



Saskatchewan GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 2

AUGUST 2016

BULLETIN

SPECIAL ISSUE: *Families of the NWMP* – A Joint project with the Alberta Genealogical Society and Manitoba Genealogical Society | David Paterson (R.S.N. 235) | George Gordon (R.S.N. 2003) | Harry Holdsworth Nash (R.S.N. Old Series 271, New Series 399) | Richard Elmes Steele (R.S.N. Old Series 7, New Series 18)



Harry Holdsworth Nash and Thunderchild

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Journal of the
Saskatchewan
Genealogical Society Inc.

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Saskatchewan Genealogical Society
PO Box 1894
Regina SK S4P 3E1

ISSN 0048 9182

Volume 47 Number 2
August 2016

The **BULLETIN** is published three times per year. All submitted material will be considered for publication; however the Editor has the option of editing, reserving or rejecting any submission. Manuscripts must be fully referenced and carry the writers signature. Please advise the Editor if the material has previously appeared in another publication.

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Deadline for the next issue of the Bulletin is October 30, 2016. Materials received after this date will be held over until the next issue.

President's Letter

BY: RENE STOCK



This is my first address to you, the membership of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, as President of this long-serving organization. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting to me, responsibility for the guidance of the direction of the Society into uncharted waters over the next few years. I hope to be as successful in this quest as my seven times great Grandfather Louis Jolliet was, in his search for the Mississippi River in 1673.

I also wish to extend the appreciation of the membership to the immediate Past President, Barb Tait, for her guidance through some very turbulent waters during her tenure, both in the life of the Society and in her personal life. Well done, brave girl! Also appreciation goes to Past President Verna Thompson and Board member Sheldon Trabish for their time, talents and contributions. We welcome new Board members Tammy Vallee and Marge Cleave and the talents they bring to the task. To the ongoing Board members Celeste Rider, Holly Schick, Doris Maben, Glenn Schmuland and Dolores Ast, I thank you and look forward to working with you and our staff, Deanne Cairns, Lisa Warren and Lisa-Dawn Matthaei in pursuit of our common goal. And thanks to you, the membership for your contributions of time, talent and finances towards the achievement of the goals of the Society.

Just as we as individuals and as societies, have evolved from the struggles and efforts of our ancestors, genealogical societies in general have been the source of a significant proportion of the genealogical material that is widely available today. I see it as our task to continue to re-discover data sources, to make them widely available, to encourage our governments to follow suit, and to develop and instruct best practices of genealogical research.

The Internet can be perceived as rapids in our path as an organization. We can choose the slow, difficult portage around them and risk falling behind, or take the challenge and either navigate through them or perish. It is my belief that in order to stay relevant we must take up the challenge by using the Internet as the fast-moving vehicle to transport our collective knowledge and data to our fellow travelers on our genealogical journey.

As we read about the history and families of the NWMP elsewhere in this issue, let us not forget the dark circumstances that led to their formation, as is so well explained at the Surveyor monument at Chamberlain. We must not let poor communications hinder our relationships at any level.

Enjoy this issue!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rene Stock".

Editor's Notes

BY: DEANNE CAIRNS, Executive Director

Hi. I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and has had an opportunity to explore, research, and relax.

This issue of the *Bulletin* is part of a joint journal project with the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) and the Manitoba Genealogical Society (MGS) focusing on the lives of some early members of the North West Mounted Police after they left the service. Most of the stories and articles were contributed by descendants of these brave men and we thank them for sharing a little bit of their family history with our members.

As an added bonus, SGS members that have provided an email addresses will also be sent a digital copy of *Relatively Speaking* (AGS, Aug.) and *Generations* (MGS, Sept.) as they are produced.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Wayne Shepheard, Marilyn Hindmarch, David Farmer and of course, Lisa Warren, for their work on this joint project.

I hope you enjoy these stories about some of the real people that played an important part in the history of Canada.

Special Joint Journal Project between AGS, MGS and SGS

Distribution of articles about the Families of the NWMP

***Relatively Speaking* (AGS)**

- Frederick Augustus Bagley (R.S.N. OS 322, NS 247): Maverick by Dale H. Bent and Penelope D. Bent
- Frederick Mortimer Gray (R.S.N. 4218): People We Meet by Gori Elder
- Honest John Herron (R.S.N. 378): Policeman, Plainsman and Politician by Gord Tolton
- Robert Belcher (R.S.N. OS 13, NS 3, 101): One of the 'Originals' by Gail Benjafield
- Sergeant John Joseph Marshall (R.S.N. 1487) by John J. Marshall
- Staff Sergeant Joseph Harvey Price (R.S.N. OS 202, NS 4) by Carol Anne (Price) Marshall
- The Search for Ernest Kroesing by Bob Franz

***Generations* (MGS)**

- James Black Brown (R.S.N. 6244): Memoirs by Mavis Chalmers
- James Black Brown: History Unfolds as Mountie Pioneers Meet by Bob Campbell
- Thomas Henry Waring (R.S.N. 790) by Mary Anne Wright
- William Henry Lowe (R.S.N. 3524): The W.H. Lowe Mystery by Isabel Campbell; William Henry Lowe by Jean (Yates Lowe)

***Bulletin* (SGS)**

- David Paterson (R.S.N. 235): A Biographical Sketch by John deCourcy Fletcher
- History of David (Pry) Paterson written by Frances Gaff Paterson
- George Gordon (R.S.N. 2003) by Dennis Gordon
- Harry Holdsworth Nash (R.S.N. OS 271, NS 399) by Richard Nash
- Richard Elmes Steele (R.S.N. OS 7, NS 18): One of the Original 300 by Donna Shanks

R.S.N. – Regimental Service Number

OS – Old Series Service Number

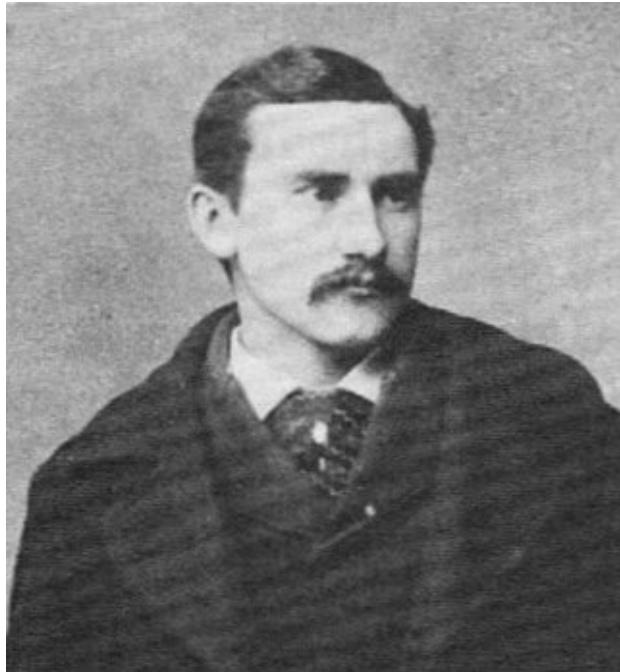
NS – New Series Service Number

David Paterson (R.S.N. 235)

David's granddaughter, Meda, who is David Paterson's granddaughter and George Paterson's daughter, lives in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Meda, who recently turned 100, was honored as a special guest at a RCMP Musical Ride event in July 2015 at Fort Walsh where her grandfather served as a member of the NWMP. Two of Meda's daughters, Penny Wilson Read of Airdrie, Alberta and Dixie Wilson Black of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan submitted the following published articles about their great grandfather.

A Biographical Sketch of Staff Sergeant David Paterson by S/Sergeant John de Courcy Fletcher.

(Editor's Note: The following has been excerpted from an article published by the author in the RCMP Quarterly magazine in April 1975: volume 40, number 2, with permission of the Quarterly. Some minor changes have been made to the article. Readers who would like to have a copy of the full article may write to SGS at saskgenealogy@sasktel.net



David Paterson, R.S.N. 235

Early one morning in 1880, a lone horseman in the scarlet of the North-West Mounted Police, trotted into silhouette atop a low rise overlooking the Blood Indian camp, some 30 miles from "C" Division headquarters at Fort Macleod. The figure paused momentarily and with keen eyes studied the slumbering encampment, then horse and rider disappeared below the rim of the hill.

Some time elapsed, then, black against the rising sun, appeared the figure of an Indian slumped on a wiry pony followed closely by his captor – Cpl. David Paterson. Hunted for a year, for escaping detection, the Indian, Jingling Bells, had successfully eluded the police until word of his return to the camp, in disguise, had reached Paterson's ears. In reporting the capture of the Indian to the Commissioner, the Officer Commanding at Macleod commended Paterson for his "clever" work.

By birth, physical attributes, and by nature, Paterson was no different than many who found their way into the ranks of the Force. His father was a prominent hardware merchant of Toronto, whose son, restless for adventure at the age of 19, and a strapping 5 ft. 11 3/4 in., engaged in the North West Mounted Police at Fort Macleod just before Christmas of 1876. In short order he established a reputation for energy and determination, and amply demonstrated that he possessed the requisites of the frontier policeman. In 1880 he was promoted to the rank of corporal.

Details of Paterson's transfers are obscure, although it is known that but for a brief sojourn at Regina, his entire service was spent in the Fort Macleod, Fort Walsh and Maple Creek areas, and when next his name appears in reports he is stationed at the latter point, which was the headquarters of "A" Division, and which, at the time, appears to have been the centre of a brisk horse-stealing trade between Canada and the US.

The summer of 1886 brought the tragic accident that virtually ended the career of the man whose name had become a byword in many forgotten corners of the Cypress Hills, over the campfires of outlaws, renegades and horse thieves, and in the Indian camps from the Territories into Montana.

It was part of Paterson's work as chief of scouts to undertake the rough task of breaking remounts and to train them to stand firing from the saddle. On a July day he saddled a remount and set out from Maple Creek for Farwell Coulee, to check a herd of cattle recently arrived from the United States. About a mile from the post Paterson drew his revolver, and fired at a jackrabbit, whereupon his horse began to buck violently. In attempting to return his revolver, Paterson began to lose his seat and grasping for the saddle with his revolver hand, snatched the trigger. The heavy ball of the Enfield smashed into the upper part of his left thigh. He flung himself from the plunging remount.

Half dazed from the pain of the wound and his heavy fall, Paterson lay for three hours before being found by Rev. Tudor who was returning to Maple Creek. The latter raced to the barracks with word of Paterson's plight and a party was dispatched to the scene.

The seriousness and possibly fatal consequences of such a wound were at once apparent to the post surgeon who for a time despaired of Paterson's life. But his tireless ministrations and the superb physical condition of his patient combined to bring Paterson through the danger period.

Months later, Paterson was returned to duty, his left leg shortened by some 2 and 1/4 inches, and his active service, as he knew it, terminated.

Adrift in a new environment, his restless spirit shackled by the hum-drum monotony of post routine, Paterson, who had relished the very uncertainty of life, who spoke to the Indian in his own tongue, limped to his new post in the Quartermaster stores. For a time he prospered and the following year was promoted to staff sergeant and later transferred to Regina.

With his recovery complete, but certified unfit for mounted service, Paterson began to chafe at the inactivity his injury had thrust upon him. He received an overwhelming set-back in 1892, when he was denied re-engagement in the Force he had served so well. For the next two years, Paterson was a free agent, drawing 30 cents per day compensation for his injury, and doing odd jobs for the police in and around Maple Creek detachment.

In February, 1894, through the good offices of the Comptroller of the Force, Frederick White, he was engaged as special constable, and employed at "A" Division headquarters, Maple Creek, in the several capacities of Orderly Room clerk, Acting Quartermaster, and Division Clerk. One may well imagine the emotions of this once proud veteran of the rough and tumble

days of the frontier as he assumed the humble status granted him, and with eyes on the distant hills he knew so well, wrestled with the paperwork of his various offices.

Unique, perhaps, under the circumstances, was the General Order of 10 December 1900, under which Paterson was re-engaged as a Constable, and which announced that from that date he was to hold the rank of Sergeant. Not long after – and for one brief moment – Sergeant Paterson was to know again the thrill of the chase, to relive his memories of Jingling Bells, Star Child and others, when he participated in the recapture of an escaped prisoner, for which he received one more commendation.

In July 1903, Paterson regained the rank of Staff Sergeant, which he held until his retirement on 30 June 1908, after more than 31 years with the Force. Thereafter, one of his proudest possessions – a Mounted Police Long Service Order not yet instituted - was the Imperial Service Order which he received in recognition of his services.

On 2 January 1916, just prior to his 61st birthday, S/Sgt. David Paterson died at Maple Creek in the province he had helped fashion from a raw wilderness and with which he had literally grown up. He was survived by his wife, five sons and a daughter.

Perhaps the greatest tribute paid him – because of his service – was expressed by the Comptroller in the latter years of Paterson's service. For Fred White was no remote observer but virtually interested in the Force and the men under his control, and he possessed a keen insight into its problems and those of its personnel, and an understanding of human nature.

Of Paterson he remarked: "(He is) - one of the "old-timers" for whom I have a weakness. I saw much of him in the early days when law and order was being established in the Northwest, and considered him one of our best men. He has had many ups and downs."

History of David (Pry) Paterson

Written By Frances (Ma Pat) Gaff Paterson for the Merryflat and District History Book

Sergeant David (Pry) Paterson was born in 1855 in Toronto, Ontario and passed away in 1916. He enlisted in the N.W.M.P. force around 1875, and discharged in 1908. He served at Fort McLeod, Fort Walsh, Swift Current, Regina and finally at Maple Creek.

He was one of the early members of the NWMP imposing law and order on a dangerous frontier. The stories are many.

He rose through various rank levels, including Chief of Scouts, to become Staff Sergeant. Upon his retirement, or discharge in 1908, he was granted a pension of \$419 per year for life.

He was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in recognition of over thirty years' service.

David Paterson was married in 1884, to Mary Almeda Baum, who with her aunt or half-sister, from Waterloo, Iowa came to the Great West to seek fame and fortune and landed up at Maple Creek. She worked at the Commercial Hotel for a while and that is where David came on the

scene. They went by wagon trip to Moose Jaw to get married, as the C.P.R. had not gone through that district yet.

The Riel Rebellion wound up in '85.

When David Paterson was on Detachment at Swift Current and Maple Creek there were three children born: John in 1885, George 1887, Charlie 1889. Harry 1892 was born in the Old Log House at the Ten Mile Detachment, which still stands. Arthur was born 1897, and May in 1901, at Maple Creek.

When David retired from the force in 1908 he and his family continued to live in Maple Creek. (Their house still looks beautiful on Jasper Street in 2016).

The Patersons were the first to have the Ford dealership in Maple Creek.

David Paterson purchased Ten Mile Detachment along the Battle Creek and it was there he set up his son, George to begin his ranching career.

References

RCMP Quarterly, Volume 40, No. 2, April 1975. Pages 46-50
Merryflat and District History Book, 1968



George Gordon (R.S.N. 2003)



by Dennis Gordon

Dennis Gordon was born and raised in Southern Saskatchewan. He completed his High School education and was accepted into the RCMP in 1971. After Basic training in Regina, he commenced General Duty Policing at Kamloops, British Columbia and Swift Current, Saskatchewan. He then went on to become a Forensic Identification Specialist. Transfers took him to Saskatoon, Edmonton and Brooks, Alberta. After retirement in 2004, he became a Special Constable and Community Peace Officer for the City of Brooks. He is now completely retired and content enjoying the care free life style and the freedom that goes with it.

My Grandfather, George Gordon, served as a constable with the NWMP. He carried out his policing duties and later homesteaded, married, farmed and raised a family in Saskatchewan.

George Gordon was born near the village of Paisley, Bruce County, Ontario, on 6 February 1867. He was the son of William and Jane Gordon, who originated from the County of Armagh, Ireland, and immigrated to Canada prior to George's birth.

George Gordon joined the NWMP in 1887 at Regina, where he took his training. He remained there for a few years before he was posted to the Prince Albert Headquarters. After completing five years of service in 1892, he received his discharge from the NWMP which entitled him to homestead rights. He obtained a quarter section of land at Hazelcliff, NWT (later Saskatchewan in 1905). He obtained a team of oxen, plough, disc harrows and other farming items, and built a frame house. Following a year and a half of farming, he decided to re-engage with the NWMP in 1894 for another three years. After returning to Prince Albert, he then went to the smaller detachments at Batoche, Duck Lake and again to Regina. He received his second discharge in 1897.

During his time in Regina, he played for the NWMP Band and was an eager lacrosse player while stationed in Prince Albert. His duties included many hours and extended days of patrol work throughout the territory, travelling by horseback or buckboard. Some overnight camps had to be made like many other police members did during those early years. When not on patrols, investigations were conducted or prisoner transfers made. Other menial duties were comprised of cleaning barracks and horse barns, stalls, corals and tending to the horses. Those were only a few examples of the responsibilities necessary to keep the detachments in appropriate working order and asserting discipline.

It is our good fortune that Constable Gordon made two written accounts of some experiences he had encountered. Although his stories were written in pencil and now are fading, they still reveal some interesting detail. One event describes how he and another constable were sent to Battleford to bring back a prisoner who had been arrested for horse stealing. That was a 150 mile trip to Duck Lake, which required camping along the way during the evenings. The first day back they travelled about 30 miles. To prevent escaping, the prisoner was handcuffed to Gordon's wrist. Constable Gordon, the prisoner in the middle and Constable Sam Carter all slept in the same bed. The first night was very uncomfortable and little sleep occurred. Next

day a distance of 60 miles was covered. That night, both the prisoner and Gordon were shackled together by the leg, which turned out to be far more restful. It was noted their limit of travel was considered to be no farther than 70 miles over two days. Due to a significant amount of snowfall during the second night, they did not want to spend another night in the elements. They pressed on to Duck Lake, which was yet another 60 miles and exceeded the travel guidelines. When Gordon made his report, he stated his reasons for the extended travel miles. Due to the circumstances, his superior officer concurred the decision was justified.



George Gordon NWMP

While stationed at Duck Lake, George Gordon provided a detailed account of the prisoner Almighty Voice. He was a young Swampy Cree native, arrested 22 October 1895, for suspicion of stealing and butchering a young steer. Sergeant Colin Campbell Colebrook of the Batoche Detachment arrested Almighty Voice, tribe member Young Dust and a female as a result of the investigation. All were then turned over to Sergeant Harry Keenan, in charge of Duck Lake Detachment.

Gordon was one of the police members there and like other constables, was assigned to guard the prisoner Almighty Voice. Part of the written comments stated by my Grandfather regarding Almighty Voice was this: *"Among those arrested was one by the name of Almighty Voice, about 21 years of age and stood about 6 feet high, very erect and a good looking lad. He was a noted hunter and a very good sport, an exceptional good shot, which fact was fully verified during the course of the following few months."*

Gordon knew Almighty Voice from conducting routine patrols when he was at Batoche. Some of the patrols would take them to the One Arrow Reserve near there. The Chief of the Reserve was his father. Almighty Voice had also hauled several loads of hay for the NWMP horses where Gordon was stationed. Almighty Voice would unload the hay and Gordon would stack it. From those encounters, Gordon spoke of him in very complimentary terms.

There was no real guard room in which to lock the prisoners. There was a large room with one door opening into the kitchen and another onto the street. A third door opened to a stairway leading up to the sleeping quarters for the police members. The prisoners were not considered as being high risk escapees and were not shackled to the large iron rings attached to logs. The next day the prisoners were to be transported to Prince Albert by train, awaiting a later court date at the Fall Assizes.

Gordon provided accounts of Sergeant Keenan's instructions to his six constables at the Duck Lake Detachment barracks. *"Well boys, you will have to divide up the night evenly and each man take his turn on guard and look after the prisoners and be careful that they do not get away."* They were instructed to provide two hours of guard duty each.

Before retiring to the upstairs sleeping quarters, Constable Gordon, being the senior constable, took the key and locked the door leading to the street and handed the key to the guard Constable Gerald O'Kelly saying, "don't open the door any more tonight and that will be one door where they will not get out." To clarify some previously published accounts leading up to the escape: George Gordon stated there were two brothers there with the surname O'Kelly, Gerald and Andrew.

Constable Thomas Dickson had returned to the barracks from the local hotel about 10:00 pm, after having some drinks. He was called to guard at 11:00 pm, but for some reason Dickson unlocked the front door during his watch after the other guard left. He soon became very drowsy while trying to occupy his time. A little later Dickson dozed off. That was the opportunity that Almighty Voice was hoping for and, as soon as he made sure Dickson was asleep, he tried to convince his two other companions to go with him. They were hesitant to leave with him and decided to remain where they were.

Almighty Voice made up his mind to go alone and he cautiously crept forward until he reached the door leading to the street. He was able to open it gently, but for fear of awakening the guard Dickson did not close the door completely leaving it about one and a half inch open.

Another account as to why Almighty Voice carried out his escape was said to be due to alleged comments that Constable Dickson had made. Possibly in jest, Dickson had said to Almighty Voice, he would probably hang for the theft of the steer. Had he even been found guilty, he would not have been hanged for it, but may have served a period of imprisonment.

By approximately 2:00 a.m. the escape was noticed. Andrew O'Kelly reported it to Sergeant Keenan. Keenan woke up the sleeping police members upstairs, telling them a prisoner was missing. All members had to saddle up their horses and searched throughout the night, however Almighty Voice stayed off the two trails back to Batoche and was not located. They found out Almighty Voice had crossed the Saskatchewan River by using the boards of an old wooden sleigh and a long pole to work his way to the other side. The search continued towards the One Arrow Reserve and then to his parents' home, however he was not found. For the next week, they kept on patrol looking for him.

On October 27, 1895, police scout Francois Dumont discovered Almighty Voice had been at his parents' residence and left the One Arrow Reserve. Sergeant Colebrook took it upon himself to take up the pursuit with the local Indian scout in a south easterly direction towards a place called Hoodoo, located about 35 miles south of Batoche. On the trail they met up with NWMP scout Joe McKay from the Prince Albert Detachment. He had also been sent out with orders to apprehend Almighty Voice. Colebrook and Dumont had lost the trail later that day. McKay had located the trail Almighty Voice took and went on to meet up with Colebrook and Dumont, to tell them. The next morning the three went back to it, and they felt they were closing in. Sergeant Colebrook ordered McKay to return to Prince Albert the morning of October 29th. Colebrook insisted McKay was no longer required. McKay tried to convince Colebrook to remain with them, but his request was denied. Constable Gordon wrote in his information, "...it seemed to Colebrook that if there was any glory in making the capture, he would like to keep it all to himself." This was a mistake Colebrook had taken, given the pending outcome.

Dumont provided the information as to what took place later that morning. Just two hours later Colebrook and the guide found Almighty Voice preparing his breakfast. As Sergeant Colebrook approached, Almighty Voice reloaded his rifle while he ran. He then dropped to his knee and pointed the rifle at Colebrook, but did not pull the trigger. While trying to move away, Almighty Voice dropped to his knee again and pointed the rifle and ran again. The third time he knelt, he told the guide in his native language to tell Colebrook not to come closer or he would shoot. Colebrook kept slowly riding forward on his horse. Almighty Voice fired his rifle and fatally shot Colebrook through the heart. After the shooting, the guide returned to the One Arrow Reserve and reported what had happened.

According to Gordon's documents, police members were dispatched from Batoche and Duck Lake to search in various directions to cover the trails and places where they thought Almighty Voice might hide out, but he was not located. Afterwards they heard he had made periodic visits to the reserve. On one occasion a night search was conducted at the parents' house looking for him. The objective was to arrive when everyone should be sleeping. The police riders removed the bells off of their horses harnesses to reduce the noise of their approach. Unfortunately, when making their final advance on foot, they encountered about six barking dogs, which alerted everyone inside the residence. They searched everyone, but came up with negative results at the house and never knew if he was there at that time. They continued waiting for more sightings of their wanted man, but there was nothing until many months later.

In May of 1897, Almighty Voice had been seen near Duck Lake. By this time George Gordon did not have any further involvement with the search. Gordon had since left Duck Lake and transferred to Regina and received his second discharge 3 February 1897.

On May 27th, Almighty Voice and two companions were found near Duck Lake. The police converged to an area near the One Arrow Reserve. The next day, three men were found in a poplar bluff. Two of the police members, Sergeant Charles Raven and Inspector John Allan were wounded after their attempt to move in on them. Additional police members and civilian volunteers were summoned to assist. While later trying to make a move onto the bluff, Corporal Charles Hockin, Constable John Kerr and civilian Post Master Ernest Grundy were shot and killed during their advance.

On May 28th, additional police, militia members and civilian volunteers from Prince Albert assembled and travelled to the One Arrow Reservation. With them they brought a brass 7 pounder canon, which was used to fire some rounds into the trees. More reinforcements and a 9 pounder arrived from Regina on May 29th. Surveillance of the bluff continued throughout the day and night. In the morning of May 30th, the assembled squad began open firing on the bluff. After a lengthy period of assault, no return fire was received from the trees. Upon follow up site examination, three bodies were found. One of them was Almighty Voice.

The events stated have been chronicled by other publications and remains an interesting event of RCMP and Saskatchewan history. George Gordon's account of the actions of Almighty Voice and the search for him provides some more information perhaps not known to other writers. His written recollection is expressed by a past serving member of the NWMP being there.

During holiday leave while with the NWMP he would travel to Hazelcliff to visit his brother and other acquaintances. He got to know a local girl, Alice Millham. A lasting attraction for one another began, leading up to regular letter writing. Upon returning to his homestead in 1897 to re-establish farming life, their feelings for each other heightened. The two became engaged and were married 14 December 1898 at her parents' home at Hazelcliff.

Farming life for Alice was natural to her. Her parents were long-time farmers and she provided valuable contributions assisting George in gaining sound farming production. She also wrote some interesting memoirs highlighting their married life. George and Alice encountered some difficult times, dealing with the loss of their first two infants after childbirth and struggles getting the farm going. They began raising a few head of cattle and a flock of chickens. For winter heating they had only a cook stove and an iron box stove to keep the entire house warm. Dry wood was in plentiful supply in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Twenty-five loads of dry wood were needed to be cut and hauled home for a year's supply for warmth and preparing oven and stove top meals. In following years they managed to buy another quarter section of land.

Progress saw the oxen team make way for horses and after systematic hard physical labour of clearing brush and picking roots, the earth was plowed into furrowed fields. The newly-turned soil was so fertile, it produced tremendous crop yields in the fall, providing hail or frost did not destroy them first. More horses and livestock were added, resulting in additional work load to increase their net worth. Then came the arrival of threshing machines into the district. Harvesting became much more efficient and faster, resulting in some record crop yields that were a great benefit to their efforts.



The George Gordon Family

Left to right, front row: Leslie, Alice (mother), Lloyd, George (father), Eva.
Back row left to right: Myrtle, Everett (my Dad), Violet

Taken at the Howden Studio, Moosomin, Sask about 1925

They raised a family of six surviving children, consisting of three boys and three girls: Violet Alice, born 27 March 1902; Everett George, born 17 September 1903; Myrtle Ann Jane, born 22 June 1906; Eva May, born 6 January 1908; Leslie Gowler, born 9 October 1911; and Lloyd Douglas, born 25 October 1920.

They, George and Alice, farmed in the Hazelcliff District for 15 years. When some of their children were getting older, they decided they should leave for a community that offered a higher level of schooling. They also wanted to be in a town located next to the main CPR railway line, for accessible

transportation benefits. In 1913 they sold their farm and moved 21 miles south to Wapella, Saskatchewan. Prior to them leaving, a portion of George and Alice's land was donated to establish the Hazelcliff District Cemetery, which is still serving the community and very well maintained.

For a short period of time George Gordon became the Town Constable for Wapella. Since Wapella was not a crime ridden town, local officials assigned him the task of planting Manitoba maple trees. At that time very few trees grew within the town limits. Many of those maple trees are still standing today.

In 1915, he bought a farm with a quarter section of land just north of the town. House repairs were essential followed by a new barn, granaries, other out buildings built. A water well was dug, which produced an ample supply of water for personal and livestock use. As time went on they bought more livestock and another half section of land. With the purchase of a tractor and a breaker plow production increased on the land. As the farming operations increased, George Gordon decided to begin full time dairy farming. They soon supplied most of the town of Wapella with milk and cream which continued for years.

George Gordon died of pneumonia 15 October 1939, aged 72, at his home in Wapella. His sons and daughters all married and lead successful lives. They were all very proud of their father for the life he led, and of his service with the NWMP. Alice died in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, 30 August 1973.

A larger commercial dairy operation continued on the farm, operated by George's son, Leslie, for decades after. Leslie's son, John Gordon, was also directly occupied with the business beginning at a very early age. John Gordon is no longer operating the land for dairy purposes however he still farms and occupies the same land purchased by his Grandfather.

George Gordon's policing legacy also carried on with his family. His youngest son, Lloyd Gordon, joined the RCMP, and served from 2 January 1941 until 14 March 1964. After completing his training at Regina and Ottawa, his first posting was Cobourg, Ontario. Later he was stationed at Toronto, Carman, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. His final posting was in the Ottawa Headquarters Narcotics Section upon retirement.

Grandson Dennis Gordon joined the RCMP 19 May 1971, serving until 26 May 2004. Training was received at Regina. His first posting was General Duties at Kamloops, British Columbia and Swift Current, Saskatchewan. He went on to become a Forensic Identification Specialist and served in Saskatoon and Edmonton. His last posting before retirement was at Brooks, Alberta.

Great Grandson Darrin Gordon joined the Edmonton Police Service 29 September 1997. He has experience in several different uniformed and specialized areas with the EPS. He is presently a Detective Sergeant assigned to the Homicide Section.

It can be said that George Gordon had an influence on some of his decedents' professions, most notably in the farming and policing occupations which are still being carried on by his descendants.

SGS News

From the Office ...

BY: DEANNE CAIRNS

Executive Director

Certified Saskatchewan Record Searcher Course and Certified Aboriginal Researcher Course continue to be offered by E-course.

www.saskgenealogy.ca/saskrecordsearcher.htm

www.saskgenealogy.ca/aboriginalresearchcourse.htm

Library Closures

A list of closures for 2016 is available on our website under Library and Catalogue.

In Memory Of

- Robert Blair Gordon of Melfort on 24 July 2015
- Joyce Elsie McLachlan (nee Minter) of Melfort on 28 August 2015
- Faith lone Waldal (Barb Tait's mother) of Lanigan on 7 April 2016
- Madge Crawford of Regina on 14 April 2016
- Marian Reece of Regina on 28 April 2016

* * *

German Translator

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society is looking for someone who can translate German records on a voluntary basis for our society and members as required. Please contact Lisa at saskgenealogy@sasktel.net.

Harvest Your Family Tree

The Kelowna & District Genealogical Society's Conference is being held September 23-25, 2016. Go to www.kdgs.ca for more information.

Germans from Russia Heritage Society

46th Annual Germans from Russia Heritage Society Convention takes place September 7-11, 2016 at the Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center in Rapid City, South Dakota. Theme is *German Russian History: Then and Now*. Further information available at <http://www.grhs.org>

British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO)

Family history conference takes place September 9-11, 2016 at the Ben Franklin Pace in Ottawa. Featruing Ireland and DNA in Genealogy, expert lecturers, marketplace and more. Further information available at <http://www.bifhsgo.ca>.

Quebec Genealogical Society

On the occasion of its 55th anniversary, the Quebec Genealogical Society is organizing the biennial convention of the Quebec Federation of Genealogical Societies. The congress theme "Collective movements intended Family: French-Canadian migration to Canada (1830-1930)." It will be held at Hotel Quebec in Quebec City from September 30 to October 2, 2016. You can register by going to the following address: <http://federationgenealogie.qc.ca/>.

* * * *

This article printed in the Foam Lake *Western Review* March 30, 1933.

Last Of Original Mounties

Sergeant Harry Keenan, of Prince Albert, sole survivor of the original R.N.W.M.P., is also an Irishman by birth, and his birthday falls on March 17. Sergeant Keenan has reached his 86th year. He is in good health, despite the long cold winter, and takes his daily walk, chatting with his old friends as he meets them on the streets. His memory is excellent and he recalls many interesting events in his long service in the famous force.

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The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) is a volunteer provincial heritage organization whose purpose is to promote and develop the study, research and preservation of genealogy and family history. We assist anyone researching his/her Saskatchewan heritage and Saskatchewan residents researching their ancestral heritage anywhere around the world. The SGS was formed in 1969, operates the largest genealogical lending library in Canada and produces a publication that focuses on genealogy and family history.

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News & Notes

BY: RAE CHAMBERLAIN, BONNIE LYMER AND LUCETTE NOISEUX

These are key articles or items that have been extracted from the journals available in the SGS library collection. To borrow, e-mail sgslibrary@sasktel.net, call (306)780-9207 or mail your request to SGS.

Canada

Abbotsford Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol.21, Issue 1, February 2016.

- John Cunningham MacLure: Abbotsford's Premier Pioneer - p.3
- June 2015 Research Trip to UBC - p.15

Bruce Bulletin - Bruce County Genealogical Society, Vol.27, No.2, May 2016.

- Nary a Trace - p.2
- Meanings of Carvings on Gravestones - p.5

Bruce & Grey Branch of the OGS Newsletter, Vol.46, No.2, May 2016.

- Soldiers of the First World War - p.22
- First Women's Baseball League in Owen Sound - p.26

The Bulletin - Kawartha Branch OGS, Vol.41, No.1, February 2016.

- Remembering Flu Victims - p.5

Connections - Journal of the Quebec Family History Society, Vol.38, No.2, Winter 2016.

- Tracking the Story of My Irish Grandfather - p.3
- Quebec Marriage Licence Bonds 1872-1969 - p.15

East European Genealogist - East European Genealogical Society Inc., Vol.24, No.2, Winter 2015.

- "Neudorf" German Colonies in Galicia (Galizien) - p.9

Family Footsteps - Kamloops FHS, Vol.31, No.2, November 2015.

- Genealogical Standards Guidelines for Publishing Web Pages on The Internet - p.14
- Scanning Recommendations by Image Type - p.15
- Census Dates of Enumeration - p.26

Folklore - Saskatchewan's Yesterdays Personified, Vol.37, No.2, Spring 2016.

- St. Thomas-Wesley United Church: Importance of Church in the City - p.12

Grapevines - South Okanagan Genealogical Society, Vol.24, Issue 4, May 2016.

- Lakeview Cemetery Project - p.7

Halton-Peel KINnections - Halton-Peel Branch, OGS, Vol.41, No. 2, Spring 2016.

- Toronto Township By-Laws - p.14
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- Want to Know How to Research Your Family History But Don't Know Where to Start? - p.19

The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley, Vol.21, No.1, May 2016.

- The Irwins on Charlotte Street - p.19
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Heritage Seekers - Grande Prairie Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society, Vol.38, No.1, March 2016.

- Query: Thomas Andrew Williams - p.5

Journal - Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe, Vol.18, No.1, March 2016.

- FamilySearch Posts Lublin Evangelical Records Online - p.13
- Stewner Calendars - p.19

London Leaf - Middlesex County Branch OGS, Vol.43, No.2, May 2016.

- Unmarked Graves in Gore Cemetery - p.19
- Christ Church, Delaware Marriages - p.20
- West Adelaide Chapel Baptisms - p.25

Mennonite Historian, Vol.42, No.1, March 2016.

- Documenting Sexual Abuse: Archival Collections and the Complex Legacy of John Howard Yoder - p.2
- Duplicate Records Prove Beneficial - p.3

Muskoka Parry Sound Genealogy Group, Vol.33, No.1, March 2016.

- Facebook and Genealogy - p.3

News & Views - Leeds & Grenville Branch OGS, Vol.42, No.2, March-April 2016.

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- Athens High School Alumni Directory From 1860 to 1921 - p.20

The Nipissing Voyageur - The Nipissing District Branch of the OGS, Edition 37, Vol.1, March 2016.

- T & W Murray From Pembroke and the Bourke Connection - p.6

The Okanagan Researcher, Vol.32, No.3, March 2016.

- In Search of Your Scottish Ancestors - p.5

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- 3 Tech Tools Every Genealogist Should Have - p.8

SCAN - Simcoe County Ancestor News - Simcoe County Branch OGS, Vol.34, No.1, February 2016.

- Rating Genealogical Software Programs - p.6
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Talbot Times - Vol.XXXIV, Issue.3, September 2015.

- Introduction to Toronto Cornish Association - p.5
- Clips from the St. Thomas Daily Times: Talbot Times Tidbit from March 1998 - p.6
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Tree Tracer - Prince George Genealogical Society, Vol.36, No.3, September 2015.

- Do It Now! - p.9
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- Time Saving Tech Tools - p.6
- What's New, WorldCat? - p.9

Your Genealogy Today, Vol.2, No.2, May 2016.

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- Don't Ignore Census Enumerators Post -1870 - p.13
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Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly, Vol.XXI, No.1, March 2016.

- Seek the Truth behind Your English Criminal Ancestor - p.28
- Using MyTopo to Obtain Topographical and Aerial Maps Faster - p.33
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The Bukovina Society of the Americas Newsletter, Vol.26, No.1, April 2016.

- Last "Vatican Spy" Has Died in Koczika - p.3

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- New York Civil War Soldiers Who Were Members of the Colorado & Wyoming GAR - Part 4 - p.6

The Dakota Homestead Historical Newsletter, Vol.45, No.1.

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- 52 Questions in 52 Weeks: Writing Your Life Story Has Never Been Easier - p.8
- Pioneer Histories - p.12

Heritage Review - Germans from Russia Heritage Society, Vol.46, No.1, March 2016.

- Black Sea Region German Settlement Location and Current Name: Bessarabian, Beresan, and Crimean Villages - p.28
- An Overview of German-Russian History - p.28

Je Me Souviens Magazine - American-French Genealogical Society, Vol.1, No.1, Winter 2016.

- Pennies From Heaven: The First Marriage of Mathurn Martineau - p.7
- Pierre Rondeau - p.13

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol.170, Winter 2016.

- Religious and Political Radicalism in London: The Family of Thomas Howse, with Massachusetts Connections, 1642-1665 - p.25
- The Rhode Island Barker Family: Suffolk Background and Connections to Other New England Immigrants - p.66

Oregon Genealogical Society Journal - Lane County, Vol.54, No.1, Spring 2016.

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Aberdeen and North-East Scotland FHS, No.138, February 2016.

- Robert Milne of Stinky Miller's: An Example of Social Mobility in Victorian Aberdeen - p.7
- Notes on Aberdeenshire Museums Service - p.25

The Devon Family Historian, No. 155, August 2015.

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- From OPC to OPS: Putting Your Ancestors in Their Local Context - p.15

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Oxfordshire Family Historian, Vol.30, No.1, April 2016.

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- People Can be the Most Important Resource at QFHS - p.48
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Rodziny -The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, Vol.XXXIX, No.2, Spring 2016.

- Short Story about the Origin of the Family Names Radzimski and Radziemski - p.7
- From the Slownik GeograAczny - p.28

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Remember, SGS also has a variety of periodicals from many areas of research. If you would like to be put on a regular circulation list for any periodical we have, please contact us. See the **News and Notes** section of the Bulletin for the titles of periodicals we receive.

Aboriginal/Métis

- First Métis Families of Quebec. Volume 5: Descendants of Jean Durand dit Lafortune and Catherine Anenontha, a Huron; and Descendants of Jacques Couturier & Catherine Anenontha, a Huron. Compiled by Gail Morin. Donated by Genealogical.com.

Canada: Alberta

- Dreams, Dust and Dedication (Bindloss & Empress areas). Donated by Christa Kaylor.

Canada: Saskatchewan

- The Hurricane 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974. Westcliff Composite School Yearbook. Donated by the estate of Donna Smith.
- The Hurricane 1977/77. Westcliff Composite School Yearbook. Donated by the estate of Donna Smith.
- Opus 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966. Sheldon Williams High School Yearbook. Donated by the estate of Donna Smith.
- The Whispering Aspens: A History of Tullymet, Saskatchewan. Donated by Howard Ulmer.
- Pages of the Past (Leader). Donated by Christa Kaylor.
- Sand Hill Vintage (Sceptre-Lemsford). Donated by Christa Kaylor.
- A History 1899-1991 Grace United Church (Weyburn). Donated by Audrey Wilkinson
- Lemberg - Abernethy Pastoral Charge. Church Directory 2000. Donated by Lorna Bossenberry.
- Creelman Community Directory 2001. Donated by Lorna Bossenberry.
- Creelman Dinner Theatre. The First 30 Years. Donated by Lorna Bossenberry.
- Naseby United Church Ladies Aid Minute Books 1949-1972 (Biggar). Donated by Barb Archibald.
- Birth & Marriages from *The Independent*. Biggar, Saskatchewan 1961-1970. Donated by Rae W. Chamberlain. RESTRICTED.
- Prairie Initiation. A War Bride Story by Joan Spencer Olson. Donated by Ian Brace.

Europe: Banat

- Familienbuch der Katholischen Pfarrgemeinde Hatzfeld im Banat. Vol. I (A-E) to Vol. XI (U-Z). Donated by Zichydorf Village Association.

Europe: Germany

- In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe, 5th edition by Angus Baxter. Donated by Genealogical.com.

Family History

- The Knipperberg Heritage
- The Gleisinger Family History 1769-2015 by Garth Gleisinger. Donated by Garth Gleisinger.
- Porter Family a Journey of Generations, Volume 1 & 2. Donated by Linda Dunsmore Porter

- The Tuchscherer-Janer Family History, Volume 1 & 2 (includes CD Colelia Christmas Pageant [music]). Donated by Joseph Tuchscherer
- Huet-Jan-Daniel Ancestors. Donated by Jacquie Perigny.
- The Memoirs of J. D. MacFarlane. Donated by Shirley A. MacFarlane
- A Farm of One's Own. Examples of Dutch-Catholic Immigration to the US and Canada. Donated by Sheri Peyerl.

Genealogy/Instructional

- How to Write Your Life Story by Karen Ulrich. Donated by Rae W. Chamberlain.
- The Ancestor Whisperer by Tammy Tipler-Priolo. Donated by Ian Brace.

Great Britain: England

- The Devon Family Historian 2015 (4 issues). Donated by Rae W. Chamberlain.

Ireland

- The People of Belfast 1600-1799 by David Dobson. Donated by Genealogical.com.

Military

- Military Service Recognition Book, 2016. The Royal Canadian Legion.

United Empire Loyalists

- The Loyalists Revolution, Exile, Settlement by Christopher Moore. Donated by Hugh Heal.

Book Reviews

The following books were donated by Genealogical.com, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 260, Baltimore MD 21211-1953. Telephone: 1-800-296-6687, Fax: 1-410-752-8492 or website: www.genealogical.com.

In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe by Angus Baxter. 125 pages, paperback 2015. Price \$19.95 plus shipping.

This edition of *In Search of Your German Roots* is designed to help you trace your German ancestry, not only in Germany but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe, from the Baltic to the Crimea, from the Czech Republic to Belgium. It shows you how to conduct your research from your own home—at your computer, using a variety of online resources—and also points you to the most useful repositories of records abroad.

When the first edition of this book was published in 1987, searching for German ancestors was a more cumbersome and likely more expensive proposition. A lot of legwork was required in order to pinpoint what records were available in Germany and where they were housed, letters had to be written and fees paid, followed up by weeks of waiting for responses. Today, all of the major archives and many of the smaller ones, as well as church parishes, have websites containing contact information and information on their holdings; many have put digitized images of their records online. Correspondence can usually now be handled more quickly and less expensively via e-mail. An ever increasing number of searchable databases with information relevant to German ancestor-hunters—passenger lists, vital records, censuses, cemetery records, surname directories, etc.—has greatly improved opportunities for research.

The fifth edition of the book highlights all of the recent developments--new facilities, new websites, newly available records--that have made German family history research immeasurably easier. Completely revised and updated, this edition of *In Search of Your German Roots* is now the most current and comprehensive guide to German roots available.

First Métis Families of Quebec. Volume 5: Descendants of Jean Durand dit Lafourture and Catherine Anenontha, a Huron; and Descendants of Jacques Couturier & Catherine Anenontha, a Huron compiled by Gail Morin. 218 pp, paperback 2015. Price \$32.95 plus shipping.

The term Métis originally referred to the offspring produced from the intermarriage of early French fur traders with Canadian Native Americans. Later, there were also Anglo Métis (known as "Countryborn")--children of Scottish, English, and other European fathers and indigenous mothers. The Métis were also formerly known as half-breeds or mixed-bloods. Today, the French and Anglo Métis cultures have essentially merged into a distinct group with official recognition as one of the three Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.

The first Frenchman known to have Métis offspring was Jean Nicolet de Belleborne, who arrived in Quebec in 1618. His informal or country marriage to a Nipissing woman resulted in the birth in 1628 of a daughter, Madeleine or Euphrosine Nicolet. This union resulted in generations of descendants in Canada and the United States that continue today.

From the 1640s to the 1740s, only fifty-six Métis marriages were officially recorded in French records. There are probably many unrecorded Métis or mixed blood families that are lost for now. This series traces the descendants of those Métis families who ultimately settled in the western part of the North American continent. Volume 1, an overview volume, traces all fifty-six recorded Métis families for three generations. Volume 2 follows all of Madeleine or Euphrosine Nicolet's descendants for ten generations. Volume 3 follows the progeny of Martin Prevost and the Huron tribeswoman Marie Olivier Sylvestre Manitouabeouch, who settled and farmed near Beauport Quebec. Volume 4 traces the descendants of Pierre Couc dit Lafleur, the head of a fur trade and merchant family, who married Marie Mitequamigoukoue in 1657, in the Yamaska region of Quebec. This couple had at least seven children, including two who took the surname Montour.

This volume traces the progeny of Catherine Anenontha, Huron daughter of Nicolas Anenontha and Jeanne Otrihouandit. Catherine married three times: With her first husband, Jean Durand dit Lafourture, she had three children; with her second husband, Jacques Couturier. she bore six more; and with her third husband, Jean Lafond (previously married to Catherine Senecal), there were no known children. Among Catherine Anenontha's known progeny, only the descendants of Marie-Catherine Durand are believed to have removed to western Canada, and they are the subject of Volume 5.

Richly detailed, fully sourced, and indexed, this series must be regarded as the starting point for Métis genealogy.

* * *

Harry Holdsworth Nash (OS 271, NS 399)



by Richard Nash

I have been researching my family name for forty-five plus years. During this time period, I have located relatives in 8 provinces and on both coasts of England. My sidelines include: RCMP (1873-1920), Toronto 1835-1900, railways, banks, Canadian military. I am retired and have lived in Fort McMurray for the past 41 years. For the record, my house was not in the path of the fire, so my BMD certificates, Tin plate photographs, family files, over 150 books, and a 1930 Chev coupe did survive. Take it from me. "Back-Up" has a whole new meaning to this amateur genealogist.

In 1870 the Canadian government purchased the vast Hudson's Bay Company holdings known as Ruperts Land. The deed was actually signed on 19 November 1869 and became valid 15 July 1870 (1. Newman,2000). This included what are now the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Soon rumours began to filter back to Ottawa regarding American whisky traders, Indian massacres and in general, the absence of law and order in the west. The only official justice between the Red River and the Rockies was a small army present at Fort Garry, located 30 km (20 miles) south of Winnipeg. Ottawa's answer was to form a mounted police force based on military principles.

Upon Royal Assent, 23 May 1873 the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) was formed under Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald (Turner, 1950). The first contingent of approximately 150 men left Toronto in October to travel to Fort Gary, via the Dawson route (northern Ontario). In early 1874 it was clear more men would be required to police the entire west, so a call for an additional 150 men was advertised in eastern Canadian newspapers. Thousands applied, but only 200 were accepted. The pay was 75 cents a day and upon completion of three years of service a constable would receive 160 acres of land in the west. It was in this group (now called divisions D, E and F) that 18 year-old Harry Holdsworth Nash enlisted (Glenbow Archives). His father, John Richard Nash had come to Canada with the British Army in 1834. In December 1836, he had retired by selling his commission (6. reference LAC).



This picture of H.H. Nash was taken from a 1873 family photo album. He would have been 17 years old at that time.

According to the baptism register for the Cathedral of St. James, 1808-1908 Harry Holdsworth, was born 9 February 1856 in Toronto. He joined the NWMP in April 1874. He was given regimental service number 271 and attached to Division D.

After training, 217 officers [and] men plus 244 horses left Toronto's Grand Trunk railway station on June 6th for Manitoba via the US. Each division consisted of 50 men; the extra horses and men were for replacements.

The entire force of 350 men assembled at Fort Dufferin near the US border. Some were dispatched to new outposts like Lower Fort Gary, Fort Ellice and Fort Dufferin. On July 8th, 275 men complete with 73 wagons, mowing machines, portable forges and field kitchens left for a five-month trip to the mostly uncharted west. Little did they know the many trials and tribulations of crossing the entire prairies to curb American whisky traders at Fort Whoop-Up, near the present city of Lethbridge. Many wagons broke down due to the rough condition of the trails. Horses did not fare any better as grass was poor and the water alkaline. At La Roche Percee, south of Estevan, it was decided to send "A" division to Fort Edmonton. They arrived in November 1874, after travelling almost 1,450 km (900 miles) in 88 days. While travelling they had suffered the same fate as B, C, D and E divisions, oxen dying, exhausted horses unable to get up and the dreaded prairie cholera.



H.H. Nash and Thunderchild;
source Mrs. B. M. Nash,
Vernon, B.C.; copy from a
photo by D. Cadzow – photo
artist. Date taken about 188?
(ca1890?)

H.H. Nash was the Farmer in Charge of Thunder Childs' reserve #115, see Glenbow, 1890 report p 180.

Meanwhile the majority of the force pressed westward to the Sweetgrass Hills, just south of the border in Montana. Here a detachment was sent to Fort Benton for supplies and it was there they recruited Jerry Potts, a half-Peigan, half-Scot plainsmen who had an uncanny sense of direction, even in country he scarcely knew. He would remain with the force as a special constable for the next 22 years. With communications established with Ottawa via Fort Benton's telegraph line, it was decided to return Divisions D and E to the east. It was just as well as the notorious Fort Whoop-Up was found deserted when the NWMP arrived October 9th. With winter fast approaching, Assistant Commissioner Macleod took Jerry Potts' suggestion and constructed [a] new post further west on the Old Man River.

Swan River, Manitoba was to be the new headquarters of the NWMP. The buildings were not complete when D Division arrived with Commissioner French, and complaining to Ottawa did no good, so French submitted his resignation. He had had previous run-ins with the government, but was very popular with the troops, so the petition, including the signature of our Harry Holdsworth, was raised to protest French's leaving the force.

With the completion of three years of service, Harry was issued a land warrant for 160 acres, effective 1 June 1877. This was the same year new numbers (#399 for H. H. Nash) were issued for the force.

Harry Nash served in many posts in the West (officially called the North-West Territories) including Qu'Appelle in 1876, Shoal Lake in 1879 and Duck Lake in 1880. Also in that year he is recorded as making a trip from Battleford to Fort Saskatchewan. The 4 April 1881 census gives his address as St. Georges Ward, Ottawa. Was he just visiting? This date marks the last reference to Eastern Canada as from the 1880s he resided only in the West.

After he left the police in 1883 Harry homesteaded near Battleford then moved to MacLeod in 1892, working for the Department of Indian Affairs (1893-1897). Ever the entrepreneur Harry was involved in the liquor business, hotels and railway construction. In 1905, with nine children and a wife in tow, he relocated to Victoria, BC. His eldest daughter, Mary, who was born during [the] Riel Rebellion, stayed in Alberta. As a thank you to the original members of the NWMP, the 1912 Calgary Stampede invited the survivors to one last march on horseback.

Harry Holdsworth Nash died in Victoria, 15 May 1923 and is buried in Ross Bay Cemetery.

Conclusion: now I know how the family got from Ontario to the West.



H.H. Nash (Reg. #271)
No date, maybe late
1880's, Battleford or early
1890's MacLeod



This 1922 picture taken in Victoria, B.C. is interesting because he is wearing the 1885 NW metal. In 1911 his application for the Riel Rebellion was rejected. (He was out of the force by then.) I do have proof he served in the Battleford Home Guards during the 1885 uprising. The other metal on his chest might be a masonic one.

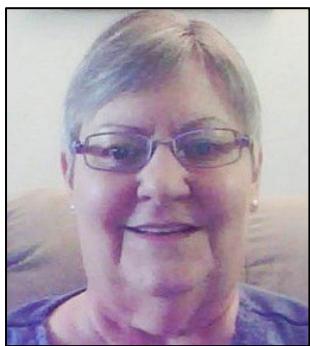


This tinplate was probably taken in Battleford in the 1880s.

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Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, R. G. 8, C 844

Richard Elmes Steele (R.S.N. OS 7, NS 18): One of the Original 300



by Donna Shanks

A 14th generation Canadian, Donna Shanks developed a curiosity about her families roots at an early age. Her father loved to tell stories and Donna wondered if the stories were true and eventually started trying to prove what she had heard. Once she started researching she was bitten by the genealogy bug. In the past few years she has ventured into the families Irish, Scotch and German ancestry. Donna has kept the storytelling tradition alive with her grandchildren. Retired, when she is not researching Donna currently volunteers as the President of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society.

During a family holiday in 1985 we visited Fort Steele. While enjoying the exhibits my husband, Bill, casually mentioned that Sam Steele was related to him somehow. Busy with a growing family that tidbit got tucked away in my memory and I didn't take it any further. By 2004 I was deep into genealogy, had exhausted my French and Acadian research and was starting to look at the other lines in our families.

On our 2004 trip to eastern Canada we met members of my husband's Irish Neville and Nelligan families and I discovered Irish genealogy. I also discovered the Steele connection.

Richard Elmes "Dick" Steele was born to Elmes Yelverton Steel(e) and Ann Johnston in 1851. Richard was one of six children of Elmes' second marriage. There were also six children from Elmes' first marriage to Elizabeth Seeley Coucher, who had died in 1845.

Richard's mother, Ann, had died in 1859, so when Elmes died in 1865 in Medonte Township, Canada West, the family was left without parents. The children from the second marriage ended up living with their mother's sister, Elizabeth Jane Johnston Clarke. There were some social prejudices surrounding Elmes Steele's second marriage which came into play at the time. The older children from the first marriage seemed to not associate much with the second family.

The Steele family has had a strong military tradition. Richard joined the Canadian army in 1871 and was discharged in 1873. After leaving the army Richard, along with brothers, Sam and



Richard Steele about 1870

Godfrey, joined the NWMP. They engaged on 3 November 1873 at Lower Fort Garry and became members of the March West Original 300.

They had many adventures and some harrowing experiences on the long trek to Fort Edmonton in 1874. Sam's journals give an account of lack of food and water, bugs and exhausted horses. It took eight weeks to reach Fort Carlton where they rested for a week. On 19 October 1874 they reached the Hudson's Bay Company's Victoria Settlement (Pakan). They made arrangements with a local family for the weak animals' care for the winter. On the 20th they started out for Fort Edmonton arriving on 1 November 1874.

In trying to piece together Richard's life it is interesting that a family who would become Richard's in-laws were living at Victoria Settlement which was a frequently mentioned stop for the NWMP.

William Norn, a Scot who worked for the Hudson's Bay, and his wife, Sarah Whitford, daughter of an English father and Cree mother, moved to Victoria Settlement in 1871. William retired to the Victoria Settlement at the same time as Rev. George McDougall and his son, Rev. John McDougall. The Norns were a religious family. William and Sarah were married and their children baptized. Richard married Annie Norn about 10 June 1877 in the Edmonton area according to family lore. No record has been found but it is believed they were married by Rev. John McDougall.

On 1 August 1876 Richard wrote to his brother, James, "*I am going to be married to a prairie flower soon one of the best in all the land she loves me so much and I love her better than life she has made me a better man than I ever was before you would not believe how much she loves me and she is so good she is a true Cristian if there ever was one don't be angry at me for marrying her. I know I can do better and you know it will keep me out of harm's way and I never knew what love was till now. And you know that women were my down fall and when I get married I will be all right if I will behave myself.*"

He also says "*there are plenty of Yankees at McLeod and they sware like troopers the Sioux have killed all G. Crooks command of 18 officers and 548 men and are expected cross into Canada if they do we will be cleaned out as the Yankees say but the Black Feet will stand by us till the last man at least.*"

In checking the history of the Battle of the Rosebud – 17 June 1876 in the Montana Territory – I have found that not all of George Crook's command was wiped out; less than 100 on each were killed or injured. I am sure rumors at that time gave great cause for fear to the NWMP who were expecting the Indians to cross over the border.

Dick left the NWMP and joined his brothers, Godfrey and James, to venture into ranching in the vicinity of Edmonton for a time. In a letter dated 18 November 1875, he said he planned to

take his discharge on 14 September 1876 and “*start farming here it is a splendid country and I think I can make money here have corce I will haft to work for it but thank God I am able. Sam will remain in the force and I think it is better for him for he will get a commission soon and that will be \$1000 a year and alowences.*” In this same letter he asked his brother to find out the price of a Smith and Wesson revolver.

When Sam arrived back in Edmonton in charge of the Scouts of the NWMP the brothers decided to join him; the Scouts were engaged in many hazardous tasks and were noted for their accomplishments.

The event mentioned in the journal is known to us as the Frog Lake Massacre. Wayne F. Brown, in his book *Steele's Scouts: Samuel Benfield Steele and the North-West Rebellion* (2001), says “*The men who volunteered with Steele for service in the North West Rebellion had to be strong and resourceful.*” Much has been written about the Scouts, formed in 1885, and their participation at events in the early history of the west. Richard and Godfrey’s names are not often found but they were with the Scouts until the group was disbanded. Records show brother James Steele was a Scout for a time but by 12 May 1885 he had settled at Beaver Lake, east of Edmonton, and was teaching school and farming. The brothers kept a correspondence with each other as we see in Richard’s letters to James.

During all this time Dick and Annie Norn Steele had a large family: Lily, born 1878 Victoria Settlement; Florence, born 1879 Victoria Settlement; Francis, born 1880 Victoria Settlement; Marie Emily, born 1881 Fort Saskatchewan; Richard Elmes, born 1882 Beaver Lake (he was in the RCMP and died 1904 in Regina of appendicitis); James, born 1887 Victoria Settlement; Sarah, born 1889 Victoria Settlement; Joseph Gordon, born 1890 Fort Saskatchewan (died 1916 The Somme, Vimy, France); Harold, born 1892 Duck Lake SK; John, born 1894 Duck Lake SK; Arthur, born 1896; William, born 1899 Blackfoot Reservation Montana; and George, born 1901 Fort McLeod (died 1901). In 1903 Annie was in Wyoming visiting her children when she died. I have not found out what happened to the younger children after her death but it seems that they lived with older siblings.

This summary of Dick’s service states he was 31 years old and 5 feet, 11 inches tall, 40 inches in chest and was living at 38 Robert St. Ottawa in 1907. That was an interesting clue about the



Picture taken by Jennie’s son William B. Neville in Victoria, B.C. 1910. Jennie Neville Steele, sitting Richard Steele, unknown man, seated in front Loretto Neville, Jennie’s daughter and grandmother of Bill Shanks, husband of the writer of this article.

later part of Dick's life. It also rang a bell as Jennie's home in Ottawa had been at the corner of Robert and Waverly Street.



Back row: Richard "Dick" Steele, Irene Dier, Len Neville with son Chris, Andrew Messer

Middle row, Jennie Nelligan Steele, Anne Messer Neville with Bill.

Front row: Clint and Irene Neville.

Pictured scanned from Battleford History Book.

Dick married Jennie Neville on 6 September 1905 in Fort MacLeod. The RCMP records say he was living at 38 Robert St. Ottawa in 1907. By the time of the 1911 census they were living in Victoria with Jennie's children Leonard, Loretto, Norma and William.

Sometime after that they bought a small acreage from J. P. G. Day and retired there on the east shore of Murray Lake, Cochin, Saskatchewan. By 1921 Jennie's son, Leonard, and his family moved to the area. A photo of the family is included with a brief history in the local history book.



Richard and Jennie Steele's house in Cochin, Saskatchewan (picture taken in 2004).



When Richard died in 1926, Jennie applied for and received \$75 for burial expenses. He is buried in the RCMP Cemetery in North Battleford, SK. Eventually Jennie sold their property and went to live out her life with her daughters Irene and Norma in Calgary. Jennie was my husband's great-grandmother and that is how Sam Steele is related to him – somehow.

Headstone of Richard Steele in RCMP Cemetery Battleford, Saskatchewan

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- http://www.ourheritage.net/steele_pages/Steele_Journal1.html
- Canadian Census – 1861-1871-1881-1891-1901-1911-1921

Thank you to Shirley Clarke and Jan Norn for sharing family information and research.



Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Branch Contacts & Meetings

Biggar	PO Box 1143, Biggar SK S0K 0M0 Contact: Rae W. Chamberlain at (306) 948 -3638 E-mail: rwcambbe@sasktel.net Website: http://www.biggargenealogy.wikifoundry.com
Meet 2nd Wed. (except July & Aug.). May to Dec. 7:30 pm & Jan. to April 2:00 pm at Federal Bldg., 2 nd Avenue E. (Canada Post)	
Central Butte	PO Box 298, Central Butte SK S0H 0T0 Contact: Joanne Berg at (306) 796-2148 E-mail: barry.berg@sasktel.net
Meet 4th Wed. (except July and Aug.) 7:30 pm in the Genealogy Room at Iver Main Place in Central Butte	
Grasslands	PO Box 220, Aneroid SK S0N 0C0 Contact: Della Sanders at (306) 588-2576 E-mail: jsanders@sasktel.net
Meet 3rd Tues. (except July, Aug. & Dec.) 7:30 pm at Mankota RM Office	
Moose Jaw	PO Box 154, Briercrest SK S0H 0K0 Contact: Marge Cleave at (306) 799-2004 E-mail: grcleave@sasktel.net Website: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~skmjbsgs/index.htm
Meet 4th Tues. (except July, Aug. & Dec.) 7:00 pm at Moose Jaw Public Library (Herb Taylor Room)	
North-East	PO Box 100, Melfort SK S0E 1A0 Contact: Ron Unger at (306) 752-4080 E-mail: r.a.unger@sasktel.net
Meet 1st Tues. (except June to Sept.) 1:30 pm at Kerry Vickar Centre (Day Craft Room)	
Pangman	PO Box 159, Ceylon, SK S0C 0T0 Contact: Joyce Carleton at (306) 454-2400 E-mail: jlcarlson@sasktel.net
Meet 4th Wed. (May, June, Sept. & Oct.) 7:30 pm / 4th Sat. (Feb. & March) 1:30 pm at Pangman Regional Library	
Pipestone	PO Box 331, Maryfield SK S0G 3K0 Contact: Gerald Adair at (306) 646-4952 E-mail: gerry.pat@sasktel.net
Meet 3rd Wed (except July, Aug. & Dec.) 7:30 pm at Moosomin Public library	
Prince Albert	PO Box 9, Prince Albert SK S6V 7Z2 Contact: Jim Wilm at (306) 764-3632 / E-mail: jameswilm@sasktel.net
Meet 2nd Tuesday (except July and Aug.) 7:30 pm at the Lions Club Room in the Optimist Center, Exhibition Grounds. Confirm location of meeting with contact prior to meeting.	
Regina	3633 Mason Avenue, Regina SK S4S 0Z7 Contact: Ian Brace at (306) 789-5120 E-mail: sgsregina@gmail.com Website: http://www.rootsweb.com/~canrbsgs/
Meet 4th Tues (except June to Aug. & Dec.) 7:00 pm at SGS Library, 1514 11th Avenue	

Saskatoon	350 Acadia Drive, Saskatoon SK S7H 3V6 Contact: Rene Stock (306) 229-2378 E-mail: rene@stockfamily.ca Website: http://www.genealogysaskatoon.org/
Meet 3rd Thurs. (except July and Aug.) 7:00 pm at Albert Community Centre, 610 Clarence Avenue S., 3rd floor	
South-East	PO Box 795, Carnduff, SK S0C 0S0 Contact: Lynette Lang at (306) 482-3378 E-mail: cl.lang@sasktel.net
Meet 4th Sat at 2:00 pm. - Jan to March & Nov / 4 th Wed. 7:30 pm - Apr, May, Sept, Oct. Alternating locations between Oxbow & Carnduff Library	
Swift Current	10 Aitken Place, Swift Current SK S9H 4H4 c/o Dawn Rogowski Contact: Joanne Jensen at (306) 773-0280 E-mail: jensen@sasktel.net
Meet 4th Mon. (except June to Aug. & Dec.) 7:00 pm at 164 1 st Avenue NW	
West Central	PO Box 472, Eston SK S0L 1A0 Contact: Gail Milton at (306) 962-3382 E-mail Verna Thompson: tomgra@sasktel.net
Meet 3rd Tues. (April to June & Sept. to Nov.) 9:30 am at Wheatland Regional Library	
Weyburn	PO Box 117, Creelman SK S0G 0X0 Contact: Lorna Bossenberry at (306) 861-1816 /E-mail: bossenberry@sasktel.net OR 126 9 TH Street NE, Weyburn SK S4H 1E7 Ilene Johnston at (306) 848-0941 / E-mail: ilenel@accesscomm.ca Website: http://www.weyburnbrsgs.com/
Meet 3rd Tues. (except July & Aug.) 6:30 pm at Weyburn Public Library (Meeting Room)	
Yorkton	PO Box 177, Yorkton SK S3N 2V7 Contact: Glenn Wiseman at (306) 782-7969 E-mail: gwiseman@accesscomm.ca Website: http://sgsyorkton.chapter.wordpress.com
Meet 2nd Tues. (except July & Aug.) 7:00 pm at Yorkton Public Library - History Room	
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP	

Zichydorf Village Association 2274 Baldwin Bay, Regina SK S4V 1H2
Contact: Glenn Schwartz at (306) 789-4481
E-mail: gschwartz@myaccess.ca
Website: <http://www.zichydorfonline.org/>



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\$65 per person/couple. The SGS will do a basic search of Saskatchewan sources. We require a given name and surname AND if possible, a Saskatchewan location. Sources searched: Homestead index & file / Obituary index / Cemetery index & file / Local histories / Newspaper index / SRI / Census Index (1891, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916) / Family Histories (SGS Library Catalogue).

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- Index to 1870 Census of Manitoba - location required
- Index to 1871 Census of Ontario - must specify county
- Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register Master Index 1829 to 1910
- Index to Upper & Lower Canada Land Records 1737-1867
- Index to Ontario Land Records (*Original Landowners only*)
- Index to 1881 Census Index England & Wales, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey & Royal Navy (Fee is per surname per county)
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