

GENERATIONS

Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.

Volume 37

Number 2

June 2012

Canadian Publications Agreement #40050442

ISSN 0226-6105



PHOTO: 2012 Red River Heritage Fair



PHOTO: Emma Anderson.

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Membership and Branch Information is available on page 27 of this issue or on our website. Full members receive four issues of *Generations*, general mailings, and are also entitled to one free Query per year, plus library privileges. Correspondence should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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GENERATIONS

Volume 37 Number 2 June 2012
The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.



Editor: David Farmer

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Generations is published quarterly by the **Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc.**, 1045 St. James Street - Unit E, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 1B1; Printed by *Copy Plus Inc.*, Winnipeg. 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 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

At the request of her great-grandchildren I am currently attempting to interview my 87 year old mother, so as to write her personal history. Mom's memory is not so good at times, so I augment what we know by searching for related records. In so doing I came across a ship's passenger list, for a ship sailing from Halifax to Southampton, England in the 'fifties'. There was my mother listed, and much to my surprise, I was listed below her on the manifest. Although not a shock, as I did travel to Europe with my Mom as a boy when the Army sent Dad to Germany, it did surprise me that I was now in that 'generation'.



Hopefully this issue of *Generations* will have a surprise or two for you. We have a first in this issue that you will not want to miss. At this year's Red River Heritage Fair, a high school fair 'a la the Science Fair', MGS presented an award for the best heritage essay. We highlight Emma Anderson, as our first winner and have included her essay in this issue. Congratulations Emma, very nicely done.

We officially welcome two new volunteers to MGS. Sari Fields and Stacy Wilson, and having met both of them, we are indeed fortunate to have the two of them on the team. You can read all about them in this issue.

And for you budding historical writers, we have a contest! It is an opportunity to make history (or at least make it up), based on the front cover photo. We look forward to lots of interesting submissions.

We have our regular features as well as information on members, events and activities going on in and around Manitoba this year.

There is just lots of good reading. My apologies to those that didn't make it into this issue, sometimes the editing role is tough. But there is the September issue, so watch for that one.

Enjoy summer, enjoy your families and keep looking for those ancestors.

From the President

Kathy Stokes #125

Summer is upon us. I hope that everyone has time to spend doing nothing or, failing that, working on your family history.



Summer is a good time to wander around in cemeteries or take trips to towns or countries where your ancestors lived and perhaps photographing their old home or school or the main street of their small town. Speaking for myself, Bob and I are going on a Baltic cruise, but before we step on the ship, we are going to walk around Copenhagen where my paternal grandmother's ancestors lived. I plan to photograph, among other things, the churches where records indicate they were baptized, married and buried.

At our recent Council meeting, members accepted the report of the Financial Review Committee and will be working to implement its recommendations. First up is a forward-planning meeting, currently in the planning stage. We face serious financial problems and must plan for the foreseeable future.

There will be more of MGS's indexes available on-line within a few months. The Information Technology group is working hard to make this happen. This will benefit our members who cannot get into Winnipeg or our branch locations to do their research.

MGS is extending its services to high schools. We are currently trying out a pilot project in which we send an electronic copy of *Generations* to selected schools. If we obtain favorable comments, this project will be extended to high schools throughout the province, with the hope that more young people will become interested in family history at a younger age, while their elderly relatives are still around to answer their questions.

Enjoy your summer.

Our Condolences ...

Joyce Christie, MGS # 1590, passed away on April 4th in Winnipeg. Joyce's husband, John was MGS Treasurer for several years in the early 2000s.

Lynn Margaret Kiendl, daughter of Roger and Beverley Kiendl, passed away on March 19, 2012. Beverley was a long time member and supporter of the Manitoba Genealogical Society.

MGS Volunteers

Top Ten Reasons to Volunteer

Daryl Dumanski #1031

Reason # 6

"Why let your boss have all the fun?"

Thoughts from the new Chair of Special Projects

Sari Fields #5267



First of all a big thank you to David Farmer and Kathy Stokes for your warm welcome in the last issue of Generations. As I told Kathy, my secret is now out ... the pressure is on!

Up until now I have pretty much been working incognito alongside the rest of the Wednesday volunteers – a group of hard-working, extremely knowledgeable people. I want to thank Mona, David and Linda for your in-depth knowledge of the electronic phase of our Cemetery Transcript project, and Orma for her most excellent proof-reading skills. A special thank you goes to Kathy S. for keeping track of our projects over the past few years, for your patience with me while I get my feet wet, and most importantly for your comprehensive memory.

You never cease to amaze me.

Whilst incognito, I have used these months to re-familiarize myself with our expansive family history resources. We have resources in paper format, card files, book form, directories, self-publications, and published indexes. We have microfilm, microfiche, CDs, periodicals, electronic databases, indexes and on-line subscriptions. And the list goes on.

Our resources are many and varied and just when I think I have a handle on what we have, I discover something I hadn't seen before. It's not unusual to find me off in a corner performing my happy dance over a new find. More often than not though, I'm just amazed at how much we have stored in that deceptively small space the MGS calls home. If you haven't visited us lately, I highly recommend that you drop by!

When I was first asked to sit as the Chair of Special Projects, to say I was a little apprehensive would be an understatement. As a relatively new volunteer, I thought that I did not know enough about the society and our resources to be of immediate help, especially given that the Chair has been empty for a number of years. Thanks to some gentle persuasion from Daryl Dumanski, however, I began to realize how important it is that we have someone overseeing our projects.

In order to get a better idea of where we are, what we have to offer, and where we want to go from here, I am developing an inventory of projects. I cannot do this without your help and so I'm putting out a call to our branches, members and volunteers. If I haven't yet contacted you and if you are working on a project, please let me know what it is, where it is, what format it's in, and when it may be complete. I can be contacted at MGS on Wednesdays or by email any time at sari.fields@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Hello from the new Publications Chair Person

Stacey Wilson

My name is Stacey Wilson and I am the new Publications chair person. As a part of this position, I am responsible for the current publications in-print; the reprinting of out-of-print publications; for coming up with ideas for future publications, and for creating content for the publications area of the MGS website.



One of my current projects includes compiling a list of publications with originals in digital format and then digitizing any publications that we currently only have in physical format. The goal of this project is to make reproduction of publications easier and quicker and to facilitate the possible expanding of formats available for sale (e.g. print, CD-ROM, electronic distribution).

Another project I am working on is compiling a list of all of the publications that MGS has created in the past, with the goal of understanding what has been done and understanding what members are looking for in publications. That being said, if anyone has any ideas for future publications, or publications that you would like to see updated or reprinted, please feel free to contact me.

A little about me: By training and education, I am a librarian, and I am currently working as a music cataloguer. I graduated with my master's degree in library science from the University of Western Ontario (now called Western University) in 2010. I also have an undergraduate degree in world religion and English literature from Brandon University.

I have been doing my family research as a hobby since I was in high school. For the most part, my family has been in Canada since at least the mid-1800s, primarily settling in Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. My research is mainly focused in Canadian source materials.

Beyond Canada, I also have roots in England, Ireland, Scotland and Denmark. I have "hit the wall" for much of my tree, but I have been fortunate in having some unique names in my family tree, the most interesting of which is Lancelot (who always went by Let to his friends, but fortunately appeared in census records by his full name).

A Note of Distinction



Congratulations to Daryl Dumanski, Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator at MGS Inc. for her 2012 nomination for the Winnipeg Women of Distinction Awards. Daryl was nominated under the category of Leadership and Management as a community centre and charity pioneer.

Daryl provides the MGS with insights, skills and direction now and in the past, in the many roles in which she has served. She has been responsible for bringing many new volunteers to MGS positions at a time when they were much needed.

Daryl serves as the Executive Director at the Forum Art Centre.

Front Cover: This issue highlights our Red River Heritage Essay Award Winner, Ms. Emma Anderson, a Grade 9 student, at St. Mary's Academy. Along with Emma's picture is a bird's eye view of a number of the heritage-based displays.

What is their story? - A Contest!

This picture is of an unknown group of men taken in the early 1900s somewhere ‘out West’. The picture is from a collection of family papers of the mother-in-law of Sylvia Vanhaverbeke,



who has given us permission to use the photo in *Generations*. Many thanks to Rick McLellan for passing it on.

Since we have no idea of who these men are, where the picture was taken or what the occasion was, you have a chance to write history. *Generations* is inviting you to write a 500 word essay telling the story of this photo. Be creative, be imaginative, have fun with it.

We will come up with a small prize for the best one or two essays . We will publish them in the September issue of *Generations*, so have them in by August 1, 2012.

Submit your essay electronically as a Word document attachment to an email to generations@mbgenealogy.com or drop off a copy (preferably typed) at the MGS offices.

This is your chance to write history!



“Genealogy, Webster tells us, is the account or history of a descent of a person, or a study of a person’s family. Genealogy, the hobbyist will tell you, is a madness, an addiction, which will forever change how you spend your every spare moment.”

The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Genealogy

Help Wanted!

Having trouble finding an ancestor, or don’t know where to look for certain types of information? Submit your query to *Generations* and perhaps a reader or two can give you some leads. If you need detailed or long term help, then please contact our Research Team through the MGS address.



Looking for burial locations...

My grandparents lived, died and are buried in Manitoba. I have no idea as to how to find the cemetery. I will be in Winnipeg in July and would like very much to find the final resting place of my grandparents while I am there.

My grandfather was Michael Lewitski, who died in 1978 in Transcona. I believe his first wife was Katherine or Katrina. She died around 1936/37. They were living in the Tolstoi or Dominion City area. Michael’s second wife was Sonia Lewitski. She died around 2005/2006 while living in Transcona.

My mother passed away in 2010 and I have been told she was buried where Michael is buried. Her name maiden name was Lewitski, but was Mary Christie at the time of her death.

I would appreciate any help in finding the cemeteries where my family is buried. I can be reached at the following address:

Catherine Bester
34129 King Road
Abbotsford, BC
V2S7N2
604 855-6019
cmbester@shaw.ca

MGS is looking for you!

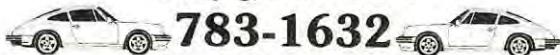
The Membership Committee is having some difficulty with our Access database - we do not

know how the current membership program was designed which makes it difficult when we want to make changes of any kind. Is there an MGS member with experience in Access who would be willing to spend a few hours to assist us? If you are able to help, please e-mail our membership chair, Janice Butcher, at jbutchr@cc.umanitoba.ca. Thank you for your consideration.

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Ancestors in Manitoba for the St. Mary's School Library.

In addition to their award, this year's prize recipients will have their accomplishments celebrated at Government House with the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

Heritage Fair 2012 MGS Award Winning Essay

Emma Anderson

Grade 9, St. Mary's Academy

Sigtryggur Jónasson: "Father of New Iceland"

A leader among early settlers in New Iceland, Sigtryggur Jónasson led the Icelandic people to Canada; published and edited the first Icelandic language newspapers in Manitoba and was eventually elected by both Icelanders and non-Icelanders to represent them in the Manitoba Legislature.

He is currently commemorated for his pioneering leadership with plaques and monuments throughout the Inter-Lake Region.

Sigtryggur Jónasson was born and raised in Iceland with his family. He was born on February 8, 1852, in Bakki, in the Öxnadalur Valley of Eyjafjörður. His family's farm house was located on a major road connecting the northern and southern areas of Iceland, and many people passed through their farm as they traveled.

Sigtryggur lived with his thirteen siblings, his mother Helga Egilsdóttir and father Jónas Sigurðsson, who was a skilled craftsman, and the son of a farmer-poet. His parents educated him and his siblings at home, and valued literature highly.

When he was twelve, after doing well in home schooling, his parents arranged to have him move to the Möðruvellir Estate, which was home to Governor Pétur Hafstein and his family. Here in the Hörgárdalur Valley, Sigtryggur served as a groom and errand boy,

Young Historians are out There Making History!

Linda White #2129

I had the privilege of acting as a specialty judge at the most recent Red River Heritage Fair which took place on 3 May 2012 at the University of Winnipeg. Middle and high school students from Winnipeg and the surrounding area competed for medals and specialty awards from twenty sponsors, one of whom was the Manitoba Genealogical Society.

I was heartened to see a number of projects dealing with local and family history. I was so impressed with the quality of the student work. We hope to feature some of these projects in upcoming issues of *Generations*.

The first MGS Family History Award presented at the Red River Heritage Fair went to Emma Anderson, a Grade 9 student at St. Mary's Academy for her project about her ancestor "Sigtryggur Jónasson: Father of New Iceland".

The MGS Award consisted of a gift certificate from McNally Robinson, a student membership in MGS and a copy of *Fast Facts for Finding*

and later as secretary and assistant to the Governor.

Working multiple jobs widened his outlook on both American and British political systems, and he realized that he preferred British society to Icelandic.

During his years on the Estate, he became close friends with Jón Sveinsson, who later became an important children's author; Hannes Havstein, who would become a statesman and poet; and Rannveig Ólafsdóttir Briem, whom he would eventually marry.

Rannveig, daughter of Ólafsdóttir Briem and Dómhildur Thorsteinsdóttir, was born in Grund on August 2, 1853, but was orphaned at age five, and then lived on the Möðruvellir Estate with her aunt, who was the Governor's wife.

The Möðruvellir Estate provided Sigtryggur with a higher level of education than he would have received at home with his family, taught him about British culture, and changed the course of his life.



PHOTO: Sigtryggur Jónasson during his life

As a young adult, Sigtryggur Jónasson persuaded many Icelanders to immigrate to the Dominion of Canada in hopes of creating a better life. He and they settled first in Ontario, but soon migrated to Manitoba.

His first trip to Canada was at the age of twenty, on September 12, 1872, and began in Quebec

City, where he focused on improving his English, finding a job, and exploring the surroundings of his new home. His first job was in Ontario at a rail car manufacturer, and he later worked for the New York Central Railway.

Approximately one year later, Sigtryggur's letters persuaded 150 more Icelanders to immigrate to Quebec, although many of these would need to continue west to Ontario in search of good jobs.

The next group of Icelandic immigrants, the following year, was much larger, and Sigtryggur was chosen by the Government of Ontario to help settle these 375 new immigrants to Kinmount, Ontario. However, when the Icelanders arrived in Canada, an immigration officer from Nova Scotia persuaded a large number of them to go east, to Markland, near Halifax, instead of with Sigtryggur.

Conditions were harsh in the Kinmount settlement: the only housing available to the Icelanders were four log sheds, and many elderly people and young children perished during the extreme winter. After witnessing the struggles of these settlers, Rev. John Taylor, an immigration officer, developed a plan to have the Canadian Government create an Icelandic reserve in Manitoba. Sigtryggur quickly became involved, and during the summer of 1875, traveled with Rev. Taylor in an exploratory group to the prairies and the Red River, only to discover the whole region severely infested with grasshoppers.

The expedition, devastated by what they found, continued on by York boat and eventually landed on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. They were pleased to find an abundance of fish and game, timber, and grazing land. These shores would become the Icelandic people's new settlement. It was perfect for preserving Icelandic tradition and culture while living in the British colony. John Taylor, Sigtryggur Jónasson, and the rest of the exploratory group traveled back to Kinmount, Ontario to persuade the immigrants to settle in the new land.

However, before they could leave for Manitoba, the Icelanders would need to raise funds.

Luckily, the Governor General of Canada, Lord Dufferin, was fond of the Icelandic people, having visited Iceland, and persuaded the Canadian Government to give the settlers a grant of \$65,000. The Kinmount settlers finally arrived in Winnipeg on October 11, 1875. Two hundred and fifty settlers decided to stay in the city instead of continuing on to the reserve. Those who continued on to Lake Winnipeg travelled down the Red River on flatboats.

Meanwhile, as the settlers traveled and became acquainted with their new home, Sigtryggur left for Iceland to recruit another twelve-hundred Icelandic immigrants, offering them a chance of fleeing their poverty, oppression, and the devastating effects of the Mount Askja volcanic eruption. He returned the following spring with the largest group of Icelandic immigrants ever to come to Manitoba.

In all, Sigtryggur brought approximately seventeen hundred Icelandic immigrants to Canada, where they settled in Ontario and Manitoba, many on the Icelandic reserve.

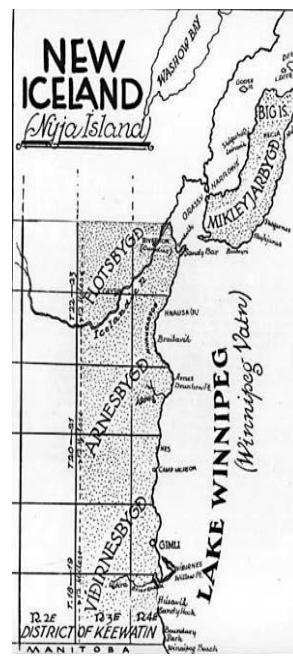
The settlement created by the Icelanders was located in southern Manitoba by the lake, which allowed them to continue their traditional Icelandic lifestyle. However, there were many challenges as well.

The reserve was called Nyja Island, or “New Iceland”, but is known today as Gimli. This reserve was one of the earliest group settlements in the west. The settlers were given an 812 square kilometre area to colonize: the land ran fifty-eight kilometres above Boundary Creek, and included Mikley Island (known today as Hecla Island) and Engey Island (Goose Island).

Under the provisional constitution, the colony was named Vatnsthing, translating as “Lake Region”, and was divided into four Districts, Vidinesbyggd (Willow Point), Arnesbyggd (Arnes), Fljotsbyggd (Riverton), and Mikleyjarbyggd (Big Island). The location of the settlement allowed for the traditional aspects of Icelandic culture to be integrated with a new British lifestyle.

A positive aspect of the reserve was the preservation of the traditional Icelandic lifestyle including their economic life, education, community, religion, and government. In Iceland, many people made their living by farming or fishing. These occupations were easily continued because of the lake and plentiful farmland.

While the men were in the fields or on the lake fishing, the women of the reserve spent much of their time spinning wool from sheep and knitting clothing and other items.



The Icelandic people, always proud of their heritage, launched the Islandingadagurinn, or Icelandic Festival, and formed the Icelandic National League of North America (INL). The first Islandingadagurinn took place in Winnipeg in 1890, and continues to be celebrated every summer to honour the first Icelandic pioneers.

The INL, founded in 1919, was very important because it helped Icelanders adapt to Canada and Canadian lifestyle while maintaining parts of their traditional culture.



PHOTO: Fishing boats at Gimli

The Lutheran church was the state church of Iceland, and traveled with the Icelanders to their new home. In Iceland, education and literacy were major priorities to people of every social

status, and in fact, to be married, both men and women were required to be fully literate.

It comes as no surprise then that the new settlers requested a school for the reserve even before they built their houses.

The settlers created their own constitution and civil law. The Icelandic reserve had a municipal government, and each District had its own council and Reeve. There was a regional council composed of six members called a Thingrad. This municipal government continued until 1881. The Icelandic settlement quickly became well-known for its elaborate system of social welfare for the poor and widows.

Sigtryggur had much to do with the business of the settlement, as he was involved with the creation of inter-lake railways, worked to improve shipping between Iceland and other locations, and formed a partnership in a Lake Winnipeg transportation and lumber venture.

He influenced the building of a large railway that passed through Gimli, Arborg, and Riverton. This project took a total of eight years, between 1906 and the completion in 1914.

Sigtryggur proposed the idea of improving the shipping link between Iceland and Europe in 1894, called the Stóra Málið, or “the Big Deal”. The venture involved the construction of a railroad system in south Iceland, building telegraph lines, and the start of regular sailings to Britain transporting refrigerated fish. However, this plan was blocked by the conservative opposition.

Sigtryggur created a lumber and transportation venture in Lake Winnipeg in 1880 with his business partner, Fridjón Fridriksson. To begin this venture, he purchased a steamer in 1879 which would provide the settlement with transportation. The business gave New Iceland economic stability and activity, and continued for eleven years.

Sigtryggur’s business ideas and ventures created frequent activity in the area as well as economic stability for its people.

However, along with this development, there were problems including: provision shortages, disease, environmentally related problems, social feuds and a population decrease. The reserve faced its first major obstacle in September, 1876 with a smallpox epidemic. This disease, brought to Manitoba from Quebec, took a total of 102 lives by the spring of 1877, and put the progress of the settlement on hold until later in 1877 when the quarantine was lifted.

That same year, the settlement faced a wet spring which created mosquitoes and destroyed crops, and in 1880, there was more serious flooding. When food began to run extremely low, the Icelanders received food, such as milk and dried moose meat, from the Aboriginal People.

In 1879, many people left Manitoba for North Dakota, taking the livestock and equipment paid for by the Government of Canada with them, and leaving only a small number of families in New Iceland. The land from Boundary to Willow Creek was almost completely abandoned and most of Árnes was as well, so that the most populated areas were Hecla Island and near New Iceland.

Beginning in 1878, there were religious feuds between different Lutheran ministers, and there were leadership disputes as well involving Rev. John Taylor. Despite these many challenges though, the new settlement on the shores of Lake Winnipeg remained a place where Icelandic immigrants could maintain their traditional educational and community values while developing the new world.

Sigtryggur Jónasson led the creation of *Framfari*, an Icelandic language newspaper created to celebrate and recognize the achievements of New Icelanders. *Framfari* means “advance”, and is recognized as one of the largest achievements of Icelanders in North America. The idea of creating this newspaper was first proposed at the National Day meeting of the Association of Icelanders on August 2, 1874. The newspaper was first published on September 10, 1877 in Riverton, Manitoba, at a

printing company called Prentfaleg Nyja Islands.

Rev. Jon Bjarnason bought a printing press and other equipment in Minneapolis for a total cost of \$313.81. The staff included Sigtryggur's brother, Jonas, as the printer and a board consisting of Sigtryggur Jónasson, Johann Briem and Friðjón Friðriksson. Sigtryggur served temporarily as Editor while waiting for Halldor Briem to arrive to take over. The cost of subscriptions was \$1.50 per year in New Iceland and \$1.75 anywhere else. Subscribers were located all over North America and Europe. The last issue of *Framfari* was printed on April 10, 1880.

Sigtryggur co-founded the *Lögberg* in 1888, and served as its Editor from 1896 to 1901. The word "lögberg" is Icelandic for "tribune". Besides co-founding the *Lögberg*, Sigtryggur also co-published and edited *Syrpa* in 1920.

After many years, *Framfari* made a come-back and was again printed in Winnipeg with the title *Leifur*, and later as *Heimskringla*. In 1959, the *Lögberg* and *Heimskringla* created a partnership, and began being published as the *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, a newspaper which continues to be printed. As a newspaperman, Sigtryggur Jónasson celebrated the progress of New Iceland by publishing *Framfari*, and the *Lögberg* and *Syrpa*.



PHOTO: Anniversary Edition

During his life, Sigtryggur Jónasson started a family, moved frequently, was elected into the Manitoba Legislature, and worked as a homestead inspector, before retiring to Arborg and Riverton.

Sigtryggur married Rannveig Ólafsdottir Briem on June 15, 1876. The couple adopted a son, Theodore, and fostered two children, brothers named Percy and Arthur. They owned large fields on the banks of the Icelandic River and built a home they called Möðruvellir, which became the headquarters for many of the settlement's projects, including the *Framfari*.

They moved to Winnipeg in 1881, after a terrible winter during which Rannveig was often alone, and left their land to Friðjón Friðriksson. They lived in Selkirk from 1882 until 1887, before returning to Winnipeg.

When Sigtryggur was elected to represent St. Andrew's in the Provincial Legislature in 1896, he became the first Icelander to be elected as an MLA. Eleven years later, he was elected to represent Gimli. From 1901 to 1906, he served as the homestead inspector for the inter-lake district.

Beyond his responsibility, he helped many of the settlers, personally, in hope of seeing the settlement flourish. At the celebrations of the millennium of the founding of Iceland's Parliament in 1903, he represented all of Canada.

He was the special guest at a large gathering in Riverton in November of 1915: he was thanked for his contributions to the progress of New Iceland and given an inscribed gold-headed cane. At an Icelandic celebration held in Riverton in 1928, he spoke to a large crowd providing inspiration. Also to remember him and his accomplishments are plaques located in Riverton and Gimli.

Sigtryggur's retirement in Arborg and Riverton was quiet, although he remained active in community life. He went into business in 1910 in Arborg, after spending many years in politics; however, Rannveig was ill so she was unable to move with him. Later, after visiting friends in British Columbia, she returned to Winnipeg and died on August 7, 1916.

Sigtryggur's business venture ended in March of 1912 when he gave his share to Percy, and became a farmer, something he had wished to

do since arriving in Canada. At the age of sixty-eight, he left the farm and moved to Riverton to live with his nephew. He moved back to Arborg around his ninetieth birthday to live with his foster son and daughter-in-law until his death on November 27, 1942.

Sigtryggur Jónasson was many things to the Icelandic immigrants including a leader, editor, politician, immigration agent, homestead inspector, publisher and industrial entrepreneur, and certainly a role model. For all of his contributions to the Icelandic community in Manitoba and throughout Canada, Sigtryggur Jónasson is known as the “Father of New Iceland”.

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From The Past

Rural Ramblings

Kathy Stokes #125

Manitoba Free Press 3 November 1927

John Turner, born May 3, 1844 in Peterhead, Scotland, died in Carroll, MB on 31 Oct. 1927 and was buried in Carroll cemetery. The late Mr. Turner came to Canada with his parents about 1867 and the family settled in Whitby Twp., ON. On 20 Dec. 1896 he married Annie Smith Ross of Greenbank, ON. They moved to the Griswold, MB district in 1892 and subsequently to Carroll in 1897. Mrs. Turner died in 1917.

Mr. Tuner was active in the Presbyterian Church and the Liberal party. He is survived by daughters, Mrs. P.H. Lamb of Toronto, ON; Mrs. J.W. Graham of Assiniboia, SK; Mrs. R.G. Bailey of Strathclair, MB; Mrs. N. MacDonald of Carroll and sons Andrew R., James, John A. and G. Murray, all Carroll area farmers; William of Holland, MB; Thornton of North Battleford, SK and Norman of Deslisle, SK.

Vital Statistics for Brandon for October, 1927 showed that there were 41 births, 13 marriages and 27 deaths. This compared with 25 births, 11 marriages and 15 deaths in October, 1926.

At Strathclair United Church on October 31, 1927 Martha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Pipka of Elphinstone, was married to Nicola,

son of Mr. and Mrs. Bartho Kimpinski of Shoal Lake.

The Manitoba Free Press 4 November 1927

In Vancouver on 1 November 1927, Margaret Gertrude, daughter of Mrs. G.L. Stone of Minnedosa wed Ralph Warren, son of N. Andrews of Kirkland, Washington. The wedding was held at the residence of the bride's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George McDonald. Niece Ruth McDonald was the flower girl and sister Mildred Stone assisted at the reception. The bride and groom will reside in Seattle.

The Manitoba Free Press 5 November 1927

Two young Hutterite youths, Mike Waldner 17, and John Gross 18, both of the Iberville Colony, were convicted of stealing from a Winnipeg department store. The decision of eight "tried and truthful patriarchs of the community" was to punish the youths by the "spanker method" giving Waldner and Gross either 20 or 30 lashes. A seer of the community would administer the punishment at a ceremony in the colony, with outside observers not allowed. A colony spokesman, Jacob Hoppner explained the punishment.

"Every young man who does a wrong deed is subject to the lash, even though he may have served a prison sentence. Punishment must begin when he returns to the colony. This form of chastisement (i.e. lashes) applies until baptism, and then offenders are subject to more serious and exacting rebuke. For example, a married Hutterite found guilty of stealing or other criminal act will be separated from his wife and made to work apart from his brethren for [a period of] from three weeks to three months."

The Manitoba Free Press 25 July 1933

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Smith of Belmont celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary and Mrs. Smith's 87th birthday on 19 July 1933. The couple married in London, England in 1866. Mr. Smith was active in the London Scottish Regiment of Volunteers and was a charter member when the group was formed in Oct. 1859. In 1898, he retired on pension from the London Custom

House and the couple came to Belmont. Mr. Smith is now 96 years old.

There are eight Smith offspring – Russell in Prince Rupert; BC; Hugh of Dunrae, MB; Alex, Lindsay and Douglas of Belmont; Mrs. Bert Leigh of Ninette; Mrs. Wm. Nichol of Arcola, SK, and Mrs. H.F. Crossley of Preeceville, SK.

Mrs. Peter Vanderburg, nee Lois M. Perry, 77, was buried in Pilot Mound cemetery on 24 July 1933. Born in England, she came to Uxbridge, ON at four years of age, and to Manitoba about 40 years ago to farm with her husband. Surviving are son Ernie and daughters May (Mrs. Ed) Grassick, Mabel (Mrs. George) Gemmell and Edith (Mrs.H.) Spearman.

The Winnipeg Free Press 27 July 1933

Mr. and Mrs. O.H. Gilman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24th. They were married in Grafton, North Dakota in 1883 and came to Manitoba in 1902, settling first in Morris and later in Westbourne. Mr. Gilman is now 68 and Mrs. Gilman is 69. Four children living are Mrs. J. Johnson of Manly, SK; Mrs. Andrew Anderson of Hallock, Minnesota; Hans of Flin Flon and Gordon of Westbourne. There are 26 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The Winnipeg Free Press 27 July 1933

William Lau, who was gored by a bull, died recently at age 71. He was born in Woodstock, ON and came to the Reston area in 1886. He leaves a widow and children, C.C. of Reston; A.J. of Calgary; Alvin of Broomhill; Mrs. Fred Kruger of Bede; Mrs. H. Halls of Broomhill; Mrs. Salmonson of Reston and Mrs. Thorburne of Winnipeg. Also surviving is a sister, Mrs. Charles Kruger of Napinka and a brother, Otto, of Justice, MB.

*"WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET – EXCEPT IN
PRE-PACKAGED STRAWBERRIES."*

- DAD

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.

Are These Your Ancestors?

Kathy Stokes #125

Many of us who have grown up in Manitoba will have heard of the infamous killer, Earle "Strangler" Nelson. He killed two Winnipeggers: Mrs. Emily Patterson of 100 Riverton Ave. on June 10, 1927 and 14 year old Lola Cowan a day earlier.

He was captured, escaped, and finally recaptured by Constable Renton of the Manitoba Provincial Police at Wakopa, MB a couple of days after Mrs. Patterson's death. About 4000 people, many of them women, turned out to see Nelson's arrival back in Winnipeg and similar crowds appeared outside the courthouse when his trial began. There were no empty seats in the courtroom.

Today we are accustomed to long delays between arrest and trial. In what was a remarkably short time, Nelson's trial began in November 1927. He was found guilty after a court session lasting only five days and hanged on January 13, 1928.

Subsequently, Nelson was identified as the likely murderer of twenty-two women in the USA. He was probably one of the first serial killers to be identified as such in North America. More information on Nelson's history can be found by 'Googling' his name and/or reading the newspapers of the day.

In reading the *Winnipeg Free Press* of early November 1927, I was intrigued by the differences and similarities in court proceedings.

Today, jurors are selected from rolls of citizens provided, I believe, from Manitoba health records. Men and women are eligible for jury duty up to the age of 75.

Many reasons are accepted by the court if a prospective juror feels unable to serve. As well, both the prosecution and the defence have the right to reject a certain number of jurors without cause.

Jurors are never identified or photographed and are sworn to secrecy about deliberations which occur while they were sequestered to make their decision as to the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Basically, this follows the methods used at the time of Nelson's trial with some important distinctions. In 1927, the *Free Press* described the complete jury selection, identifying each juror by name and occupation and even naming prospective jurors who had been rejected. Only men were allowed to serve on juries at that time.

When at least four had been sworn in, they paired off and interviewed other prospective jurors and gave the court their evaluations about the fitness of these men to sit on the jury. Of course, both sets of lawyers could object to this informal pre-screening. Jurors did not comment after their decision was given to the judge.

Who were the men from Manitoba who became jurors and who were the witnesses who described their encounters with Nelson? Basically, they were average people working at ordinary occupations who probably never thought that they would find their names in the newspaper.

Jury members were Andy Parkin, a Headingley chauffeur; Harry Picken who farmed in the Brunkild area; a steel worker from Lockport named Cuthbert Sinclair; Kildonan machinist George P. Bond; Wm. Wildman, a St. Vital warehouse superintendent; farmers J. A. Lillies and H. E. Irwin from Stonewall, Howard Clubb from Morris, W.L. Bowman of Gunton, John Bird from Petersfield and A. Chaze of La Salle and Kildonan fireman H. G. Firth. The youngest juror was 26 years old.

Among those who were not selected to sit on the jury were Wm. Turner, Wm. C. Monk, farmer C.R. Snider, G.H. Fox, Chas. F. Minster, a Winnipeg accountant, tinsmith Alfred H. Stevens, J.H. McLean and August Nelson. Many of these men had read the newspapers of the day and had formed opinions as to Nelson's guilt or innocence. Thus they were considered to be unacceptable for jury duty.

Another group of ordinary citizens who became involved in the trial were the many people who were called to describe their encounters with Nelson. Women were deemed to be competent enough to give testimony even if they were barred from jury service. William Patterson, a recent Irish immigrant, testified about his wife's not being there when he came from work. After several hours of waiting for her and checking with friends, he knelt to pray at the side of his bed and then noticed her body beneath it.

The story which unfolded in the Winnipeg courtroom was amazing. W.E. Chandler of 256 Eugenie St. testified that he had picked Nelson up in the USA and dropped him off near Noyes, Minnesota. Apparently Nelson walked across the border and was then given a ride to Winnipeg by John T. Hanna.

Catherine Hill and her husband John told the court that Nelson had been a boarder at their home at 133 Smith St since the previous day. Nick Tabor, a barber at Central Barber Shop, testified that he had given Nelson a haircut and that Nelson had told him to be careful when cutting the hair on the top of his head. Tabor related that it was difficult to cut the top hair because it was caked with blood and hard to comb. The condition of the hair was apparently the result of Emily Patterson's vain attempt to defend herself.

Jacob Garber explained that he had purchased Nelson's clothes for his second hand store, clothes that the murderer had stolen from the Patterson home. Sam Waldman, a Main St. merchant, testified that he had hired a lawyer to claim the reward for Nelson's capture.

Nelson's ability to present himself as a God-fearing, pleasant young man led to his gaining

access to homes where there was a "For Rent" sign in the window. Many of his murders followed the same pattern as Emily Patterson's. However, young Lola Cowan had been lured into his rented room in the home of Katherine Hill on the pretense of purchasing the artificial flowers she was peddling.

Being in Winnipeg only three days, he managed to murder two people, then took a streetcar to Headingley and hitchhiked to Regina. He headed back east and south by riding with Isidore Silverman, a scrap metal dealer. Nelson was captured in Wakopa, MB by Provincial Constable Renton after being recognized by general store owner Leslie Morgan.

The trial lasted five days in total and was focused only on the murder of Emily Patterson. The jury spent 48 minutes deliberating before returning a verdict of guilty of murder, a popular decision. Nelson was hanged at the Vaughn Street Gaol on January 13, 1928.

By today's standards, this trial raises a question of Nelson's mental stability. While the facts proved that Nelson had murdered Emily Patterson, there was doubt about Nelson's sanity. His estranged wife and his aunt came to Winnipeg from California to testify that he had sustained a severe head injury at age ten, after which his behaviour changed markedly. He had been hospitalized at least twice in a California mental facility from which he escaped both times. It seems that the jury did not consider this seriously because of the very short time they took to deliver their verdict. Justice was very swift in those days.

Sources: *Winnipeg Free Press* of early November 1927 and the Detective John Burchill article from Winnipeg Police Museum & Historical Society and Winnipeg Police Historical Files (try Google for this)



Selkirk Bicentennial Events

This summer Manitobans will mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Red River Selkirk Settlement. To commemorate the bicentennial there are a number of interesting and exciting events planned:

June 9 and 10

The Mid-Canada Highland Dance Championships and Open Competitions will take place on Saturday, 9 June and the Lord Selkirk Premiership will take place on Sunday, 10 June. Both will be under the canopy at the Forks.

June 16

[46th Annual Manitoba Highland Gathering](#).

31 August to September 2

Bargefest / Selkirk Settler's Weekend at the Forks.

September 4

Re-enactment, by the [Manitoba Living History Society](#) of the transfer of land ceremony, to commemorate when [Miles Macdonell](#) took possession of the tract of land known as Assiniboia from the [HBC](#) through an exchange of documents. The re-enactment will take place in La Verendrye Park on Taché between Dollard and Despins.

September 5

Evening reception hosted by the [Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba](#) to include direct descendants of the settlers and present-day Lord Selkirk.

September 6

Mayor of Selkirk will host Lord and Lady Selkirk and present keys to the city to Lord Selkirk. Rededication ceremony at historic old [St. Peter's Dynevor Anglican Church](#) and Cemetery. A tribute to the memory of [Chief Peguis](#), friend and benefactor to the settlers.

September 7

Journey to the Red River, The Story of the Selkirk Settlers in Dance, Songs and Poetry, hosted by [The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Winnipeg Branch](#), at [Lower Fort Garry](#).

September 8

Formal dinner at Winnipeg Convention Centre, coordinated by the [St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg](#) on behalf of the Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement Committee.

September 9

Non-denominational church service at [St. John's Cathedral](#).

November 9 and 10

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs Red River Composition by renowned Winnipeg composer Sid Rabinovich at the Centennial Concert Hall Winnipeg. The composition was commissioned by the Seven Oaks Historical Society.

November 12

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performs Red River Composition at Brandon.

A People's History of Seven Oaks, compiled by the Seven Oaks Historical Society, is a book based on interviews conducted among the Seven Oaks population. It will be published later this year.

For more information check out the web site of the Bicentenary of the Red River Selkirk Settlement Committee found at <http://www.redriver200.ca/>, telephone (204) 945-2752 or contact info@redriver200.ca.

Our Library

Mary Bole #884
MGS Librarian



CD-ROMs Listing Information

Mavis Gray #0008

The MGS Library and Resource Centre has approximately 150 miscellaneous CDs with an assortment of useful information.

Most of the CDs were issued as supplements to several British genealogy magazines. They include a wide variety of census records, parish

records, and directories, mostly from England but a few from Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

We have recently been enhancing the records in KOHA to include the names of the counties, towns and parishes for which such records are available. In the KOHA search box, type the name of the town or parish in which you are interested, click on the “all fields” search, and you may find that we have some interesting and useful records for you.

For example, some of the titles are:

- Bristol & Bath

Includes: Bath Post Office directory, 1895; Clifton College register, 1862-1925; Bath city rate book, 1766; Tithe apportionment books, Bristol area (ca. 1840-1850); Primitive Methodist Magazine index, 1834

- Scottish borders, and railway records

Includes: Railway records directory; Army lists, Boer War and WW1 (officers, Scottish Borderers and the Border Regiment); two histories of Dumfriesshire; MIs from Crailing and Nisbet, in Roxburghshire; Dumfries burials index, 1617-1679.

- Lancashire ancestors

Includes: Manchester area, 1861 census; Whellan's directory of Manchester and Salford, 1853; parish registers, Leigh, Lancashire (baptisms, 1558-1624; list of rectors and vicars, 1318-1874).

There are also a number of other CDs with information relating to topics closer to home. Examples of some of these titles are:

- French-Canadians of the west: a biographical dictionary of French-Canadians and French Métis of the western United States and Canada
- Canadians in the 1870 U.S. census
- Carleton's loyalist index (a select index to the names of Loyalists and their associates contained in the British Headquarters Papers, New York City 1774-1783; includes “The book of Negroes”)

Most CDs may be borrowed for 1 week.

Library Lines

Mary Bole #884

Books for June 2012

For further information on any of the following books please check KOHA, our card catalogue. The link can be found on the MGS homepage.

Manitoba

283 Wes	<i>Westwind</i> [Women's Ministry Committee of the Diocese of Rupert's Land]
371.8 Gor	<i>Gordon Bell High School Yearbook</i>
770 Goo	Goodchild, D. <i>Photographs of Winnipeggers</i>
779 Don	Donahue, J. <i>Retropeg: Archival Photography of Winnipeg in the 70s</i>
792.8 Can	<i>Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet</i>
920 Wil	Wilkins, C. <i>Winnipeg 8: the Ice-Cold Hothouse</i>
929.3 Man	<i>Indexes of Various Newspaper Clippings.</i> [Reference]
929.3 Mor	Rosenort Evangelical Mennonite Church Baptisms, 1878-1900 [Reference]

971.27

Local History Books for Manitoba:

<u>Daly municipality</u> : <i>Bradwardine and District</i>
<u>Hamiota municipality</u> : <i>Memories of Scotia</i>
<u>Sifton municipality</u> : <i>Ox Trails to Blacktop</i> [Index]
<u>Stuartburn LGD</u> : <i>Community and Frontier: Ukrainian Settlement</i>
<u>Swan River municipality</u> : <i>Kenville</i>
<u>St. Andrews municipality</u> : <i>Chronological History of Parish Notre Dame</i> [Index]
<u>Winnipeg</u> : <i>Pictorial History of Early Armstrong's Point</i> [Reference]
<u>Winnipeg</u> : <i>Tuxedo</i>
<u>Winnipeg</u> : <i>Walking in Wolseley</i>

971.272 Aik	<i>It Happened in Manitoba: Stories Red River Province</i>	Great Britain and Ireland
355.3 Fra	Franz, E. <i>Hessische Truppen la Amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg</i>	331.7 Mea <i>Victorian Ironmonger</i>
929.3 Ont	<i>Haldimand County Marriage and Burial Register, 1851-1865</i>	912 Scot <i>Edinburgh City Plan with Index [Map]</i>
929.3 Ont	<i>Perth County Baptism, Marriage and Burial Register 1852-1859</i>	941.1 Cul <i>Culloden, 1746</i>
929.3 Ont	<i>Vital Records of Upper Canada Niagara, Gore and Dalhousie districts</i>	942.6 Bor <i>Borough of St. Edmundsbury: Official Guide</i>
971.3 Car	Carleton County, Ontario. <i>A Settled Place</i>	942.7 Str2 <i>Liverpool, A-Z Street Atlas and Index</i>
Europe		
971.24	Local History Books for Saskatchewan: <u>Big Quill municipality:</u> <i>Reflections by the Quills</i> <u>Emerald municipality: Emeralds Past in Prose, Poetry and Pictures</u> [Plus Index] <u>Lakeview municipality:</u> <i>Remembering Times: Wadena</i> <u>Preeceville municipality: Past Endeavours</u> <u>Preeceville municipality: Lines of the Past</u> <u>Preeceville municipality: Harvest of Memories: Sturgis</u> <u>Touchwood municipality:</u> <i>Between the Touchwoods: Punnichy</i>	912 His <i>Ukraine [Map]</i> 948 Sca <i>Scandinavian Roots, American Lives</i>
General		
365.5 Can	<i>Canadian Elk</i> [BPO Elks of Canada]	929.11 Sho <i>Shoots: Guide to Family's Photographic Heritage</i>
929.1 Lar	<i>French-Canadian Genealogy Research</i> [2010]	929.4 Nam2 <i>Names: Variations, Other Language Equivalents, etc.</i>
929.3 Wes	<i>Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register</i> [not Ontario]	974.6 Con <i>Connecticut</i>
940.54 Pre	<i>Presenting! The Rip Chords Concert Party</i>	Family History and Biography
940.54 Woo	<i>Woolworth Bulletin</i>	921 Gab <i>Marie-Anne: Louis Riel's Grandmother</i>
		929.2 Dou2 <i>Clan Douglas</i>
		929.2 Har9 <i>Our Proud Heritage</i>
		929.2 McC4 <i>[Harkness]</i> “The Little Red House”
		929.2 Mor2 <i>[McConochie]</i> <i>From Whence We Came</i>
		929.2 Mor3 <i>[Morier, Murray]</i> <i>Clan Morrison</i>
		929.2 Pag2 <i>Family History of Victor Pages and Sophie (Bernard) Pages</i>
		929.2 Yul 10 <i>Yule and Yuill Families Associated with Quebec Province</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. is a registered charity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donations can be made to the Memorial Fund, the Library Fund or the General Fund. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$5.00 and are much appreciated</p>		

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Book Reviews

Enid Dorward #4502



*You can borrow these materials
from the MGS library!*

Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register: Out of Ontario 1826 – 1909,

Published jointly by the United Church of Canada/Victoria University Archives and the Ontario Genealogical Society, 2004. various paging, index. (MGS library call number CANADA 929.3 WES)

This genealogical reference consists of transcriptions of Wesleyan Methodist baptismal records from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec, Yukon Territory and even some from the USA from the years 1826 to 1909. Each entry includes the name of the person who was baptized, birthplace, birth date, date of baptism, names of parents (including mother's maiden name), place of residence, minister's name, and reference information regarding the register from which the entry was copied. At the back of the book is a complete alphabetical index of all names in this volume. A very useful book for those with Wesleyan Methodist forbears.

***From Whence We Came: Stories of the Morier/Murray Families*, Regina, 1994. 59 p. (MGS library call number FH & BIO 929.2 MOR 2)**

This book chronicles the story of the family of Adelard Morier and Helen Murray. It is illustrated with numerous family photographs. Besides the narrative of the family's history, there are many pages which give a summary of information about each couple – name, date and place of birth, date, place, cause of death, place of burial, marriage date and place, occupation, children's names, birth date and place. The family's roots were in Solsgirth, Manitoba, and St. Vital in Winnipeg, coming earlier from England and Quebec.

***Presenting the Rip Chords Concert Party*,**
1943. unpaged. Photographs. (MGS library call number CANADA 940.54 PRE)

This is a souvenir program for a concert presented by an orchestra comprised mostly of English servicemen who were training at Carberry, Manitoba, in March 1943. It includes photos and brief biographies of the members of the group, as well as the history of the group itself.

Woolworth Bulletin published by F.W. Woolworth Co., 1944-1945. various paging, illus. (MGS library call number CANADA 940.54 WOO)

Four issues of this publication have been donated to the MGS library. They are devoted to information about employees of the Woolworth Company who were in the armed services during World War II. The earlier editions list Woolworth employees who enlisted, arranged by store number. The lists include current addresses for the various personnel. Casualties are also listed. Each edition has many photographs of Woolworth men and "girls", on occasions such as military awards, weddings, promotions, etc. There are pages of letters written from overseas, news items (reminiscent of rural newspapers), as well as jokes, cartoons, and other articles of interest. The 1945 issues list persons who returned to the employ of Woolworth's after being discharged.



Periodical Potpourri

Enid Dorward #4502

All publications mentioned in this column are available for loan from the MGS library.

MANITOBA

Manitoba History (winter 2012) In an article about William Forbes Alloway, there is a

picture (with names) of officials of the city of Winnipeg 1880.

Mennonite Historian (March 2012) Has articles about Mennonites in Manitoba and beyond.

The New Leaf (March 2012) Louis Riel and the birth of Manitoba.

CANADA

Internet Genealogy (Feb/March 2012) Home children to Canada: an introduction.

(April/May 2012) Canadian headstone photo project – a great on-line resource for genealogists.

Qualicum Beach FHS (Dec. 2011)

- Canadian census information.
- Top 5 Canadian genealogy sites.

WAR OF 1812

2012 marks the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Numerous journals have printed articles relating to this war – a boon for those with ancestors who were involved in some way.

American Ancestors (winter 2012) Pension and bounty-land records relating to military service in the war of 1812.

Connections (winter/spring 2012) Gives a list of Montreal sedentary militiamen 1812. Includes name, age, occupation, birthplace, and when they came to Canada.

Families (Nov/11) Finding family in the Upper Canada militia documents from the War of 1812.

Halton-Peel KINnections (summer 2011) War of 1812 documents.

(fall 2011) This issue contains a list of websites with information about the War of 1812.

(winter 2012) The militiamen of Toronto Township, War of 1812.

Leeds & Grenville Branch News & Views (Jan-Feb 2012) The capture of Ogdensburg, February 1813 (from an 1849 publication).

Notes from Niagara (Feb. 2012) Orphan pensioners of the War of 1812.

Norfolk (Nov 2011) Barn quilts – telling the stories of women who were affected by the War of 1812.

Talbot Times (March 2012) Veterans of the War of 1812 A through G (mostly from Middlesex Militia).

Toronto Tree (Jan/Feb 2012) Documenting War of 1812 ancestors. Also: War of 1812 websites.

(March/April 2012) The military service medal awarded for service during the War of 1812.

The Tracer (Oxford County) (Feb 2012) Oxford during the War of 1812.

WESTERN CANADA

Ancestree (Nanaimo) (spring 2012) Hillcrest Mine Explosion of 1914.

The British Columbia Genealogist (March 2011) Brief biographical information about 41 men who died during World War I – names on two war memorials in Langley, BC.

(June 2011) 30th annual BC musical competition festival, June 1930, Vancouver – lengthy list of names.

(Dec. 2011) An article lists 45 men who returned from England to Canada, on the S.S. *Tunisian* in 1902, after the Boer war.

(March 2012) A list of names of contributors to the aid fund for victims of a terrible fire at Sointula, a Finnish settlement on Malcolm Island, in 1903.

Bruce Bulletin (May 2011) Names of several Bruce County (ON) strays who were in Victoria BC during the late 19th century.

Cariboo Notes (spring 2012) Hangings in BC 1858-66.

Chinook (Jan 2012) A brief history of Chinese family trees.

Okanagan Researcher (March 2011) 1911 federal voters list – Okanagan electoral district.

(Oct. 2011) An unusual topic: trench art from World War I.

(March 2012) The Local History Collection at the Okanagan College Library – a goldmine for those with ancestors from that area.

Qualicum Beach FHS (March 2011) An article tells of the first settlers of Vancouver Island, who came from England between 1849 and 1854.

(June 2011) An article provides information about the districts of the Northwest Territories.

Relatively Speaking (Feb 2011) A Métis adoption story.

(May 2011) An article about migrations within the British Empire provides some understanding of why and how our ancestors left their home countries.

Roots Around the World (March 2011) National historic site – Gur Sikh Gurdwara in Abbotsford, BC. The article provides a brief history of Sikhs in the Fraser Valley.

(summer & fall 2011, spring 2012) Extracts from St. Matthew's Anglican Church (Abbotsford) Register (book #3 – 1916-1946) Baptism records, with names of children and parents, parents' occupation, dates of birth & baptism, sponsors, ministers.

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (Dec. 2011) Includes a comprehensive article about using homestead records

Victoria Genealogical Society Journal (June 2011) Victoria Genealogical Society's new youth program – involving children in family history.

(Dec 2011) BC historical newspapers – information about accessing online.

GENEALOGICAL HOW-TOs

Family Tree (USA) (Feb. 2012) This issue is entirely devoted to the “how-tos” of genealogy.

Generations (New Brunswick) (winter 2011) Includes a comprehensive article about scanning and safe electronic data storage.

Qualicum Beach FHS (March 2012) Fifty questions for genealogy interviews.

SGS Bulletin (autumn/11-winter/12) Digital resources for using newspapers for family history research.



Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee

Kelly Southworth #4534

2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Her 2X great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, was the last British monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee, 115 years ago. Back in 1897, the occasion was commemorated with numerous royal souvenirs.

In County Durham, inexpensive pottery mugs were given to each child born on the day of the Diamond Jubilee, June 22, 1897. The mug pictured here was presented to Albert William Jackson.



PHOTO: 1857 Diamond Jubilee Mug

Albert, named for Queen Victoria's beloved husband, the Prince Consort, was the grandfather of MGS member Kelly Southworth.



PHOTO: Eleanor Bell Jackson

Sadly, Albert's mother, Eleanor Bell Jackson, died 10 days after giving birth to Albert. Albert was raised by friends, Simon and Catherine Dawson, and did not know his father, older siblings and younger half-siblings until he was an adult.

Baby Albert went to the Dawsons with two possessions—the mug pictured above, and a photo of the mother he would never know.

Both the mug and the photo now belong to Albert's grand-daughter, Kelly.

Generations can be e-mailed! Have you signed up yet? Sign up at: mbgenealogy.com/index.php?page=generations

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<http://guindonyandeaufamilyreunion.blogspot.com/>

We are pleased with the response on our Guindon family reunion survey.

You can fill out the Guindon Reunion Registration Form on our Guindon ReunionRegistration link:

If you have any questions please e-mail guindonyandeau.family.reunion@gmail.com

See page 2 for more information on blogging.

To access the Reunion newsletter, click anywhere on the above notice on your e-copy of *Generations* or enter the following URL guindonyandeaufamilyreunion.blogspot.ca/ in your browser to access more details.

For a copy of the Guindon Newsletter, please contact:

Newsletter Distributor
Gail Fox
E-mail: Gfoxyone@aol.com
13312 – 71st Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5C 0M8



Notice of Annual General Meeting

All members of the Manitoba Genealogical Society are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on 20 October 2012 at the MGS Resource Centre, Unit E – 1045 St. James Street in Winnipeg at 1:00pm. Members proposing items for the agenda are asked to contact President Kathy Stokes (contact@mbgenealogy.com) at least 30 days prior to October 20.

Nominations for annual elections of officers will be made by the Nominations Committee. Any member of the Society may recommend any other member of the society to the committee as a candidate. The committee will ensure that each candidate nominated is willing to serve if elected and will prepare a brief biographical sketch on each candidate. The committee shall certify the names of all candidates as members in good standing of the Society prior to the Annual General Meeting. Contact Nominations Chair Daryl Dumanski (ddportfolios@shaw.ca) at least 30 days prior to October 20.

The Annual General Meeting Agenda will be distributed to Society membership by e-mail broadcast 30 days prior to October 20. Copies will also be available at the MGS Resource Centre. Unless otherwise directed by members present, votes on motions at an annual general meeting shall be by show of hands. Elections of officers shall be by secret ballot unless a candidate has been acclaimed. At any meeting of the Society, those members in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

Society members are invited to attend a luncheon at Fortune Cooking, 1045 St. James Street prior to the Annual General Meeting at 11:30am on October 20. RSVP by October 1 by calling MGS at 204-783-9139 or by signing up at the Resource Centre after September 1.

Amendments to Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. Constitution

TAKE NOTICE that at the Society's next Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday, October 20, 2012, at the MGS Resource Centre the following Amendment to the Constitution to create a Student Membership Class will be presented and voted on:

Article 4.7

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MEMBERSHIP shall be issued to any person currently attending a Manitoba High School, College or University aged up to and including twenty-three years, who is in possession of valid student identification, and who is willing to further the objectives of the Society following payment of the fee prescribed for this class of membership.

Individual student members are entitled:

- 4.7.1 To receive without charge an electronic copy of each issue of the Society journal published during the membership year and such other publications of the Society as the council may determine.
- 4.7.2 To conduct on-site research at Society's Resource Centre, subject to the conditions placed upon such use by the Society Librarian.
- 4.7.3 To receive other benefits as may from time to time be approved by Council.

It is further hereby moved that the suggested fee for this class of membership, to be approved by Council, be \$10.00 per year.

Branch News

Southeast & Winnipeg Branch AGM *Virginia Braid, Past President*

On May 14th 2012, the Southeast & Winnipeg Branch held its Annual General Meeting at the Resource Centre. A review was given of the Branch's past year's activities. A sneak preview of next year's programming was also provided.

The Financial Review and proposed budget were presented by the treasurer. The Phoning Chair gave her year-end report.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Virginia Braid and Gord McBean for their efforts over the past year.



PHOTO: Virginia Braid and Gord McBean

The guest speaker was Oriole Veldhuis. She gave a very interesting talk on the things she had to do in order to write her book about her Vane/Criddle ancestors.

The following Slate of Officers for the Executive was voted in by acclamation:

President – Vacant
1st. Vice President – Gord McBean
2nd. Vice President – Jim Oke
Secretary – Vacant
Treasurer – Susan Wellman
Councillor – Katharine Schulz
Councillor – Sheila Woods
Councillor – Vacant
Past President – Virginia Braid

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Romeo and Juliet in Calgary

Bev Smith #3265

Are either of these people in your “brick wall”?

Helping with the indexing of the early *Calgary Herald* newspapers, I came across a curious story: two small death notices on page 3 that were insignificant until you compared them:

“SWINDALLS- Suddenly in Calgary, April 29th, May Swindells, aged 34 years. The remains were removed to the undertaking parlors of B.H.Armstrong, 1206-10 First street east where the funeral services will be conducted on Monday, afternoon at 2:30 o’clock after which interment will take place in Union cemetery.” Calgary Herald, 1 May 1915

“TOWSE- Suddenly in Calgary, April 29th, Chas. Towse, aged 29 years. The remains were removed to the

undertaking parlors of B.H.Armstrong, 1206-10 First street east where the funeral services will be conducted on Monday, afternoon at 2:30 o’clock after which interment will take place in Union cemetery.” Calgary Herald, 1 May 1915

These were the only deaths that day. Did they die together in a death pact as our famous Shakespeare characters? Were they out for a drive in a “new-fangled” automobile and crashed? Why were they buried together with such dissimilar names?

But it was in a couple of days when their joint funeral was described that my curiosity was really piqued. Seems they were struck by lightning. Mourners listed were: May Swindells’ cousin G.A.Turner, her employer, Mr. A.M. Peters, manager of the Bank of Montreal, Mr. Webster from the Robin Hood Flour Mills where Charles Tawse worked and the service had moved to Pro-Cathedral.

Now I needed to know more. So going back a day to April 30th, the complete details are found:

http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/np_page2.asp?code=n4fp0615.jpg (page 1)
http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/np_page2.asp?code=n4fp0630.jpg

They were engaged to be married. She was from Macclefield, England and had been in Canada about 3 years; he had come from Scotland about 8 years earlier and they must have met in Calgary. She had been a servant for Mr. Peters. They were walking home from visiting friends when lightning hit him and passing through his arm to her, killed her also. Her family in Macclefield had been contacted. They were looking for his brother believed to be in Winnipeg.

Being so curious, I began to search the regular routes (Ancestry, Findmypast and Automatedgenealogy) and may have found their families in 1901 & 1911 Great Britain census returns. I was not so lucky finding the

brother, although there were Tawse/Towse families in Manitoba (Winnipeg, & Whitewater). They had missed the 1916 census by a year.

So, I decided to write this up for the interest of others and on the off chance it may help someone with their “brick wall” about a connected relative.



Canadian Immigration from Europe

Bill Curtis # 2882

(The following article is part of a Winnipeg & South East Branch presentation by Bill)

Have you ever travelled from Manitoba to the neighbouring provinces of Saskatchewan or Ontario? Did you have to register at the border to let them know you were entering or leaving? No. That is because you were travelling within the borders of the same country.

Travelling from England to Canada was at one time viewed much the same way. People were simply travelling within the British Empire. There was no government need to record travel from one location to another. To this day, Canada does not have an embassy in London as other foreign counties do. We have what is called “The Canadian High Commission”, which acknowledges our continuing special relationship with Britain. (It functions the same way as an embassy).

Many of the records kept by private shipping companies simply disappeared, as there was no requirement to preserve them. Those that have been collected and deposited in the National Archives in Ottawa are thus very much hit and miss for the early years.

The United States though, was an entirely different situation. After the American Revolution, everyone who entered American waters was a foreigner, unless he or she was an American returning home. They wanted to know who was entering their country, where

they came from, and what their intentions in the United States were. Thus, the American immigration records are very good. Because there are so many records though, it is sometimes difficult to pick our own ancestors out of the crowd. In the early years, records were not kept of people crossing back and forth over the American and Canadian borders. It was as if that particular border did not exist.

Eventually though, the two countries decided they needed to keep border crossing records of individuals entering and leaving each country, so there are records from both sides of the border. Some records are simple and give very little information, while others are quite detailed and give much immigration and family relationship information. There may be multiple pages. Always check before and after the initial one you found. This also applies to other types of searches as well.

Similar detailed information may be found on passport applications, when an individual had to prove their entitlement to a passport. Once granted, the “actual” passport itself contained only very basic information.

If you look at a map showing the relationship between Europe and North America, it becomes readily apparent that one of the easy ways to reach Canadian destinations was to travel to the United States first, and then to Canada.

If you look at a map of Europe, it almost appears as if Britain is blocking the exit from Europe to North America. Indeed, that is in fact how it very often worked. Many people from all over Europe, went to Britain first.

Shipping lists from mainland Europe such as Hamburg and Bremen in Germany refer to direct and indirect lists. Direct meant they sailed directly from, say Hamburg to New York. Emigrants taking an indirect route would take the ship from Hamburg to another port and then transfer to a different ship for the rest of the journey. The most common indirect route from Hamburg was to Hull, England. The indirect routes took longer of course, but were

cheaper. You can find more information on the Hamburg lists at:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/articles/hambpl.htm>

The traffic from mainland Europe was so heavy, that a special express train line was built from Harwich on the east, to Liverpool on the west, from whence the large ocean going vessels departed for North America and other distant points. Liverpool was the most commonly used emigration port. (*Emigrate means to leave & immigrate means to enter*). The indirect route from Copenhagen before 1870 was often to Kiel or Hamburg, Germany, but later almost always England. Most other ports of Scandinavia (Sweden, Finland, and Norway) used the indirect routes to America almost exclusively to begin with.

Large numbers of people from Iceland first sailed south east to Britain, and then west to North America from ports such as Glasgow.

The advantage of course is that British records are in English, not Icelandic, German or any other foreign language.

At [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/passengerListPersonSearchStart.action?redef=0) you will find lists of passengers from many nations leaving British ports from 1890 – 1960. It is a pay site, but use of the indexes is free, and with a little thought can be very informative. The search page is <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/passengerListPersonSearchStart.action?redef=0>

Ellis Island records (free) at www.ellisisland.org list passenger arrivals at the port of New York from 1892 – 1954. Castle Garden records (free) at www.castlegarden.org cover 1855 – 1890. (Ancestry.com covers many records and years that these two do not, plus many other ports).

Stephen Morse created his own free indexes (which are sometimes easier to use) for many different sites, including both those that are free, and also fee based types. You simply use the index, from his site at <http://stevemorse.org/> to locate what you are looking for. You are then taken to the record it found. If it happens to be a pay site and you are a subscriber (i.e.

ancestry.com); you just simply log in and read what was found.

Opera buffs will be familiar with the name Giuseppe Verdi, the composer of Rigoletto etc. The name, once translated into English though, doesn't have quite the same "ring" to it. It is simply Joe Green. Many Europeans simply anglicised their former names. To find the original family name, simply go to Google and try a reverse translation of the English name, to the language of the homeland. Joseph Green translated into Italian becomes Giuseppe Verdi.

People who watched the PBS search for Barbara Walters' roots discovered that her Polish father had been born in England with the last name of Warmwater. (He changed it to Walters in the States). The polish name Waremwasser literally means "warm water". Her Waremwasser family was then found in the Polish records.

Vital stats etc. can be found in:

Banns records (for marriages)

(recorded in two churches if one of the parties to the marriage is not from the local parish)

Marriage licence records

Marriage recorded in church record book

Marriage certificate given to couple

Family Bible

In England Boyd's marriage index and Pallot's marriage index

In England "Private" marriage indexes as C.

Bollen Blore in Northamptonshire

(Learned of its existence from the County Record Office, and local Family History Society)

In England Church register book BMDs

In England Bishop's transcripts BMDs

In England County register office BMDs

In England National register office BMDs

Books with memoirs found through Google etc.
Dates of birth, marriage, immigration etc. may be found on different censuses

Passport applications

Border crossing records

Passenger lists

Immigration & naturalization lists &
applications
Rural municipality's centennial histories
Draft & military enlistment records
Newspaper obituaries
Wills etc.

Example Where:
Bann's were read in two churches

groom's name: William Dunn

bride's name: Ann Reid
marriage date: 01 Jan 1841
marriage place: Middle Or New Parish,
Greenock, Renfrew
Scotland
indexing project (batch) number: M11564-8
system origin: Scotland-ODM
source film number: 1041060

groom's name: William Dunn
bride's name: Ann Reid
marriage date: 01 Jan 1841
marriage place: Cathcart, Renfrew,
Scotland
indexing project (batch) number: M11560-5
system origin: Scotland-ODM
source film number: 1041092

photos are unknown. The majority of the photos are by David Goodchild, a local photographer, although perhaps not a professional one.

If you have any idea as to whom these folks might be (name, location, event, etc.) please submit your thoughts or suggestions to generations@mbgenealogy.com and be sure to include the photo identifier. Also include your contact information, so we can follow up.

If we are able to identify the people in the photos, or family members, then we will forward the photos to them.

Many thanks to member Judith Roe for collecting these photos and suggesting this feature. Enjoy!



Photo ID: V3712-01 A Happy Couple



Photo ID: V3712- A beautiful and happy family.

Who Am I?

Here is our second installment of unknown people in old photographs.

MGS has recently come into possession of a large number of photographs from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. These photos are of people, places, events and gatherings in and around Manitoba and were sent to MGS by Colleen Percival, who asked that we try to find the owners. The problem is that the people in the

Generations Editorial Team

Many thanks to the great work done by the Editorial Team.

As you can see we have some vacancies to fill, if you are interested, send me a note at generations@mbgenealogy.com

Editor – *David Farmer*

Advertising Sales – *David Farmer*

Book Reviews – *Enid Dorward*

Book Reviews – *Bev Smith*

Editorial Consultant – *Joyce Elias*

From the Past – *Kathy Stokes*

Library/Library Lines – *Mary Bole*

Members' Interests – **vacant**

Periodical Potpourri – *Enid Dorward*

Photographer – **vacant**

Proof Reader – *Joyce Elias*

Volunteer Bios – **vacant**

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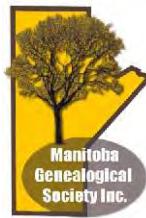
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Changes will be allowed to advertising purchased at the yearly rate at a cost of \$15.00/change. Changes must be received by the copy deadline.

Copy Deadlines

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

Guidelines

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

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