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The Saskatoon Heritage Festival Board, of which the Saskatoon Branch of the SGS is a member, had another successful event on February 5th at the WDM. The decorated box raffle raised \$400.00 for WDM sponsored events. Volunteers are need to organize next years event that will focus on the 100th birthday of the University of Saskatchewan.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar 17th** **General Branch Meeting**
"Organizing your Family History"
presented by Bernadette Prokopetz and Terri Chappell.
- Mar 25th** **Beginners Genealogy Workshop**
with guest speaker Bev Gutenberg
see page 4 for more info
- Apr 8th** **SBSGS Steak Night**
see page 4 for more info
- Apr 21st** **General Branch Meeting**
"War Brides of World War II"
presented by Michelle Rusk
- May 19th** **General Branch Meeting**
guest speaker is Linda Dunsmore-Porter,
Executive Director of SGS
- June 16th** **General Branch Meeting**
Annual Dessert Social
program TBA
- Sept 15th** **General Branch Meeting**

OUR MEETING LOCATION

Place: St. Paul Catholic School @ 1527 Alexandra Avenue

Time: The **Library** is open from 5:30 - 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 geographical workshops.

Dates: The 3rd Friday of each month except for July & August.

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

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

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 \$38.00 (senior rate) or \$40.00 (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.

SBSGS 2006 BRANCH EXECUTIVE

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Susan Leitch
Merle Ward

FACILITY COORDINATOR:

VACANT

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!



THE FAMILY TREE

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.

WE GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGE THE
FOLLOWING
ORGANIZATIONS.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you are all having a happy one.

I am pleased to be your new president and trust that you will look at me as an equal and not as someone above everyone. I would like us to be able to work as a team and to have the most enjoyable time that we can have. I would like you to feel free to call me and let me know what you would like to see in your group, as I can only take you where you want to go.

We are planning a couple of workshops and we look forward to your ideas for things to include and having you volunteer to help in any way that you can. The events that we hold for the branch can only be as successful as we make them and it takes a team effort to do that.

Please donate items to the events that the fundraising committee are putting on and offer to help if you are able. Invite all your friends to buy a ticket to the **steak night** that will be at **Rodeo's** in the **Travelodge on April 8** and let's have a great time. If we sell all our tickets, they will close the place to the public and we will have it all to ourselves

Please volunteer to help out the Cemetery committee as they transcribe the cemeteries in our area for those who can't get here to check them out. I am sure you are grateful for those who transcribed a grave of one of your ancestors for you. If you are not able to get to the cemetery on the day they choose to transcribe it, then offer to help type it up or anything else that they need done.

Offer to put your name on the list to bring goodies for the coffee break, or help someone with something that they are doing. Help set up or take down the chairs and tables, before and after the meetings. Write an article about something that you have found or something that has happened during your search for your families and submit it to the newsletter.

Together we can get things done, and have a great Genealogical Society!

Also, **Congratulations to Virginia Baribeau** who was the recent winner of our raffle for the beautifully crocheted Table Cloth that was donated to our branch by Delores Maduke's mother.

The **"Researching your British Roots"** workshop that was held at the Travelodge on Feb 4th was a success with 28 people attending. We would like to thank the **City of Saskatoon** for their generous grant of \$500.00 which will help offset some the costs our branch incurred.

The Saskatoon Branch of SGS is hosting a workshop on:

"How to Begin Your Genealogy "

Instructor - Beverley Gutenberg

Time - 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Date - Saturday, March 25th, 2006

@

St. Paul Catholic School

1527 Alexandra Avenue, Saskatoon

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Registration Deadline: March 22, 2006

Contact: Karen Haffermehl

Phone: (306) 382 - 2338

Email: wk.haffermehl@sasktel.net

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

S.B.S.G.S. STEAK NIGHT

WHO: Saskatoon Branch of Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

WHAT: Steak Night Dinner

WHEN: April 8, 2006 (Saturday)

**TIME: Cocktails at 5:30pm
Dinner at 6:00pm**

WHERE: Rodeos Bar – located behind the Travelodge Hotel

COST: \$12.00 per ticket

Make sure to get your ticket early,
so you don't miss out on this great evening of food and fun!
For further information contact: Delores Maduke at 384-2510
email: deloresstevens@sasktel.net

GARAGE SALE

The Saskatoon Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society will be holding a garage sale on **Saturday June 24, 2006**. We would appreciate any donations, which can be made to any member of the Fundraising Committee closer to the sale date. Harold Baker has kindly donated his driveway for the sale.

EEGS/FEEFHS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Winnipeg - August 4th to 6th 2006
DISCOVERING OUR ROOTS
FROM EAST EUROPE TO THE NEW WORLD

The East European Genealogical Society (EEGS) and the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) will hold a conference to explore East European ancestry on August 4 to 6, 2006 at the Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The conference will feature presentations by renowned specialists from the U.S.A. and Canada focusing on areas in present day Poland and Ukraine as well as the Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and German Empires. Presentations will cover research procedures, records, sources, language, and scripts and many other topics. There will also be a generic track for beginners to genealogy with general research topics including computer and others.

Winnipeg is the "gateway to the west" for East European settlement in Canada. It has many Ukrainian, Mennonite, Jewish, Polish, and other ethnic museums and research centres as well as institutions of genealogical importance such as the provincial archives, provincial genealogical society, two universities with Slavic and German studies and others. Winnipeg hosts the Folklorama Festival, a two week event that begins on the last day of the conference and features over 40 pavilions with ethnic food, entertainment, and cultural displays for many areas of east and central Europe. Pavilions include Warsaw-Poland, Krakow-Poland, Ukraine-Lviv, Ukraine-Kyiv, Russian, Czech and Slovak, German, Hungarian, and others. (see: www.folklorama.ca for more info).

EEGS website: www.eegsociety.org FEEFHS website: www.feehs.org

Census 2006 asks Permission Question

As many of you know the 1911 census was only recently made available, after legislation mandating its release. The next census will take place on May 16, 2006. To many of us who are into genealogy and family history, this census contains a question of an opt-in nature. To help future family researchers, when filling out the 2006 form, be sure to answer YES to the question about allowing family data to be released in 2098, 92 years after enumeration. Should a parent with a small child, who will be a grandparent, at least, by that time, reply with a NO or leave the line blank, the family data will never be released. To date I do not know of any way family members will be able to reverse the family decision made in 2006, but we hope to find out.

The questions for the census have been published in the Canada Gazette.

[Source: "Loyalist Trails", UELAC newsletter 2006-02 (08 Jan 2006), online
<<http://www.uelgovsimcoe.org/Loyalist-Trails/Loyalist-Trails-2006-02.php#Census>>]

NEW MATERIAL in the SASKATOON BRANCH of SGS for FEBUARY 2006

- OTTAWA ON OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS.
 OTTA O 202.01 2006 Volume 39, No.1
- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families
 Researching Their Roots. 2006-Jan/Feb
 Special Issue:Immigration
 Reasons Why People Emigrated
 Tracing Immigrants Online
 Extra Info on the Ellis Island Dadtabase
 Understanding DNA research Techniques
 Free Inside: 24 page Preview of Internet Genealogy Magazine.
- MAN M 514.14 MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Published by the Mennonite
 2005-VOL.XXX1, NO.4
- BC G 181.16 GRAPEVINES –
 NEWS FROM THE SOUTH OKANAGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 2005-Vol. 14. Issue 2
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2006- Volume 22-No.4
 Shop talk –The Village Store
 Irish Ancestry Online
 8 Irish County Maps On The CD
 Merchant Navy
 Emigrants to South Africa
 Dress Code Then and Now
- GB/ENG M 7 THE MANCHESTER GENEALOGIST. Donated by Merele Ward
 A Journal of the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society
 1987 – Vol. 23- No.1,,3,4
 1988 – Vol. 24- No.1,2,3,4
 1889 – Vol. 25- No.1,2,3,4
 1990 – Vol. 26- No.1,2,3,
- GB/ENG CENSUS Leicester 1871 (Part) (Rg10/3277-81)
 BRITISH DATA Parish Records Herfordshire Vol. 1(Marriages)
 ARCHIVE Back Issues FTM Feb 1987-PFH Feb 2003
 F9 Bonus 8 Irish County Index Maps
 Demo Roots Magic
- Disc 18 **FOR REFERENCE ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY**
- GB R 25 RESEARCHING YOUR BRITISH ROOTS
 WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY PAT RYAN FEBUARY 4, 2006

- Magazine
SK F 151.2 FOLKLORE.
Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society.2005- Special Centennial Issue
- SK E 241.612 EXPLORING LOCAL HISTORY IN SASKATCHEWAN.
Saskatchewan Archives Board 1985 (Up-dated from 1980)
- SK C 15 CARING FOR OUR PAST:DOCUMENTING SASKATCHEWAN'S
MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE. Saskatchewan Archives Board 1985
- GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENELOGICAL HELPER
2005 –Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec 2006 –Jan/Feb
Look for the following articles in Everton Genealogical Helper
2005-Sept/Oct
How to Be a Self-Sufficient Researcher.
Tracing Your Baltic Ancestry: A Wandering Feast.
10 Things to Look for in Swedish Records
Professional Answers to Your Questions.
2005-Nov/Dec
The “Genes” in Genealogy
BYU Students Research European Archives
What’s in a Name? A Closer Look at Family Surnames
2006-Jan/Feb
A Certificate Sent From Heaven.
Scotch-Irish
Did Your Matilda Waltz in Australia.
Professional Answers to Your Questions
- BIG B 97 BIGGAR ROOT BOOSTER
Newsletter Biggar Branch SGS 2006 – Vol. 12, No. 1
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE
2006- Vol.22, No.5
In this Issue:
Ancestors on the Railway
To Market with the Carrier
Inside the Asylum
Research in Ireland
- GB/ENG CENSUS Middlesex,Edmonton 1871 (Pt)(Rg10/1343-48)
BRITISH DATA Parish Records Lincolnshire Vol.1(Marriages)
ARCHIVE Back Issues FTM Mar 1988-PFH Mar 2002
Bonus 8 Irish County Index Maps
Software Legacy 6 Standard

Disc 19 **FOR REFERENCE ONLY – DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY**

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- ONT F 1.139 FAMILIES OGS NEWSLETTER 2006 Vol. 45, No.1
- GB/SCOT TAY VALLEY FAMILY HISTORIAN
T 22 Journal of the Tay Family History Society
1991 - No. 28,29,30
1992 - No. 31,32,33
1993 - No. 34,35,36
1994 - No. 37,38,39
1995 - No. 40,41,42
1996 - No. 43,44,45
1997 - No. 46
- SK G 18 THE GREYSTONE REVIEW '84
75 Years of Students at the U. of S.
Written and Researched by Karen Heiber
- NS/
CAPE BRETON THE SIXTH COLLECTORS' EDITION CAPE BRETON'S MAGAZINE
S3 Devoted to the History, Natural History and
Future of Cape Breton Island
Number Thirty
- CAN N 2.2 NOT IN VAIN. Bell Ken. c 1973.
Moved from European Section to Canadian Section
-

MONTREAL DIRECTORIES ON-LINE

"...the Library and Archives of Quebec (BAnQ) have placed City Directories of Montreal from 1842 to 1940 online. Information on the website indicates that this is a work in progress and that they expect to add remaining directories up to 1999... <http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/index.html>"

Computer Hints

Here are a couple of interesting things to help out genealogists. This first web site helps to calculate birth dates from the death date and age at the time of death. Many old tombstones and death records list only these two facts and leave it to us to figure out the birth date.

<http://www.progenealogists.com/birthfromdeath.htm>

Small Print

I just found this out. It's very useful when trying to read small print. If you hold down the Ctrl key on your key board and then turn the small wheel in the middle of your mouse away from you or towards you, the print size will change - it will either get larger or smaller - depending on which way you turn the wheel.

Submitted by Elsie Henry

Grave Thoughts



Saskatchewan
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1894 Regina Saskatchewan
Canada S4P 3E1
(306) 780-9207

Burial Sites/Cemetery

Burial Sites/Cemetery recording can give you a sense of well being knowing that you are making a worthwhile contribution to present and future research into family backgrounds and relationships.

When doing genealogical research it is important to write the information about each record as you find it. There are times when the information may be wrong. Comments can be listed that suggest different data but the record must be left as is. If you are new to genealogy, this will seem very strange, however, the genealogical rule is, whenever you copy a record, you always copy it as it is found.

The Burial Site/Cemetery form supplied, is designed to help the recorder as well as those who will compile additional Burial Site/Cemetery lists, at a later date. It is important to record the land location of rural cemeteries as well as the cemetery name. Also record other information if known, such as the cemetery owner and record holder.

Some Burial Sites/Cemeteries will be well known, some you will have to use your investigative skills to find. The challenge can be interesting and rewarding.

Upon determining the burial Site/Cemetery you intend recording:

1. Check with SGS to make sure no one else is doing the same cemetery.
2. Find out who is in charge of the site.
3. Explain your intentions.
4. Get permission to do the recording.

The people who are in charge may have actual burial records or know where you may obtain them. It is often possible to record these records. Sometimes, your source of information will be oral history. This oral history should be documented. If the burial ground has no markers or no record, mark the site on the map with its location. If you know how many unmarked graves are there, mark that down, if you are not sure use the sign @ about.

The unidentifiable Burial Sites/Cemeteries are important. It often happens that someone else knows about the site and who is buried there.

All burial sites are important.

IF there are records:

1. Sometimes, the people in charge will allow you to borrow the records.
2. Often they will allow you to copy them but not remove them.
3. ALWAYS print carefully when copying documents.
4. If allowed to remove them, photocopy them quickly and return them.
5. If you must copy them, set up a schedule with the person in charge and carefully print the information. If you have made specific dates to do the recording, be sure you keep them or contact the person to make the change in plan.
6. Have someone else check what has been hand copied. Many mistakes are made in hand copying. It is a good genealogical rule to have someone review hand copied work. It is easy to make mistakes!
7. If you decide to record onto tape then speak slowly and distinctly into the microphone. Spell each first and last name carefully. Later you can put it on paper records.
8. List spouse, maiden name and parents if available.

Burial Sites/Cemetery

Page 2

9. If you enter your recorded data into a computer program for sorting or easier reading, please send both the paper printout and a computer file on disk when you submit your work to the project co-ordinator. This facilitates entering the names on SRI and makes your work even more accessible.
10. Be sure to list all the information carefully so that you can place the information on the Burial Site/Cemetery map later.

Remember:

All records may not agree, write everything as it is found. Make no changes. The information should be as found with the source listed. Additional information can be added. The source of the additional information should be stated.

Helpful hints when recording a burial site/cemetery:

1. Bring several pens, erasermate works well. Pencils tend to smudge with handling.
2. A clipboard will serve as a writing surface, while an elastic band around the base of the board will hold the pages steady against any wind.
3. If there are grave markers, they may be difficult to read because of age, weathering and foliage. It is important to record the information but, also, to leave the grounds as you have found them. White chalk and yellow chalk help to decipher worn letters of some sand stone markers. The chalk does not vandalize and washes away with the next rain. Bear in mind that anything put on the surface of the stone will contribute to the deterioration of the stone and should be avoided if possible. A less harmful method is to take a "rubbing" of the stone using thin paper and pencil.

If the grave markers are covered in moss or other foliage, carefully lift the greenery, record the stone and return the foliage.

When you leave a burial site/cemetery it should look very much as it did before you recorded it.

For your own comfort

- Always wear comfortable walking shoes. You may be scrambling over logs and boulders.
- Dress according to the season and for scratches and mosquitoes.
- It can take quite some time to record a burial site, come prepared, perhaps lunch, water and a chair, depending on your personal needs.

Summary Sheet for Cemetery Information

- Confidential: will be filled in at the SGS library/office.
 Cemetery no.: will be filled in at the SGS library/office.
- Name of R. M.: full name of the Rural Municipality the cemetery is located in.
 eg.: Prairie Rose
- No. of R. M.: the number of the Rural Municipality.
 eg. : 309
- Name of Cemetery: the full name the cemetery is generally known by. Include all names that the cemetery may have had in the past or if known locally by different names. If this is a family cemetery on private land, give the name of the family and current owner of the land.
 eg. : Hill and Dale Cemetery, or Private: Smith, owned by John Smith.
- Name of Church and Denomination: if this is a church owned cemetery give the full name of the church congregation that owns it.
 eg.: St. John's Anglican Church
- Name of Community: name of the community that uses this cemetery or is the nearest town, village or town or Reserve if First Nations cemetery.
 eg.: Ituna
- Condition of cemetery: check the box that best describes the cemetery.
- Approximate no. of burials: an estimate of the number of known burials, including graves without headstones.
- Ownership of Cemetery property: check the appropriate box .
- Comments: add any comments you feel may be useful to researchers looking for the cemetery or to the SGS project coordinators in locating further information such as the records of the cemetery.
- Map: mark the ¼ section on the map, fill in the numbers of the township, range and meridian in the blanks provided. Can also draw in any nearby roads, landmarks etc.
- Submitted by: your name.
 Address: your address & phone number
 Date: the date you submitted the information.
 Holder of records: if known provide the name of person or office that holds the records of interments for the cemetery.
 Address: address of record holder.

Filed 10 CONFIDENTIAL
by SGS

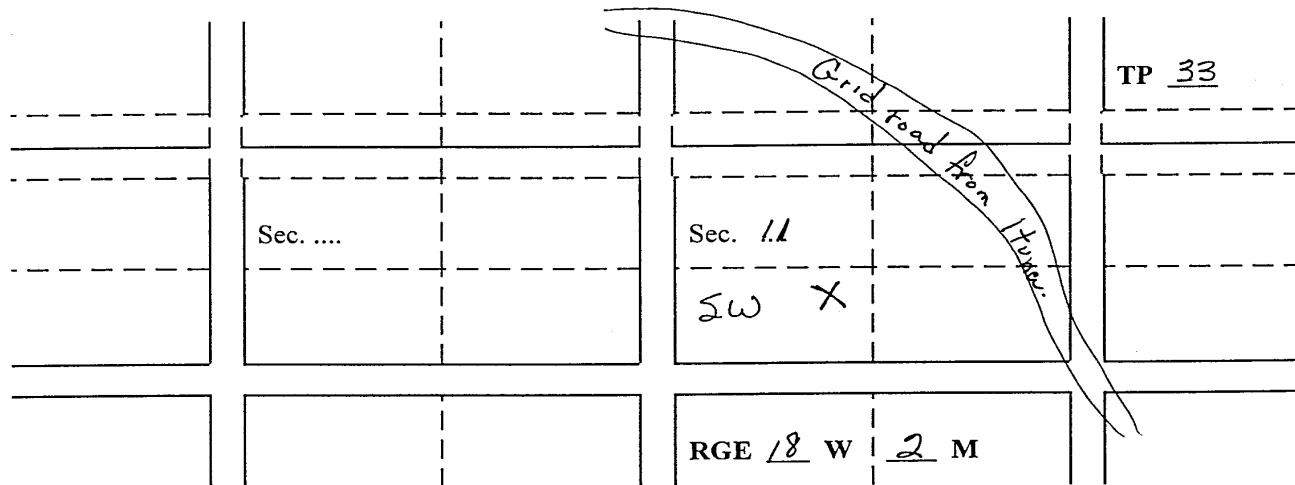
Cemetery No. Filed 11
by SGS.

SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 1894, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3E1
1870 Lorne Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2L7
(306) 780-9207

PLEASE FILL IN ONE FORM PER CEMETERY

NAME OF R.M. Prairie Rose No. of R.M. 309
NAME OF CEMETERY (if known) Hill & Dale
NAME OF CHURCH and Denomination or Owner St. John's Anglican
NAME OF COMMUNITY Ituna
Condition of Cemetery - Abandoned (), Neglected (), Well Cared for ()
Approximate No. of burials 123
Ownership of cemetery property - Church ; Private Owner; Community; Not known

COMMENTS (on back if necessary). Any Further information or details known would be appreciated.
This cemetery about 6 miles west of town, off the grid road.
Show location of cemetery below and fill in land location, section, township and range, west of ___ Meridian



Land Location: SEC SW 11 T 33 R 18 W 2
Date Entered to SRI: Filed in by SGS Last Burial Date: July 1997
Submitted By: Bill Jones Recording Date: August 1997
Address: Box 123 Anytown, SK
Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
Holder of Records: St John's Anglican Church
Address: Box 100 Ituna

Submitted by Susan Leitch

Tracking one Family Through Time

Submitted by Delores Maduke

Hunting for the origins of the Donat line of my ancestors has been an amazing path to follow and bringing them forward into the present has been just as exciting. My great great grandparents were Heinrich Donat and Karoline Kroening. The furthest I have been able to go back with these two lines is the late 1700's. The Donat line starts with Wilhelm Donat (abt 1805) and Anna Kristine Mueller (abt 1811). Information on the elder Donats suggest that they had 3 children born between 1835 and 1843. These are a) Anna Kristine Donat (abt 1835) in Augustopol, Wloclawek, Bydgoszcz, Poland, b) Heinrich born 9 Jan, 1840 Augustopol and c) Wilhelmine born 1 Feb, 1843 in Georgenthal, Gostynin, Warszawa, Poland.

The marriages of these three siblings took place in Nowa Wies, Gostynin, Warszawa, Poland. These records are from the Society of German Genealogy of Eastern Europe (SGGEE) whose members have translated original records filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. On 14, Nov 1852 Anna Kristine married Gottfried Schindel. On 25 Nov, Heinrich Donat married Karoline Kroening and Wilhelmine married August Szymanski on 29 Sept 1861. It is probable they attended the Lutheran Church in Gostynin, Poland.



Former Lutheran church of Gostynin - Photo by: Jutta Dennerlein, 2005

The Kroening line originates with Adam Kroening (abt 1786) and Eva Molzahn (abt 1790). Their children were Heinrich Andreas Kroening (abt 1817), Johann Kroening (2 Oct, 1822), Marianne (26 Feb 1825) and Christian (abt 1827). They were in the Dab Wielki, Wloclawek, Bydgoszcz, Poland area. Heinrich married Elisabeth Thiemer, and Marianne married Heinrich Wiese

I am particularly interested in Heinrich and Elisabeth as these are the parents of Karoline Kroening. Karoline was born abt 1841 and married Heinrich Donat on 25 Nov 1860. Here sister Marianne married Andreas Kuehn on 26 Dec, 1861. I do not find any marriage for her brother Andreas Georg Phillipp Kroening born 30 Mar, 1849.

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1. <http://www.sggee.org/>
 2. <http://www.upstreamvistula.org/Parishes/Gostynin.htm>

I am uncertain as to how many of the Donat or Kroening siblings emigrated. Descendants of these two lines would include the preceding names as well as Wiese, Kuehn, Schindel, Szymanski, Reidel, Meyer, and Pinno. Some names that I had no familiarity. It would be of interest to look further into these names to determine if there was immigration among these families.

At this point I do know that Heinrich Donat and Karoline Kroening along with their young son Ferdinand arrived in the St Joseph Township, Pembina County, Neche, North Dakota in 1898. Oral family history suggests that their son in law, Rudolph Schaler paid their fare. Also in this same area lived their daughter Pauline whose husband was Rudolph Schaler, along with another daughter Emilie and her husband Adolph Draeger (plus children). It would seem that through the same oral family history Rudolph Schaler helped everyone to emigrate. It has been said that he helped the Adolph Draeger family to emigrate in 1895. It would appear that Rudolph was a very generous man. In fact an insert in the history of Beasejour, Manitoba area would suggest that "Grandfather Johann Schaeler was already 70 years old and lived on his son's, Rudolph's farm, one of the most prosperous farmers of the district". The 1900 North Dakota Census refutes this information, as there is no Johann Schaeler residing with his son Rudolph. What the 1900 Census tells me is that both Rudolph Schaler and his father in law Heinrich Donat have the same amount of farmland with a mortgage on each. The 1905 map of St Joseph County that identifies landowners and acreage further confirms this. This map was received from the Library of Congress. Both of these men have the same number of acres and their land is next to each other. This would lead one to conclude that Heinrich Donat was a prosperous farmer in his own right, equal to that of Rudolph Schaler. This fact seems to be further supported by the documentation "The first two German people to file in the district which is now known as Thalberg were 19 year old Ferdinand Donatt and his 60 year old father, Heinrich, whose homestead claims were dated March 26, 1901". Prosperous but looking for more land and it is evident from the map of the Neche area of North Dakota that land was becoming scarce. It would seem that neither one of them moved to the Thalberg area, but continued to farm together in the Neche area. One wonders what happened to their dream. Did this dream come to an end due to the illness of Heinrich Donat?

The 1900 Census indicates that Adolph Draeger has the same amount of farmland as Rudolph Schaler and Heinrich Donat. There is one difference that is noted and that is Adolph owns his farm without mortgage. This would then refute some family history about the generosity of Rudolph Schaler.

My great great grandfather Heinrich Donat died on March 14, 1906 from Stomach Cancer, in Pembina County, North Dakota. The newspaper reporting on his death states "Henry Donat, a native of Russia residing in the German settlement west of town, died on Wednesday of internal cancer. He was sixty-six years of age, and leaves a wife and family of grown children. The funeral took place yesterday, the remains being interred in the settlement cemetery". This cemetery was land that was donated by Rudolph Schaler, according to a family source. "Felson Twp., Lutheran Cemetery, land a gift of Rudolf Schaeler on NW ¼ 4, 163, 54 W. The first grave was that of Johann Schaeler, died 1903. Rudolf Schaeler placed a large cross on the grave of his father-in-law, Heinrich Donat, after his death in 1906. This was later replaced by a large metal cross, the gift of Ed Wiesenthal and Adolf Stegmann".

3. *And They Built an Altar* published by Brokenhead Lutheran Society, 1983. p257.

4. <http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/>

5. *And They Built an Altar* p257

I am not sure if these two surnames figure in my family lines at this time or who these gentlemen were in relation to my ancestors. The information seems to be consistent with other family stories; however Rudolph Schaeler is given credit for the large metal cross. It is interesting to note that family members mention this large metal cross as still standing, but not its significance as marking the grave of Heinrich Donat.

According to research done by another individual; Heinrich and Karoline Donat had a family of 12 children, of whom only four lived to marry. Two died of smallpox on the same day, one drowned and five others died as infants. Between 1862 and 1884, a span of 22 years there would have been 12 births. Of the family remaining it is clear that Pauline Donat Schaler remained in the Neche area nearly all of her life. August Donat seems to be lost in time and whereabouts unknown, but is known to have been deceased in 1900. August's one known child is son Rudolph Donat. Emilie Donat Draeger along with her husband and family emigrated to the Bergheim district of Saskatoon early in 1908. A note of mention at this point would be that family information suggests that Rudolph Schaler loaned the Draeger family money to immigrate to Canada from the USA, while keeping one of the Draeger children as collateral.

I need to digress at this point to state that there are two stories that come from the above incident. One is that Julia Draeger was left with her aunt and uncle because the aunt could not have children and Julia was the favourite. That story comes from my grandmother. The 1910 North Dakota Census lists Julia as the daughter of Rudolph and Pauline Schaler. The second story is from Julia's daughter as given by Julia herself. Julia said she was left as collateral for a loan made to the Draeger family that they never repaid. Julia related that she was ill treated and made to wait upon the adopted son, neither was she provided with an education. Upon the Draeger arrival in the Bergheim District in March 1908 and May 1909 Adolph Draeger filed on two homesteads, gaining both titles. This does not seem to be the acts of a man without resources.

Ferdinand Donat is the youngest child and remaining son. Ferdinand emigrated in 1898 at which time he was 14 years of age. He was born March 24, 1884 in Dombrowka, Volhynia, Russia. He is the last of 12 children. In 1900 he is one of 3 surviving children of Heinrich and Karolina Donat. His two surviving siblings are Pauline Schaler and Emilie Draeger. One other sibling August Donat was deceased at this time.

What I know of Ferdinand is that he continued to farm on the same land as his father. He made a claim for homestead in 1901 in the Thalberg, Manitoba area. He was listed as the godfather for his niece, my grandmother, Augusta Draeger, in December 1903. That same month on the 25th December 1903 the 19 years 9 month old Ferdinand marries Katherine Uhl. Katherine Uhl is 16 years 3 months old. She has also emigrated from Volhynia Russia with her parents

It may seem that life is fairly uncomplicated for this young couple. They have two children, Heinrich Donat born 10 April, 1905 and Margaret Juliane Donat born 3 September, 1907. There also may be some question that the child Annie listed in the 1920 census, which was done on January 8, and 9 and lists Annie as being age 8, may indeed be the child of Ferdinand and Katherine. It would seem that things do not bode well for this couple with the death of Ferdinand's father in 1906, the remarriage of his mother, Karoline in 29 July 1908 to Jacob Hollinger, along with the immigration of his sister Emilie Draeger and her family to Canada in March 1908. These events must have been presented some difficulties for this young couple.

6. *Neche Chronotype* 17 March 1906 p5

7. Saskatchewan Archives

8. <https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>

9. Certificate of Death #186, State of North Dakota. Bureau of Vital Statistics

The first hint of a problem I found is when looking at a listing in the North Dakota BMD registry for the death of Ferdinand Donat. The information on line is listed as DONNAT, FERDINAND 04/13/1910 Stutsman MALE 26 Years 00/00/1884 North Dakota Pembina. Wrong county, as it lists his death having occurred in Stutsman county but gives the right county for his residence. I sent for his death certificate, wondering what I am going to get.

What I do receive is a rather elaborate form that tells me Ferdinand Doughnut (Donnat) died on 13 April, 1910 at the State Hospital for the Insane, located in Stutsman County. The information included in this document gives his age, marital status and the number of children along with birthplace of himself, his father and mother. It does not list the parents' names. It provides Ferdinand's occupation as farmer. The certificate states "I hereby certify that I attended deceased from March 15, 1910 to April 13, 1910, that I last saw him alive on April 12, 1910 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 3:50am. The cause of death was as follows: *Exhaustion of manic depression insanity*, duration one month. Signed by the Medical Doctor". Former residence was listed at Neche, ND and given as place of burial, which took place on April 16, 1910. This was a real shock to me. Who wouldn't be surprised to discover there was insanity in their family? Not one hint of this has been mentioned in any oral family history. I wonder if this is why Ferdinand is forgotten. As a Psychiatric Nurse and being employed in the field of psychiatry had prepared me for anything, but now my curiosity was aroused. This death certificate aroused more questions. Individuals don't die within 28 days of being admitted to the hospital for a mental illness, unless they harm themselves. In the early years of mental institutions individuals who were admitted were not necessarily mentally ill. This death certificate did not say he had committed any self-harming behaviour that lead to his death. What then did he actually die from? My own experience in this field would not let this rest as I was positive this could not be right and there was something that had been missed.

I found that the State Hospital for the Insane is located in Jamestown, North Dakota and still exists. I was able to write the medical records department and request the medical file for Ferdinand Doughnut (Donnat) citing family medical reasons. I enclosed the required fee that I had been advised to submit along with my letter. Then I sat back to wait. I thought this was not going to lead anywhere as what hospital would have medical files dating back to 1910. I was mistaken; within a week I received a copy of Ferdinand's medical file.

The eight-page file and the covering letter indicated this was the complete record. The information provided was extensive. It indicated that Ferdinand had no previous admissions or history of insanity, nor was there any in relations or inheritance. What it does say is that in January 1910 Ferdinand was very ill and thought he was going to die (no mention made if a physician was called, but would assume not). After this bout of illness he became bad tempered. What does that mean? On about March 6, 1910 Ferdinand became upset, shouting and pushing, using bodily force to remove neighbours from his house. He has never maliciously tried to injure anyone. During the incident the neighbour tied Ferdinand with ropes until the sheriff arrived. Ferdinand remained in jail for 8 days where he was uncooperative. He was then removed to the State Hospital. Information from Ferdinand is "the brother in law seems to have caused him trouble by his continued presence at Ferdinand's home. There seems to be some disagreements about Ferdinand's property". Upon his admission to the Hospital, Ferdinand is charted as being disturbed and needing to be placed in restraints. I might not be cooperative if I had been tied up for wanting someone out of my house, held in jail for eight days and then sent to the Hospital for the Insane. Would you?

Details within the charting are limited and sketchy. They state he is irrational and quite noisy, that he needs to be restrained at bedtime. By April 10, 1910 Ferdinand has a temperature of 103 and is getting Strychnine Nitrate. Strychnine Nitrate was given as a general tonic and to increase appetite. It stimulates the CNS, sharpens vision, taste, hearing, tactile sensibility and increases the sensitivity of the retina. It has some phrodisiac properties and has been known to improve the quality of psychedelic trips. By the morning of April 13, 1910 at 3:55 Ferdinand is dead. In 28 days he went from being healthy to weak and deceased. Not something one wants to read about their relative, even if one didn't personally know them.

I then sought an expert opinion about the information contained within the medical file, as I personally believed there had been some misdiagnosis with Ferdinand. The medical personal that I spoke with suggested there may have been other reasons for the behaviours, such a febrile brain (brain fever or infection). This may account for his change in behaviour after his illness in January. Another suggestion was poisoning. I did wonder about the second suggestion, as the neighbour who tied him up would have also been his brother in law. The man that Ferdinand was having the property dispute with. In the end; brother in law; Rudolph Schaler ended up with the property. My thoughts however do lean more to the first suggestion that there was a misdiagnosis of Ferdinand; that he died from a physical illness and not a mental illness. Not something that will ever be known for a fact.

Ferdinand died on April 13, 1910 and his widow Catherine remarried on January 1, 1911. She married a Frederick Stelzer and in the 1920 North Dakota Census they live in the village of Neche. What became of Ferdinand's children is an ongoing search.

LIFE EXPLAINED

On the first day God created the dog. God said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. I will give you a life span of twenty years." The dog said, "That's too long to be barking. Give me ten years and I'll give you back the other ten." **So God agreed.**

On the second day God created the monkey. God said, "Entertain people, do monkey tricks, make them laugh. I'll give you a twenty-year life span." The monkey said, "How boring, monkey tricks for twenty years? I don't think so. Dog gave you back ten, so that's what I'll do too, okay?" **And God agreed.**

On the third day God created the cow. God said, "You must go to the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of sixty years." The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. Let me have twenty and I'll give back the other forty." **And God agreed again.**

On the fourth day God created man. God said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. I'll give you twenty years." Man said, "What? Only twenty years! Tell you what, I'll take my twenty, and the forty the cow gave back and the ten the monkey gave back and the ten the dog gave back, that makes eighty, okay?" **"Okay," said God, "you've got a deal."**

So that is why the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play, and enjoy ourselves; for the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family; for the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren; and for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.



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