



# GENERATIONS

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Toban Dyck, Spectator Tribune Media Company

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## **MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**

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The MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC. is a registered charity, formed in 1976, and incorporated in 1982. The Society promotes and encourages interest in genealogy and family history in Manitoba.

**Membership and Branch Information is available in this issue, on our website or on our Facebook page.** Full members receive four issues of *Generations*, general mailings, and are also entitled to one free Query per year, plus library privileges. Our preferred method of contact is via e-mail to one or more of the addresses indicated below.

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# The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society

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***Generations*** is published quarterly by the **Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.**, 1045 St. James Street - Unit E, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 1B1. Members and anyone else having an interest in genealogy are welcome to submit articles or news items to the Society. Manuscripts should be prepared in Microsoft Word and submitted as an e-mail attachment to the web site at [generations@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:generations@mbgenealogy.com) or sent on disk.

**Deadlines: Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1, Nov. 1.**  
Please give appropriate credit when reprinting excerpts. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy; however, MGS does not accept responsibility for errors found in *Generations*, nor does it necessarily endorse opinions expressed therein. *Please be sure to spell-check your submissions, and attach appropriate permissions for reprints and your contact information.*



## From the Editor

*David Farmer #2277*

It is February. It is cold. It is snowing. And it seems like it is this way every February. However with each passing moment, we get that much closer to Spring. And to help pass the moments, this issue of *Generations* is packed full of information, great articles and our usual laugh or two.

There is more information on the MGS Conference coming in 2020. There is a phenomenal list of Keynote Speakers (page 23); the Call for Papers (page 24 has gone out, so here is a chance to share your favourite topics with the world.

Anne Letain is back with a great article on the 'shady' side of family history (page 25, "Criminal Intent). We have several new contributors: Lori Walker tells us about her DNA experiences (page 6); Rick Walker tells us how you can run into genealogy opportunities while on vacation (page 30); Becky Johnson shares the story of her uncle William Maurice Miles, a local Winnipeg musician (page 19) and of course our regular features are here as well (From the Past (page 21) and Our Library (page 7).

We have also made a few changes, most articles are in a new font to make reading easier, some more colour here and there. We have also tried to add a photo and some biographical information for each of our contributors, just so we get to know each other better.

This might be a two coffee issue.

Enjoy the issue.

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## President's Message

*Jayne Paradis #0045*



As I write this, it's been extra cold this winter and I hope that everyone is keeping warm.

Recent news was the announcement about our conference in 2020. Stay tuned for further details - it is going to be great conference. Gayle Mager has worked hard to get this organized. Thank you, Gayle.

With the recent extreme cold weather during the recent polar vortex, our library was not open on some days. We do want to ensure the safety of our volunteers so there may be times that we are unable to open. If this does happen, we will try to get that info on the website in a timely manner and update the voicemail at the library. As well, please phone ahead before going down.

## The Cover Page



It seems to be getting more challenging to find a great cover image that means something, relates to genealogy and/or Manitoba and is pleasant to look at. With 2020 being Manitoba's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I thought it might be best to hold off on any 'historical' images until then, making it a little more challenging for this issue.

But I found this image which seem to say everthing about the Prairies! It is easy to see the wide-open spaces, the Big Sky, the flatness and just the overall beauty. And if you look closely about 1/3 of the way up, is the true symbol of the Prairies – the ubiquitous mile or more long train, with the mix of grain, oil and freight cars. This photo says it all.

The photo is from Toban Dyck, Toban Dyck, Spectator Tribune Media Company and can be found at the following web site: (<https://spectatortribune.com/prairies-unmistakably-a-pioneer-era-brick-factory-sand-dunes-and-trappist-cheese/>)



## MGS Welcomes Our New Members

The Manitoba Genealogical Society would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new members who have joined the society between November 2018 and January 2019.

Kathryn Agard  
Edith Arnett  
Clifford Astley  
Brenda Bazylewski  
Alvin Dyck  
Medicine Hat Branch - AGS

Louise Gaffney  
Jean Hennessey  
Karen Lynn Jaszewski  
Robert Chapman  
Meg McConkey

Beverley Murray  
Donna Rivas  
Don Smorang  
Marcia K. Klak

\*\*\*\*\*

## CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

There may be times that the MGS Resource Centre won't be able to open due to inclement weather. If there is inclement weather, please phone before coming down to verify the Resource Centre is open. . We are also working on updating our system in order to update the voicemail information to reflect closings.

## A Genealogy Poem

Submitted by Lori Walker #1190

*Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray.  
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried tombstones.  
It leadeth me into still courthouses;  
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.  
It leadeth me in paths of census records and ship's passenger lists for my surnames' sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the shadows of research libraries and microfilm readers,  
I shall fear no discouragement,  
For a strong urge is within me.  
The curiosity and motivation they comforteth me.  
It demandeth preparation of storage space for the  
acquisition of countless documents.  
It anointeth my head with burning midnight oil;  
My family group sheets runneth over.  
Surely birth, marriage, and death dates shall  
follow me all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of a family-history  
seeker forever and ever.*

*Author is Wildamae Brestal*

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## LORI WALKER #1145

Lori became interested in genealogy when she was eleven years old; since that time it has become a consuming, but enjoyable hobby. She joined MGS in 1987 and became a life-time member a few years later. Lori served as the periodical editor for many years and has done other volunteer work, mostly typing. She is also a member of the *Guild of One-Name Studies* with the registered surname of Croasdell and its variants. Lori spends much time on the Internet (on an almost daily basis), searching for new sources of research.

In addition to her own genealogy, Lori is also interested in Royal genealogy and spends her free time reading and doing crafts. She has extensive knowledge of her ancestral area of the Lakes District in Lancashire; having visited the area five times, the most recently this past summer.

Lori is married with three adult daughters, and recently retired after owning a business for several years. "It gives me more time for hobbies now!"

## Our DNA Story

In late summer, my husband and I decided to take the plunge and get our DNA tested. We opted to go with the *Ancestry* test as that was the one that some of my relatives had used and I wanted the results to be consistent.

I had returned from a month-long visit to the UK and had been shown the ethnicity results of the tests and was thrilled. *Ancestry* also gave all participants a list of the connections through them that had previously taken the test. That was the part that was the clincher for us, the contacts we could possibly make. (It should be noted that this is an optional component of taking the test, you can opt not to show your results on the *Ancestry* site and also not to be contacted.) But why would you do that???

Anyway, we ordered the kits on-line and *Ancestry* kept us apprised of the shipment as it left them, when it entered Canada etc. They were delivered, I believe, within about ten days of ordering.

The kit itself was very simple. Each kit had an identification number that had to be activated on-line. You then spit into a tube and filled it to a certain level (this took me several tries) and once filled to the line, you added some liquid, sealed the container, popped it into a postage paid box and into the mail it went. Simple. Off your DNA went to be processed in Dublin, Ireland.

My results arrived back in exactly three weeks from the date of mailing. And on receiving them I was . . . . . devastated! I was 80% German, 14% Russian, 4% Baltic states and 2% Norwegian. Where was all my British DNA! All the years of research with British ancestry! Oh no, was I entirely wrong?

However, on corresponding with several relatives, a couple of whom had taken DNA ancestry courses, it of course, did make sense. DNA is developed over thousands of years and of course Britain was originally settled with northern Europeans and Scandinavians, so my profile did fit. I even found out that siblings will not have the same

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DNA. Now, we awaited my husband's results. I figured his would be British as that is what we had found in his ancestry.

In the meantime, I contacted the first thirty or so contacts on my ancestry list and hoped for a reply. I knew all of the names from my family history research but they likely wouldn't know me, so I gave a brief explanation of why I was contacting them and hoped they would be interested in exchanging information. To date, I have received exactly four replies. One was someone I was quite close to and expected they would reply, one was a first cousin who had no idea who I was. (Who doesn't know their first cousins?). The other two replies were of a second and fourth cousin, one of whom shared lots of information to update my files with.

And . . . . that was it. No other replies, nothing. So, my thoughts were, if you are not interested in family history, don't list your results on the *Ancestry* site. I have not contacted anyone further as the first batch of results kind of dampened my enthusiasm. And there are 274 contacts with 4<sup>th</sup> cousins or closer.

We were still awaiting my husband's results. About a month after I received mine, he was contacted and said his sample had been ruined and they would be sending another kit. It arrived within the week, he sent it out and he had the second test results back in about four weeks. We know his test had been put to the front of the line as my mother had also ordered a test and mailed hers prior to my husband's. She is still awaiting her results.

As suspected, his results were purebred – 54% British and Welsh and 46% Irish and Scottish. You can't get a clearer picture of your ethnicity than that. (I think he was disappointed, a bit, that he didn't have more results, like mine).

I immediately set to contacting the first ten or so of his DNA cousins. The responses were immediate. Almost everyone I sent an email to, replied, even if just to say they were no longer interested. We have made contact with five new cousins and working on some others, as we can't seem to find the connection . . . yet. I have not contacted any more as the first replies were keeping me busy, but will do some more messaging after the holidays.

So, my take on the *Ancestry* DNA kits? A great investment, if you are looking for contacts and family connections. You have to hope that your family is one that is still interested in their family history because the contacts can be great. The kits can be pricey but they are having sales all the time. In fact, two weeks after we ordered ours, they went on sale for \$30.00 off. Usually close to Christmas they go on sale. The usual price is \$129 Canadian and I think well worth a spit!





## OUR LIBRARY



**MARY BOLE #0884  
MGS LIBRARIAN**

### Library Lines

To access KOHA , the MGS Card Catalogue, please use the following link:

<http://koha-opac.bole.ca/>

The following new books were received recently at the MGS Resource Centre. All are available for lending:

**Manitoba**

**371 Bro2** *Retired WSD (Winnipeg School Division) Library Personnel & Friends, 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2018.*

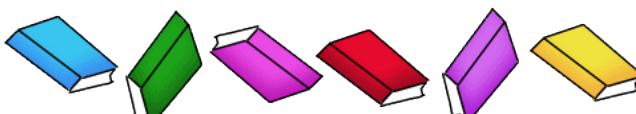
**971.27 Grey** *Les familles de Saint-Claude / Saint-Claude Families, 2018. [Grey municipality]*

**Eastern Canada**

**929.5 Ont/Has** *A number of cemeteries from Hastings County, Ontario.*

**Great Britain and Ireland**

**941.6 Rou** *Roulston, W. Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2018*





**MAVIS GRAY #0008**  
**ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN**

## **Of Special Interest**

### **ONTARIO CEMETERIES**

The MGS Library and Resource Centre has a large collection of cemetery transcripts from Ontario, issued by the Ontario Genealogical Society. Most of the counties in Ontario are represented, some with only a few cemeteries, some (e.g. Carleton, Hastings, Huron, Middlesex, Simcoe) with 20 or more cemeteries listed. The records in KOHA are under the title “[Name of county] county, Ontario, cemeteries”, and the notes list the names of the cemeteries included. Many abandoned and family cemeteries are included, as well as the larger and better-known cemeteries.

In order to see whether the MGS Library has a transcript of interest, type the name of the cemetery, the name of the county, and the words “Ontario cemeteries” in the KOHA search box, click on the “all fields” search, and see if the results list any useful transcripts. (There are often two or more cemeteries with the same name, even in the same county, so you need to check the available information carefully.)

The transcripts are shelved by county, under the call number Eastern Canada 929.5 ONT...





**ENID DORWARD #4502**  
**ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN**

## Book Reviews

These books have recently been added to the MGS Library and are available for loan:

**Gendreau-Rousseau 1560-2017.** c2018, 840 p. Illus. MGS library call number FH & BIO 929.2 GEN2.

This large volume documents the history of the Gendreau and Rousseau families who originated in France and immigrated to Canada. It begins with a description of lifestyle in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is generously illustrated with family photos, and includes many documents, such as census records, funeral cards, obituaries, invitations, and even music. There is a list of sources, including numerous websites. It is a very comprehensive account of the history of these two families.

**My Ancestor was a Leather Worker; A Guide to Sources for Family Historians** by Ian Walker. London, Society of Genealogists Enterprises, c2015. 259 p., illus, index. MGS library call number GB & Ire 685 WAL.

This book provides a great deal of detail about the work and lives of those who were tanners, curriers and leather merchants. It is divided into five main sections, but within each section there are many sub-sections that explain the details of various aspects of working with leather. The main sections include shoemaking, saddle and harness making, and glove making. An appendix lists information held in the National Archives at Kew, relating to the leather industry. There is also a surname index.

## Periodical Potpourri

All of these periodicals are available for loan from the MGS library.

### CANADA

**Anglo-Celtic Roots** (Winter 2018) "Surviving Passchendaele" - an article telling of the involvement of Canadian soldiers who fought in the battle of Passchendaele (WWI) (pages 3-16)

**Sib Folk News** (Orkney) (December 2018) The Rendalls of Noltland, Westray, Orkney, with Manitoba connections, as well as Hudson's Bay Company.

### WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

**Genealogists' Magazine** (December 2018) Writing up your family history for people who

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don't want to write it up! (page 483)

**Your Genealogy Today** (January/February 2019) How to deal with research blues. (page 31)

## AUSTRALIA

**Family Tree** (December 2018) Criminal or victim? The life of a convict who was transported to Australia from England during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (page 47)

## EASTERN CANADA

**Generations** (New Brunswick) (Winter 2018) Salt Springs Cemetery, part 9 (page 51)

**Newfoundland Ancestor** (vol. 34, 4, 2018) Lost in a snow storm – how “Fred” the horse saved William Coaker in 1905 (page 196)

## ENGLAND

**Berkshire Family Historian** (December 2018) The author writes about what was done at home during World War I. (page 12)

**Cleveland FHS** (January 2019) “One Tragedy of War”, an article about two British aircraft that were accidentally shot down over Scotland in 1939 (page 43)

**Family Tree** (Christmas 2018) Getting the most out of BMD records (page 10)

– (January 2019) Researching your ancestors' mental health (page 70)

**Gloucestershire FHS** (Winter 2018) Breaking brick walls, by MGS's own Elizabeth Briggs!  
(page 11)

**Lancashire FHS** (November 2018) Robert Cholmondeley, last inmate of Billington asylum to be buried in Langho Cemetery in 1856. (page 11)

**Origins** (Summer 2018) Two articles about heir hunting (pages 108 and 127)

– (Winter 2018) Parish registers online (page 177).

**Your Genealogy Today** (November/December 2018) Illegitimate ancestors (page 31).

## EUROPE

**Mennonite Historian** (December 2018) A simple explanation of genealogical DNA results (page 3)

## IRELAND

**Genealogists' Magazine** (December 2018) An article about memorials, in Dublin's two Anglican cathedrals, of persons who served in the Crimean War. (page 474)

## NEW ZEALAND

**Relatively Speaking** (November 2018) An account of New Zealand soldiers who served at Passchendaele during World War I. (page 156)

## ONTARIO

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**Perth County Profiles** (November 2018) Results of the promotion examination as printed in *Stratford Daily Herald*, April 16, 1879. Includes name, age, school, marks (page 56)

**Timberline** (Fall 2018) The life of a police officer in the town of Pembroke, Ontario, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (page 4)

## SCOTLAND

**Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS** (November 2018)

- Some Aberdeen ships and captains (page 28)
- War crime: the sinking of the SS *Persia* in December 1915. (page 34)

**GALLUS** (October 2018) In this issue there are two articles involving Duke Street Prison in Glasgow (pages 36 and 39).

**The Historian** (June 2018) The entire issue is devoted to stories of WWI service men from the Tay Valley area in Scotland.

- (October 2018) Brief biographies of several WWI men who were born in Tay Valley but moved to Stirling (page 10).

**Scottish Genealogist** (December 2018) Clackmannan Parish Burial Ground 1701 (page 135)

## SOUTH AFRICA

**Family Tree** (Christmas 2018) South African connection (page 68)

## USA

**Minnesota Genealogical Society** (vol.49, no. 4, Winter 2018) U.S. - Dakota war of 1862 (page 13)

**Your Genealogy Today** (January-February 2019) A new way to learn more about your ancestors through their favourite childhood books. (page 18)

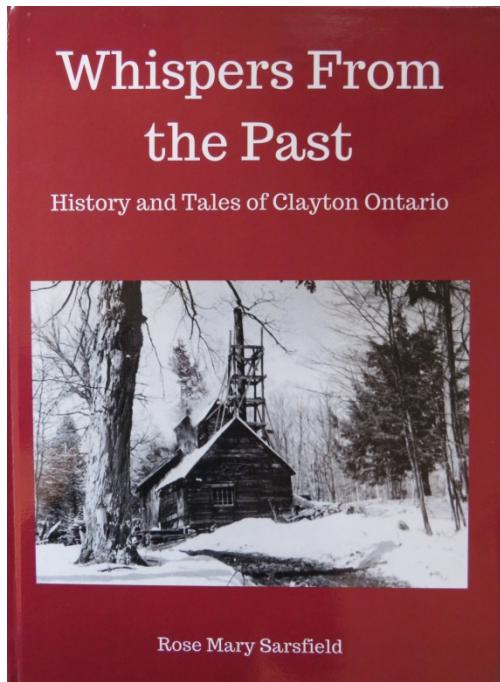
## WALES

**Glamorgan FHS** (December 2018) This issue contains many brief articles in commemoration of those who served in World War I.



## A New Publication

*(The following notice is provided as a service to the members of the Manitoba Genealogical Society and the readers of Generations. MGS does not receive any remuneration for the promotion of this book.)*



"Whispers from the Past, History and Tales of Clayton Ontario", is a new publication from Rose Mary Sarsfield, outlining her extensive work in tracing people from their roots in Ontario to Western Canada and the United States.

"Clayton is a small village in Ramsay Township, Lanark County in the Ottawa Valley. People whose roots are in this area, moved to all areas of Ontario, as well as Western Canada and the United States, including Winnipeg (family names such as Belton, McMunn and possibly others).

This would be a good addition to someone's reference library, who is researching this area or has family from the Clayton area.

The book has 440 pages, with a hard cover and sells for \$45 plus postage. (Postage ranges from about \$15 to \$20 depending where you live). There are some wonderful old photographs, along with several stories that bring the carefully documented history to life. The book has an index of about 2,500 people. The book's focus is on all the people who lived in the area, who their children were, where they may have migrated to, etc.

The book is available, in the Clayton area, at Mill Street Books in Almonte, at the Clayton Store and from the author at [rose@sarsfield.ca](mailto:rose@sarsfield.ca).

Rose Mary Sarsfield is a member of the Lanark County Genealogical Society.



It has been a tough winter. Want an opportunity to spend some worthwhile time outdoors this summer? Would you like to assist MGS in its cemetery updating program? The work will involve visiting cemeteries and recording new information and verifying existing information. You will receive training on what to do and how to do it. If you are interested, please call Kathy Stokes at MGS at (204) 783-9139 on Wednesdays, or leave a message and you will be contacted. We need your help to keep our records current. Thank you.

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As a follow-up to the enquiry for assistance regarding The Fairfield Plan, several members of MGS were able to help provide some information. The genealogy community is a valuable resource for anyone researching family histories. Many thanks to those members who were able to help.

## MGS Research Services

Having trouble with your research, or just don't know where to start? MGS offers [Research Services](#) (for a fee). Our talented researchers are available to help you break down those walls. Call the MGS office on Thursday at (204) 783-9139 for further information.



## FREE RESEARCH HELP AT MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Research volunteers at MGS are offering free assistance for two people on the 3rd Thursday of each month, starting in January for a trial period. Applicants should apply at least 7 days prior for the two-hour sessions to: [research@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:research@mbgenealogy.com); please provide a brief overview of the area of research (type of records, geography, nationality, etc.) that you are interested in and any results you would hope to achieve.

The sessions will be from 1 pm to 3 pm. Each individual will have one researcher working with them.

Applicants will be advised within a day or two if accepted. Applicants should bring as much information as they can with them.

### NOTE:

To clear up some confusion over the above offer, the Free Research opportunity is directed to **non-members** of the Manitoba Genealogical Society. MGS Members are asked to 'spread the word' to friends, neighbours, family members, who could use some assistance in their research. The above requirements and contacts are valid for the remainder of the offering.



## Branch News

### **Manitoba Genealogical Society Branches**

Just a reminder that MGS has four very active Branches throughout the Province of Manitoba. Along with your MGS membership, for a small additional fee, you can also be a member of any or all of the Branches. Each Branch has many activities, research projects and interesting meetings. They would welcome all new members. Check out the inside Front Cover for locations and contact information.

#### **Beautiful Plains**

Located in Neepawa, MB.

Contact: [beautiful-plains@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:beautiful-plains@mbgenealogy.com)

Beautiful Plains Branch is currently looking for a new location, so be sure to contact the Branch before driving out to Neepawa.

The Branch's main projects are still ongoing and help in all of them would be appreciated. As a reminder, the projects are: Military Project – This project includes biographies, photos, etc. of all veterans from the Beautiful Plains area who served in either World War I or II; Seniors' Stories – a collection of stories and photos from many of our area Pioneers – originally published in the weekly newspaper and; Riverside Cemetery – transcription and photo updates, as well as several others. As well there are projects to update Funeral Cards and Obituaries.

There are monthly presentations, with the most recent being: Organizing and Preparing for Book Publication. This covered the how-tos, the what-to-dos and encouragement for undertaking such a project. More recently a presentation on local research covering the early settlers from the Polonia, Springhill and Mountain Road areas.

Watch the MGS web-site, <http://mbgenealogy.com/branches/beautiful-plains-branch/>, for more information and upcoming events and activities

#### **Dauphin**

Located in Dauphin, MB

Contact: [dauphin@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:dauphin@mbgenealogy.com)

Although small, the Dauphin Branch is active in the community spreading the word about local Manitoba family history. The Branch meets on the last Thursday of each month (September to May) at the Dauphin Family History Centre, 403 Whitmore Ave. W., Dauphin, MB. The Branch can be contacted at [dauphin@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:dauphin@mbgenealogy.com).

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In the December issue of *Generations* (V43I4), it was presented that the Dauphin Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society had been involved in the installation and dedication of a plaque honouring descendants of United Empire Loyalists buried in the Dauphin Cemetery. This was incorrect.

This installation and dedication was by the Assiniboine Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada. This was the first official dedication of these descendants in the province. The Dauphin Branch of MGS had no involvement in this event.

Our sincere apologies to the Assiniboine Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada for this error.

Check out the Branch information on the MGS web-site at, <http://mbgenealogy.com/branches/dauphin-branch/>, regularly to see what is going on at the Branch.

## **Southeast and Winnipeg**

Office located in Winnipeg, MB.

Contact: [se-winnipeg@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:se-winnipeg@mbgenealogy.com)

This Branch meets in Winnipeg at the MGS Resource Centre and is a vibrant busy branch. They offer many learning sessions, presentations and Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and tours, with something for everyone. Print off the Activities brochure at <http://mbgenealogy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SEWinnipeg-Activity-Brochure-Current.pdf> for the latest list of events.

## **Monday Night Genealogy - Southeast & Winnipeg Branch**

If you are an MGS member living in the Southeast or Winnipeg area, consider joining the Southeast and Winnipeg Branch. We run an educational program at the MGS Resource Centre on St. James Street on Monday evenings starting at 7:00, and are usually finished before 9:00. Branch members can attend at no extra charge but non-members are requested to pay \$5.00 each time they attend.

Branch membership costs just \$12.00 a year and members receive the monthly e-Zine which gives more details of upcoming programs, summaries of past programs and other items of interest to Branch members.

Here is our schedule for March to June 2019. (“General” meetings may start with a very brief business meeting. “Presentations” usually don’t. At a “12 Heads” meeting a facilitator introduces the topic and then everyone has a chance to speak.) Program is subject to change. For the latest information, go to the MGS Southeast and Winnipeg Branch web page (<http://mbgenealogy.com/branches/southeast-and-winnipeg-branch/>) and click on the link to the *Activities Brochure*.

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Date	Meeting Type	Topic	Presenter
March 11	GENERAL	The Quest for Fermanagh Snows -- Irish Research	Sheila Woods
March 25	12 HEADS	Really Getting to Know Your Ancestors	Kelly Southworth
April 8	COMPUTER SIG	My Technology Toolkit	Gord McBean
April 22	PRESENTATION	Genealogy Blogs, Newsletters and Websites	Janice Butcher
May 13	AGM	Manitoba Geographical Names Program	Des Kappel
May 27	PRESENTATION	Mennonite DNA Project	Glenn Penner
June 10	TOUR	Centre du Patrimoine (St. Boniface Heritage Centre)	

Be sure to check out the MGS web-site for more information on this dynamic Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society, at <http://mbgenealogy.com/branches/southeast-and-winnipeg-branch/>.

## **South West Branch (Brandon)**

Located in Brandon, MB

Contact: [southwest@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:southwest@mbgenealogy.com)

The Branch has an on-going schedule of presentations and learning sessions, so be sure to check the MGS web-site at <http://mbgenealogy.com/branches/south-west-branch/> or the South West Branch web-site at <http://www.swmanitobagenealogy.ca/> .

The Branch is very busy with lots going on. “Drop in Genealogy”, an opportunity to meet informally with other researchers, to discuss issues, how to get past brick walls, etc., is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. The Branch co-hosts “Writing your Memoirs” sessions with the Western Manitoba Regional Library at the Public Library in Brandon.

Contact the Branch directly for more information on these and many other activities being held in Brandon.

The Branch is very excited to announce the 2019 Heritage Dinner on April 3, 2019. The keynote speaker will be Gordon Goldsborough speaking on “20/20 Hindsight: Commemoration in Manitoba. See the following poster for more details.

# HERITAGE DINNER 2019

Hosted by

South West Branch Manitoba Genealogical Society

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**

**Knox United Church, Brandon, MB**

18th Street & Victoria Avenue

(use 17th Street entrance)



**Guest Speaker: Gordon Goldsborough**

*Author of Abandoned Manitoba & More Abandoned Manitoba*

**Topic: "20/20 Hindsight: Historic Commemoration in Manitoba"**

**Brandon Ukulele Club**

**Ruth Tester Award**

**50/50 Draw**

**Doors Open 5:30pm.**

**Dinner @ 6:00pm.**

**Price: \$25/person**

**For Tickets: Email [serskine@wcgwave.ca](mailto:serskine@wcgwave.ca)**

**Or Call 204-726-5344**

**Deadline for Tickets: March 29, 2019**

## Everyone Welcome!





## BECKY JOHNSON #5389

Becky grew up in the Kenora area and moved to Winnipeg in 1991. She remembers asking about her family history as a child and getting only vague answers. She started doing her own research when she was in her 40s and it's been tremendously rewarding. She is very interested in the military service of her ancestors and has been a volunteer with the **Kenora Great War Project** since 2012.

## **WILLIAM MAURICE MILES - Musician**

Winnipeg was booming when my great-uncle Maurice arrived in the city in the spring of 1905. The population had doubled over the past five years and there was a lot of new construction as well as more suburbs and an expanded street railway system. The music scene was also growing rapidly with the founding of new organizations and orchestras and more institutions for teaching music.

My great-uncle William Maurice Miles, usually known as Maurice, was born into a musical family in Erith, Kent, England. His parents, George Miles and Fanny Hood, had married in 1877 in South Saviour, London and Maurice was the youngest of three sons. The oldest boy, Percy Hilder, was born in 1878 and has been called a child prodigy. He attended the Royal Academy of Music and became a violinist, composer, conductor and music professor. George Douglas was born in 1881 and Maurice followed on 25 March 1883, both in Erith. Maurice attended the Royal Academy of Music for four years and studied the cello as well as voice and piano. He graduated in 1903, at age 20. His father was a builder and became a violin maker after retiring. According to his 1911 obituary he made about ninety violas, cellos and violins.

Maurice began his music career in London, England and worked there for two years before deciding to immigrate to Canada. He sailed from Liverpool on 16 March 1905 on the *SS Dominion*, arriving in Halifax about eleven days later. On the passenger manifest he was recorded as 25 years old, a musician from Kent, England on his way to Winnipeg. He was actually 22 years old, his birthday taking place while he was on the ship. He was joining his older brother George who had come to Canada the previous year. George settled in Winnipeg and found lodging at a boarding house on Nena Street. His new life in Canada started tragically when his landlord murdered his wife, the landlady, very early one morning in the fall of 1904. The landlord woke up George and the other lodgers to tell them what he'd done then waited quietly for the police to arrive. He died in prison three months later of acute pulmonary phthisis.

When Maurice arrived in Winnipeg he roomed with his brother for several months. George played the viola and according to his memoirs (*Stories by George Miles*, April 1937, Edgerton, Alberta) they would practice together in the evening after work and often into the early hours of the morning. Music wasn't a career choice for George, however, and in the fall of 1905 he headed west to apply for a land grant in Alberta. He took up farming, married and raised his family in the Edgerton area.

The *Manitoba Free Press* had announced Maurice's arrival in the city in March 1905, listing his musical accomplishments and saying he was a welcome addition to

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Winnipeg's music scene. Maurice established himself quickly and for the next twenty years his name appeared regularly in local newspapers. He was also listed in Winnipeg city directories from 1906 to 1924, as a musician and music teacher. He moved often during that time and had at least a dozen different residential addresses. Teaching provided necessary income for Maurice but he was also employed as a cellist with many of the city's theatre orchestras including those at the Alexandra Hotel, the Grand Opera House, the Winnipeg Theatre, the Dominion Theatre, the Walker Theatre and the Capitol Theatre.

Numerous newspaper articles fill in further details of Maurice's career. He performed often at concerts as a cello soloist and his students regularly put on recitals. He composed a waltz, *The Lady of the Snows* that was performed by the Winnipeg Theatre Orchestra in February 1907. The following month his pupils gave a cello and piano recital that was well received. One of the pieces they performed was *Song of Dawn* composed by his brother Percy Miles. Various articles describe Maurice as a modest and unassuming gentleman, a talented teacher, and a cellist, composer and arranger. In June 1913 another one of his compositions, *Egyptian Serenade*, was played for the first time by a local symphony orchestra. In December 1914 he was listed as vice-president of the Assiniboia School of Music, which was giving a free concert later that month. By then Maurice was married and a father and the Great War was in the first of what would be four long and difficult years.

Maurice's wife, my great-aunt Naemi Johnson/Johnston, was born on 5 June 1893 in Rat Portage, Ontario. She had a younger sister, Thorborg Davida, who was born in 1898 and a brother, Ernest Walford, my grandfather, who was born in 1906. Her parents, Johan August Johansson and Anna Britta Borjesdotter, had emigrated from Sweden in July 1892 and they were married in Rat Portage that fall. Naemi, sometimes known as Amy, was raised in Rat Portage (renamed Kenora in 1905), where her father ran a small dairy business. Sadly, he died of blood poisoning in August 1907, at age 38. His dairy farm survived for many years through the hard work and resourcefulness of Anna and the children; my grandfather helped out from an early age.

I have no idea how Naemi met Maurice but by early 1913, at age 19, she was expecting his child. Their daughter, Evelyn Gertrude, was born on 2 July 1913 at 357 Cumberland Street. Maurice and Naemi were married the following day, 3 July, also at 357 Cumberland. Neither of them lived at that address so presumably it was the home of a friend. In 1914 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad built a resort hotel on the beautiful Winnipeg River, north of Kenora. The hotel's guest lists were published in Winnipeg newspapers and in July 1915 the list included Naemi and two-year-old Evelyn. Maurice and Naemi went on to have three more children: Rowena Phyllis (1917), Ernest Hilder (1921) and Vietta Fanny (1924). Sadly, Evelyn died on 11 January 1919, at age five, a victim of the Spanish flu pandemic that claimed more than 50,000 lives in Canada. She's buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Winnipeg.

In Canada the First World War was followed by a recession. The economy began to recover in the early 1920s but Winnipeg's growth was much slower than in the incredible pre-war years. Vancouver, however, benefited immensely from the opening of the Panama Canal and the city's population doubled between 1911 and 1931. Maurice

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was listed in the Winnipeg city directories for the last time in 1924 and by 1925 he and his family had moved to Vancouver.

Maurice's music career thrived in Vancouver and his name still appeared in Winnipeg newspapers occasionally. He became first cellist with the Vancouver Symphony as well as the cellist in the Vancouver Symphony String Quartet. He also continued to compose music, such as the *Symphonic Suite in 'A'* in 1944. His son Ernest served with the Royal Canadian Air Force for four years during the Second World War. Ernest was married in England in 1945 and after the war he and his wife settled in Vancouver. Maurice's daughter Phyllis studied music and became a violinist with the Vancouver Symphony. She married Johannes (John) Chlumecky, an Austrian violinist who had been a prisoner in a civilian internment camp in Australia during the Second World War.

According to his death registration Maurice retired around 1948, when he was about 65. He passed away in the Vancouver General Hospital on 9 September 1958, at age 75. Naemi died in Richmond, British Columbia on 28 June 1982, at age 89. They are both interred in the Masonic Cemetery in Burnaby. Ernest died in 1985 in Vancouver, Vietta in 2005, also in Vancouver, and Phyllis in 2010 in Trail.

As far as I know my immediate family and I are the only relatives of Maurice and Naemi living in Winnipeg. Maurice spent about twenty years here, busy and exciting years from the sound of it, and he and Naemi have a sad and permanent connection to the city. Ever since learning about their daughter Evelyn I've made regular visits to her grave in Elmwood Cemetery, to tidy it up and leave flowers so their little girl is not forgotten.



## FEATURES



**KATHY STOKES #0125  
FROM THE PAST**

### Rural Ramblings

In the MGS library, among our collection of reference books is an interesting, weighty tome with a story of its own. In fact, it is not exactly what we usually think of as a book, but a thesis, entitled “100 Years in the History of the Rural Schools of Manitoba, Their Formation, Reorganization and Dissolution (1871 – 1971.”)

In 1977, Mary Brewster Perfect was a student in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Department of Educational Administration at the University of Manitoba. She became interested in the topic of the history of school districts in our province, what happened to them over the years and their ultimate reorganization in the 1960s by the Roblin government. After overcoming some misgivings on the part of her advisors, she began her research, not sure of just how much or how little she would be able to locate in archives around the province. She was greatly pleased when she found out just how much information was available.

The original 24 school districts which were set up became more than 2400 “before disappearing or being amalgamated or dissolved into 48 school divisions.” (*Personal note:* In Grades 7 and 8, I worked in our school library when I had finished my assignments, stamping books which showed that they were the property of the Fort Garry S.D, #2047.)

You may wonder what this thesis has to do with family history research. Some visitors to the MGS Library ask the volunteers to help in locating a town or district where their ancestors had lived, particularly in rural areas. Their own searches had been unable to locate the place names of their settlements on a map. Mary Perfect’s work is tailor-made for helping volunteers locate such places. Each school district had a name and what the patrons had thought was a town’s name was in fact the name of a school division. The thesis contains an index of names and locations (section, township and range) for each school division. As well, there is a chapter in which the author mentioned the various groups which petitioned the government to set up school divisions, as well as some of those who asked for a division to be established. These requests for formation of each new school division reflected the composition of the various ethnic groups which settled in Manitoba.

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The Roblin government overhauled the education system during its tenure in the 1950s and 1960s. Mary Perfect's thesis gives us an interesting glimpse into the evolution of school districts in our province over a span of 100 years.

Mary died within the last couple years, but she left a wonderful legacy in her thesis. It helps us understand our province's history from a different viewpoint.

Note: Mary Perfect's thesis is in the Reference Section of the MGS Library and must be used within the Library.

## Are These Your Ancestors?

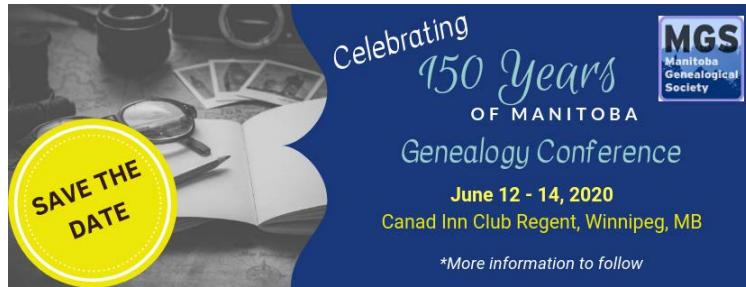
Among the many and varied records we have in the MGS Library are some to which most of us never give a thought. We just assume that our ancestors were free from any criminal activities. With the chance that you have found an ancestor who has faced serious charges for crimes committed, or perhaps you just like to read about crime, here are two lists about the demise of some criminals.

The first list of names mentions those who were convicted of murder in Manitoba between 1932 and 1951, hanged and buried on the grounds of the Headingley Gaol.

The second list is of inmates interred in the Manitoba Penitentiary Cemetery at Stony Mountain between 1902 and 1954. They were not murderers, but convicts who had died while incarcerated.

Site Location (lat/long): N49.87233, W97.45644 denoted by symbol on the map above			
<i>Cemetery Burials:</i>			
Name	Birth Date	Death Date	Hanged for murder of
Camille Allarie	1919	9 May 1950	Mr. and Mrs. William Delbridge at Poplar Point
Andrew Bodz	?	3 February 1932	His wife
George D. Jayhan	1900	12 February 1935	St. Boniface police officer John Verne
William Kanuka	1898	16 February 1939	Anna Cottick at Gilbert Plains
Peter Kildala	1901	27 January 1938	Mike Rurak at Boulton
Julian Komarnicki	1897	21 May 1934	Gilbert McQuade at Barrows Junction
Peter Korzenowski	1909	16 February 1939	Anna Cottick at Gilbert Plains
William Lusanko	?	9 May 1950	Dora Sadova at Winnipeg
Andrew Orlachowsky	1875	22 May 1934	His wife at Meleb
John Pawluk	1887	21 August 1936	His wife at St. Clements
Peter Piniak	1908	1 September 1933	Martha Squarok at Whytewold
Dan Prytula	1912	16 February 1939	Anna Cottick at Gilbert Plains
Clarence Richardson	1915	5 November 1948	Ann Varty at Winnipeg
Walter S. Stoney	1913	17 January 1951	Martha Perreault at Winnipeg
Joseph Verhoski	?	2 February 1932	Peter Demchyszon at Winnipegosis
Nick Zhiha	1922	8 May 1941	Tony Topolnicki at Gardenton

LIST OF INMATES INTERRED IN MANITOBA PENITENTIARY CEMETERY			
DATE OF DEATH	NAME	YEAR OF BIRTH	AREA/COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY CAME
1902 Nov 20	SABOURIN, Paul .....	1870 .....	North West Ter.
1906 Mar 28	MCLEAN, George .....	1889 .....	Canada
1906 May 24	WOLFHEAD .....	1873 .....	Canada
1907 Feb 01	KEG, Teddy .....	1889 .....	Alberta
1907 May 09	MCDONALD, A. J. ....	1873 .....	United States
1907 Sep 07	BEAR, Walley .....	1878 .....	Canada
1909 Sep 01	FIDDLER, Joseph .....	1859 .....	Canada
1910 Sep 04	GREEN, Harry Hall .....	1880 .....	Scotland
1911 Jun 25	THOMPSON, John .....	1869 .....	England
1911 Sep 04	CROWE, Raymond .....	- .....	-
1913 Jul 11	KING, Charles H. ....	1862 .....	United States
1914 May 18	STEPHENS, Fred C. ....	- .....	England
1915 Sep 03	DESROSCHES, Napoleon ..	1883 .....	Canada
1916 May 16	MAZUK, Joe .....	- .....	Austria
1916 Sep 09	ROSS, Tony .....	1878 .....	Austria
1917 Aug 01	WOJTONICZ, Lucas .....	1852 .....	Austria
1920 Jul 17	McCAVE, Edward .....	1886 .....	Alaska
1920 Aug 06	LOCKE, George .....	1896 .....	England
1922 Jul 05	HOULE, Louis .....	1903 .....	Canada
1923 Dec 02	FASTUGNAK, Mefas .....	1896 .....	Russia
1923 Dec 02	WOOD, W. G. .....	- .....	-
1924 Apr 21	MERCIER, Joseph .....	1860 .....	Canada
1928 Apr 16	BYBYK, J. .....	1889 .....	Austria
1930 May 17	MATHIAS, Herman .....	1896 .....	Germany
1933 Oct 22	LARONDE, M. ....	1906 .....	Canada
1934 Jul 14	BAKER, P. .....	- .....	Canada
1935 Jan 09	WILTSHERE, J. ....	- .....	Canada
1935 Apr 27	FORSYTHE, G. ....	- .....	Canada
1943 Oct 26	BARNETT, J. A. ....	- .....	United States
1947 Feb 20	PAYNTER, G. ....	1914 .....	Canada
1950 Jan 05	MATHEW, Charles .....	1922 .....	Canada
1954 Aug 20	TURNER, Anthony .....	- .....	Canada



## **Hot Off the Press – Conference Keynote Speakers**

MGS is pleased to announce that four keynote speakers have committed to our Celebrating 150 years of Manitoba Conference on June 12 – 14, 2020. We are confident that this will be a very exciting time! Our spectacular keynote line-up includes:

**Lisa Louise Cooke** – [The Genealogy Gem Podcast](#). A genealogist since childhood, a background in theater, and hundreds of presentations around the world position Lisa as a world-class genealogy speaker. She will bring a deep understanding of her topics in a fun, easy-to-understand, and downright entertaining way. Her multi-media presentations will have your audience enthralled and inspired to learn more about their family history.

**Dianah Southard** – [Your DNA Guide](#). Dianah has been pleased to lecture in many areas including both national and local conferences, from hundreds to handfuls. You will walk away from an interaction with her feeling like she is fun, upbeat, and full of energy. You might also be surprised to leave feeling that you really can do this DNA thing! This is because she has a passion for genetic genealogy, a genuine love for people, and a gift for making the technical understandable.

**Dave Obee** – [CanGenealogy](#). Dave Obee is a journalist and genealogical researcher who has written a dozen books and given more than 600 presentations at conferences and seminars in Canada, the United States and Australia since 1997. In 2012 Dave was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws by the University of Victoria for his work as a historian, genealogist and journalist.

**Louis Kessler** – [Double Match Triangular](#). Louis started his genealogy over 40 years ago, about the same time he started computer programming. His University degrees in Statistics and Computer Science have given Louis a very different and innovative perspective on Genealogy research. Louis has given talks on genealogy technology at RootsTech, on genealogy cruises and at other special genealogy events. Louis developed Behold, genealogy software for viewing (and soon editing) genealogy data, and Double Match Triangulator, a program for autosomal DNA analysis.

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Please click on each of the above highlighted web sites to see a full review of each speaker's work.



A **Call for Papers** has gone out. Please refer to the Conference web site at [conference.mbgenealogy.com/callforpapers/](http://conference.mbgenealogy.com/callforpapers/) for a complete list of requirements, opportunities and expectations.

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The *Washington Post*'s Mensa Invitational once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

## Here are the winners:

1. **Cashtration** (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. **Intaxication** : Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
3. **Reintarnation** : Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
4. **Bozone** (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
5. **Giraffiti** : Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
6. **Sarchasm** : The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
7. **Inoculatte** : To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
8. **Osteopornosis**: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
9. **Karmageddon**: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious Bummer.
10. **Decafalon** (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
11. **Glibido** : All talk and no action.
12. **Dopeler Effect**: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
13. **Arachnoleptic Fit** (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
14. **Beelzebug** (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
15. **Caterpallor** (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.



ANNE LETAIN

## **The Stories You Find**

### **Criminal Intent**

It was late spring about five years ago. I was sitting on an elderly bench in the Goole (Yorkshire) Public Graveyard. Unbidden tears were trailing down my cheeks. Earlier that day I had been to the Goole Public Library and found the records that verified that my two-times great-grandmother (Mary Gordon Dempsey) was buried in this graveyard – one of the first public graveyards in England after the great Beckett Street Cemetery was established in Leeds. The Goole cemetery was reasonably maintained and marked, but there was no likelihood that I was going to locate my great-grandmother's grave. The closest I was going to get to it was to find the section for Catholics or non-conformists. Mary Dempsey had died in the Goole Workhouse in 1908 and her body was probably buried in the first available open grave in the Catholic "F" section. According to cemetery staff, it was routine to dump the bodies from the workhouse under those of more prominent citizens whose families had the means to purchase a coffin. Little did they know, they were getting a two-for-one!

Even though there was an ocean and a century between me and that moment, it was tough. When I started on this personal genealogy gig some six years ago, I have to admit to being totally unprepared for the emotional turmoil that my research would churn up.

Not everyone researching their family tree will have the kind of emotion that I've experienced. This is mostly because they will not be uncovering or revealing the sort of records that I have found myself routinely examining.

Today, a few years later, I'm constitutionally less flimsy and can handle the discoveries with a lot more equanimity. And they keep coming!

But there's no denying the truth – my Yorkshire ancestors were criminally inclined; they were true bad-asses! I suppose you could describe them as a kind of Irish mafia who occupied the now razed Irish Ghetto in Leeds. It's my family version of "Peaky Blinders", but they were definitely shorter and less handsome than the charismatic Cillian Murphy.

How do I know this? When you achieve "fame" or "celebrity" by being named to the National Registry of Habitual Criminals included in the entry are the details of your physical appearance - height, build, eye color, scars and tattoos. Some of my uncles even achieved "rogue and vagabond" status which is kind of like a three-star general getting another star for being extraordinary; in this case, for being incorrigibly bad.

Last September when I renewed my Ancestry.ca subscription I received a cheap offer that I couldn't refuse – basic access to Newspapers.com.

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This is like winning the genealogy lottery as the British newspapers of the mid-nineteenth century are truly a thing of glory. Before there were any other kinds of general communication, the only thing anyone had, was the written word densely filling the pages of the great broadsheets. All the news was fulsomely reported.

Because of the criminal inclinations and activities of my family, members spent a lot of time in the Assizes (court) where their follies were revealed to all who could read. It's doubtful that my relatives could do so for themselves.

Through the newspapers I came to realize that their favorite activity – larceny – had probably been learned at their parents' feet as both Mom and Dad and other Farrar/McDonald relations also routinely got caught and sentenced, including transportation.

A genealogical colleague and friend who is researching the same family territory has been gentler on the gang suggesting that they stole things like a sack of potatoes because they were hungry or a lace handkerchief to impress a sweetheart. But, I can't buy her thinking when the same gang made off with a ton of wool worsted on one occasion and a significant amount of lead pipe on another and managed to successfully fence both items within twenty-four hours.

Indeed, there was also attendant Peaky Blinder violence often fueled by drink. One great-uncle managed to bite off someone's nose in a bar fight. Later he spent 10 years in jail for a stabbing. Another attacked his long-standing girlfriend (one Sarah Ingram) with a kitchen knife, bending it on her head. Miraculously, she survived, and he enjoyed two years in Armley Gaol.

When I view the conglomerate family information that I've accumulated over the years, I'm pretty confident in stating that in today's world of instant electronic connectivity and ruthless databases, that my relatives wouldn't have had a snowball's chance in hell of being allowed to immigrate to Canada and become bonafide citizens.

From the day I decided to start researching the past, I have wondered what took my great grandfather, at the age of forty, away from his family in Leeds and travel to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1911. Born and raised in Leeds, no one could be less suited to claim a homestead. So, he got a job as a baker managing to save enough money to send for his wife and seven children to come in steerage the following year. He was the only member of his family ever to leave England. My great grandfather spent the next twenty years operating the first ever elevator in Saskatoon in the Drinkle-Macmillan building. I picture him perched on his stool, clothed in his ever-present vest, flinging the gates open and closed multiple times a day. Sometimes, he'd give his visiting grandchildren a jelly bean – yes, just one!

He eventually died in Vancouver, British Columbia outliving all of his seven siblings by many years. Most of them were lost to diseases like tuberculosis and consequences of slum living. While even now I still really don't know the answer of why he chose to come to Canada, there must have been an eureka moment when he said, "Enough" and decided he wanted a better life for himself and his family.

Eventually that happened although there were a lot of bumps. Perhaps, we can even say – “Canada saved him.” And therefore, Canada also saved the rest of us who followed.



**ELIZABETH BRIGGS #0484  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR**

## **RELEASE OF THE 1926 CENSUS DATABASE**

Last June, Statistics Canada transferred the 1926 census for the Prairie Provinces to Library and Archives Canada. It was 92 years after the census was taken in the expanding population of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. An agreement was reached between Familysearch and the Archives to index 45,000 pages of the 1926 census.

Unlike Ancestry, Familysearch has at least two people index the entries independently and if there is a discrepancy a third person checks the transcriptions. Ancestry in its haste will publish a transcription with one person completing the work.

The analysis was completed in December 2018 and is being prepared for release in March 2019. The searchable database will be free to all users and an image of the original document will be available for consultation.

Sadly there are some missing pages and a couple of areas were missed by the enumerator. However most of the census is intact and will soon be searchable.

Information gleaned from the 1926 Census database includes the following information:

## 1926 Census

- Full name of resident
- Place of abode
- Relationship to head of family or household
- Gender
- Marital Status
- Age
- Place of birth of person, father, mother
- Ethnicity
- Immigration Year
- Naturalization Year
- Citizenship
- English speaker
- French speaker
- Native Language
- Can read
- Can write

Soon many of us will be able to add a few more details to our family data bank.

## A LOOK BACK

In preparation for Manitoba's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the MGS Conference next year, it seemed appropriate to lead up to 2020 with some 'looking back' articles. So for the next few issues, we will add A Look Back feature where we reproduce appropriate articles from past issues of *Generations*, the Internet and other sources which highlight pioneer life.

Our first article was found in the *Generations* file box and dates from an article written in November, 1996 by Myrna (Rutledge) Mackey. Most all of us old-timers can relate to the article and for the 'young-uns', it is something to think about.

## Ghosts Among The Wisps of Smoke

*Myrna (Rutledge) Mackey, November 1996*

The door groaned with age as I pulled it shut and stepped back in time, to the farm kitchen from my childhood. The cast iron stove wrapped the house in warmth and chased the morning chills back into the night. Sticky fly paper hung from the high

ceilings, signifying the approach of fly season, and the resolve of the occupants to wage war against the pesky intruders.

It was a snapshot of a typical country kitchen, indigenous to most homesteads in the area. The faded linoleum was spotted with cigarette burns from “roll your owns” and grease marks from farmers’ work boots. Grubby discoloured blinds had been raised to herald the arrival of dawn. The leaded glass windows forecast the day to come and the tasks of the sleeping family.

A tin wash tube hung in the corner in anticipation of Saturday night bath time. The sink and counter near the stove nearby were well worn and much used. Aromas of future nine day pickles wafted from the clay crock on the counter. Empty pails rested by the sink waiting patiently for the next trip to the pump by the old red barn.



Typical Pioneer Kitchen

The walls were of old plaster and paint, and calendars of Norman Rockwell reproductions covered obvious flaws of old age. First and second grade art masterpieces were interspersed with faded portraits of the ancestors responsible for each new production created by the sleeping offspring.

As in every kitchen of that era, a couch relaxed in the corner, resting for the moment, from its many duties. Feather pillows showed the indentation of the last

occupant to use its convenience,. It had hosted many weary farmers, and all the children and their various illnesses from days long ago.

A modern washing machine sat in another corner butted by a wash tub for catching the water from the wringers. A folded clothes horse with its bag of wooden pegs, was propped against the wall waiting for its next outing in the impending winter.

A rocking chair etched with time completed the mismatched designs of the boundaries of the room.

A gigantic oak table graced the centre of the room and six chairs at the table told the stories of the pioneers long gone, stores of triumphs over nature, family joys and sorrows, and above all the dogged determination to divide and conquer the obstacles of homesteading in a foreign land.

The oil lamp, half full of yellowed oil, testified to the conversations and confidences shared over the faded oil cloth that concealed the designs of time on the table’s face.

The scent of wood smoke evoked memories of my long ago childhood, and my older eyes freeze-framed ghosts of my ancestors in the wisps of family history. My soul longed for just thirty minutes with these ghosts of mine. We would sit around the old oak table and share our hopes and dreams by the light of the oil lamp, over cups of tea and hearts full of memories. It would be a true reunion of the past, present, and the future yet to come.



## RICK WALKER #5653 VP ADMINISTRATION AND SECRETARY

Rick Walker retired in 2016 after working at Winnipeg Public Library for almost 35 years; the last 18 years of his career as the Manager of Library Services. Rick has been active within the library community in Manitoba and Canada for over 30 years and continues to be very active within that community, serving in a variety of roles.

Rick currently serves as the Vice-President of Administration and Secretary for the Manitoba Genealogical Society. He also sits on several other boards. He has been working on his own family history tree for the past 25 years.

## Genealogy on Vacation

While many family history researchers take “working vacations” in search of their family roots, in my case, the genealogical research was a by-product of a recent holiday vacation. Let me explain.

Recently my wife and I went on an amazing 9-day river cruise on the Douro River in Portugal. While on this cruise, we met many people from across the UK, the US and many parts of Canada. One couple from the UK were quite interested in talking to us when they heard that we lived in Manitoba.

As is often the case, a story had been passed down to our UK couple over the generations that a distant family relative (Jacob **FICKLING**) had moved with his wife (Sarah) to Manitoba in the late 1800’s in search of a better life. They had been told that their distant relatives had a child (whom they thought was named Elfleda?) who died as an infant; as a result of this tragedy, the relatives had moved back to England to rebuild their lives. The only other information they had suggested that their ancestors had moved to Springfield, Manitoba.

I told this couple that I knew where the Springfield municipality was and that it was close to where I lived and I offered to look into their family history further when I got back to Winnipeg. Hard to imagine that thousands of miles away from Manitoba in the middle of the Douro River, a genealogical connection was made that would help unlock some of this family’s history.

When I got back to Winnipeg, I eagerly set to work trying to find out what I could about the Fickling family in Manitoba. As this was a relatively unusual last name, this helped with my research.

According to the *1891 Census of Canada*, Jacob, Sarah and a daughter named Lily had come to Canada in 1882. My UK friends were not aware of this daughter. Lily Beatrice Fickling was born November 9, 1877, in Castleford, Yorkshire, England. This would prove an important piece in sorting out the story about a daughter who died in Manitoba.

I found that Lily Beatrice Fickling actually died January 11, 1897 in Cook's Creek, Manitoba at age 19. She was just 4 when the family moved to Manitoba. While "young" when she died, she was clearly not an infant. The infant death remained a mystery at this point. She was buried in Sunnyside Cemetery (also known as Moose Nose Cemetery!). Information on Sunnyside Cemetery retrieved from the *Manitoba Historical Society* website indicated that this is one of the oldest cemeteries in Manitoba having been established in 1872. This cemetery is located in the Rural Municipality of Springfield at NW29-11-5 east of the Principal Meridian. Its address is 64087 Heatherdale Road, about 3.4 kilometers west of Oakbank. This cemetery was about a 10-minute drive from my home and I was happy to drive out and see if I could find the headstone of this Fickling family member. Not an easy feat as it turned out.

As I continued my research, I was able to find out more about this early pioneering family in Manitoba. According to the *1901 Census of Canada* it listed Jacob Fickling, his wife Sarah and a young daughter Maud living in Selkirk District, Sub-District K, Springfield, Manitoba. Ah! the Springfield connection from my UK friend's story. Jacob Fickling was born in England on December 10, 1850 and listed as a farmer. Sarah was born in England on December 27, 1852. Their daughter Maud Fickling, was born on July 29, 1883 in Manitoba; one year after the family's arrival.

I subsequently found in a *UK Census* that Jacob Fickling died March 10 1932 in Saham Toney, Norfolk, England; and through *Ancestry.ca* I found out that Sarah Fickling (nee MARGETSON) married Jacob Fickling December 17, 1876 in Castleford, Yorkshire, England, and that there were several people looking into the Fickling family; and that Maud's middle name was Elfreda! Not Elfleda as my UK family had suggested; likely a typing error somewhere in the annals of time.

Although Lily died in 1897 the family stayed another 6 years before they moved back. Jacob, Sarah and Maud (now 21 years old) returned to the UK on April 6, 1904 aboard the *SS Tunisian*.

This still left the story about an infant child dying in Manitoba unresolved. The *1891 Census of Canada* would help answer that question. According to this census, James Fickling, the younger brother of Jacob, was born in England in 1855. He was listed as a farmer in the Lisgar District, Sub-district Springfield, Manitoba.

According to the *Manitoba Vital Statistics*, James married a woman named Mercy (or Luncy?) Hyde on April 16, 1892 in Canada. They had three daughters: Alice Fickling born March 22, 1893; Ida Fickling born March 29, 1894; and Minnie Fickling born September 15, 1895. All were born in Lisgar District, sub-district Springfield, Manitoba. From *Manitoba Vital Statistics* I also found out that Ida Fickling died September 6, 1895 at age 1 year 5 months and was also buried in Sunnyside Cemetery. This could be the tragic infant death that my UK friends had had passed down to them over the years. Adding to this tragic death is the knowledge that infant Ida's sister Minnie was born just nine days after her death!

One final piece of information I wanted to try and provide to my new friends from the UK was a photo of the headstone of the daughter Lily Beatrice Fickling and her cousin Ida Fickling. This proved more difficult to find than I hoped. My first visit to the cemetery turned up nothing. It is not a huge cemetery and I thought I scoured the cemetery completely; one of the challenges being that many of the older stones were located within massive bushes that had long overgrown the stones.

My first thought on leaving the cemetery was that maybe there had never been a stone marker, or maybe it had disintegrated over the years, sunk into the ground or been vandalized and removed. On my way out of the cemetery I took down the number for the municipal office to call and see if they could help. After a few back and forth telephone calls, the office administrator offered to meet me at the cemetery and show me the stone location. In preparation I thought to bring a set of clippers in case I needed to clear away some brush. Glad I did because as it turned out I needed to clip away some branches in order to find the stone as the picture below shows. The stone belongs to Lily Beatrice Fickling and reads;



"In Remembrance of  
Lily Beatrice  
Loving dau. of  
J. J. Fickling  
Born Nov. 9 1877  
Died Jan. 11 1897"

# The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society

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Underneath the main marker on the base is the first verse of a hymn called *Asleep in Jesus! Blessed Sleep* by Margaret Mackay 1832. The verse on the marker reads;

Asleep, in Jesus! Blessed sleep,  
From which none ever wakes to weep;  
A calm and undisturbed repose,  
Unbroken by the last of foes.

The municipal office records indicate that Ida Fickling was also buried on the same plot but I could find no marker. As the ground was snow covered it was difficult to root around and find anything. I may go back in the spring to try and add to this story.

When I got home, I put together what I had found and sent it by email to my travelling companions. While there are still gaps to be filled in, I was able to sort out some of the facts from the fiction and received a nice email in response from my new UK friends. Who knows, maybe on my next holiday vacation I will connect with a new couple trying to unlock their Manitoba heritage.



The Manitoba Genealogical Society is supported by a grant from Manitoba Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection

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The Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. is a registered charity.

Donations can be made to the Memorial Fund, the Library Fund, or the General Fund. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$10.00 and are much appreciated

## Make a Donation!

(*You can use the Membership form on page 36 to submit your donation*)

Your financial support helps with:

- developing new programs, collections and research resources
- upgrading equipment and subscribing to relevant resources to keep MGS abreast with current research
- providing and maintaining a comfortable facility for our members and the public

### You receive:

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

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much..

*Sarah Knapton, Science Correspondent*

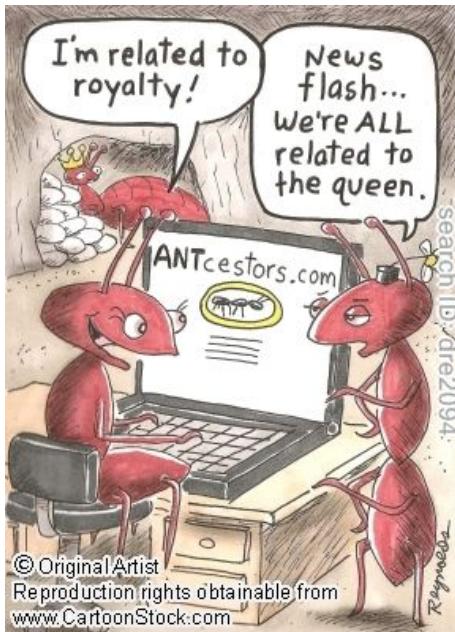
Older people do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets filled up, so too do humans take longer to access information, it has been suggested. Researchers say this slowing down is not the same as cognitive decline.

"The human brain works slower in old age", says Dr. Michael Ramscar, "but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak."

On the contrary, they simply know more. Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they are there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is **NOT** a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

**SO THERE!!! We are All Brilliant!**

## THE LAST LAUGH



**GENE TOONS** by Wendell Washer



Great Uncle Bertrand didn't have a computer in 1880, so how will you find him on line?



## Time to Renew?

With the electronic delivery of *Generations*, there is no longer a mailing label indicating your membership expiry date. Therefore the following procedures are in place:

Those members with an e-mail address on file with MGS, will receive an automated reminder a month before their membership expires requesting them to renew their membership. Members without an e-mail address on file will receive a written reminder by post one month prior to the expiration of their membership.

To renew your membership you have the choice of renewing and paying online, by mail or in person. To renew by mail, simply fill in the Membership Form located in *Generations*, attach a cheque made out to Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. for the full amount (including branch memberships and donations) and mail it to the address indicated on the Membership Form. You can also print off the Membership Form from MANI by clicking on the following web site address:

<http://mbgenealogy.com/membership/>. This link will also provide more information on MGS Memberships.

To renew on-line, sign into your MANI account. Once you have logged into your account, select Purchase/Renewal and make the appropriate selections (branch, associate member, etc.). Then select Purchase, and choose to pay via PayPal or by Credit Card, and follow the directions. If you do not have a MANI account you can create one on MANI or complete the Membership Form. No Membership Form is required if renewing on-line. Visit the Resource Centre to pay in person.

## MGS Member Application Form

Unit E-1045 St James Street Winnipeg MB R3H 1B1

Telephone: 204-783-9139

Email: [membership@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:membership@mbgenealogy.com) Website: [www.mbgenealogy.com](http://www.mbgenealogy.com)



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<b>MGS MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>					
Individual			\$50.00	\$	
Associate			\$20.00	\$	
Institutional			\$50.00	\$	
<b>BRANCH FEES</b>					
Beautiful Plains			\$15.00	\$	
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<b>DONATION</b>					
MGS is a registered charity and welcomes your support. Charitable Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more.			Donation Amount	\$	
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Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities at MGS

Signature:		Date:	
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Revised October 2018

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

Telephone: 204-783-9139

E-mail: [generations@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:generations@mbgenealogy.com)



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

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

#### **Classified Ads**

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

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#### **Copy Deadlines**

February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1. Send copy or enquiries to Editor, *Generations*, at the address above or [generations@mbgenealogy.com](mailto:generations@mbgenealogy.com)

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- All revenues from advertising shall go directly to MGS. Rates may be subject to change annually upon review and recommendation by the editorial committee and approval of the Council of the Society.



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**PLEASE RENEW if your membership is expiring soon.**

**A Membership form is on page 36.**