 / 986-7133

E-mail:

[gberkows@city.winnipeg.mb.ca](mailto:gberkows@city.winnipeg.mb.ca)



**CITY of WINNIPEG  
ARCHIVE and RECORDS CENTRE**  
City Clerk's Department: 380 William Avenue  
(old Winnipeg Public/Carnegie/Main Library)

Jim Smith and Daryl Dumanski, MGS #1031

Did you know?...

The city archives houses the municipal records of the former City of Winnipeg prior to Unicity in 1972 as well as all the suburban municipalities that make up the present City of Winnipeg. These included: East Kildonan, North Kildonan, West Kildonan, Old Kildonan, St. Boniface, St. Vital, St. James, Transcona, Brooklands, Assiniboia, Tuxedo, Charleswood and Fort Garry.

All of the council minutes of these communities are located here as well as other records such as voters' lists for the various municipalities, committee minutes, Municipal by-laws over the years, correspondence of different kinds, building plans and permits, assessment and realty rolls, municipal manuals, mayor's files, flood records, police and fire correspondence, fire atlas (showing the area at various times). There is also a small museum collection of some photographs.

The unfortunate part is that, due to under staffing, very little of the material available is catalogued. Most of it will require a fair bit of digging through boxes of information – some of it that hasn't been opened in many years. But if you had any civic employees in the family you may find their name mentioned in the Council minutes and it may include their salaries at the time. If you are having a hard time locating someone in directories you may luck out and find them here on the list of voters that gave the eligible voters living at a particular residence at that given time.

If you do venture out to use this resource the staff prefers that you call and make an appointment before you come down to the building – as staffing is limited. If you would really like to get your hands into the boxes contact Jim Smith: [jimsmith@escape.ca](mailto:jimsmith@escape.ca). He has been working on the history of East Kildonan for some time now and is getting to know the records fairly well.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS

### PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

#### MGS

President: Bob Stokes, MGS #432

This is my final annual report as president of MGS. It has been a challenging two years and there are many more challenges to come if MGS is to continue as a viable organization.

This year MGS signed an agreement with our landlord which secures our space until 2008. We are satisfied that our needs will be met for these years in terms of space, but there are many ongoing problems which must be solved. Among them is to continue growing as an organization. Currently our membership is stagnant in numbers, in spite of the best efforts of our Outreach Committee and ordinary MGS members to promote MGS.

A matter of great concern is the reluctance of many members to assist in the running of this volunteer organization. Many Executive members and Committee Chairs have served for years and years and would like to retire and be just ordinary MGS members. Yet who will replace them? There is no use having a nice facility to use without people to run it and take responsibility for the overall health of MGS.

Money is always a problem, not only at MGS, but for most small volunteer organizations. Our government operating grant has not increased for a decade, and there are no signs that it will do so in the foreseeable future. Thus we are dependent on membership fees and fund raising activities. This year we have increased membership fees for the first time in five years - it works out to a one dollar increase per year. No one wishes to head the fund raising committee, with the result that we do very little to fill our coffers. For the first time, your Executive has presented a budget to Council which will draw on our reserves to cover some of our expenses. This cannot continue indefinitely.

The good news is that MGS Council and Executive have been very supportive during the two years that I have been President. The Branches have been diligent in filling the need for family history services in the rural areas. I thank all of them for all their work and trust that they will continue in that support for the person who will replace me.

#### DAUPHIN BRANCH

President: Tammy Zurba, MGS #4196

Dauphin Branch meets each month from January to May and September to November on the last Thursday at 7:30pm.

In January the new executive was introduced:

President:	Tammy Zurba
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President:	Ray Clyde
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:	Beverley Watts
Sec./Treasurer:	Carolyn McMillan
Membership Sec.:	Marilyn Strang
Resource Ctr. Chair:	Jean Tucker
Heritage Chair:	Jerry Zihrlul
Head Phoner:	Shirle McGimpsey

It was decided that, if possible, we should have a sharing time at every meeting.

In February we took part in the Heritage Fair (Feb. 14/15) at the mall. It was hosted by the Fort Dauphin Museum. Members took shifts sitting and answering questions at our display. The Dauphin Girl Guides attended the Feb. meeting to get some help as they were working on their Heritage Badge.

For our March meeting two of our members presented a skit on organizing genealogy information. Everyone could relate in some way to the many problems one faces when compiling information.

For our April meeting one of our members did a presentation on researching the Ukrainian background. He explained where he looked for information and what resources he used.

In May we had a potluck dinner. Our guest speaker was Lori Bicklmeier, from the Fort Dauphin Museum. She gave an excellent presentation on preserving and storing photos.

Six members went on a trip to Brandon May 31 to visit the Family History Centre.

For our September meeting we had an "achievement" night for members to share what they had been working on over the summer months. There were a few breakthroughs for some and their positive stories are sure to keep everyone motivated.

Oct 3 and 4 we set up a display at the mall with the hope of attracting new members and to remind the public about us. The October meeting will be held at the library as a lot of new members don't know where to look in our resources. The latter have been recently organized by our Resource Centre people. We will also hold a Beginners Workshop at the same time.

For November we will be planning another trip to the Family History Centre in Brandon as well as having our Christmas potluck and party before the holidays.

We will reconvene in January.

## **SOUTH WEST BRANCH**

Secretary: Shirley Erskine, MGS #3213

South West Branch has had a very busy and interesting year. As usual, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Dinner at the Canadian Inn, February 6, 2003, started the year's activities off on a positive note, with president Jim Wall as emcee.

The guest speaker for the event was Peggy Galloway of Gladstone, Manitoba, who spoke on her experiences in editing the book Women of War. Questions asked of, and answered by, Peggy made the talk even more interesting.

The Ruth Tester Award was presented to Lloyd Duncalfe. He has been Treasurer for many years, as well as contributing hours of his time for the betterment of the Branch, and for genealogy in general.

In May, 2002, an informative one-day Workshop was held with Ken Aitken of Regina, Saskatchewan conducting the four different sessions. The workshop was well attended and gave most everyone new avenues to pursue.

The fall season started with a Potluck Supper held at the Wall residence. A tour of the library followed for anyone interested in seeing the Branch Library holdings and what they had to offer us as genealogists.

The articles submitted by Beth Wall, Vice President Operations, to the Brandon Shopper and News, a weekly newspaper, have received many compliments and genealogical inquiries. These articles have certainly given publicity to the South West Branch.

Petitions and letters to the appropriate people for the release of the 1906 and 1911 Censuses have been ongoing and it appears as if they will be released in early 2003. Initiating a court action may be helping the cause.

Obituary extractions from local, and some rural, newspapers continues, with indexing accomplished as time permits. Some dedicated members have been very faithful in continuing this endeavour.

Only a few cemeteries remain to be transcribed in southwestern Manitoba. None were done in 2002. Cemeteries already transcribed can be updated, and are, from time to time.

As well as the Heritage Dinner speaker in February and the Workshop in May, members and/or invited guests gave informative and interesting presentations at meetings throughout 2002.

As 2003 approaches, preparations for celebrating the 25th Anniversary of South West Branch's affiliation with the MGSI are well under way and will be held in conjunction with the Heritage Dinner in February, 2003. The Seminar planned for October, 2003 will finalize the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities.

South West Branch anticipates the usual support and participation of its members. With their continued help the Branch will have more successful years in the future.

## **SWAN VALLEY BRANCH**

President: Eric Neufeld, MGS #2410L

President:	Eric Neufeld
Treasurer:	Helen Ellingson
Secretary:	Donna Fox

The Swan Valley Branch of MGS has completed another successful year. Our meetings are held at the Town of Swan River office, lower level. Our meetings are conducted every second Monday of the month at 7:00pm. Our Branch takes a summer recess for the months of July and August of each year.

Each year we answer many queries from all over the country and, in a few instances, the world.

This past year we were fortunate to receive a donation of several boxes of old newspaper clippings from the 1960s to approximately 1980s. This has proven to be a treasure trove of information. We decided to sort the material into obituaries, births, etc. This project will take a long time to sort and compile the clippings into valuable databases. It was decided to first glean the obituaries with the intent of forming an index. With this as a starting point, we are now trying to "acquire" as many old obituaries as we are able to, from the Swan Valley.

Every year it becomes clear to our Society that many local history books are becoming rare or extinct. So, this past year, several members scouted local auctions for any such books for our reference library. We have had some success and have purchased A Rutherford History - Andrew and Agnes Rutherford and Their Descendants (1882-1982), The Widdicombes, and Open the Door - R.M. of Lawrence. We were also successful in acquiring several sets of old land maps of the Swan Valley with names of landowners.

We have submitted our Star & Times Index for 2002, and will continue to index same in 2003 for births, marriages, and deaths.

In closing, our hope is to continue to acquire and preserve any historical document that may assist anyone tracing his or her ancestors in the Swan River Valley.

## WINNIPEG BRANCH

President: Wayne Neily, MGS #430

The 2002-2003 year was one of increased activity for Winnipeg Branch, although we still lacked a full complement of officers for much of the year. About 120 members chose to be Winnipeg Branch members and monthly meetings were held from September through June (except October) to share ideas, learn more of resources, and solve problems in individual research. Programs were held, normally on the third Monday evening of each month, as follows: 16 September - Using CD-ROMs in Genealogical Research/Gord McBean; 18 November - Overview of Church Records in Manitoba/Kathy Stokes; 16 December - Sharing Family Holiday Memories/led by Daryl Dumanski; 20 January - United Church Archives (visit)/Diane Haglund & Peter Douglas; 17 February - Photos in Family History, Use and Storage/Gord McBean & Daryl Dumanski; 17 March - Centre du Patrimoine, St. Boniface/Gilles Lesage & Les Braconnier; 21 April - Putting the History into Family History/David McDowell; 26 May (AGM) - Purpose and Work of the Archives of Manitoba/Manitoba Archivist Gordon Dodds (at the Archives); 16 June - Shall We Dance? and tour of Dugald Costume Museum/Glenda Peterson & Sara Neill. Attendance ranged from 9-24, with an average of 17. Our appreciation goes to all these presenters who have enriched the understanding of those able to attend.

At the AGM in May, the following were elected as officers of the Branch for the year 2003-2004.

President:	Wayne Neily
1st Vice-President:	Gordon McBean
2nd Vice-President:	Chris Irwin
Secretary:	Daryl Dumanski
Treasurer:	Harold King
Councillors:	Jack Rockey and Martin Goffard

Past President Jim Oke continues, completing the Executive, as do Standing Committee Chairs Geoff Lambert (Special Projects) and Carol Moore-Glenn (Outreach).

The Executive carried on the business of the Branch, meeting monthly, usually the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. Special thanks go to Jack and Jean Rockey, who hosted many executive meetings despite serious health problems. When Malcolm Dewar resigned as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President in September, 2002, Jack had the heavy load of being the only Vice-president, and with Jean, and Lynn Francis, took on the task of telephoning members about meetings, while Gord Mcbean took on the e-mail contacts from George Glenn. All these deserve our appreciation. Chris Irwin has now taken on membership coordination and our fee has gone up to \$10 per year, in line with the other Branches. We are in the process of amending the by-laws to provide for a life membership category for the Branch. Our newsletter was inactive until September 2003, when the efforts of Gord McBean and Jim Oke produced a new issue which was be sent by virtual mail to all who could get it that way, and by real mail to others.

Outreach efforts have been relatively active, notably at the booth at the Scottish Pavilion at Folklorama, which involved many members during August. Special thanks go to Carol Moore-Glenn, Daryl Dumanski, Gord McBean, and many other volunteers for that. Other presentations were made to Age & Opportunity, Creative Retirement, Manitoba Camera Club, the East European Genealogical Society, and a Beginners' Workshop at the MGS Resource Centre (April), with presenters including Bill Burland, Chris Irwin, and Joan Whiston, as well as the above.

About ten volunteers have kept the MGS Resource Centre open Wednesday evenings all year. Thanks to Louisa Shermerhorn who coordinated this, and to Chris Irwin who has taken over this year, as well as to Linda White, Carol and George Glenn, Howard Mathieson, Joan Whiston, Cheryl Smith, and Bonnie Bileski, as well as to several of the Branch Executive (McBean, Dumanski, Neily, Oke, and King).

Another area where activity has continued is research, although the activity level remains low, because of a shortage of volunteers and because of a general shift from real mail to e-mail by people seeking help. As our web site is not independent of that of MGS, most people looking there for research go directly to the Society's research information, rather than going to the Branch page. We have responded to about 7 research requests and have not actively sought more because of the need for more volunteers to assist with research.

Special Projects has been inactive for most of the year, but the Chair hopes that it will be going strong by the time of Seminar '03. The primary project remains the indexing of the 1901 Census for Winnipeg, and some progress has been made although there is a long way to go. It was put on hold temporarily when we learned that some indexing

of this has been done for a commercial genealogy source, but the consensus is that we should go ahead with ours anyway, in order to have an index publicly available. By November 1, 2003, Winnipeg Branch will have survived for 25 years, although sometimes just barely. We are planning to have some sort of modest celebration but details remain to be worked out. With the help of many more active members, we hope to continue and extend the Branch's activities for another 25 years.

## ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Chris Irwin, MGS #2458

The last year has been a challenging one for attempted growth and renewal. Many of the reports attached will, in some way, bring this thought forward. I will summarize only in a generalization. The Society has been adopting a "steady as she goes" approach over the past year and hopefully 2002-2003 will have been the springboard to catapult us in a different direction for the upcoming years.

The volunteers necessary to make the Society run like a fine-tuned car is immense. All are very dedicated to the work they perform in order to give you, members and future members, the finished product - our pride. Recently I had to determine the annual volunteer contribution to the Society and I tabulated over 6,000 hours in-house, and a further 3,000 hours from homes, libraries, archives, cemeteries, etc. So, the next time you are frustrated and want to blast the volunteer nearest you, instead, give him/her a hug for a job well done! For the most part I serve only as a guide and advisor in the running of the Society due to the tuning it has gone through in the past which seems so successful. This year saw a movement to purchase more CDs than books to try to make future needed space more available, as well as to accommodate the newer generation of genealogist.

I have always stated that there are three types of genealogists today:

1. The members who seek documents only, without using computers as finding aids.
2. The members who use computers as finding aids, and then procure documents.
3. The most misunderstood - the computer.

The newer generation seems to have the mind set that, if it is not in the computer search, it does not exist. Or, if it is found in the computer search, it is set in stone. Today, the computer is needed to aid in accelerating the process of finding the document's location. Then the member must use that information as a guideline only, in order to prove the lineage originally sought. With this idea in mind, members of the Committees have now moved more to use the computers as storage and retrieval systems in-house. With this modernized method we, as a Society, have approached a foundation in the hope of a grant to obtain 8 computers to support this need for the many behind-the-scene tasks that are done daily on computers to the ones for patron use. The technology jump which we hope to fulfill is from the 1980s to today - a car switch from a Model T to a shiny new 2004 Cadillac.

The overhaul in technology has long been overdue and this year a wish list was put forth. The list was not ignored but remanaged, to be requested in stages and periods. We hope to update many of the film readers, copiers, and the library system, in the near future. For those who want to take part in the push of upgrading the Society, contact the following to lend a hand:

- the Computer Chair, to aid in the inputting of paper and carded materials for a computer base.
- the Special projects Chair, for completion of many projects needing review and computer input.
- the Research Chair, to help solve and answer the many queries sent to the Society yearly.
- the Library Chair. The Library Chair is the person who ensures that the library is run smoothly and efficiently, as well as maintaining the needs of materials as finances permit.

These people are a core group, a dedicated group who would most welcome new blood to help the Society move forward, and ease the completion of daily required tasks.

A new method of preferred technology, which is a dream to most industries and societies is the use of laptops, or notebook computers. It is a beautiful technology but the units develop leg problems - they get

lost. Recently this came forth on a wish list and I have dropped it. The cost for a self-functioning laptop/notebook ranges from \$600 to app. \$2,850, plus taxes. I do not think members should be put through a stringent sign-out/in policy for these machines. Portable devices are nice but loss would be catastrophic. Perhaps "down the line" we can look into used laptops for a particular function capability.

This was the 27<sup>th</sup> year of the Society. Many of those volunteers that are ensuring your genealogical wants and needs are the same ones who founded the Society. Let us younger members step forward and ease the burden from their shoulders. If we come now, we will learn from our peers by working with them in lieu of working in memory of them..... The next step is yours.

## COMPUTER

Chair: Bill Burland, MGS #3727

One change we have made with the computers this year is to dedicate a computer to our library holdings. Now a patron can use this to check the index of our holdings. (The card catalogue can still be used.)

One of our projects is nearing completion. The index to the Winnipeg Newspapers obituaries has been typed into the computers and we are now integrating the data and putting it into a program to be accessed electronically. The new file should contain deaths from 1969-2000. More can be added once they have been typed. We hope to have it ready before Christmas.

This past year did not see the growth of our computer holdings. In fact, we have had one computer die and be taken out of service, and we have had to repair another. The equipment is getting old and we will need to update much of it. The memory limitation of most of our computers is a problem. Newer programs use more memory than our limited machines have.

The typing of indexes for the cemetery transcriptions is continuing. Eventually, we will have an electronic index to all cemetery transcriptions we hold.

Many typists and proofreaders have helped in these projects, and I would like to thank them for their hard work.

## LIBRARY

Chair: Louisa Shermerhorn, MGS #567L

As in 2002, MGS Library continues to see increased use of Manitoba sources, thus underlining the value of continued and concentrated effort to compile more indexes of local interest. We will endeavour to add more printed (book, computer disc, microfiche/film) Manitoba materials. The Library Committee appreciates information on any such materials. We thank all volunteers - the daily ones who do so much to make our Library a good place to work, and those who work behind-the-scenes at home or office. It is important that we recognize those persons who do the actual tasks of Committee work and, hopefully, I will not forget anyone. Tuesday's library volunteers: Pat Allan, Joyce Elias, Lynn Francis, Lorna Karman, Vivian Mitchell, Allan Pickard, Josie Stemerowicz. Others who do various library tasks on other days, or at home: Mary Bole, Judith Kelly, Pat Kelly, Orma Sozansky, Lori Walker. Many volunteers also do patron assistance on other days, and each one is important.

### Library Statistics:

- 80 periodicals are exchanged with other societies. We send Generations; they send us their journals.
- 9 periodicals are received by subscription.
- 215 periodicals were borrowed by 29 members. This represents a very small percentage of the periodicals and members. Take a few minutes to look at these the next time you visit MGS.
- Family Tree was the most widely circulated periodical.
- 1491 books were reshelfed. This does not include refiling of Cemetery and Church Register transcripts, microfilm and microfiche, or periodicals.

- 37 persons or archives/libraries donated over 135 books, periodicals, and other library materials.
- The library budget was \$3800.00.
- 57 books were circulated by mail to 6 members. This circulation is up again this year, probably due to the special Library Postage Rate we were able to get. Members must still pay postage both ways, but it is very low. We still cannot mail these books to members who live outside Canada.
- 243 items were added to the Library collection. This includes books, maps, Manitoba Cemetery transcripts, Manitoba Church Register transcripts, microfiche/films, and CDs.

The Library Chair salutes those who perform the library tasks, many of which can be tedious and time-consuming, but I never hear any complaints. Thank you.

To anyone who would consider helping with any MGS office or library tasks, we try to hold Orientation sessions each year. All volunteers are invited to attend. Besides being learning experiences, these sessions are a good way for volunteers to get to know each other, as well as a time for airing concerns.

## **OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

Chair: Louisa Shermerhorn, MGS #567L

The past year has seen a slight decrease in the number of patrons using our Library and Resource Centre with over 2,000 signing in. The main research area was Manitoba. To handle all the requests and do the multi tasks required to keep the resources available, we have some 50 regular volunteers. About half of those volunteer once a week; others once a month; and still others for meetings, various projects, etc.

Office administration is the committee charged with seeing that the Resource Centre is run efficiently. Except for service contracts for major repairs to machines, all tasks are done by volunteers and these tasks include the following:

- Maintenance of premises: housekeeping chores including vacuuming, dusting, emptying wastepaper baskets etc.
- Machine maintenance: day-to-day service (adding toner, etc) of microfiche/film machines, fax, computer printers, etc.
- Mail clerk: incoming and outgoing mail picked up, recorded, mailed, postage purchased, etc.
- Office operations: includes monitoring and purchasing office supplies, revising brochures and information pages, inventories, posting information, manning the telephone, compiling statistics, etc., often acting as Patron Assistants and helping patrons use the Library resources.
- Volunteer recruitment — an ongoing process.

The following statistics show some of the volume of work:

- 2808 patrons signed our register. Slightly down from last year.
- 1304 volunteers signed in. This is also a slight decrease.
- 1401 pieces of mail, by post, were sent from MGS. This total is up by over 150 pieces of mail. I do not have the number of requests answered by e-mail.
- 1739 pieces of mail by post (includes faxes) were received by MGS. (Down almost 100 from last year.)
- 463 incoming phone calls were recorded. Slightly down.
- 37,004 photocopies made. This now includes most Cemetery Transcripts which are sold - other years they had been taken off premises for copying.

Everyone who volunteers in the Resource Centre mentions how it benefits his/her own research, as well as the social aspect in getting to know other members. Why don't you consider being a volunteer?

## **RESEARCH**

Chair: Jim Rutherford, MGS #2632

The Research Committee received many accolades from clients during the past year due, mostly, to the excellent research done by the members of the Committee. Those working most of the year were: Connie McLeod, Bonnie Bridge, Hazel Runchey, and Jim Rutherford, with seasonal help from Rick McLellan and Doreen Houston. We also appreciate the spontaneous assistance from Bill MacDonald and John McCrindle.

As usual, we still get a number of requests for research assistance by e-mail but, as was the case in previous years, less than a third of them follow through when asked to pay a fee. The Committee has been very generous in supplying information which we feel has helped to encourage clients to continue sending money for further research.

It is estimated that we took in the equivalent of about \$3,200 for research during the past year. There were exactly 100 letters written to go along with the research collected. At the close of business at the end of our fiscal year, we had 3 research requests left to complete - all received in July.

The release of some vital statistics on the Internet for BMDs in Manitoba during the past year and the prospect of the 1911 Census for Canada hopefully being released next January will give researchers additional much-needed sources for information.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Chair: Kathy Stokes, MGS #125

This past year has been one of review of existing projects and revision of methods of storage of resources acquired through Special Projects.

Much of the cemetery transcribing that goes on these days is the updating of cemeteries read 20 or more years ago. We still need to read, for the first time, a few medium-sized graveyards in the south part of the region - Morden and La Riviere, to name but two. The card index of names from the first 500 cemeteries read is being converted to a computerized index. Ultimately, the cabinets containing the cards will be removed, leaving more space for other things.

We hope to complete the mammoth Elmwood Cemetery project this year.

Cemetery transcription sales provide a considerable amount of money for MGS activities. We are in the process of revising price lists and setting up a new method of determining postal costs.

Newspaper indexing, both current and old, continues. We are working on 1967 and the current year, as well as 1896 for city and 1888 for rural old newspapers.

Anglican record indexing is complete and we hope to sign an agreement with the Anglicans in the near future regarding use of the records. United Church indexing continues. We remain in negotiations with the United Church regarding an agreement about the indexes we have developed. Copies of the transcripts of United Church records were taken to their Archives last November at their request.

Our STRAYS collection, a seldom-used resource, is being computerized, in hope that this will make it more user-friendly.

Thank you to all who have helped with Special Projects this past year.

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORTS

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Daryl Dumanski, MGS #1031

Our Branches have been working hard this past year with special projects, seminar preparation, regular programming, and outreach. If you are an MGS member and have not yet found out all the advantages of joining a branch - just ask any branch member reaping the benefits and rewards of being a part of these educational arms of the society. Thank you to each Branch executive committee for their dedication in providing valued services to our membership.

The Communications department, which includes the Branches, the Journal, Outreach, Publications, and Publicity, are running fairly smoothly but, as with other departments, could use some more volunteers. It would be a treat to have committees rather than our current "one-man-band" department chairs. Our Generations editor is overwhelmed with the work involved in creating a publication on a quarterly basis and would welcome a committee. If you like to write and seek out relevant information for our journal, please contact our editor, Jayne Paradis, or myself.

Our vital Outreach department is currently involved with many interested groups in and around Portage la Prairie where she lives. But did you know that every one of the branches needs people to go out to give short talks on genealogy in their various communities? The Winnipeg Branch alone gets calls regularly for presentations all over the city and has a hard time accommodating them all with just a few available volunteers.

In the overall heritage community I enjoy representing our society and will continue to see that we are involved in the advocacy of heritage in Manitoba. Currently we are part of a group called "The Heritage Coalition" which meets once a month to discuss all matters that can benefit our organizations. If you would like to display a poster that was created for this - please ask for one at our MGS Resource Centre.

Any questions or concerns regarding our organization?

Please call me at 668-9366, or e-mail me at [ddportfolios@shaw.ca](mailto:ddportfolios@shaw.ca)

### GENERATIONS

Editor: Jayne Paradis, MGS #45

- 4 issues published: September & December 2002, March & June 2003.
- Stiff cover and bound-in inserts were continued.
- Expenses were approximately \$5,775.00.

### OUTREACH

Chair: Myrna Mackey, MGS #3188

The coldest night in winter found me at a workshop at the Golden Prairie Arts Centre in Carman. The night was chilling but the welcome warm when ten participants gathered with me for an informative evening on the basics of genealogy.

In February a five week course for genealogy beginners began at the Public Library in Portage la Prairie. The format was advertised beforehand and every Tuesday focussed on a particular topic of genealogical research. Average attendance was over thirty students per week. Two morning computer classes were also held to familiarize the students with hands-on Internet use and computer basics. These classes were held at the library and conducted before opening times to allow everyone optimum concentration time. A fall update seminar was requested by the participants and is in the planning process.

Another range of courses will again be held at the library in the winter and this is in the planning process. Topics will be determined by the suggestions from students of the course in winter 2003.

A lecture for the Librarians Association of Manitoba is also scheduled for their conference in Portage la

Prairie in October. The lecture will focus on genealogy and the libraries, and ways to meet the needs of library patrons, both now and in future.

## MEMBERSHIP / HUMAN RESOURCES REPORTS

### VICE PRESIDENT

Chair: Kathy Stokes, MGS #125

Membership services has had another successful year although there are some concerns about MGS' inability to attract more members, in spite of an active Outreach Committee working in areas not covered by rural or urban branches, and very active branch endeavours. It seems that we remain in competition with the Internet.

New Members Packages have been revised and updated. Members' registrations are handled smoothly by volunteers in the MGS Resource Centre.

Membership Services is responsible for administering the MGS Awards program. This year all the awards were reviewed, resulting in some major changes. The practice of awarding pins to all those who have completed 10, 15, 20 and 25 consecutive years has been modified. From now on, only those who have 25 years will receive pins. Other category achievers will be mentioned in Generations.

Another change to the awards system has been to set up a committee which will be responsible for deciding who will receive the Eric Jonasson and Florence Cox Volunteer Service Awards. Previously these were decided by the Executive. This committee will also be responsible for nominating deserving members for external awards offered by the community.

Volunteers in all aspects of MGS activities will be honoured at a reception each year.

### MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Betty Atkinson, MGS #2117

Current as of August 27, 2003:

Member Type 1:	Individual	492	
Member Type 2:	Associate	31	
Member Type 3:	Institutional	18	
Member Type 4:	Life	49	
Member Type 5:	Exchange	80	
Member Type 6:	Deposit	14	
Member Type 7:	Administrative Memb.	1	
Member Type 8:	(not used)		
Member Type 9:	No mail out	<u>11</u>	
Total		<u>696</u>	(2002 : 737)

Dauphin Branch	18
South West Branch	76
Swan Valley Branch	7
Winnipeg Branch	147

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Nellie Larocque, MGS #2297

My concern lies with the fact that we have had to dip into reserves in an attempt to balance the budget. We operate on a shoestring; there are many areas which constantly need upgrading in order to be viable. Hopefully, the increase in membership fees will help us in the upcoming year.

As VP for Finance I would like to see greater communication from membership with positive ideas that could be implemented.

We are ALL volunteers with a commitment to family history. We all have other facets to our lives - family, community, work - and it is far too easy to become disillusioned. I feel strongly that we can overcome these setbacks.

### **MGS TREASURER**

Joan Whiston, MGS #1883

#### THE MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

STATEMENT 1

##### BALANCE SHEET (UNAUDITED)

JULY 31

	Operating Fund	Lifetime Memberships Fund	Publications Fund	Seminar Fund	Dedication Fund	COMBINED 2003	2002
<b>ASSETS</b>							
<b>CURRENT</b>							
Cash	\$ 3,916	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,916	\$ 7,537
Short term investments	51,900					51,900	56,956
Accounts receivable	1,637					1,637	1,490
Prepaid expenses	2,513	—	—	—	—	2,513	2,244
	59,966					59,966	68,227
DUE FROM OPERATING FUND							
	—	12,725	2,000	500	2,245	17,470	16,065
	\$ 59,966	\$ 12,725	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,245	\$ 77,436	\$ 84,292
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
<b>CURRENT</b>							
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,060	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,060	\$ 3,876
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	15,518	—	—	—	—	15,518	15,163
	18,578					18,578	19,039
DUE TO OTHER FUNDS							
	17,470	—	—	—	—	17,470	16,065
	36,048					36,048	35,104
<b>SURPLUS</b>							
FUNDS SURPLUS	23,918	12,725	2,000	500	2,245	41,388	49,188
	\$ 59,966	\$ 12,725	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,245	\$ 77,436	\$ 84,292

Approved by the Board

Director \_\_\_\_\_

Director \_\_\_\_\_

**THE MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**

**STATEMENT 2**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS  
(UNAUDITED)**

**YEAR ENDED JULY 31**

<b>OPERATING FUND</b>	<b>2 0 0 3</b>	<b>2 0 0 2</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Beverages	\$ 118	\$ 102
Donations	3,472	3,772
Generations	446	549
Grants	10,800	10,800
Investment income	681	1,835
Memberships	17,093	17,572
Other	1,516	3
Services	4,374	4,316
U.S. exchange	787	961
User fees	660	700
	39,947	40,610
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES (Schedule 1)</b>	<b>52,289</b>	<b>48,810</b>
<b>EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE</b>	<b>( 12,342)</b>	<b>( 8,200)</b>
<b>TRANSFERS FROM (TO) FUNDS</b>		
Life Members fund	( 600)	
Dedication fund	( 805)	( 385)
Publications fund	4,542	3,729
<b>OPERATING FUND DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	<b>( 9,205)</b>	<b>( 4,856)</b>
<b>SURPLUS, beginning of year</b>	<b>33,123</b>	<b>37,979</b>
<b>SURPLUS, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 23,918</b>	<b>\$ 33,123</b>

**THE MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**

**SCHEDULE 1**

**OPERATING EXPENDITURES  
(UNAUDITED)**

**YEAR ENDED JULY 31**

	<b>2 0 0 3</b>	<b>2 0 0 2</b>
Annual general meeting	\$ 166	\$ 81
Capital expenditures		691
Committee - outreach		95
- library	2,698	3,662
- special projects	30	455
- computer	104	
- memberships	404	250
Conventions and meetings	778	70
Equipment maintenance	2,850	1,771
Generations	5,418	5,556
GST	2,894	2,642
Insurance	1,152	1,005
Office and administration	2,893	4,246
Photocopying	284	222
Professional fees	3,077	1,750
Rent and common charges	25,716	22,717
Telephone	1,218	1,223
Utilities	2,607	2,374
	\$ 52,289	\$ 48,810



## **WANTED**

Daryl Dumanski, MGS #1031

Alive Only: One or two good volunteers to edit our journal, *Generations*.

Reason: Our editor will be resigning her post, passing on the star - as she is now the President and too many hats is not a good thing.

The ropes: Include putting together all that good genealogy stuff that is sent in and seeking out all those writers out there who usually have lots to say about their research – the good, the bad and the ugly.

We have already lassoed: Several volunteers have moseyed up to help with the writing and sorting and delivery processes of the journal but they need a new sheriff.

How to get the badge: You should probably like history, may enjoy writing, definitely like to bug people – to get those stories to you, may like to sniff out some research and can get around capably on those new-fangled computers.



## **We Need You Now!**

Daryl Dumanski, MGS #1031  
VP Communications

On a more serious note I would like to let you know that we will be facing a dilemma without volunteers. One of our objectives of the society includes publishing a quarterly journal for our members. So your action to us, your Executive committee, is:

- Do you still want a Journal on a quarterly basis?
- Is this one of the privileges that you've come to appreciate as a member of the society?
- What's the most important benefit to you as a member of our genealogical organization?

Please send me your constructive feedback so we can take positive action and continue to merit your support.

Leave a message at the MGS Resource Centre – have it put in my mail slot.  
E-mail: [ddportfolios@shaw.ca](mailto:ddportfolios@shaw.ca). Please use subject line: Response to Wanted. Thanks!

## **LIBRARY LINES**

Louisa Shermerhorn, MGS #567

Following was previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: Vol. 6, No. 46, 12 November 2003.

### **"Grabbing Your Cousins' Attention"**

When you see a message posed on the mailing lists and message boards with a subject line such as: "HELP!!!" / "Searching!" / "Looking for" "Genealogy!" / "Desperate!" and even no subject -- what's your reaction? Shrug and move on?

"We all were newbies once upon a time, but if you want to get the most out of your queries, spruce up your subject lines. For even though you might draft your messages carefully and explain in detail what information you seek -- including the name(s) of the ancestor(s), where the individual or family lived, and a time frame, if your subject line doesn't grab the readers, you won't hear from anyone.

"The vast majority of browsers and subscribers take roughly one second - that's right, one second - to decide whether a message is of interest to them and whether they are going to read further. The decision whether to bypass or read the message is often determined by the subject line alone and not the message content. Digest subscribers (on mailing lists) often scan the subjects of the messages in a digest index to determine whether they are going to scroll through to read the actual messages.

"Subjects such as the ones listed above, no matter how many exclamation points are added, no matter how urgent your pleas for help, and no matter how many caps are used, do not inform the reader of the message content. They do nothing to "grab" anyone's attention. Experienced researchers often lament that they'd love to help more, but don't have the time to wade through messages that do not contain the foundation of genealogical research: names, dates and places. No one, except a close cousin, really cares how you are related to someone. Save those relationship explanations for private correspondence.

"A good subject line should provide the reader with information about the message to which it is attached. It should be concise, but complete enough to explain who or what the message concerns, the time frame, and the location, if known.

"Abbreviate only where necessary due to a character limit, such as on the message boards, and remember that this is the Internet and the boards and lists have an international audience.

**"Don't assume your Australian cousins know what you mean with American abbreviations. Add USA, UK, etc. Examples of good subject lines are:**

Information sought about Joseph JOHN-  
SON, b.1862, in Frederick County, Mary-  
land, USA

Census info needed for George HOLTON,  
1901, Somerset, England

Peter BURNS m. Olive HAWKINS, 1879,  
Melbourne, Australia – need parents for both

Susanna, m. Johannes BENDER, Rockingham County, Virginia, USA, 1788 - maiden name?

Need date and place of marriage of John  
SMITH and Sarah JONES - lived Ohio,  
USA, 1850

"The reader will know at a glance if the above messages are of interest to them personally and also if they may have resources that might have the information. A reader who has a book on Ohio marriages in the 1850s may well read the message about John SMITH and Sarah JONES and look for the information even if he is not personally connected to this family.

**“Other important tips about using a meaningful subject subject line are:**

- If you are replying to a list or board message and the subject of your reply changes from the one in the earlier message(s) in the thread, change/update the subject line accordingly, and

- If you are a digest subscriber and replying to a message in a digest, be sure to change the subject to pertain to the actual message to which you are replying rather than leaving the digest name and number as the subject line.

"The subject line you create for your query is the "hook" that either draws the reader in or sends him on to the next message passing yours by. So, don't cry aimlessly for "HELP!!!!!" - let the reader know what you are looking for at a glance with a meaningful, concise subject."

## New acquisitions/recatalogued materials

**Reference** (use in library only)

**Reference** (use in library only)  
Many of these titles will also be found in the circulating sections.

## **001 64 Haw *Computers for Family History, an introduction***

929 Ham *In search of British ancestry.*  
Donation.

## **929 Ham In search of Scottish ancestry**

929.1 Fiv 500 brickwall solutions to  
genealogy problems. Donation

929.3 Tho Index to births, marriages and deaths and residents found in newspapers at Thompson, Manitoba.

929.6 Bro An heraldic alphabet  
971.05 Bro Pioneer years 1895-1914: the

971.05 B10 Pioneer years 1895-1914.. the  
West. Donation  
971.272 Hen. *Kildonan on the Red*

978.1 Pin *Pioneer women: voices from the*

Volume 10

**CD-ROMs**  
942.5 Pig *Pigot and Co.'s national and commercial directory*. 1830. Bedfordshire, *County*, *England*.

Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire,  
Northamptonshire. Donation. Circulating  
942.6 Reg *Returns of owners of land 1873:*

*Suffolk.*                      *Donation.* *Circulating*  
**948.1 NOR Norske i Montana. Circulating**

**Microfilm** [must be used in the Library]

929.3 Ont *Ontario birth registrations, 1905*  
929.5 Der/Cli Derbyshire, England.

*Monumental inscriptions of Clifton  
church.* Donation

929.5 Der/Rip Derbyshire, England.  
*Monumental inscriptions of Ropley  
Baptist Church.* Donation

## **Circulating books**

### Manitoba

- 630.2 And *Grain: the entrepreneurs.* Donation  
 929.3 Tho *Index to births, marriages, deaths and residents in newspapers of Thompson, Manitoba.* Donation  
 971.27 Clan Har *Clanwilliam municipality, Manitoba. Harvest of memories.* 1903-2003. Donation  
 971.27 Mint Our *Minto municipality, Manitoba. Our story; a legacy: Bethany and District.* Donation  
 971.27 Stan His *Stanley municipality, Manitoba. History of the town of Winkler.* Donation

### Western Canada

- 929.197 Gen *Genealogical research at the Vancouver courthouse library.* Donation  
 971.004 Bat 2 *Batoche National Historic Site.* Donation  
 971.004 Bat 3 *Batoche (1870-1910).* Donation  
 971.24 Sea *Search for yesteryears; (Newfield School and districts, Codette, SK.)* Donation  
 971.24 Thi *This is Saskatchewan.* Donation

### Eastern Canada

- 312 Ont/Hur *Huron County, Ontario. Data missing from 1871 census indexing Project 333.3 Ind 2 Index of the land claims certificates of Upper Canada militiamen.1812-14*  
 929.3 Ont/Sim *Simcoe Co. Ont. Marriages of St. James Anglican Church, Orillia 1841-1957*  
 929.5 Ont/Ken *Kenora district, Ontario. Dryden Cemetery index.* Donation  
 929.5 Ont/Ken *Kenora district, Ontario. Lac Seul graves.*  
 929.5 Pei/Eng *From England to Prince Edward Island: English immigrants.1835- 1910.*  
 929.5 Pei/Iri *From Ireland to Prince Edward Island: Irish immigrants.1835-1910*  
 929.5 Pei/Sco *From Scotland to Prince Edward Island: Scottish immigrants.1835-1910*  
 929.5 Que *Quebec FHS. Directory of cemetery grave lists.*  
 929.5 Que/Che *Private cemetery, Chelsea, Quebec.*  
 929.51 McK *More obituaries from Ontario's Methodist papers, 1873-1884*

### **971.024 Loy *Loyalists of New Brunswick.***

- 971.3 Bru/Roo *Bruce County, Ontario. Roots and branches of Saugeen, 1854-1984.*** Donation  
**971.3 Fro/Wol *Fontenac County, Ontario. Wolfe, Garden and Simcoe Island: 19th century families.*** Donation]  
**971.3 May *Arrivals: stories from the history of Ontario.***  
**971.3 Thu/Man *Thunder Bay district, Ontario. Manitouwadge: cave of the great spirit.*** Donation  
**971.6 Aca *Acadians of Nova Scotia. Past and present.***

### Canada

- 971.004 Sil *Silver Chief: Lord Selkirk and the Scottish pioneers of Belfast, Baldoon and Red River***

### Great Britain & Ireland

- 641.5 Bri *Britannia: keeping in touch with the British way of life***  
**941.1 Pol *Tales of the covenanters.*** Donation  
**941.5 Ire *Ireland in the eighteenth century.*** Donation  
**942.2 Ken *Kent of Dickens.*** Donation

### General

- 001.64 A *Computer genealogy***  
**001.64 Ame *How to write and publish your family history***  
**001.64 Col *Genealogy: a new relationship***  
**001.64 Haw *Computers for family history***  
**001.64 Pos *Tracing your roots by computer***  
**001.64 Rid *Riding the internet highway***  
**001.64 Usi *Using computers for genealogy***  
 [some of these are older books - but possibly worth a check - for more up to date information on Computers and Genealogy see *Genealogy Computing* in the Periodical section]  
**529 Tim *Time changes in the USA.***  
**929.1 Fiv *500 brickwall solutions to genealogy problems***  
**929.4 Cot *Dictionary of surnames***  
**929.4 Dic *Dictionary of surnames***

### Family History and Biography

- 921 Ach *Acheson. Diary of a homestead application: John Acheson's homestead records.*** Donation  
**921 McK McKinnon. *Scotch Moses: the life of Malcolm McKinnon, .*** Donation.

929.2 Bou 1 Boudreau. *Ancestors of Exzelia E. Bourdreau*.  
929.2 Bou 2 Boudreau. *Descendants of Exzelia E. Boudreau's paternal and maternal grandparents*.  
929.2 Bra 3 Bradshaw. *Bradshaw family of the Bay of Quinte 1784-1864*  
929.2 Hei Heinrichs. *Kornelius Heinrichs and his descendants, 1782-1979*.  
Donation  
929.2 Hut *Hutton family [Brandon, Manitoba]* Donation  
929.2 Lyt Lytle. *Wake of the living: a family chronicle*. Donation  
929.2 MacQ *MacQuarrie, Clan MacQuarrie: a history*. Donation  
929.2 Mag Magarrell. *Century of memories of the Magarell homestead, 1902-2003*. Donation  
929.2 Pro 3 Proctor. *Toddler's biography*. Donation  
929.2 Stu *Sturby/Scherby family history*  
929.2 Tur *Turner family history, 1804-2002*.  
Donation

## MGS ANNUAL AWARDS

At the MGS Annual Meeting held in Brandon in conjunction with the outstanding seminar produced by South West Branch, the annual MGS awards were handed out by President Bob Stokes, in his last official act as president.

Pins were awarded to four members who had completed 25 years of consecutive membership. These were Edith Bjornson, Ralph Frith, Shirle McGimpsey and Bob Stokes.

Names were announced of those who had completed 20, 15 and 10 years of consecutive membership. MGS encourages these members to write to *Generations*, telling us about yourselves and about the progress or lack thereof with your research. We will publish your stories in later editions.

Twenty year members are: Margaret Scrase, Bev Keindl, Daryl Dumanski, Marion Glover, Joyce Heaman, John Hamilton, Jean Ammeter, Beth Audette and Gordon Swain.

Fifteen year members are: Glenn Wylie, Shirley Denis, Anne Malyon, Sheridan Atkinson, Neville John Arnold, Helen Schmidt, Elvina Hagan, Carol Clegg, Marion Hamilton.

Those who completed ten years of membership are: Lynn Francis, Patricia Green, Cameron King, Denise Bromley, and Hilda Teetaert.

The FLORENCE COX AWARDS are given each year to MGS members who have contributed their time and expertise over a length of time on behalf of the Society, or who have taken a leading role in a shorter term major project. This year, seven members received COX awards.

**Bill Burland**, a faithful volunteer since joining six years ago, Bill is currently chair of the Computer Committee as well.

**Wayne Digby** of South West Branch has served as Branch president and, on several occasions assisted with seminars when they were held in Brandon. Wayne is currently on a two year assignment in Poland.

**Vivian Mitchell** is a volunteer who began assisting us without the faintest idea of what genealogy is. Currently, she is a Tuesday volunteer at the Resource Centre as well as working on an indexing project at home.

**Anne Morton** is a Sunday volunteer at the Resource Centre. She set up the current archives policy for MGS and chaired the Seminar 2002 Committee.

**Jayne Paradis** is a founding member of MGS, joining while she was still in high school. She has been involved in many aspects of MGS activities, serving on the executive, as a Resource Centre volunteer and, lately, as *Generations* Editor.

**Bill Pooley** is one of those people who never says "no" and helps out whenever and wherever he is asked. He is the MGS lawyer and an MC par excellence. He makes working on a project or event fun for all concerned.

**Josie Stemmerowicz** for many years has come once a month from Kenora to

volunteer at the Resource Centre. She is our "bookie", the person who sends out by mail the books requested by out-of-town members.

The ERIC JONASSON AWARD is given annually to one person who has made a difference to MGS through hard work and leadership in one or more phases of our activities. This year's award was presented to Daryl Dumanski who has served MGS in so many ways - as President, VP Finance and latterly, VP Communications, as well as many offices in Winnipeg Branch.

#### CONGRATULATIONS to

Bill Burland, MGS #3727, and his wife, on the birth of two granddaughters this year - Jade Burland in January and Gillian Gunter-Smith in October.

And congratulations to Bill's daughter, Siobhan, on her marriage to Chris Ross, in August.

#### RURAL REPORTS

From the *Manitoba Free Press* of 3 May 1913, page 24 comes an account of a golden wedding celebration, complete with photos. Fifty years of marriage were not so common in those days and are certainly worthy of mention.

"Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lefley, pioneers of Lake Francis and Grosse Isle for 30 years, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Grosse Isle on April 22nd with over 30 relatives present for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Lefley were parents of 11 children, eight of whom are still living in various parts of the west. They have 38 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Mr. Lefley was born in Salem, Suffolk, England in 1836 and at 15 migrated to Yorkshire where he met his wife, Anne E. Watson who was born in Cottenham, Yorkshire in 1844. They were married in 1863. Mr. Lefley came to Canada and to Winnipeg in 1883. The following year his wife and family came to Canada. Since then he was engaged in farming at Lake Francis and later at Grosse Isle where they now reside in retirement."

The accompanying photos are of the church where the Lefleys were married at Riston, Yorkshire, a four generation family group, and Mr. and Mrs. Lefley on their anniversary.

From the *Manitoba Free Press* 6 May 1913, page 13 is the obituary of a well known Presbyterian minister.

"Portage la Prairie: Rev. Dr. Farquhar McRae, one of the oldest and best known Presbyterian ministers in Manitoba died at home May 5th, after an illness which extended practically all winter. He was well advanced in years and in the past two years had retired to Portage la Prairie. He came to Manitoba from Ontario in 1891 and for 16 years was in charge of the Presbyterian church at Burnside. He was also the chaplain of the Portage St. Andrew's Society and a member of the Liberal party. He had a wife and three sons.

"Rev McRae was born in northern Scotland and studied at Aberdeen University. He came to Canada about 40 years ago and ministered to a congregation at East William



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near London, Ontario. He was married about 30 years ago to Margaret Fraser and came to Manitoba, settling at Beaver Creek where he taught and preached. Later, he was principal at Selkirk and then Morden. After that he went to Burnside until his retirement in 1910, then to Portage where he became involved with the church in Ninette and Hilton.

"His oldest son, Farquhar, is studying law in Portage. The youngest, Mc Gillivray, is at home."

Note: There was no mention of the middle son in the obituary, but funeral arrangements noted that one son was already buried at Burnside, where Rev. McRae was subsequently buried.

#### ARE THESE YOUR ANCESTORS?

Kathy Stokes, MGS #125

Christmas is near, a time for joy and reflection, for holiday celebrations and memories of Christmases past. This year, Christmas will be different for those in countries which are at war, and for the families of those serving in the trouble zones of the world, for somehow war seems closer than it did not so long ago. The weather, at this writing, brings to mind the Christmas of 1939, the first year of World War II, when the ground in Manitoba was brown instead of white. Looking backwards at the first Christmases of both WWI and WWII gives us a glimpse of the peoples' thoughts and activities at the yuletide of those unhappy times.

There were certainly some parallels between the Christmases of 1914 and 1939. The war, in each case had been going for only a few months. Troops were not yet heavily engaged on the ground although in both wars, Canadian troops were already in Britain. The British navy scored mightily, with the sinking of three German cruisers off the Falkland Islands in WWI, and, in WWII, with the scuttling of the German pocket battleship *Graf Spee* off Montevideo, Uruguay, and the subsequent suicide of her captain who felt that he had disgraced his country.

Feelings against "the enemy" nevertheless were expressed on the home front in the actions of government and some citizens. In December 1914, a number of "undesirables" were removed from the ranks of Canadian forces in Britain and sent home. They were left penniless in Halifax and had to find their way home to other parts of Canada without any assistance. No trials had been held to prove that these men were a danger to the allied peace effort.

One such person was W. G. Frank, 21 years old, of Winnipeg. Born in Germany he had moved with his family to the USA as a child, had become an American citizen and later came to Canada where he joined the 90th Winnipeg Rifles. Frank claimed that the Rifles knew of his birthplace. He described his being removed from his unit and marched with some forty others through the streets of Glasgow, accompanied by guards with fixed bayonets. He said that people on the streets who asked what was happening were told that he and the others in his group were German spies.

The Winnipeg newspapers of December 1939 made note of a demand from the Home & Property Association of Winnipeg for the resignation of William Ross and Andrew Bilecki from the Winnipeg School Board because they were Communists. How far have we as a people come today from those actions of 1914 and 1939? Not too far, if the actions of officials in several countries are any indication.

Proud members of the Fort Garry Horse Regiment send home a photo from Salisbury Plain where they were stationed showing Art Pattinson, Bob Girdlestone, Bernard McManus, Charlie Stanley, ? Winslow, "Hammy" Baker and Russell Cross. It was published in mid December 1914 in the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

Although the war was on everyone's mind in 1939 as well, there was another major distraction - the weather. The prairies were brown everywhere instead of white. The *Free Press* printed a photo of golfers dressed only in sweaters, proudly ready to go a round. They were J. A. Sexsmith, C. A. Morris of Sanford, J. B. Morris of The Pas, James Beattie, Percy Dewart, and J. C.

Mustard. People roller skated down Portage Avenue. The Puffin Ski Club opened its new quarters, but there was no snow on the banks of the Assiniboine where the club was located. Tennis was still being played outdoors.

In December 1914, one of the earliest nurses to serve, Charlotte Younghusband of Portage la Prairie, crossed the Atlantic with the Red Cross and was stationed with the First Canadian Contingent in Boulogne, France. The tallest man in the 99th Manitoba Rifles was Private Harry R. Lumby, son of J. R. Lumby of Fort William. He was six feet, five inches. The first Winnipeg man killed in action overseas was William Duncan, 32 years of 621 Spence St. A native of Donegal, Ireland, he had come to Canada about ten years previously. He left a wife of three years and two small daughters.

In December 1939, it was noted that three sons of J. E. Simcox of Wawanesa had all joined the Canadian Army . Lloyd, 21 years, Jack, 27 years, and Lincoln, 35 years, all served with the Royal Canadian Signal Corps.

The big news on the political front in 1914 was the election of the first two women ever to serve on school boards in Manitoba - Mrs. J. K. Brown in Winnipeg and Mrs. Dr. Speechly in Pilot Mound. Four hundred people turned out for Mrs. Brown's nomination. Even so, many objected to such a responsibility for a woman, believing that the proper place for a female was in the home. The widespread feelings of female frustration were noted in some of the poetry published in the *Free Press* at that time as evidenced in the last verse of "The Housekeeper" by American Margaret Widdemer.

"I who laboured beside my mate when  
the work of the world began

The watch I kept while my children slept,  
I will keep today my Man

I have crouched too long by the little  
hearts at the bidding of Man, my mate

I go to kindle the Hearth of the World,  
that Man has left desolate."

There was no evidence in the early days of either of these wars about food shortages at home, no eggless cake recipes, no mention of remaking used clothes or "Waste Not, Want Not." In 1939, there seemed a larger number of weddings reported than in earlier years. Money being in short supply because of the just passing Depression, an article featured ways to feed a family of five on \$11.97 per week. And there was no mention of a spy threat to Canada, no "loose lips sink ships" atmosphere.

Life at Christmas 1914 moved along as usual in many small ways. Elocution contests were common and Elsie Bach of Arden won the gold medal from the Arden Council Royal Templars of Temperance for her work. The Salvation Army produced 2000 baskets of food for the needy. A cartoon showed a busy Santa Claus with a sign noting "business as usual". Plans for the new Winnipeg aqueduct were unveiled.

In 1939, Winnipeg won the Grey Cup and Rose Mary Thacker of Winnipeg was the figure skating champion of Canada and North America. The Post Office reported moving half a million letters daily. Christmas shopping was brisk, but the Governor General cancelled his annual New Year's levee because of the war. The Dionne quintuplets moved back home with their parents and seven siblings, with the approval of the Ontario government. Plans were announced for the new British Commonwealth Air Training Program which would later have a great impact on the prairies and would bring the reality of war to our own doorstep as we saw the young men training for combat.

#### HELP NEEDED!!!

Does anyone have access to the records from Ninette Sanitorium? MGS has a list of those buried at Ninette Cemetery who died at the Sanitorium, but the list only mentions surname, initial and year of burial. We would like to add the given names of those who died to the list. Please contact Kathy Stokes at the MGS Resource Centre if you can assist us.

**Selkirk Settlers will be interested in a new site on the Internet. Check out <http://www.balloon.com/>**

On September 5, 1804, more than 100 Scottish Highlanders arrived at a historic location known as Balloon [Ontario] to begin an exciting new life along the banks of the Chenal Ecarte. Many of the settlers went on to become successful in business, eventually leading to the development of the industrious town of Wallaceburg. Balloon was the dream of Scottish nobleman Lord Selkirk. In 1803, Selkirk had already established a settlement at Belfast, P.E.I. and several years later, in 1811, he established Red River Valley which later became Winnipeg, Manitoba.

#### **SYMPATHY to**

Bill Pooley and family, MGS #855 , on the death of his father, Kingdon Pooley, on October 10, 2003.

Eric Neufeld, MGS #2410, and his family on the death of his father, John Neufeld on January 17, 2003 and Eric's sister, Rita Neufeld on June 2003, both of Boissevain.

#### **GENERATIONS GAPS**

##### **LIND**

John b. Mar 6, 1860 Varmland, Sweden  
M 1: Betty FARDY (b. June 1859 d. Dec. 8, 1903) in Denver, Colo, Dec 13, 1888.  
Worked and died on Denver Rio Grande RR  
Children: Ethel, Carl, Laura, George  
2nd Mar: to Beda HANSON (b. 1884 d. 1913, suicide) Chn: Alfred, Vivian (sent to live in Sweden)

Contact:

Dorothy Graham Tel: 204 / 339-6284  
1107 - 1590 Henderson Hwy  
Winnipeg, MB R2G 2B8

##### **KINGSBURY/COOK**

Chamberlain A. (Joseph (b1814?, m Eliza Jane Cook B1812?, both in Vermont. Settled in Consecon, PEI. Chn: Mary Eliza, m Tim P. Hicks; Delilah, Jane (Jenny Lind) m Henry Kirk; Sarah, Roseffie m Henry Van Clif; Eva m Perry Lake; Theresa. Searching for descendants.

Contact:

Liz Anderson Tel: 204 / 785-1977  
Box 51 Grp 2 RR 1  
East Selkirk MB R0E 0M0

E-mail: [eliza@prairie.ca](mailto:eliza@prairie.ca)



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## **RESOURCE CENTRE SUNDAYS**

Sundays: open 12:00 - 4:00pm as of September 14, 2003

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

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**PLEASE RENEW SOON. Registration form is on page 19.**

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