

MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER INFO

Branch membership fees are \$15.00/ year for new members and \$10.00/year if you are renewing your existing membership. There is a \$15.00 charge for all NSF cheques. Joining the Saskatoon Branch (SBSGS) 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). Branch 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 near the beginning of January, March, May, September & November, and it is available in either printed form or in a .pdf version 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.

Articles are always required for the next issue and future issues of the Newsletter.

BRANCH EXECUTIVE — till Dec 30th, 2005

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FACILITES:

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

FUNDRAISING:

Lynda Andrew

Joyce Lappin

Michelle Rusk

Mabel Evans

Delores Maduke

Cindy Paradis

Ethel Clarke

NEWSLETTER:

Cliff Rusk - publisher

CEMETERY

RECORDER:

Lynda Andrew
978-1656
vandrew@shaw.ca



THE FAMILY TREE

Birthday wishes for:

Michelle Rusk - Nov 10th
Myrna Sprecker - Dec 31st

Housekeeping Rules:

Everyone must remove their street footwear at the front entrance doors, so bring along a pair of indoor shoes or slippers.

We must leave the facilities the same way we find them clean and tidy so please come prepared to help cleanup after each meeting.

The school doors will be locked at 7 pm, so come early.

Remember we are guests of the school and should act accordingly

THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

By Cliff Rusk

This being my last president’s report, I would like to say a very big “*Thank You*” to everyone who supported me and the current branch executive over the past 2 years. I can really say “that it has not be boring or without change ”! I know that the next executive will continue providing the educational workshops, securing informative speakers for the branch meetings, and hosting a variety of fundraising events to keep everyone interested and honoured to be an SBSGS member. I echo the many comments that we hope that we have made the last move for several years as we look forward to working with the students, parents, and staff of St. Paul School for years to come.

Michelle and I have made so many good friends over the past 5 years, first with organizing the 2003 SGS Seminar and then working on the SBSGS executive, that it is going to be very hard when we first step away from being on the executive and involved in all the branch activities. I am not sure we can sit through a meeting without making comments or giving our opinion on any subject! But we must! Michelle is taking classes towards a Certificate of Art and Design at the U of S two evenings a week, as well as working fulltime; and for me, it is the increased demands of my job and the move of the company to a larger facility in North Corman Park, that have combined to eliminate any possibility of either of us being on the executive for the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank the numerous volunteers who have participated in the many fundraising events - without all of you the events would not have been possible. Through the fundraising events of the past few years including the 2003 seminar, we have managed to build up our bank account to over \$9000.00 with our annual budget for branch expenses being \$2500.00. So far this fall, we have managed to raise about \$350.00 at our steak night and if all the tickets that are out sell, another \$300.00 from our Tablecloth Raffle.

Our branch will be holding a Craft & Bake Sale at the 8th Street Co-op on November 26th from 10 am to 5 pm. Please contact any member of the Fundraising Committee, if you can help out by providing items for sale and/or working at this event. We will hopefully sell our remaining inventory of Heritage Cookbooks @ \$10.00 each. If you have not purchased your copy of this great cook book or would like to give one as a Christmas Gift please contact any member of the fundraising committee.

The 2005 SBSGS Executive wants to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas along with a safe and happy holiday season.

Please volunteer your help no matter how little it might appear.

To All Branch Members:

At our general meeting in November we will be holding our elections to fill the positions listed below. If you are interested in running for an executive chair or filling a vacant position on one of the many committees - please contact me. Our branch will only remain viable if volunteers step forward with fresh new ideas to assist in the running of our society. So if you have some ideas on the direction the branch should take and are up to an interesting & rewarding challenge – Please VOLUNTEER!

Elections for the 2006 Executive & Committee's

Position	Interested Members
President	vacant
Past President	Cliff Rusk
Vice President	vacant
Secretary	Delores Maduke
Treasurer	Rene Stock
Members at Large	Joyce Lappin Karen Pidskalny
Program Committee	Bernadette Prokopetz Terri Chappell requires 1 – 2 more people
Newsletter	Cliff Rusk – till July 2006 Lynda Andrew Karen Pidskalny
Fundraising Committee	Delores Maduke Joyce Lappin requires another 3 people
Refreshments	Dawn Keddy-Brezinski requires another 1 – 2 people
Greeters (1-2)	Merle Ward need another person
Cemetery Recorder	vacant (1 -2 people)
Facilities Committee	need 2 – 4 people to setup, take down and clean up after every branch meeting.

McTavish Family History

Duncan McTavish and Elizabeth Husband.

"On Aug 2nd, 1964, the family and descendant of the late Peter and Sarah McTavish, gathered in Kincardine for a family picnic. It was on that occasion that those present conceived the idea of preparing a family history"

A portion of this history follows.

"The year in which this family came to Canada is not known. It is known that two other brothers came with Duncan at the time. He belonged to a family of twenty-four. His father was married twice and each wife bore him twelve children. They settled first in the Township of Nassagaweya, later moving to Huron Township in the County of Bruce. Just when they came to Huron is not certain, but it would appear to have been in 1852. It was in this year that some two hundred families took up land in Huron, many of them coming directly from the Old Land. Huron celebrated their coming in 1952. We do know that in the spring of 1853, they came to live on Lot 17, Concession Two, which was to be their home for the rest of their days and the home of their youngest son. It was in the month of March that Grandmother walked some twenty-five miles north from Goderich to her new home. The Eighteen-Mile River was swollen by the spring freshet and a tree had to be chopped down and thrown over the river in order that she might find her way to the little shanty built on the top of the hill. Her youngest son, Peter was born on April 9th, one of the first white babies in that immediate area, though there were some families settled along the Lake Shore before that. Government Patents had been taken out for Lots 17 and 18, the latter in the name of his son Duncan, who later sold his rights to this Lot to Alexander McNair.

Duncan McTavish was a butler in early life to a Scottish Lord. He played the bagpipes and carried the drinks. The story has come down across the years that he first met his wife while performing at some Scottish games in Ireland. Her father took a great fancy to this Highland piper and invited him to his home. When he started to play the pipes, Elizabeth, then a mere child, got frightened and hid under the table--and thus this romance began. It is said that his pipes were a very beautiful set mounted in ivory. He loaned them to a friend to play at a wedding. The friend undertook to play on horseback. The horse became frightened, threw his rider off and broke the pipes beyond repair, which, no doubt, accounts for the fact that there were no pipers in the family. He was a man of great candour and it was said that he would disagree with his best friend in no uncertain tones. An old friend, Sandy Campbell, once told the writer of a little incident that proves this. Grandfather's teeth were badly decayed. He loved a little nip of tobacco but couldn't bit it off because of his bad teeth. On one occasion he begged a chew from his friend Sandy, Mr. Campbell, just to test him to see what he would say, cut off a small snip with his jack knife and handed it to his friend. He took one look at it and then, to quote Mr. Campbell, "gave me the worst calling down I ever got from a man. I was everything but a gentleman, a miserable stingy man." Mr. Campbell once told me of another incident. It appears he loved to visit with his friends and neighbours, and was of a very sociable disposition. On one occasion he borrowed a plough from a neighbour and proceeded to take it home on his back. He met his friend, Sandy, who decided to see how long he would talk without letting down the plough. According to Campbell, he stood on the trail for over half-an-hour and never let the plough off his back. He was liberal in his politics, and read the Globe religiously. His early life being that of a dressed-up gentleman stayed with his through the years, and he found it hard to adjust to life in the primeval forest. It was said that he insisted in always having his shoes shined even when he went for the mail. One can imagine that Grandmother and the army of boys must have done most of the work in making an early clearing in the woods.

There is good reason for believing that the Husbands came from an aristocratic background. Beside grandmother there was another sister, married to Israel Jeater, who lived on Concession Twelve, Huron Township, on the top of the hill overlooking Lake Huron. A son John married a Roman Catholic, to the disgust of his parents. But it is said they were very happy together. He died after a lingering illness, and the story has come down through the years that the morning after his death his wife's hair turned snow white. A brother, Henry, a man of fine physique and aristocratic appearance, was a Public School teacher for many years in Oakville and left a lasting impression upon that town. From him it was learned that some of our ancestors were with Clive in India; that grandmother's mother once lived in a castle but ran away with the coachman and married him. This story gains much credence when it is recalled that just after Church Union in Canada, in 1925, Dr. Margaret O'Hara, who for many years was a medical missionary for the Presbyterian Church, was speaking at a gathering in Ripley. She inquired if there was anyone present who was a descendant of Duncan McTavish; she wished to speak with them. Agnes Barkwell was there and after the session was ended, contacted Dr. O'Hara. The Doctor told her that her mother also bore the family name. During Agnes' long illness, Dr. O'Hara came to visit her and asked that her name be recorded in the family. Hence this story has been added here. Grandmother McTavish's father spent many years of his life fighting in Europe, and it is recorded that on one occasion he came home, after a long time away, so changed in appearance that his mother didn't know him. "I hate war," he is reported as saying. On one occasion he returned with a bit of polished rock from Gibraltar. It was brought to Canada but unfortunately has been lost."

Written by Rev Duncan McTavish
London, Ontario
Dated May 24, 1966

Note: Further research shows that Duncan probably met Elizabeth in Canada. All their twelve children were born in Ontario.

Submitted by Ethel Clarke

The Library Corner

With Georgiana Chartier

**Library hours on branch meeting nights are:
5:30 - 7:00 PM**

Family Chronicle has provided us with 80 copies of the June edition of their magazine and we still have numerous copies of this issue. (1 copy per family).

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

Rene Stock is working on a database that will contain a listing of all the holdings of our branch library, our intention is to have this list accessible on the internet. This way you will be able to search our Database from the comfort of your home and know exactly what book you want to book out before attending a meeting. Please check our website for further updates regarding Library hours and other branch news.

The Rewards of Perseverance

Submitted by Delores Maduke

Family history was not in great abundance during my formative years and I had assumed that I knew all of my relatives. My maternal family background knowledge was limited and related to tidbits that I had heard while young while visiting the many maternal relatives. What I did know was that my grandmother **Augusta Draeger** was born on December 7, 1903 in Neche, North Dakota and had lived there for a few years prior to her parents and siblings moving to the Bergheim District, just east of Saskatoon on November 6, 1907. One of grandmother's siblings remained in Neche to be raised by their maternal aunt. My grandmother had always maintained that she was an American citizen because of her birth in the United States. The other bit of information that I had was that my great grandparents were Germans from Russia. Being young, none of those facts were of particular interest to me.

Until the death of **Augusta Draeger Wutzke Hoffman** on Jan 6, 1995, I had not made a pursuit of any further information. I made the assumption that all of my relatives lived in the Bergheim District except for one of grandmother's sisters. However, after my grandmother's funeral I came into possession of my grandparent's baptismal, confirmation and marriage certificates. Imagine my delight when looking on the dates of the baptismal certificates, and noting they were from 1901 and 1903. The information provided on grandmother's baptismal certificate verified what she had said about her birth and baptism. I immediately sent for her birth certificate in North Dakota and was informed that they were unable to find any record of a birth registration. Registration of birth was not mandatory at the time that she was born.

Augusta had attended the Lutheran Church in Gretna, Manitoba, along with her parents and siblings. From this information I concluded that they had traveled freely back and forth between the two countries. Not knowing the distance between these two places, Gretna and Neche, and unable to ascertain this by looking on a map; I asked an individual in Gretna; who kindly informed me that he could see Neche out of his window; that it was only a number of city blocks away. Not far at all. What a surprise! That answered that question for me. Although I have yet to go and see the place, as my grandmother always stated that all documents were lost when the Lutheran Church in Gretna was destroyed by fire. So I assumed there was nothing of value to see. I had forgotten that where there is a Church there is a cemetery. I do not know if this cemetery still exists or if it has been well maintained or fallen to neglect.

My next avenue of pursuit was the Saskatchewan Archives at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. There I located the Claim for Homestead and Title to SE Sec. 12 Thp. 37 Rge. 4 West of the 3rd, for my great grandfather **Adolf Driedger**. The differences in spelling did not deter me, as this seemed to be a common occurrence, and in fact this family uses three different spellings of the same name today. The information from these papers was invaluable but somewhat confusing. It listed his country of birth as America and county of birth as North Dakota and last residence as Neche. I thought I knew that he had not been born in the United States due to family members stating that they came from Russia. It stated that he took up residence on November 6, 1907, that his family was comprised of his wife and seven children, and that he broke the required amount of land each year; putting this in to crop. He had 10 acres that was fenced, stock, a 16x24 frame house valued at \$600, stable \$300 and well \$20. Unfortunately it did not indicate how much stock he had. This first set of Homestead papers was dated for 1911.

I found a second set of Homestead papers dated 1914 for the NE quarter of Section 12, Township 37, Range 4 West of 3rd Meridian. These documents show that he has lived on the quarter from Jan 1, 1911 to Dec 8, 1913 and that he has 107 acres that are cropped, and stock each year, along with a frame house valued at \$800, stable \$400 and well \$30. His family is still comprised of wife and seven children.

Continued on page 8

Also indicated is that he is making application for a Pre-emption or a Purchased Homestead and this is Dated May 21, 1909 at which time he indicates that while he was born in Russia, is a citizen of North Dakota he intends to become a citizen of Canada. In 1909 he gives his age as 50.

Twice more I visited the Saskatchewan Archives, looking through the ships manifests to find **Adolf Draeger** on the documents in the microfilms. The first date that I looked at was 1900 as that is the initial date of arrival from Europe that I had been given. Through conversation with an older family member I was given a date of 1896 as their arrival from Europe. Neither of these dates produced any information in the ships manifests. That was a tedious chore and I enlisted the aid of both my daughters. Consequently they both cringe when I suggest that we do some research together, but they bravely assist their mother.

My mother had never spoken of this grandfather and that was due to the fact that he was deceased when she was very young. She shared that he had died after being kicked by a horse. I received a copy of his registration of death from Vital Statistics in Regina. The information found there for **Adolf Drager** did not include the cause of death. What was included was his birth date of August 25th, 1859, his age (68), birth place Russia and that he was of German origin. The most exciting information was the names of his parents; Unknown Drager and Wilhemine Crapes, both from Germany.

With the knowledge of his mother's maiden name, I thought that this would make things a whole lot easier. Not so. I soon discovered that there was no such last name as Crapes. This dilemma lasted a short time, as I posted to one of my genealogy sites and provided the name Crapes, but stated this would have been pronounced with a German accent, and would have been heard by someone who was English speaking. What would the German name be? In a very short time I had an answer **Krebs**. See Issue #38 Armchair Genealogist, page 10 'What's in a Name'.

Not knowing the father's name caused a bit of a dilemma for me. I went to the Odessa Library web site and browsed through the Volhynia births, marriages and deaths. I found a Wilhelmine Krebs combined with a Ludwig Draeger. Not wanting to make an assumption that this was the correct one. I called on an elderly cousin who provided me with the name of one of Adolf's siblings, who had resided in Manitoba and that was Auntie Schmidtke. No first name. But after some thought, that took a couple of weeks, Auntie Schmidtke became Augusta Schmidtke, with a second marriage to Martin Schiewe of Manitoba. Not only did I have a first name, but two last names as well. From this information and the information that was in the Wandering Volhynians site, as well as the Odessa Library I found that Adolf's father had been a Johann Ludwig Draeger. Delving into the information at the Society for German Genealogy from Eastern Europe provided me with more family information, including the names of Johann Ludwig's parents and siblings.

I also found that Augusta Draeger and Gustav Schmidtke had a daughter named Olga who had then married a Gustav Abel. While reading the Aberdeen History book, I found this family mentioned and asked my mother about them. She said that she had been a bridesmaid for one of the daughters of Olga and Gus Abel, but was unsure of the family relationship. I was able to tell her that Olga Abel was a cousin of her mother, that Olga's mother was Adolf Draeger's sister and that the woman that my mother had been bridesmaid for was her second cousin. Through contacting Wanda, the individual that my mother had been bridesmaid for; I made a further connection that provided me with more information on the Augusta Draeger/Gustav Schmidtke family. Will need to explore this further.

Continued on page 9

The Draeger family was initially headed by **Martin Draeger** (abt 1800) and **Karoline Freigang** (abt 1803). They had resided in Augustopol, Wloclawek, Bydgoszcz, Poland. What a find! These were my great great great grandparents. Listed as their parents were a Martin Dreger and Maria Elisabeth Stege and Johann Freigang and Marianne Elisabeth Wegner.

Martin and **Karoline** were married on September 23, 1821. Over the span of 30 years beginning in 1822 and ending in 1852 this union produced 12 children. I could not even begin to imagine the number of pregnancies that was needed to produce this many children. What women of that time period had to have endure as part of their daily living conditions is unimaginable. Names of spouses for the children were provided and included: Wetzel, Krebs, Schramm, Zippel, Gross, Schubert and Eschner. I have not pursued any of these names, as these will be left for a future date.

I also found that **Johann Ludwig Draeger** and **Wilhelmine Krebs** were married on February 6, 1853 in Przedecz, Wloclawek, Bydgoszcz, Poland producing 2 children while residing there, Julius (December 2, 1853) and Friedrich (April 11, 1856). After joining the Historical Society of Germans from Poland and Volhynia, I came into possession of all the newsletters published by the Wandering Volhynians. Ewald Wuschke, editor for this newsletter had donated his research to this group. Reading through all the issues of this newsletter provided me with information about ancestors and the church at Gretna, Manitoba. Seems that all the records for the Lutheran Church were not lost, but had been moved to the St. John's Lutheran Church in Rosenfeld, Manitoba. Included in one of the newsletters was this information: "Ludwig Dreger age 18, born and living in Augustopol, son of Martin Dreger and Karoline Freigang married Wilhelmine Kregs, age 20, born at Studzien and living at Augustopol, daughter of Wilhelm Krebs and Emilie Springer". This was in response to a gentleman's inquiry about Augusta Schmidtke's parents. I kept his name for future reference and possible contact. When I did contact him, he shared with me his documentation of Augusta Schmidtke's family.

From one of my mother's cousins I received a copy of a document written by Augusta's brother indicating a bit of family history. Details provided the birth date of **Adolf Drager** in Kreis Rowno, Russia; date of marriage; children and their birth dates. This included some children that I had not previously known about. There was the oldest son Adam who was born in Kreis Rowno, Russia in 1888 and died in 1902 and was buried in Gretna, Manitoba. There was another son Edward that was born on 1905 in Neche, North Dakota and died the same year, buried at Schalers Cemetery, Neche, North Dakota. Fascinating; neither siblings ever being mentioned by my grandmother. Useful as all of this information is, it did not provide me with the town of birth for Adolf Draeger, as Kreis is not the name of a town, but means district of.

The documentation that I did have indicated that Adolf's siblings, Julius and Friedrich Draeger were born in Poland. Adolf was born on August 25th, 1859, three years after Friedrich and possibly in Volhynia, Russia. The Odessa Library site yielded further information with regards to **Johann Ludwig** and **Wilhelmine's** children. There were two recorded births in Volhynia, that of Augusta on December 5, 1863 and August on September 22, 1866. This gave me a total of five siblings, Julius, Friedrich, Adolf, Augusta and August. Two of which I now knew had come to Canada. What had happened to the others? All of these births had taken place between 1853 and 1866. Five children in 13 years, which raises the question, could there be more? Also found was the remarriage of Wilhelmine Draeger nee Krebs to one Adam Schwanke on Jan 5, 1875 and the birth of one child Amalie Schwanke on October 27, 1876. In actuality Wilhelmine had brought forth six children between 1853 and 1876, a total of 23 years. More research needs to be done in this area, along with the pursuit of whether more than 2 of these children had come to Canada, other than Augusta and Adolf.

I continued to seek information for Adolf Draeger, by attempting to put him in Neche, North Dakota, during the time span that I knew he had resided there. Looking at the maps that I had received from the Library of Congress did not indicate his name attached to any land around Neche. I went on line to find out if there had been a census taken during the years of his residency. I posted to a North Dakota Census Lookup site and got a response for the 1900 census. Following is the information that I received.

Name: Adolph **Dredger**

Home in 1900: St Joseph, Pembina, North Dakota

Age: 40

Estimated birth year: 1860

Birthplace: Russia

Race: White

Relationship to head-of-house: Head

Immigration year: 1895

Image source: Year: 1900; Census Place: St Joseph, Pembina, North Dakota;

Roll: T623 1230; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 118.

Adolph Dredger, head, 40, b. May 1860, married 16 yrs., b. Russia,

parents b. Russia, Immigrated 1895, Number of Years in the US: 5,

Alien, Farmer, Unable to read or write, Able to speak English

Amelia, wife, 36, b. Nov. 1863, married 16 yrs., mother of 5 children,

5 children living, b. Russia, parents b. Russia, Immigrated 1895,

Number of Years in the US: 5, Alien, Unable to read or write, Able to Speak English

Adam, son, 13, b. Sept. 1886, b. Russia, Immigrated 1895, Able to read and write,

- Unable to speak English

Louville (Ludwig), son, 11, b. May 1889, b. Russia, Immigrated 1895,

- Unable to read, write or speak English

Helena (Adeline), daughter, 7, b. Nov. 1892, b. Russia, Immigrated 1895

Pauline (Juliane), daughter, 3, b. April 1897, b. ND

Benjamin (Bernhard), son, 1, b. Sept. 1898, b. ND

None of the children attend school

This was indeed my great grandfather, although some of the childrens names were spelled incorrectly, correct spellings in brackets. I took into consideration that sometimes what was said with a heavy accent might not be what the person taking the census heard. With this information I then went to the North Dakota

Naturalization Records Index and typed in **Dredger**. Adolf had indeed taken out American Citizenship. I sent for a copy of his Naturalization Records (first and second papers) for a total of \$5. US. The first papers indicated he had filed on March 18th, 1902 and his second papers were filed on February 6, 1906, making his a US citizen. His witnesses were listed as a Ferdinand Donartt and Rudolf Schler, both brothers in laws. Donartt being Donat and Schler being Schaler, as spellings were incorrect. No wonder it is so difficult to find information, as the spelling of names is not how we think it should be spelled, how it is spelled today or even how we assume it may be spelled. I also noted Adolf's date of immigration as 1895. That will mean another trip to the Saskatchewan Archives.

I found the meaning of the surname Draeger is related to an occupation, meaning carrier, porter or servant. I have found that Draeger may be spelled many different ways, such as: **Draeger**, **Drager**, **Dreger**, **Semler**, **Krecik**, **Traeger**, and **Treger**, plus the **Dredger** found on the Naturalization papers; along with Dreidger on the homestead papers.

Continued on page 11

I also found that Adolf was an active member of his Church and along with other members of the parish, was instrumental in establishing the Lutheran Church at Bergheim. He was also a believer in education as was along with other members of the community who founded the Bergheim School. The educational information is not consistent with what my grandmother had to say about her lack of education, as she maintained that she wanted to become a nurse, rather than marry. She did, however, marry at age 17. Whether this was due to lack of education, familial pressure/expectations or love, one will never know.

This is a simplified explanation of what I have pursued and found out about one family, my great grandfather Adolf Draeger; all as the result of my grandmother's death and coming into some documents. This has occurred over a ten-year time span, from when I first received the documents until today. Is there anything left for me to do, there sure is, and I am up for the challenge. So much information has raised a lot more questions and they need to be answered.

Remember when

It was a hot July on the farm west of Hanley, Saskatchewan 1936. The Great Depression was wearing us down year by year. The bright spot of the summer was a visit by my father's sister Phyllis, her husband Tom, and three year old Billy. They drove all the way from Indiana, USA in their brand new 1936 car. We didn't have a car, and I didn't know there were various models at my age, but they said it was "streamlined!!", which meant that the windshield slanted back so as to minimize the wind resistance, and therefore increase the speed. I thought that was a smart idea; but it also had a trunk on the back to hold the luggage! And they took us all the way to North Battleford where my father's other sister lived. Coming home, my aunt and her 2 boys came along with us. Would you believe that all 11 of us squeezed into that car, along with the extra luggage (they were going to spend a couple of weeks with us). But where there is 'heart room' there is room! We were 3-deep in the back seat, and no one complained. This was where the fun began.

We had to cross the Saskatchewan River at Borden, on the ferry, since the centre span of the bridge was not yet completed. The only other car on the ferry was an old Model T Ford, with its top and side curtains folded back. We'd call it a convertible today. Two fellas from that car got out, as did my uncle. We could hear them chin-wagging if we listened closely. Of course the Indiana license plate sparked their curiosity; they were going to take this American tourist for a ride!. They didn't know that my uncle and aunt had lived in North Battleford for several years, and was no stranger to this area. Tom was ready for them! With a 'poker face' and 'sincere curiosity' he questioned them about this strange-looking bridge, and why the centre span was left out, giving them full opportunity. By this time those of us in the car were listening with both ears, wondering what was coming next. With just as serious an expression as Tom's, they carefully explained that in the summertime the polar bears like to ride on the icebergs that float down the river. To accommodate them, the centre span was left open so they could get through. (Of course!! Why didn't Tom think of that?!) But Tom, as 'green as cabbage', with an Indiana license plate, swallowed it 'hook, line, and sinker'! Meanwhile, those of us in our car were nearly bursting with smuggled laughter, which we couldn't let out until we were off the ferry.

Only a brief moment in history, but vividly remembered to this day.

Submitted by Dorothy Berg

The
SASKATOON GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Presents a one – day Genealogy Workshop

“RESEARCHING YOUR BRITISH ROOTS”

February 4th, 2006

**Travelodge Hotel
106 Circle Drive West
Saskatoon**

Our guest speaker is **Pat Ryan MCCSG**

President and owner of *Past Relations Research*

<http://ca.geocities.com/pastrelations>

Pat is a well known genealogy instructor, researcher and lecturer. She is a founding member of the College of Certified Saskatchewan Genealogists, and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She founded *Past Relations Research* in 1999 as a venue to provide quality and specialty genealogy classes. Pat has been a presenter at various seminars, while continuing to develop and teach her own classes in Regina, as well as at the University of Saskatchewan Regina, and on the Internet. She is a 1st generation Canadian with family roots and areas of expertise in British and North American records. These workshops will offer research tips using traditional records, but will also investigate those lesser known, seldom used & often misunderstood British records. Pat’s style is informal, humorous & entertaining. She invites everyone to join in and says that “With or without British roots, you can expect to learn”!

Cost for this one-day workshop is \$50.00 per person and includes speaker handouts, coffee break refreshments, and a soup and sandwich lunch buffet. Don’t forget about the free parking and Room Rates are only \$99.95 per night plus taxes if booked before January 4th .Make sure to inform them that you are attending the Saskatoon Genealogical Society Workshop on Feb 4th.

Register early as we only have room for about 80 participants.

“Researching Your British Roots”

Each session can be a stand-alone lesson, but to perform British research effectively you need to learn the basics of each country and how to use their records in tandem. This will be a unique experience - using ‘country specific’ records to follow one family as they travel throughout the British Isles. Whether you are a Scottish Laddie or Lassie, a shillelagh wielding Irishman, an English Limey or just a curious researcher, you are all welcome to join Pat and hear her tips, hints and secrets!

“When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this – you haven’t”. Thomas Edison

Session 1 – *Going Home to Scotland*©

Session 2 – *Going Home to Ireland*©

Session 3 – *Going Home to England*©

Session 4 – *the Agony & the Ecstasy*© [using databases & indexes - generic]

Visit our website for a registration form and any late breaking news.

<http://www.rootsworld.com/~sksgs>

Vital Statistics for Saskatchewan

Here we are slowly moving into the online world of genealogy in our province. Manitoba and British Columbia are ahead of us with searchable databases for Births, Marriages and Deaths registered in their province. Now Saskatchewan can say they have started. Births registered in Saskatchewan up to 1905 (100 years rule) are now online at: http://vsqs.health.gov.sk.ca/vsqs_srch.aspx

In time we will see deaths up to 70 years ago and marriages up to 75 years ago entered into the database. If you have an interest in family living in Saskatchewan then you may get lucky and find the names you are looking for. Although you should keep some things in mind, like the name may NOT be the exact spelling, nor the place of birth. Some people may not even be there. Stop and think about it though, the pioneers at home on their land, they may have had more on their mind then registering the birth of another child, when winter was fast approaching they still had a lot of work to be done which may have been more important then visiting the office to register child number eight. Also not everything survives, local offices handled the paperwork in the early years, and anything could happen to the office back then, bad filing, leaky roof, fire. In reality things are no different today. If you are lucky and you do find the information you are looking for it will still cost \$50 for the genealogical copy (this is the one to get, it is a photocopy of the original registration, a must see piece of paper).

Now you are wondering why \$50 for the copy. Well the price went up over a year ago from \$25 to \$50. For the staff in the office to make you a copy they have to go into the area where the registrations are stored, find the right book then page through the book for the right entry. The registrations are bound in books by year. Once it is found they can then make you a copy and send it. With the new database they have included more information then you may find on Manitoba's database, the father's and mother's full name is there. Saskatchewan Health's Vital Statistics Unit wants you to be sure before ordering and spending your \$50 that you have the one you want.

I thought it would be interesting to play with the database to see what else I can find out, like the top ten registrations. Here is what we (some helpful people from the Can-Sask list) ended up with.

(Registration #, Surname, First name, Birth date, Birthplace)

- 1) Arcand, Joseph Patrice, 1904/1/23 Duck Lake
- 1) Abra, Bessie Bell, 1898/6/7, Saskatchewan
- 2) Arcand, Marie Armeline, 1898 / 8 / 26, Saskatchewan
- 2) Adam, Janet Annie Mackie, 1899/6/28. Saskatchewan
- 3) Areand, Elizabeth Alexandrine, 1901/2/28, Carlton
- 3) Adam, Marie, 1899/6/5, Saskatchewan
- 3) Adams, Homer Charles Cromartir, 1898/9/3, Saskatchewan
- 4) Arcand, Elizabeth, 1903/3/13 Duck Lake
- 4) Areand, Caroline, 1901/3/1, Carlton
- 4) Adams, Thomas Glenivan, 1898/12/23
- 4) Arcand, Elizabeth, 1903/3/13 Duck Lake
- 5) Areand, Marie Louise 1902/7/19 Duck Lake
- 5) Allan, Agnes Ruby, 1898/7/7, Saskatchewan
- 6) Baptiste, Rosalie 1899/8/7 Duck Lake
- 6) Arnold, Frederick Norman, 1889/6/23, Saskatchewan
- 7) Arcand. Josephine Angele 1902/7/19 Duck Lake
- 7) Arcand, Marie Ernestine, 1899 / 3 / 25, Saskatchewan
- 7) Arcand, Francois, 1898/1/24, Saskatchewan
- 7) Arcand, Josephine Angele 1902/7/19 Duck Lake
- 7) Arcand, Marie Ernestine, 1899/3/25, Saskatchewan
- 8) Adamson, Agnes Patrica, 1898/3/17, Saskatchewan
- 9) Arcan, Marie, 1902 / 7 / 11, Carlton
- 9) Atler, Robert John, 1898/11/27, Saskatchewan
- 10) Arcand, Marie Philomene 1905/5/1 Duck Lake

I know there are more than ten people here. There is probably more than this that have registration numbers from 1 to 10. So when I asked Vital Stats about this I was told that with each year the registration numbers started back at one; which makes sense. Officially registrations didn't start in Saskatchewan until 1905 and not all things run smooth at first, it does take a lot to develop a system. The database now holds 40069 entries up to 1905. The oldest birth dates listed on the site are for:

10240) Kikiawass, Marguerite Marie (born) 1832/2/5 (in) Stoney Lake

11003) Pruden, Charles (born) 1854/2/4/ (in) Fort Carlton

If broken down the births by years it would like this:

1905	5995	1896	1551	1887	352	1878	16	1869	1
1904	4879	1895	1502	1886	314	1877	4	1868	4
1903	3889	1894	1572	1885	256	1876	3	1867	1
1902	3160	1893	1469	1884	190	1875	6	1862	2
1901	2683	1892	1233	1883	74	1874	2	1856	1
1900	2413	1891	1075	1882	27	1873	3	1854	1
1899	2044	1890	875	1881	17	1872	0	1832	1
1898	1748	1889	811	1880	21	1871	1		
1897	1420	1888	448	1879	4	1870	1		

By first letter of Surname

A	1275	G	1890	M	4693	S	3800	Y	247
B	3826	H	2786	N	817	T	1382	Z	251
C	2443	I	195	O	523	U	171		
D	2020	J	794	P	2324	V	346		
E	766	K	1941	Q	41	W	2190		
F	1724	L	1898	R	1723	X	0		

No matter how you break it down there are 40069 entries that are waiting for you to search for your ancestors.

Submitted by Tammy Vallee



Saskatoon Branch member, Tammy Vallee, receiving the Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award from Rocky Sample, President of the SGS.

The Centennial 2005 office launched the Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award as a way to recognize those who have contributed and those who will continue to contribute to the future of organizations throughout the province.

One of the awards, which bears the Saskatchewan Centennial logo, and an accompanying certificate, was presented to Tammy Vallee at the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Seminar in Regina on October 22, 2005. The SGS sees Tammy as a future leader and one who will carry the organization into the future. Anyone wishing to read the complete background to this award can do so at <http://www.sask2005.ca/awards/leadership.asp>.

Tammy Vallee has been a member of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) and the Saskatoon Branch of the SGS for 2 ½ years. In that short time, she has been on the Branch executive as well as on the facilities, refreshment, cemetery recording, and program committees. A mere two months into her Branch membership, Tammy agreed to help prepare a display for the provincial seminar in Saskatoon. Since joining, she has taken two classes offered by the SGS and is now certified both as a Saskatchewan Record Searcher and an Aboriginal Record Searcher. Her specialty is Métis research on the prairies and she is currently compiling her research into a book on the genealogy of North Western Saskatchewan.

As well as raising three rambunctious boys, Tammy has given a beginning genealogy class at her neighbourhood elementary school and is working diligently to gain access to the public school system to help spread the word to our up and coming genealogists. Her recent presentation at the Heritage Language Teachers' Conference has also helped the teachers to understand the genealogical process and to see how this lifelong hobby can be implemented into the school program.

With such keen interest, energy and volunteer spirit, Tammy Vallee is certain to play an important role during the next 100 years of genealogy in Saskatchewan.

Submitted by Susan Leitch

PLEASE WEAR A POPPY

*"Please wear a poppy," the lady said
And held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them,
And her face was old and lined with care;
But beneath the scars the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.*

*A boy came whistling down the street,
Bouncing along on care-free feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady," said he, "may I have one?"
When she's pinned in on he turned to say,
"Why do we wear a poppy today?"*

*The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered, "This is Remembrance Day,
And the poppy there is the symbol for
The gallant men who died in war.
And because they did, you and I are free -
That's why we wear a poppy, you see.*

*"I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by he learned and grew
and became a man - as you will, too.*

*"He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
But he'd seemed with us such a little while
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day
When he smiled at me and said, Goodbye,
I'll be back soon, Mom, so please don't cry.*

*"But the war went on and he had to stay,
And all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire.*

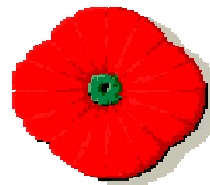
*"Till at last, at last, the war was won-
And that's why we wear a poppy son."
The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight,
But your son - did he come back all right?"*

*A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn't speak.
I slunk away in a sort of shame,
And if you were me you'd have done the same;
For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought -
and thousands paid!*

*And so when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne,
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer their country's call
That we at home in peace might live.*

Then wear a poppy! Remember - and give!

by Don Crawford



Lest We Forget

On November 11, on CTV during the day's Remembrance Day programming, it is quite likely that you will hear letters written by Michelle Rusk's parents during World War II. Michelle has been contacted by the researchers at Historica, regarding the letter her mother wrote her father after learning of the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944 and the letter her Dad wrote from a ditch in Belgium, September 1944. The researcher's comment was, "I don't think I'm all that sentimental, but my eyes welled up reading their letters." If anyone would like to read the transcripts of the letters or see the copies of the letters, please contact Michelle.

