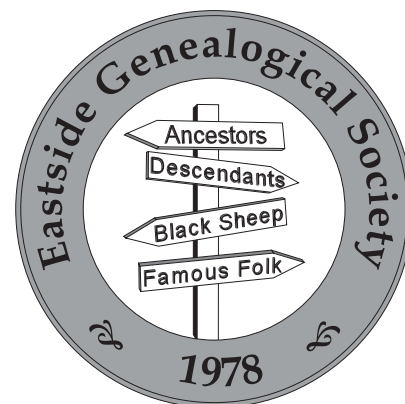


EASTSIDE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN BOARD



NOVEMBER 2009
VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 6

**The Eastside Genealogical
 Society**

P.O. Box 374
 Bellevue WA 98009-0374
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wakcegs/

EGS MEETING INFORMATION

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2009
Time: Welcome New Members 1:30 PM
 Meeting Begins 2:00 PM
Location: Bellevue Regional Library
Topic: *Annual Show & Share & Cookie Social*
Speaker: EGS Members

About The Program:

The November meeting will be the **21st (Saturday)** beginning at **2:00 PM** at the Bellevue Regional Library. Bring us your family “stuff” to admire—it’s our annual Show and Share and Cookie Social.



COOKIES

Saturday, November 21, 2009, at 2:00 PM in the afternoon we will have our annual Cookie Fest, featuring goodies contributed by members, plus the usual cider, tea, coffee, etc. and good camaraderie! Members are urged to attend, with their goodies, by 1:30 PM, to join in with the 'Show and Tell' portion of this big event.

Any help will be appreciated, as usual. If there are leftovers, we'll auction them off.....SEE YOU THERE!!!!

NEXT MONTH'S EGS MEETING:

No Meeting in December

Next Meeting:
 Thursday, January 14, 2010
 Bellevue Regional Library

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many people first become interested in genealogy after inheriting a family heirloom—a sword from the War of 1812, an old family bible filled with names and dates of important milestones, an old quilt and, of course, the ever popular “mystery photos.”

In my case it was a Gillham family tree, prepared by a distant cousin for use in her DAR application. This was passed down by my paternal grandmother whose maiden name was Gillham. She also left a number of typed notes with titles such as, “A few notes about my Grandfather Brown” and “Notes about my grandmother, Mary Ann BROWN Cantrill.”

From these I learned that Zebulon Brown’s surname was actually LeBrun (he was French Canadian) and Mary Ann’s father’s name was Empson Bird Cantrill and a number of other details that have enabled me to push my research back another generation or two. (Not in the case of Empson B. however. I still have not been able to discover where in Kentucky he was born and who his parents are. I suspect space aliens.)

All this is, of course, leading up to our meeting in November which will once again feature members’ Show and Share. *Gather (continued next page)*

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up some of your favorite family goodies and bring them along to show off. We're all dying to see them and possibly discover how you became interested in this fascinating hobby!

Judy Meredith Program Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Please welcome the following new member:

Martha HUEY FRANKLIN researching HENN/HAIN in AL and Germany; HUEY in GA, SC, AL, Ireland, and Scotland; ERWIN/IRVINE in PA, NC, TN, AL, GA, and Scotland; FULLER in GA; KING in AL; and MACLIN in AL.

GENEALOGY SOFTWARE COMPARISON PROGRAM

Thinking of changing to another genealogy software program? Wondering which one does what? Come to two sessions of Genealogy Software Program Comparisons, presented by the Bellevue Regional Library and the Computer Interest Group of EGS on Saturdays, November 7 and December 5 from 1:00 -3:30 PM, in Room 1 of the Bellevue Regional Library. On November 5 John Wise will demonstrate Family Tree Maker 2010, and Ann Lamb will present Legacy 7; on December 5 Joe Flint will show Roots Magic 4, and Barbara Raemer will demonstrate The Master Genealogist (TMG) 7. Handouts for all four programs will be available at both sessions. All are welcome.



SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP MEETING

Everyone is invited to the Computer Interest Group meeting on Saturday, November 28, at 9:30 AM in the Community Room at Crossroads Bellevue for our annual "Show and Tell" about new products. Bring your new hardware, put your software to share on a USB, and/or send your URL's ahead of the meeting to John Wise (jandlwise@worldnet.att.net). He will show both software and websites on the screen in the meeting room from his computer so that you can tell us about them. Questions, please contact John Wise or Margery Perdue m.perdue@comcast.net.

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT

This year the Redmond Historical Society received a grant from the King County Heritage 4Culture program to buy new software to manage its growing collection of artifacts and documents. RHS is using the software, PastPerfect, to catalog its many holdings, and will soon be able to quickly locate any picture or record. Thanks to 4Culture, the Redmond Historical Society can now serve its users faster and better.

HISTORY OF MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

A book, *History of Muskegon County, Michigan "A Proud Legacy" Volume 1* is available at www.genealogymuskegon.com. The book contains the history of Muskegon County's lumbering era and Great Lakes shipping. Personal, military, church, and business histories are included, with family and historical photographs. The book is 9 by 12 hardbound, 336 pages, 516 photographs, and is completely indexed.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Could you donate a few hours a week (or a month) to the Eastside Genealogy Society to help keep our operation running smoothly? EGS is only as strong as our volunteers. None of these jobs are full-time, serious commitment-type jobs.

- **Research Assistants**— We need an additional volunteer to help researchers at our afternoon or evening help sessions at the library. And Winnie could use an assistant Library Chair.
- **Education Chair**—To coordinate classes and educational opportunities.

If you can help, please contact Bob Barnes at 425-747-4863 or rsthithbarnes@hotmail.com.

EGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 3, 2009 BELLEVUE REGIONAL LIBRARY, ROOM 6

Present:

Bob Barnes, President; Judy Meredith, Vice-President; Walta McCarley, Secretary; Ed Schultz, Treasure; Sharron Filer, Trustee, Norb Ziegler, Past President; Dorothy Mehrer, Membership; Dorothy Pretare, Publicity; Patti Wehrs, Sunshine; Winnie Sihon, Library, and guest Lisa Frazer, Bellevue Regional Library.

Discussion:

Lisa Frazer spoke of recently proposed changes to the genealogy section of the BRL, which will be submitted again for the next budget. She shared ideas of how to rearrange materials into the area around the genealogy room (room 6, 2nd floor) and how the room would be reconfigured. If you have ideas or suggestions, let Winnie Sihon know of them. A new service at the library “Book a Librarian.” Appointments can be made for Tuesday or Thursday afternoon for ½ hour for personal assistance to help you with any information needs, such as online research, email, using computer programs, downloading books to an MP3 player, etc. Norb suggested EGS might be able to help with some funding.

Reports:

- ◆ Job Descriptions: Sharron Filer gave a review of the job descriptions in the new board member handbooks. Several changes were discussed and approved. Also discussed were changes to the Library Chair and Book Acquisition committee chair. These will be further discussed next month.
- ◆ Membership: Dorothy Mehrer reported 262 memberships of 269 individuals. Two are new, nine did not renew. Dorothy Pretare suggested members could sponsor memberships, bring a friend to a meeting, have a speaker talk about diversity, demographics of our area.
- ◆ New Member Packet: Not yet ready.
- ◆ New Membership Flyers: 100 newly revised flyers have been run off and are now available.
- ◆ Outreach: Bothell Riverfest – good weather, good crowd. New membership flyers and 15 September newsletters were given out. Family History Expo November 14 at the Redmond Stake. Sarah Fleming presentation on newspaper research at BRL on September 12, Computer User’s SIG presentation comparing different genealogy software programs November 7 and December 5 at the BRL. A first quarter 2010 class on city directories is planned.
- ◆ Programs: Judy Meredith reported future programs. Ed Schultz will speak on September 10. October’s program will be a panel talking about specific cemetery experiences. November, our annual Saturday daytime ‘show & share’ and cookie social. Members are encouraged to bring a friend.
- ◆ Publicity: Dorothy Pretare needs a helper for October when she is out of town. She suggested new signs for the Research section and for meetings at the BRL. Patti Wehrs will help out.

(A complete copy of the minutes can be made available upon request.)

FREE GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH HELP

Genealogical research help is available at the Bellevue Regional Library, located at NE 12th St. and 110th Ave. NE in Bellevue. Eastside Genealogical Society volunteers are waiting to help you with problems and questions. They are available in room 6 on the second floor of the library, to the left of the reference desk. Hours are Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00 PM and Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 PM.

UPCOMING SEMINARS, CONFERENCES AND PROGRAMS

1. **Which genealogy software program is best for you?** What are the features on the new versions of Family Tree Maker 2010, Legacy 7, Roots Magic 4, and The Master Genealogist 7? Have these questions answered when the Computer Interest Group and the Bellevue Regional Library present programs on **Saturdays November 7 and December 5**, from **1:00 -3:30 PM** in **Room 1** of the **Bellevue Regional Library**. Legacy 7 and Family Tree Maker 2010 will be demonstrated in November, and Roots Magic 4 and The Master Genealogist 7 will be the program in December, so mark your calendars now!
2. It's time to mark your calendars for **Family History Expo 2009!** The date is **Saturday, November 14, 2009**, at the **Redmond Stake Center Building of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10115 172nd Ave. NE, Redmond, WA 98052**. A fabulous day of free genealogy classes on a variety of subjects will be taught by experienced local genealogists. Registration and check-in will be from 8:00-9:00 AM, Welcome and a keynote address will be from 9:00-10:00 AM, and classes will start at 10:00 AM and run all day until 4:30 PM. Bring your own lunch, or order a sack lunch at our online registration site. Get the latest details by contacting the Bellevue Family History Center at 425-454-2690 or see the website at <http://www.wafamilyhistory.net/>.
3. **Nearby History Workshop, Saturday, November 14, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM.** Everyone has a history interest – what's yours? Join the Museum of History & Industry for a day-long Nearby History workshop that introduces the skills and resources needed to manage your own historical research project. Taught by MOHAI historian Lorraine McConaghy, this award-winning program will introduce three case studies in personal history that provide a framework for conducting a successful history project from start to finish, tailored to your own particular interest. Learn how to research your home, neighborhood, family or personal collection and more. Registration through www.brownpapertickets.com (800-838-3006). \$45 MOHAI members, \$55 for non members, \$5 day-of fee. Advanced registration is strongly recommended. Questions? Contact lorraine.mcconaghy@seattlehistory.org or phone 206/324/1685 x23.
4. History is happening in the Redmond area and we welcome you to our meeting. **The Redmond Historical Society** will meet on **Saturday, November 14, 2009, 10:30 AM to Noon**, at **The Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center Auditorium, 16600 NE 80 Street, Redmond, WA**. Heidi Bohan, local author and artist, will give an interactive presentation of her book, *The People of Cascadia: Pacific Northwest Native American History*. Displays will include artifacts and original line-art drawings used in the book. Don't miss this meeting. To receive the monthly newsletter, contact the Society office at 425-885-2919, or email your request to info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org. Books, note cards, free historic walking tour brochures, and the book, *Redmond Reflections*, are available in our office, which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM and by appointment. Visit our website: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

MORE ON THE U.S. VERSION OF "WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?"

The Hollywood Reporter has an article about Lisa Kudrow, the Executive Producer of the American version of the television program "Who Do You Think You Are?" The article reports that "Who Do You Think You Are?" is set to air on NBC. The show's producers have made seven episodes for the series that will air in primetime starting in January.

Kudrow will be in front of the camera as one of the celebrities heading back to her past, and actresses Susan Sarandon and Sarah Jessica Parker are among the famous faces set for genealogical makeovers. The producers are hoping that the show will have international appeal thanks to the universal stories and the fact that the show's subjects are all globally recognized names and faces. The report also says that NBC.com is working on a partnership with Ancestry.com to create a cross-platform interactive Web site to coincide with the launch of the series. You can read more at http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/hr/content_display/television/news/e3i29ea94e0c3808472c1e7bc2ccce2532d.

Genealogy in The Hollywood Reporter? Who would have predicted that? (*The previous article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*)

2010 SALT LAKE INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY

For sixteen years, genealogy researchers have basked in an exciting week of in-depth learning. The majority also took the opportunity for personal research at the renowned Family History Library.

In 2010, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy will take place January 11-15, taught by expert genealogists, such as Paula Stuart-Warren, Thomas W. Jones, Kory Meyerink, John Philip Colletta, Mary E.V. Hill, Barbara Renick, Patricia Law Hatcher, Craig Scott, Elissa Scalise Powell, Karen Clifford, John M. Kitzmiller, Debby Horton, and Kahlile Mehr.

Courses include: Computers and Technology, Accreditation and Certification Preparation, Personal Project Problem Solving, the records of: Scotland, Central and Eastern Europe, Mid-Atlantic States (New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland), American Records and Research, Immigrant Origins, Producing a Quality Family Narrative, American Land and Court Records, and U.S. Military Records.

Choose one of the above courses for an extensive learning experience. Classes finish in the afternoon each day allowing research time at the FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY, located just two blocks away. In addition, there are 15 optional evening classes on dynamic topics ranging from maximizing Internet searching to solving research problems to organizing what you find. So much to choose from! These classes are open to all for a minimal price. No matter which course you attend, you will have improved skills by January 15th. Why wait? The early bird special ends November 15, 2009. For more information and to enroll online, visit www.infouga.org.

OLD AGE

Old age is golden, or so I've heard said
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
My ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.
When sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I should of laid on the shelf?"

I am happy to say as I close my front door,
My friends are the same, but perhaps even more.
When I was young my slippers were red;
I could kick up my heels, right over my head.
When I grew older my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through.

Now I am old, my slippers are black,
I walk to the store, and I puff my way back.
The reason I know that my youth is all spent,
My get up and go has got up and went.
But I really don't mind as I think with a grin
Of all the good places my get up has been.

Since I'm retired from life's competition,
I busy myself with complete repetition.
I get up each morning, dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the "obits."
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

Author unknown (*Submitted by Bill Dillon, who found this poem in his Mother's things*)

Remember

November's EGS meeting
will be held on Saturday,
November 21, at 2:00 PM

This is both a change of day
and time.

Hope to see you there for
the Annual Cookie Show
and Share Social.

SEVEN KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING NATURALIZATION RECORDS BY JULIANA SMITH

Ancestry.com recently posted additional original U.S. naturalization records from the states of Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington to its collection of Selected U.S. Naturalization Records - Original Documents, 1790-1974. Because of the scattered nature of naturalization records, bringing so many of these records together online is a huge win for family historians. Here are seven keys to better understanding these records that will help you as you search for the naturalization records of your ancestors.

Prior to 1906, naturalizations could take place in any court of record. They can be found on a local, state, or federal level. You may even find them in criminal or marine courts. After 1906, while most naturalizations were processed in federal courts, some local courts continued well beyond that date.

Prior to 1906, a wide variety of forms were used in naturalizations, so you'll often find varying amounts of information from court to court, and from year to year. On 27 September 1906 the Basic Naturalization Act turned the naturalization process over to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, (now the U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services, or USCIS). From then on processes and forms were more uniform.

There were three steps to the naturalization process:

1. Declarations of Intention (or First Papers). Normally the first papers were completed soon after arrival in the U.S., depending on the laws in effect at the time. Certain groups, such as women and children, were exempt in early years. After 1862, those who were honorably discharged from U.S. military service were excused from this first step.
2. Petition (Second or Final Papers). Naturalization petitions were formal applications submitted to the court by individuals who had met the residency requirements and who had declared their intention to become citizens. (See a portion of Bela Lugosi's post-1906 petition for citizenship below.)
3. Certificates of Naturalization. Most certificates of naturalization contain the name of the individual, the name of the court, and the date of issue.

The 1900-1930 U.S. federal censuses asked for the naturalization status of immigrants. Additionally, the 1920 census also asked for the year of naturalization. The abbreviations you'll find include:

- Na. – naturalized
- Pa. – first papers filed
- Al. – alien

The 1870 U.S. federal census had a column to be checked for "Male citizens of the U.S. aged 21 years and upwards." Non-native-born males who checked this column would have been naturalized prior to 1870.

Many times the immigrant may have filed in one court, possibly near his port of entry, and completed the process in an entirely different location, so the declaration of intention may be in one place and the petition in another. Not all immigrants completed the process.

Many old naturalization records are not going to give us precise answers, and if they do, the information may be less than reliable. Sometimes, incorrect answers were given quite innocently and only because the immigrant had honestly forgotten, particularly in later papers. Others may have provided the wrong dates of arrival in hopes that officials would not know the difference and that the wait to be eligible for naturalization would not be so long.

"Derivative" citizenship was granted to wives and minor children of naturalized men. From 1790 to 1922, wives of naturalized men automatically became citizens. This also meant that an alien woman who married a U.S. citizen automatically became a citizen. (Conversely, an American woman who married an alien lost her U.S. citizenship, even if she never left the United States.) From 1790 to 1940, children under the age of twenty-one automatically became naturalized citizens upon the naturalization of their father. Unfortunately, however, names and biographical information about wives and children are rarely included in declarations or petitions filed before September 1906. (*From The Weekly Discovery, Copyright 2009, Ancestry.com*)

THE GREAT MIRAMICHI FIRE BY DICK EASTMAN

File this article under "history." It also may explain why your ancestors left New Brunswick in the late 1820s.

We often forget just how difficult life was for our ancestors. Oh, we may talk about their "trials and tribulations," but what does that mean? Just how tough was it? For thousands of residents of New Brunswick, Canada, the summer of 1825 and the succeeding years were indeed terrible. I had ancestors in Miramichi, New Brunswick, at that time, and apparently so did tens or even hundreds of thousands of today's citizens.

Miramichi is the name of a city, a river, and an area, all in northern New Brunswick. In 1825 the town was called Newcastle, but the name was changed to Miramichi some years later. (Miramichi is pronounced Mir-ra-mah-SHE' with emphasis on the last syllable.) What is now the city of Miramichi is the terminus of the Miramichi River at the point where it empties into Miramichi Bay in the St. Lawrence River. The surrounding area is known as the Miramichi Region.

The thin, acid soils of the Miramichi are not conducive to agriculture; thus, the lumber industry and Atlantic salmon fishery were the region's mainstays in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Overseas lumber exports became the predominant industry, and the Miramichi Region was well known for supplying straight, tall masts for the British navy. All that changed on October 7, 1825.

The summer of 1825 had been dry and warm, and the crops did well. No rain fell from July until October 8. On September 19 a fire had broken out in Government House, Fredericton, and burned the whole place to the ground. Fortunately, it took place in daylight and caused no loss of life. Other fires broke out in the forests and sometimes burned many acres, but they seemed to avoid the populated regions.

While the land in the Miramichi Region was not suitable for large scale farming, almost every family had a garden, and their crops were generally good that year although the lack of rain meant smaller vegetables than normal. Much of the farming centered on cattle: both dairy farms and beef cattle. Many of the crops and almost all the cattle feed were stored in dry, wooden barns.

As autumn advanced, the leaves turned brilliant colors and then dried. The woods were tinder dry, and the dried leaves on the forest floor were waiting for a spark. The spruce budworm, a periodic pest that, like locusts, visits every few years, descended on the region in 1825. The worms attack the spruce trees, which then die, become dry, and thereby provide perfect tinder for a fire.

Nobody knows the cause of the fire that started on October 7, but everyone soon knew of it. The forest was quickly ablaze, and the flames moved forward with the wind at an estimated one mile per minute. That's sixty miles per hour. The telegraph, telephone, and two-way radio had not yet been invented, so there was no way of warning residents of the impending danger.

The flames engulfed the northwest Miramichi area, first killing twenty-two people. A gentleman named William Wright worked in the woods and was the first to warn of the fire. He ran into Newcastle and warned the people by beating a drum. Unfortunately, no one listened; they all thought it was a rain storm. Because the flames were not seen by the townspeople, no one worried. By ten o'clock in the morning, the flames had burned the whole north side of the Miramichi River. Newcastle, a town of one thousand people, was burned to the ground in less than three hours. Out of two hundred and sixty buildings, only twelve were left standing.

At one point, the wall of advancing flame was believed to be fifteen miles wide and advancing at one mile per minute. Wooden ships anchored in Miramichi Bay caught fire as the crews desperately tried to weigh anchor and escape the flames. They were unable to hoist sails because of the flames and high winds, so the burning ships drifted with the wind, spreading the flames to the other side of the river. Soon the houses, crops, and forests on the opposite side of the river were burning as fiercely as on the original shore.

The tales of human suffering are immense. Those who were lucky enough to be near a river walked into the water, often trying to coax their farm animals with them. Most of the domesticated animals were confounded by the smoke, the flames, and the confusion, and refused to enter the water. Most farm animals perished.

On the other hand, the wild animals had no such fear of water. The humans in the river found themselves surrounded by wildlife, including raccoons, deer, bears, and even large moose. All the creatures seemed to cooperate with one another, fearing the common enemy: the flames. Even the bears left the other creatures alone.

Due to the extreme heat, the humans stood in water up to their necks and frequently put their faces into the water to keep cool. Temperatures above the water were estimated to be 140 degrees or higher while the water itself in October was probably quite chilly. At least ten people drowned. The flames passed, and most of those who sought refuge in the icy rivers did survive.

Those who were not near a river typically were not so fortunate. Every town lost fifty or even one hundred citizens that afternoon. Larger towns lost more. The prisoners in the Newcastle Jail all perished as no one nearby had a key (*continued next page*)

to let them out. The jail was made of stone and did not burn. However, it became a stone oven, and nobody survived.

A man from Bushville who thought St. Paul's Church would burn rushed to the church to see what he could save. In fact, the church did not burn. When he returned home, he found that his house had been destroyed and all his family members had perished in the flames.

New Brunswick was in the midst of a typhoid fever epidemic at the time, and many people were at home, sick in bed. Many perished by not leaving their beds. There were many similar stories that day.

During the flames, the winds reached hurricane force (70 miles per hour or more). It was October, and the air had been cold but now became super-heated. Once the wet people crawled out of the rivers, the temperatures dropped below freezing that night, and people in wet clothes with no place to go suffered from exposure. Many stood by still-burning buildings and trees for the warmth.

Lieutenant Governor Sir Howard Douglas drove through the blackened and devastated area in the following days. He wrote, "Any poor soul who was caught in the forest and could not reach the Miramichi River in time, was doomed to death."

The fire was felt far out at sea in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The master of a sloop that traded along Northumberland Strait, between the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island coasts, reported that, while he was running before the gale, the heavy fall of ashes and cinders caused the sea to hiss and boil around his deck, while the smoke on his deck was so heavy and thick as to affect both his sight and hearing. He had great difficulty in saving his ship.

About one fifth of the province of New Brunswick was damaged. An exact count was impossible, but estimates place the loss of human life at more than 300 with approximately 600 buildings destroyed and 875 cattle lost.

On the night of October eighth, it rained hard, and this helped to douse the fire. Most of the trees had burned by that time, so there was no where for the fire to go. In the following days, the surviving residents often trudged through deep ashes as they went about their lives. The ashes landed in many far off areas of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and even as far away as Bermuda! The ashes also fell into the water, killing many of the fish. The crops had been destroyed, and even wildlife had been decimated, making hunting and fishing for food very difficult for several years. In a single day New Brunswick lost "nearly four million acres of the best lumbering region of the province" along with most of its food supplies.

At Douglastown, only one house escaped the flames and remained standing. Strangely, that house contained the body of a person who had died the day before the fire and had not yet been buried.

As bad as the flames were, perhaps the cruelest fate still awaited the survivors. Many covered the cellars of their burned homes and crowded into them for shelter. All the crops and all the seeds for the next year's crops had been "safely" stored in wooden barns, but most of the buildings were destroyed, along with their contents. Many families lost their homes as well as their barns, their livestock, their food, and even the seeds for the following spring planting. It was late October, and winter would soon arrive. In 1825, there was no Red Cross, no Salvation Army, and no other relief organizations.

For a few days the local residents had food in the form of baked potatoes. The potatoes were still in the ground but had been baked by the heat of the fire. The locals were able to dig up the potatoes and eat them immediately. However, this supply ran out within a few days. In the following months, many people starved to death or died of complications caused by malnourishment.

The Mik-maq Indians in the area thought that the fire had been sent to kill the white man. Alexander Rankin had been a good friend to the Indians, and they surmised that this was why his home did not burn. After the fire, Alexander Rankin opened his home to those who were in need, Indians and whites alike. He was a good friend to one and all in the Miramichi Region. His house still stands today and now contains a museum of the Great Miramichi Fire.

Rankin led a group of fifteen men who set out to build houses and perform other acts as needed. Sir Howard Douglas arrived on the scene from Fredericton to offer his help. The town of Gretna Green, now Douglastown, was named in his honor. Sir Howard called on England, the United States, and other parts of Canada to come to the aid of the people. He later became the Lieutenant-Governor of Canada. Money, food, and clothes began to arrive by ship and by land although transportation required weeks. Winter and deep snow were upon the survivors before the first goods arrived.

Construction began with the people using what was left of the burned trees for wood, supplemented later by the newly arrived lumber from distant locations. One year later, the towns of Newcastle and Douglastown had been rebuilt.

Food was still in short supply. Although the following year saw mild weather, the fire had parched the land and burnt the plants that provided nutrients to the soil. Seeds were in short supply although some seeds were shipped in by the government. The surviving citizens did manage to grow some crops the following summer. (*continued on page 10*)

EGS OCTOBER 2009 MEETING CALENDAR

EGS Board Meeting (First Thursday, 10:00 AM)	The Eastside Genealogical Society Board will meet on Thursday, November 5, 10:00 AM—Noon at the Bellevue Regional Library, Room 6 .
EGS General Meeting (Second Thursday, 7:00 PM)	The Eastside Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, November 21 at 2:00 PM in the Bellevue Regional Library . Doors open at 1:30 PM and visitors are welcome. Please note change of day and time.
Canadian Interest Group (First Thursday, 1:00 PM)	The Canadian Interest Group will visit the Fiske Library in Seattle to research their Canadian holdings on Thursday, November 5 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM . We will meet at the Bellevue LDS Stake parking lot at 9:15 AM to car pool to the library. The Bellevue Stake is located on NE 20th Street between 104th (Bellevue Way) and 106th Avenue. The December 3 Thursday meeting will be at the Bellevue Regional Library, room 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM . The topic is a presentation on Toronto Genealogy Summer Camp by John Howell. (Contact <i>John Howell</i> , jhowell54@comcast.net or 206-817-7516)
Computer Interest Group (Fourth Saturday, 9:30 AM)	Calling for new hardware, software, and websites! Share your new "toys" with others at our meeting on Saturday, November 28, 9:30 AM in the Community Room at Bellevue Crossroads . Read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter. (<i>Margery Perdue</i> , m.perdue@comcast.net)
Czech/Slovak Interest Group (Check Bulletin for meeting information)	The next Czech Interest Group Meeting is Saturday, November 14, 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Fire Station #22 in Kirkland . See website for more information http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wacsig/ (<i>Rosie Bodien</i> , 425-828-0170 or rosie@bodien.org)
EGS Lunch Bunch (Fourth Thursday, 11:30 AM)	Meets every fourth Thursday, 11:30 AM , at Crossroads Mall Shopping Center Food Court .
German Interest Group (First Friday, 1:00 PM)	The German Interest Group will be meeting at the Fiske Library on Friday, November 6 at 10:00 AM . We will have a lecture about German history by Gary Zimmerman. Please RSVP to Ann annp42@comcast.net or 206-232-1104 if you plan to attend.
Irish and Scots-Irish Interest Group (First Wednesday, 10:00 AM)	Contact Ann Lamb 425-557-0440 or AnnL7777@aol.com for information about the next meeting.
Italian Interest Group (Third Saturday, 1:30 PM)	The IIG will participate in the Redmond LDS Genealogical Fair on Saturday, November 14 from 9:00 AM --5:00 PM in lieu of a meeting that month. No December meeting. (<i>Mary Sangalang</i> , 425-649-2250 or collectingroots@msn.com)
Legacy Interest Group (First Wednesday, 12:30 PM)	Please contact Sherry Holthe, sherdh@centurytel.net or 425-880-4407 for meeting information.
Scandinavian Interest Group (Second Tuesday, 10:00 AM)	The Scandinavian Interest Group will meet Tuesday, November 10, 10:00 AM - Noon in the Puget Sound Archive building at Bellevue Community College . Please see the website for more information eastsidesig.spaces.live.com (<i>Sandy Arildson</i> , 425-747-5621, or sarildson@yahoo.com)
Shore to Shore Interest Group (Changes monthly, call Shirley)	The Shore to Shore group will go to the Bellevue Family History Center on Tuesday, November 10 to learn what they have to offer to researchers. Please call Shirley Dowd, 425-454-0078, for directions and information .

LOCATION ADDRESSES

Bellevue Regional Library NE 12th St. and 110th Ave. NE Bellevue, WA 425-450-1760	Crossroads Mall Shopping Center Community Meeting Room NE 8th and 156th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA	FHC - Bellevue 10675 NE 20th St Bellevue, WA 425-454-2690	FHC - Kirkland 7910 NE 132nd St. Kirkland, WA 425-821-8781
Issaquah Public Library 140 East Sunset Way Bellevue, WA 425-392-5430	Lake Hills Library 15528 Lake Hills Blvd. SE Bellevue, WA 425-747-3350	National Archives and Records Admin. 6125 Sand Point Way NE Seattle, WA 98115-7999 206-336-5115	Fiske Genealogical Library 1644 43rd Ave E/ Seattle, WA 98122 206-328-2716
FHC - Redmond 10115 172nd Ave. NE Redmond, WA 425-861-9273	Newport Way Library 14520 SE Newport Way Bellevue WA 425-747-2390	North Bend Library 115 East Fourth St North Bend, WA 425-888-0554	Redmond Regional Library 15990 NE 85th St Redmond, WA 425-885-1861
Wa State Puget Sound Regional Archives BCC, 3000 Landerholm SE, MS-100 Bellevue, WA 98007	Seattle Public Library 1000 Fourth Ave Seattle, WA 206-386-4636	Snoqualmie Public Library 38580 SE River Street Snoqualmie, WA 425-888-1223	Fire Station #22 6602 108th Ave NE Kirkland, WA

(continued from page 8) My ancestors left Miramichi a couple of years later and moved to Maine. I do not know of any family stories handed down over the years about their move, but I suspect their reason was related to the fire and its aftermath.

In all, the fire destroyed more than five hundred buildings (an exact count was never made) and also destroyed millions of acres of woodlands and settled towns and villages alike. Of the hundreds who perished in the fire, their bodies were mostly buried where they were found. There are almost no tombstones for the people who died in the fire as local tombstone carvers were either overwhelmed with work or perhaps also perished in the flames. In later years, many sad memorials were erected in the burying grounds along the Miramichi.

Entire towns were destroyed. Some of them were rebuilt as new towns in different locations that had escaped the flames and provided better soil, including the new towns of Campbellton, Dalhousie, Belledune, and the southern Gaspé coast. It is also probable that some of the displaced persons established a community in the Ottawa Valley formerly known as Miramichi, now known as Pembroke, Ontario.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, but it was probably caused by humans. This was in the day when houses were heated by wood, cooking was done on wood stoves or over open flames, and lumbermen often kept flames burning for cooking purposes or to drive away insects. Open flames were everywhere, and the woods were tinder dry.

A large fire occurred in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on the same day: October 7. Fredericton is more than 100 miles from Miramichi. It is believed that the two fires were not connected, other than by the fact that all of New Brunswick had very dry forests at the time. More than one-third of all the dwellings in Fredericton were destroyed by the flames; but the rest were spared.

For many years after, on October 7th, the people of the Miramichi area did not eat for the day and all shops closed in remembrance. The Great Miramichi Fire ranks among the three largest forest fires ever recorded in North America. Today people still tell stories of the Miramichi Fire as if it happened yesterday. *(The previous article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.)*

GENEALOGY ARTICLES AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives and Records Administration website has a wealth of information for genealogists and family historians. One thing that is available for free viewing is a long list of articles that have been published in the magazine Prologue. Prologue magazine brings readers stories based on the rich holdings and programs of the National Archives across the nation—from Washington, DC, to the regional archives and the Presidential libraries. Articles include topics such as African American History, American Indians, Boxer Rebellion, Census, Civil War, Civilian Service, Court Records, Disabled Veterans Homes, Headstones, Immigration and Naturalization, Korean and Vietnam Wars, Local History, Mexican Punitive Expedition, Military Service Overview, Panama Canal, Philippine Insurrection, Pre-Civil War, Private Claims, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and More Sources.

To view the complete list of articles and the articles themselves, please see <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/genealogy-notes.html>.

Also available are articles from previous years.

You can find this listing at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/index/#index>

EASTSIDE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONTACTS

President*	Bob Barnes	425-747-4863	rstithbarnes@hotmail.com
Vice President*	Judy Meredith	425-702-9321	ja.meredith@verizon.net
Secretary*	Walta McCarley	425-376-0539	wmccarley@yahoo.com
Treasurer*	Ed Schultz	425-271-0424	panamaed@gmail.com
Trustee*	Sharron Filer	425-885-7213	n.sfiler@gte.net
Past President*	Norb Ziegler	425-557-2108	zieglerwa@sprintmail.com
Education Chair*			
Archivist/Historian*	Walta McCarley	425-746-7557	wmccarley@yahoo.com
Library Chair*	Winifred Sihon	425-746-3573	wsihon@comcast.net
Acquisitions	Sarah Fleming	425-957-1134	sarahrosefleming@earthlink.net
Membership Chair*	Dorothy Mehrer	425-822-7316	dmehrer@netscape.com
Newsletter Editor*	Kim Nichols	360-668-3937	kimberly@dormik.com
Newsletter Contributors	Mickey Main	425-747-2038	mickeymain@comcast.net
	Sharron Filer	425-885-7213	n.sfiler@gte.net
Newsletter Mailing	Jack and Jean Newman	425-746-2324	jnewman495@earthlink.net
Nominating Chair*	(need volunteer)		
	Marty Gale	206-232-6471	martygale@futuretense.net
Program Chair*	Judy Meredith	425-702-9321	ja.meredith@verizon.net
Publicity*	Dorothy Pretare	425-277-0831	dpngen@comcast.net
Representatives:			
DAR	Donna Hart	425-831-5978	carldonna1@comcast.net
AKCHO	Bob Sandbo	425-454-5606	bobpat9@jps.net
Bellevue Reg Library	Pat Sandbo	425-454-5606	bobpat9@jps.net
FGS	Peter Robertson	206-236-2473	pnrmerc@earthlink.net
SIG Representative*			
Sunshine Chair*	Patti Wehrs	787-599-2746	pwehrs@msn.com
Surname File	Walta McCarley	425-376-0539	wmccarley@yahoo.com
Webmaster*	Kim Nichols	360-668-3937	kimberly@dormik.com

* EGS Board Member

Special Interest Group (SIG) Contacts

Canadian	John Howell	206-817-7516	jhowell54@comcast.net
Computer	Margery Perdue	425-643-3502	m.perdue@comcast.net
Czech/Slovak	Rosie Bodien	425-828-0170	rosie@bodien.org
German	Ann Passe	206-232-1104	annp42@comcast.net
Irish	Ann Lamb	425-557-0440	AnnL7777@aol.com
Italian	Mary D. Sangalang	425-649-2250	collectingroots@msn.com
Legacy	Sherry Holthe	425-880-4407	sherdh@centurytel.net
Lunch Bunch			
Portuguese(inactive)	Barbara Guyll	425-746-5603	barbaraguyll@comcast.net
Scandinavian	Sandy Arildson	425-747-5621	sarildson@yahoo.com
Shore to Shore	Shirley Dowd	425-454-0078	



Eastside Genealogical Society
 P.O. Box 374
 Bellevue, WA 98009-0374

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THE EASTSIDE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PURPOSE:

The EGS provides members a forum for learning and the exchange of information related to genealogy. The Society obtains and provides resources for use by members, encourages genealogical research and education, and provides community outreach through programs, classes, seminars and library volunteers.

MEETINGS:

EGS monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except December) at 7:00 P.M. at the Bellevue Regional Library, NE 12th Street and 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue WA. A get acquainted and ask questions session is open at 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP:

Effective 1 January 2001, membership dues are: Individual—\$17, Couple—\$22, Senior—\$15, Senior Couple, \$19, Lifetime—15 times annual membership. To join the society, send your check with your name, phone number, address (nine digit zip please) and e-mail address (if applicable) to the address at the bottom of this page. Please mark "Membership" on your envelope.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:

The *Bulletin Board* is published each month, except December. Submission of news and articles to the *Bulletin Board* must be in writing and received **by the 15th of each month** for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. If you are unable to meet the deadline, please call Kim Nichols at 360-668-3937 to make special arrangements. Please mail submissions to: Kim Nichols, 12422 219th Place SE, Snohomish, WA 98296 or e-mail to: kimberly@dormik.com

Note: The EGS Board and the *Bulletin Board* reserve the right to limit and prioritize event announcements, space permitting, to non-profit organization items of genealogical interest. Neither the EGS nor the editors of the *Bulletin Board* accept responsibility for errors of fact or judgment in the material submitted to and printed in the *Bulletin Board*. If errors are brought to our attention, we will try to correct them.

The *Bulletin Board* is a publication of:

The Eastside Genealogical Society
 P.O. Box 374
 Bellevue, WA 98009-0374