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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 11th** The Program for this month is:  
**"Knowing Your Norwegians"**  
with guest speaker : D'Arcy Hande,  
Branch Director of the Saskatchewan  
Archives, here in Saskatoon

**June 8th** Goodies and more Goodies as it is  
time for our **Annual Dessert Social**.  
We will be meeting in the school  
gym this month.

The Program for this month is:

**"Where there's a Will, there's a way!"**  
presented by Diane Berg

The June program will be on using wills as a  
genealogical resource, information on how to obtain  
a probated will in various provinces/countries, etc.  
and what to look for when you are reading the will

If you have already accessed a probated will,  
please help us out by coming prepared to share a  
piece of valuable information that you found which  
helped your family history search or created more  
mysteries to solve!

### OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION

**Place:** St. Thomas School @ 3035 Arlington Avenue

**Time:** The **Library** is open from 6:00 - 7:00 PM.  
The **Meeting** runs from 7:15 - 9:30PM. We start with the  
Presidents' report and this is followed by member interest  
discussions, guest speakers or geographic workshops.

**Dates:** The 2nd Wednesday of each month excluding July & August

**Website:** <http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksgs>

**New Mailing Address:** Saskatoon Genealogy Society  
Box # 32004  
#3 - 402 Ludlow Street  
Saskatoon, SK S7S 1M7

## MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER INFO

The membership fee for our branch is now \$15.00 a year. There is a \$15.00 charge for all NSF cheques. Joining the Saskatoon Branch requires that you also join the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) which has an annual fee of \$32.00 (senior rate) or \$34.00 (regular rate). Membership also includes 10 branch meetings, access to our Saskatoon Branch Library, access to the SGS Library and a copy of this newsletter 5 times during the year.

This newsletter will be published 5 – 7 days prior to the general branch meetings in January, March, May, September & November, and it is available in either printed form or via Email. For those members of our local branch who wish to have a printed version of the newsletter mailed out— please bring a self addressed, stamped large (9x12) envelope to a general meeting or mail them to the branch or newsletter editor. The number of self-addressed envelopes determines how many times a year the newsletter is mailed out to you.

**If you have a story, a genealogy related joke, a quip, a query, a quote or just a short note please send it to the editor for inclusion in an upcoming edition of the newsletter. Articles are required for the next issue and future issues.**

## BRANCH EXECUTIVE — 2005

### PRESIDENT:

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### VICE PRESIDENT:

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**Vacant - need a  
Volunteer..**

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### SECRETARY:

**Vacant - need a  
Volunteer..**

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Delores Maduke

**Could use another  
Volunteer.**

### GREETER:

Merle Ward  
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**Could use another  
Volunteer.**

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### FACILITES:

**Help needed to set up  
& take down the tables and  
chairs at our regular branch  
meetings.**

### PUBLICITY & FUNDRAISING:

Lynda Andrew

Joyce Lappin

Michelle Rusk

Mabel Evans

Delores Stevens

Cindy Paradis

Ethel Clarke

### NEWSLETTER:

Cliff Rusk - publisher



THE FAMILY TREE

Every family tree has  
some sap or nuts in it.

### Late Breaking News

**Bev Gutenberg** will be giving another beginners genealogy presentation at 7:00 PM on May 12th; at the Carlyle King branch library, in the Cosmo Centre on Laurier Drive

She will also be doing a genealogy workshop for teenagers at the Francis Morrison Library on August 9th & 11th.

**Tammy Vallee** will also be doing a genealogy presentation at her son's school in May. She will be speaking to the grade 3-5's about how to research their own family tree.

**GOODLUCK**  
and  
keep up the good work!

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Cliff Rusk

In March, author David Richard made the long trek from Moose Jaw, where he is a teacher at SIAST, to entertain us with tales from his new book entitled "The Plough's Share". There had been some miscommunication as we had been informed that the title of his book was "The Polish's Share". Needless to say, those of us who attended this meeting were very surprised at the topic change. We really enjoyed listening to David tell us how he did the background research for his book, as it is a very interesting mixture of historical fact and fiction. His brother, the family genealogist, also attended and shared some of his experience researching their family tree.

In April we had Gus Morrow, Bev Gutenberg, and Lynda Andrew discuss the pros and cons of the different genealogy programs that are available for our use. Gus & Tammy Vallee talked about the DNA presentation that was at the 2004 SGS seminar and their own participation in an ongoing program.

I hope that everyone will turn out for **May's** presentation by **D'Arcy Hande**; and, then join us in **June** for a presentation by **Diane Berg**. Please remember that June is also our annual dessert social (remember to bring a dessert to share), stocking up on that needed energy to make it through the summer as we work on our genealogy research.

It is also time to start planning your summer research projects and the places to visit to find those elusive ancestors. Since 2005 is Saskatchewan's 100th Birthday, a lot of us will be returning to our home towns to participate in the Homecoming Celebrations. It will be a time to renew old friendships and share those memories when we were young (er). And what homecoming would be complete without a trip out to the local cemetery. This is our chance to complain to our ancestors about not being able to locate that lost Family Bible or why they put that darn information in that location of all places, because who would ever think of looking there? Especially me..

Gus Morrow will be chairing the branch meeting in May as Michelle and I will be over in Jolly Olde England, visiting with Michelle's relatives and doing a little sightseeing. I am sure we will have many tales to tell upon our return. Happy hunting and we hope that everyone will have an safe and genealogical prosperous summer.

**Reminder: We are closed for July & August.**

**Have a great summer and we look forward to hearing about your genealogical successes at our September 14th branch meeting.**

## Romantic Immigrants

Submitted by Michelle (Cochrane) Rusk

Around the time you read this article in the newsletter, Cliff and I will be touring around England, mostly in London where we will see many of the sights seen by my ancestors and in particular, my mother. It is very important to me to see these places in person because my mother (Olive Rayson) was an English woman who married my Canadian father (Lloyd Cochrane) during World War II. The British, Dutch, Belgian, French, Italian, and German ladies who married Canadian Servicemen during World War II - particularly the 43,454 of them who came to Canada with their 22,000 children - are most frequently referred to as Canadian War Brides.

The War Brides are a unique group of immigrants to Canada. In general, these immigrants did not come seeking land, fortune, or the chance to start life anew. Most immigrated because of love. In the case of the British War Brides they met one of the Canadian Service Men who were in England between December 1939 and 1948. These were not usual courtships. They did not get to meet the boy/man's family or parents in advance of the wedding. Usually, they knew very little about Canada, let alone the town or village from which their fiancé or husband came from. One of the incredible things I've learned about these marriages was that most of them lasted a lifetime. Sadly, some of the lifetimes were short – not only because of losses of life during the fighting but also those who died young as a result of physical, mental, and emotional injuries received during the War. In some cases, the wives died in childbirth or of illness. For others the marriages lasted into old age. There has even been some discussion on the Rootsweb War Brides list that Saskatchewan may have had more War Brides come here on a per capita basis than anywhere else in Canada.

While my father was born in New Westminster, B.C., and would both enlist from there in 1939 as well as be de-mobilized there in August 1945 from his service with the Canadian Army, he spent much of his youth in Saskatoon. This was the city where his parents met and married. Vancouver is where my mother and older brother travelled to from Pier 21 in Halifax after arriving in Canada on the Queen Mary in June 1946. Following a train trip across the country, they were finally reunited after nearly another year apart. It was going to be a bit of a trend for them though, as Dad joined the RCAF within another year and there would be times new postings would have Dad moving several months before Mum and my two brothers would join them. Saskatoon was significant for them as their last posting, the place where their only daughter was born, and where they would spend most of the next 40 years. My parents had just celebrated their 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary days before my father died. There may have been times they didn't like each other in those years, but they were always in love. Lifelong romance seems to have been a common theme in the marriages of most of the Canadian War Brides. Something they also have in common is a deep and abiding patriotism for Canada. The brides who came from Britain are very proud of their British roots, but most say that Canada is home.

This year, May 8 2005, is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. A date commonly referred to as Victory in Europe Day. Amongst the many commemorative events happening in Canada this year is the opening of the new Canada War Museum in Ottawa.



Canada Post is issuing a commemorative envelope on May 8<sup>th</sup> honouring the War Brides and to me this is particularly special as the image of the wedding party on the front of the envelope is a photo taken at my parent's wedding on May 8, 1943.

On what would have been their 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, and Mother's Day, I will see my mother honoured —along with the many other women and mothers like her, who risked everything for love.

For more information on War Brides try these websites:

<http://canadianwarbrides.com/>

<http://home.istar.ca/~lyster/warbride>

<http://www.pier21.ns.ca/>

<http://www.wartimemories.co.uk/>

## **Andrew Fossen, do you know him?**

By: Tammy L. Vallee

The Lake Coteau Cemetery is located south of Macrorie, Sask on NE36-26-8-W2, and five miles west of Gardiner Dam. It is here my ancestors settled and here they were laid to rest. I know their stories. There 121 other people buried there besides my family, what do I know about them? No much, there are not a lot the records for the cemetery. Responsibility for the cemetery has been in the hands of the people in the area. For the last six years no one has wrote down any burials in the book or even saved a slip of paper. A lot of catching up needs doing, and I guess I am the right person for the job. I can fill in the missing burials, make a new map, repaint the fading stones and identify those graves not marked. But I think that there should be more to go with it then that. So talk begins of doing a history of the cemetery, of the land and of those who are buried there.

Andrew or Andy Fossen is a mystery in the Lake Coteau Cemetery in R.M. 255. What do we know about him? Well his grave is marked with an aging wooden cross and the name barely readable. There are no other Fossen buried there, he is alone, and buried in an almost empty area of the cemetery, with no sign of a relative in sight. The history books for Lake Coteau don't mention the family name at all. Only the cemetery book holds a record for him. His burial listed like this:

**Andy Fosen, death Aug 4, 1933  
buried May 25, 1934 sent from the University of Sask.  
Rev Hjortaas (performing the burial).**

When you ask an old timer, like my grandfather Eddie Williams, "Well I was just a kid back then (he would have been 17 years old) I think those Fossens moved out to Alberta. Andy must have been one of their kids."

No Fossen in the census for the area, and he was buried 9 months after his death. Why would he have been "sent from the University of Sask"? Only one answer I can think of now. He was a cadaver for the medical students there.

It's the end of September 2003 and I begin look for the records of cadavers at the U of S. A few emails later and I am chatting with a woman in the College of Medicine at University of Saskatchewan. She looks into my request for him and gives me a little history on their records.

Incoming email for October 2, 2003:

"We have records going back to 1933 but I think that not everyone is listed in those early records. I don't know what kind of records they kept before that time as I don't have any."

No records for him, a dead-end or is it? As she wonders who I am, I explain. This is for a cemetery history I am working on and want to learn more about this mystery person. When I mention that this would be interesting (I think) to share with my genealogy group, would she mind? Another wall pops up.

The last email I received on October 7, 2003 stated this:

"In response to your inquiry about the late Mr. Andy Fosen, this is to inform you that I cannot provide you with any information. It would pose a problem in giving you information about the donors of our Body Bequeathal Program as our correspondence is entirely with the next-of-kin. People donate their bodies with the understanding that their files will be kept confidential and that only their next-of-kin should be contacted."

I took a quick peek at Andy's homestead file in the Sask. Archives. It would seem that when Andy came to on settle on SW 18-26-6-W3 he was 32 years old in 1909 and born in the USA. He had no wife or children with him. So I wonder now how he became a cadaver? Is there a file? If he wasn't a cadaver why was he buried 9 months after his death? Who is considered his next of kin if he didn't have children? I will keep searching for these answers and when I have uncovered more I will keep you posted. I still have one last question for you.

**DO YOU KNOW ANDREW FOSSEN?**

## **The Library Corner**

With Georgiana Chartier

### **Library hours for May are:**

May 7<sup>th</sup> 1:00PM-4:00PM

May 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM-7:00PM

May 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00PM-4:00PM

### **Library hours for June are:**

June 8th 6:00PM - 7:00PM

**Please return all your books on or before the June branch meeting,  
as the library will be closed for the summer.**

**There will also be a silent auction at this branch meeting.**

Non branch members can make use of the library facilities on  
these extra days for a small fee of \$2.00 per visit.

Non SBSGS members can not check out any material from our library.

### **New in the library:**

For those who are researching in England:

#### **CD-Stourbrigde Census 1871**

-London Parish Records Volume 1

Microfiche - Parish Census Listings 1797-1831(3 fiche)

- Name Index To Poor Law Settlement Papers. 1574—1831

- These include Settlement Certificates, Removal Orders, Settlement Examinations, records of Apprenticeships and Bastardy Examinations. 1574 -1831

#### **Family Tree Magazine**

2005 - Vol. 21- no. 4

-Army Recruitment

-Finding Irish Americans

- Railway Staff Web Sites

- Programs to Help Publish Your Tree

### **HI Saskatchewan searchers...**

Just to let you know - if you grew up in Saskatchewan and were part of the Lost River School District (Elkhorn School, Little Bridge School, Murphy Creek School, Newfield School and Teddington School) or know someone who is and might not have heard - there will be a reunion July 29th, 30th, 31st 2005 at the Wapiti Ski Chalet near Gronlid. I have the information for the event (registration form, map, etc.).

Elaine Kozakavich email: [kozakavich@shaw.ca](mailto:kozakavich@shaw.ca)

## Hitting a Brick Wall

*By Delores Maduke*

All of my life I was brought up with the knowledge that my background was German, Dutch and French. My mother's parents were German, born in the United States with her grandparents coming from Russia. My father's parents were; mother born in Holland and father, French, born in France.

One of these stories was not true and came to be revealed in December 1975 when my fraternal grandfather, Stanley Maduk, passed away. My father's brother was in the RCMP at that time and had access to some documents pertaining to my grandfather. In my grandfathers obituary it listed him as being Polish. What a shock for the rest of us. This had been a very well kept secret indeed. I now wonder how my grandmother allowed this to be revealed upon the death of my grandfather, her husband.

The original story is that Stanley Maduk came to Canada in 1911, at the age of 14. His mother sent him to live with her brother, as she did not want Stanley to do compulsory military service. Stanley's family lived on a wealthy estate, where his father was the coach man for the owner. Stanley's father also looked after the horses. Those were his only jobs, taking care of the horses and driving the coach for the wealthy owner. Stanley arrived in Canada, was sick on the trip over, and had his papers stolen. Upon his arrival in Winnipeg where he was to be met by his uncle, no one was there, as he arrived a day early. A helpful policeman took him to the police station where he spent the night. He met his uncle the next day at the train station. Stanley stayed with this uncle (maybe named Sikofsky or Sikorski) for about 1 year and then went off on his own, coming to Saskatoon, where he eventually met and married my grandmother. There were no cousins, aunts, uncles or grandparents from Stanley's side of the family. If there were any in Canada that is unknown.

Initially I found that Stanley was listed in the 1917 Henderson Directory as a teamster, working for C.G. Elliot (located at 328 Ave B. South), residing at 326 Avenue B. South. This was the earliest entry that I found having him listed as a resident of Saskatoon. Where he was from 1912, when he left his uncles until 1917 is still unknown. Obtaining a copy of Stanley's death registration did not provide me with any information. A copy of his marriage registration was a little more helpful. My grand parents were married on February 21, 1920. Stanley's age is listed as 22, place of birth Poland, occupation blacksmith, religious denomination Roman Catholic, parents Joseph Maduk and didn't know for mother.

I then contacted my uncle who provided me with the following information: That Stanley was born on May 17, 1897, as Stanislas Mediecke, in **Krywczegorne, Borszczow**, part of the Austria-Hungarian Empire. This was a different language for me. Not having the internet at this time, I went to the Ukrainian museum to see if they could shed a clue on the name of the village. There I found that this was indeed the name of a village, known as **Krywczegorne, Borszczow, Ternopil, Ukraine**. I was informed that this was a mountain village, that may not exist currently, that it had been part of Galicia, and that the population was comprised of Poles, Ukrainians, Russians and maybe some Romanians, that it was close to the Romanian border. In 1955 there were 2400 inhabitants. The area was comprised of farms, producing meat, milk, sugar beets, and some market gardens. Krywczegorne had received its name in 1650, and it had been invaded by the Turks in 1672 and that a Turkish Tartar had lived there. There were 137 villagers that were in the army fighting against the Nazi's. From the internet I learned that this area was famous for its gypsum caves and was visited by Speleologists (one who studies caves, for a scientific purpose); and that the ruins of a castle were nearby.

I then contacted my father and he was unable to help me, as all of this information was new to him. During our conversation I, my father revealed that his parents had not been naturalized at the start of WWII, as Dad had attempted to enlist in the air force, but was denied due to his parents not being naturalized. This was a bone of contention between my father and his mother, as she always claimed they were naturalized. My father later joined the army. I now knew that the naturalization process had taken someplace after 1938-9, and that this document would be intact unlike the ones prior to 1917.

I sent for the naturalization records, \$5, well spent. I received these documents and learned that Stanley had been born **Stanislaw Medwecke/Medwicki**, that he was Polish, born in May 17, 1897 in the village as previously stated and that he came to Canada from Austria. He had resided in Winnipeg until 1913 and then came to Saskatoon. He had begun the naturalization process in May 1939 and did not complete this until November 21, 1939, which may be the reason for my grandmother's confusion. During this process they had moved twice. He started this process in Palo, Saskatchewan. His port of entry is unknown as well as the name of his ship. Stanley indicated that he used **Maduk** as his last name as it was easier to spell. His two neighbours attested that they had known him since 1923. It is interesting as these two neighbours were also investigated and this information is contained in these documents. The RCMP also investigated Stanley's entry into Canada, but their report to the Immigration Branch states it was not possible to verify his entry into Canada. When did he arrive and where from?

My father had served in WWII and had been in Amsterdam during the war. One of the things that Stanley asked my father about Amsterdam was if a specific statue was still there. My father indicated that Stanley described the statue in great detail and yes this statue was indeed where Stanley had described. This would lead one to believe that he had sailed out of Amsterdam.

An interesting piece of information is that sometime in the 1950's after the second world war Stanley attempted to find his family in Europe, through the Red Cross, but was informed they had all perished. My uncle informs me that he had advised them not to pursue this avenue as this would not bode well for his career with the RCMP.

Joining a Ukrainian and Polish internet site did not produce any information. I did note that a lady had been on a trip to the Ukraine and one of the locations she had visited was my grandfather's village. She sent me the name of the tour organizer. I contacted the tour organizer and told him of my quest. He sent off a letter to the Mayor of **Krywczegorne**, giving her the details of my grandfather's birth and little family history that I was able to provide. No luck there.

The last alternative I have is to order the Roman Catholic parish register transcripts of birth, marriages and deaths for Krzywczegorne, Borszczow, Galizien, Austria, now known as Kryvche, Borshchiv, Ternpil, Ukraine. The information from the Family History Library indicates that this information will be in Latin and Polish. Unfortunately I have no skill in reading either language. It would now appear that I am at a dead end and am at a loss to know what to do.



My grandparents, Marie and Stanley Maduk, taken in 1939



## Dominion Land Survey

Submitted by Earle Ripley

The Dominion Land Survey, begun in 1871, divided much of western Canada into one-square-mile “**sections**” for agricultural and other purposes. The main north-south lines of the survey are called **meridians**, with the First (or Principal) Meridian set at 97°27’28.41” W longitude, just to the west of Winnipeg (see photographs). The Second Meridian (forming the northern part of the Saskatchewan-Manitoba boundary) is at 102°W and the Third at 106°W (near Moose Jaw and Prince Albert). The main east-west lines are called **base lines**, with the first of these at the Canada-US border, 49°N latitude, and each subsequent one about 24 miles further north. The checkerboard pattern of intersecting north-south (**range**) lines and east-west (base) lines is divided into squares 6 mi x 6 mi called **townships**, designated by Township Number and Range Number. Each township therefore contains 36 sections, numbered 1-36 starting from the SE corner and progressing westward, and then northward to the northeast corner. The odd-numbered sections in each township (except for Sections 11 and 29) were usually granted to the **railways** as an incentive for them to build lines. Sections 11 and 29 were designated **school sections** and made available to School Boards to be used for school construction.

31	32	33	34	35	36
30	29	28	27	26	25
19	20	21	22	23	24
18	17	16	15	14	13
7	8	9	10	11	12
6	5	4	3	2	1

Each section is sub-divided into 4 **quarters** designated by compass direction as NW, NE, SE or SW. For example, the south west quarter of section 22, township 38, range 12, west of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meridian is referred to as SW 22-38-12-W3. Because the range lines are meridians of longitude, they converge towards the North Pole, so that the northern edge of every township is shorter than the southern edge, and townships, therefore, narrow as one moves northward. This requires periodic adjustments in the positions of the range lines called **correction lines**.

When Rupert’s Land was transferred to Canada from the **HBC**, the Bay retained 5% of the land south of the North Saskatchewan River. Accordingly, Section 8 and 3 quarters of Section 26, in each township, were assigned to the Bay, along with the remaining quarter of Section 26 in 20% of the townships, in order to provide the Bay with exactly 5%. The remaining quarter-sections were made available as **Homesteads** under the Dominion Lands Act of 14 April 1872.

### ***Bibliography***

- Archer, Dr. J. “The Survey System Adopted For Use in the “The Northwest Territory” by Canada and Its Place in the Dominion Lands Policy.” *Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin* 7 (Summer 1976).
- McKercher, R.B. and B. Wolfe. *Understanding Western Canada’s Land Survey System*. Saskatoon: Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, 1978.
- Obee, Dave, compiler. *Back to the Land: A Genealogical Guide to Finding Farms on the Canadian Prairies. Including an Index to Townships in the 1901 Census*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Victoria: self-published, 2003.

### ***Website***

ArchiviaNet: Western Land Grant [http://www.collectionscanada.ca/02/02011101\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/02/02011101_e.html)



This cairn is located just west of Winnipeg commemorating the Dominion Land Survey.



## Research Tips for the Family Historian

- 1) **INTERVIEW YOUR RELATIVES** - One thing many of us postpone until it is too late is interviewing our relatives. Parents and grandparents are obvious candidates for obtaining information about your own branch of the family. However, you have to extend your view to the "big picture" of your family if you are to achieve the greatest research success. That means making time to talk with brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and family friends. The stories and perspectives you will find will complement the information you may already have, and you will extend the foundation on which you build your future hypotheses and conduct your future research.
- 2) **LABEL AND ORGANIZE YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPHS** -- You know how difficult and frustrating it can be to deal with old family photographs when they are unlabeled. As hard as you work on old photographs, think about the family photographic treasures you have created. Are the vacation pictures organized and labelled? Are school pictures labelled? Have wedding photographs been labelled with the names of all the subjects? Yes, that means the names of the guests appearing in the photographs! You do a disservice to future generations if you devote yourself to identifying and labelling old pictures and neglect your own. In fact, doesn't this just create the same problem for your descendants?
- 3) **USE CORRECT MAPS FOR THE TIME PERIOD YOU ARE RESEARCHING** -- Make a commitment to yourself to make absolutely certain you use the right maps when doing your family history research. For instance, don't use a contemporary AAA map of South Carolina to determine what county courthouse to contact to locate a copy of your great-great-grandparents' marriage certificate. Pickens, South Carolina, wasn't always in Pickens County, after all. You'll save yourself lots of frustration and wasted time if you use the right geopolitical map for the time period in question.
- 4) **JOIN A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** -- Join a society in at least one area in which you are researching a primary family line. Societies perform all sorts of research functions. They preserve historical and genealogical documents, record cemetery inscriptions, publish journals and share information they have acquired and amassed. Join one and you will learn a great deal about the area, and you will probably make valuable contacts to help further your research.
- 5) **READ ONE BOOK** -- Invest the time next year in reading at least one book about the history of an area where you are researching one primary line of your family. By learning more about local history and events, you will gain a better understanding of your ancestors' places in history. You may also be able to form better conclusions for why they settled in one place or moved to another.
- 6) **ESTABLISH A FILING SYSTEM AND USE IT** -- If you've been postponing setting up a filing system for all the stacks of documents, photocopies, pedigree charts, abstracts, and cemetery photographs, why not make a commitment to organize them? Remember, the system you devise and begin using today can be reorganized later if your needs change. The project only gets worse the longer you procrastinate, so why not start it today?
- 7) **LEARN ABOUT ONE NEW RECORD TYPE** -- There are a number of record types that many genealogists never touch. For instance, many people are intimidated by land and property records and tax rolls. Yet these are among the most numerous and most revealing of all public records, providing an ongoing view and confirmation of where our ancestors were between censuses. During the next year, resolve to read up on and educate yourself on at least one new type of record you have never used before. Then get busy and research at least one ancestor using that new record type.

- 8) **INPUT YOUR SOURCES TO YOUR DATABASE**--It's easy to input vital statistics and other data into the computer database, isn't it? But the source information can seem to be drudgery to many of us. However, the source is every bit as important as the data that you're entering. Why? Because it is an indication of the real quality of the content being input. Most of us are guilty of this omission, and the coming year is the time to commit to going back through what you have entered into the database and entering source information. During the process, you will also be reassessing the information you have acquired. There may be some revelations that point your research in new directions too!
- 9) **ORDER ONE SET OF MILITARY RECORDS**--If you have U.S. ancestors who served in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II and/or other conflicts, you should try to learn more about them through their military records. Both military service records and pension application records can be vividly enlightening insights into an ancestor's life story. Depending on the service and the era, there may be records at the National Archives, at state archives, and at other government locations. Start by researching the era, then determine where the records might be held, and write letters. Once you have seen and worked with these records, you will be hooked on learning more about every ancestor's service records.
- 10) **VOLUNTEER TO HELP A NOVICE FAMILY HISTORIAN**--Consider how difficult it was for you to learn research methodology and proper documentation techniques. Then think how much you would have appreciated some expert help and guidance. You can help a novice learn the ropes. Some libraries welcome volunteers to serve in this capacity in their genealogy collection areas, or you might make a new acquaintance and simply "adopt the newbie." Either way, you will be helping a new researcher learn the right skills and make more effective progress.
- 11) **SHARE YOUR INFORMATION WITH YOUR FAMILY**--Make the time to share information you have found with other family members. You may find relatives who share an intense interest in your common ancestors and who also have information and materials they would be willing to share. More importantly, share information with children. Hearing the family stories and sharing in the traditions can give them a sense of belonging, a feeling of inclusion, and a perspective of their place in history like no other experience.
- 12) **EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE TO YOUR LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS**--Libraries are key resources in family history research. While there are many men and women who work there who understand the research you have undertaken, many may not have the in-depth knowledge of genealogical resources and techniques that you, as a veteran researcher, may have. However, they are your "information brokers" to help you locate and access information. They are trained to understand what print resources they have in-house, where to look for other materials in their library system, and how to help you locate materials in databases and on the Internet. They really can't do your research for you, but they are there to help. Resolve in the coming year to make the time to express your gratitude to every librarian and archivist for the help they provide. Remembering them with a plate of cookies goes a long way too!

The **Library and Archives Canada** website now has the Canadian Divorce database online for the years 1841-1968.

It can be searched at: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/022/008/index-e.html>

## Somewhere in Saskatchewan

By Bev Gutenberg

There are small towns and villages that we call our *home town*. Most of these communities are planning for the 2005 Centennial celebration. I am pleased to have a small part in that preparation. I am assisting with the preparation of the Local History book. I haven't lived in that community since I was 15 but I am pleasantly surprised that they still count me as one of their own. The local paper even mentioned that I was there. It has been a trip down memory lane ever since and a voyage of discovery.

My hometown was Laird. A community of 250 about 45 miles north of Saskatoon. The first homesteaders were Mennonite. They settled around the community and one even had a homestead where the community is situated now. Lutherans from Nebraska came and settled in what was called Stony Knoll area which was land reserved for the Chipewyan Indian Tribe but when the Indian people never settled there. In the Department of Indian Affairs returned the land to the Department of the Interior which in turn opened it for settlement. The settlement became known as Stony Hill. The Lutherans built a church there, a school also called Stony Hill was built nearby and the whole rural community thrived. In deed, I was at the 100 anniversary of the founding of the church in 2001. In the 1950=s the church was moved into town and Laird had 3 churches and perhaps 400 people at its zenith. All three churches were on streets off a single street. Religion was very important in that community. All of the immigrants were German and many of their descendants remain in the town to this day.

The train came to Laird in 1908 and went 10 miles to the next town, Carlton, and turned around and came back on its way to Saskatoon. It was a treat to have a train ride to Carlton as a kid. The tracks are all gone now as are the elevators. My town sported 5 elevators in its heyday. My dad bought grain for 19 years in Laird. He was asked to move there because they needed a German speaking elevator agent.

The school is larger now that they added a gym. The old skating rink is gone, they built a new indoor arena with a curling rink attached on the sports grounds near where our old house was located. The town hall is still there but a kitchen have been added. Even the old 'two-holer' has been replaced with the flushing kind. The little town office with its bell and jail have become a recycling depot. The old hotel is still standing and open for business. Life does go on in the small town I call home.

I also got to thinking about home towns. The one I call home is one where there are people I have known all my life and it is really neat to be able to have a conversation with the folks from there or those who have left. We always have a lot to talk about, there are no uncomfortable silences because we know everything that is public about one another including parents and grandparents. These people accept you for what you are, or were. In the words of a Bing Crosby song, Al love those dear hearts and gentle people who live in my home town.

In this year of Saskatchewan's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, lets pause and think about the town where you were born or raised. Here=s to small towns everywhere! These small towns were the foundation of Saskatchewan.

## ELLIS ISLAND

*Submitted by Bev Gutenberg*

The first picture is the big processing room that operated like a maze with iron railings zig-zagging the lines of immigrants through different screening points. Those unfortunates who had to face a Board of Special Inquiry went through the doors at the end of the room on the left. Whatever their fates, they ended up being processed through the big doors and down the stairs at the far end.

The second picture is the set of stairs that led them either to detainment or freedom. The set of stairs that I'm on is where our relatives would have exited on their way to trains taking them to other parts of the country. The ones in the middle were for those to be detained and the ones on the right were for those going to New York City.

If they were detained for any reason -- even because of the time their ship came in -- the next picture is an example of how they slept. The next picture is of the big immigration building itself. The weather that day was absolutely terrible and it gave a good sense of what it may have been like for them going into the harbour. The Statue of Liberty was hardly visible until you got right up close.

