



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Spring & Summer Edition*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 19th**      **General Branch Meeting**  
 guest speaker is:  
 Linda Dunsmore-Porter,  
 Executive Director of SGS
- June 16th**      **General Branch Meeting**  
**Annual Dessert Social**  
**Guest Speaker:** Jeff O'Brien  
 City of Saskatoon Archivist. ...  
 The city archives includes both civic records and some private materials which document the growth of the city. There are Voter's Lists, Tax Assessment Rolls, Fire Insurance maps, photographs, burial records, Henderson Directories and more. In addition, the book Mr. O'Brien co-authored called "*Saskatoon: A History in Photographs*" will be available.
- Sept 15th**      **General Branch Meeting**  
**Program: "Sharing"**  
 Bring your summer vacation stories, a document, photograph, scrapbooks, photo albums or a family heirloom etc. to share. It should be fun!

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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

## 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

**PRESIDENT:**

**Karen Haffermehl**  
wk.haffermehl@sasktel.net  
Phone # 382-2338

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**VACANT**

**PAST PRESIDENT:**

Cliff Rusk

**TREASURER:**

Rene Stock  
rene@stockfamily.ca

**SECRETARY:**

Delores Maduke  
deloresstevens@sasktel.net  
Phone # 384-2510

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

Joyce Lappin  
Karen Pidskalny

**GREETERS:**

Merle Ward  
Peter Geres

**WEB MASTER:**

Gus Morrow  
gustaveous@mail.com

**LIBRARIANS:**

Georgiana Chartier  
g.chartier@sasktel.net  
652-1286

Elsie Henry

Dorothy Peake

Mary Hudson

**PROGRAMS:**

Bernadette Prokopetz  
Terri Chappell  
Bev Gutenberg

**NEWSLETTER:**

Cliff Rusk - publisher  
c.rusk@shaw.ca

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Gina Reid  
reidg@shaw.ca  
Alice Schneider  
Jschneider@sasktel.net

**PHONERS:**

Mabel Evans  
343-7379

Gina Reid  
343-9982

Isabelle Lenz  
382-6803

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Cindy Paradis

**REFRESHMENTS:**

Dawn Keddy—Brezinski  
Val Bruce

**FUNDRAISING:**

Delores Maduke  
Harold Baker  
Joyce Lappin  
Cindy Paradis  
Lynda Andrew

**CEMETERY COORDINATORS:**

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 GRATFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS.**



**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Well, time has certainly flown by, here it is spring already. I can’t believe the amount of moisture we are getting, I don’t recall this much in my time.

Spring and summer will find us busy trying to get the cemeteries recorded. We need all kinds of people to help out. Those who can go out in the field and do the transcribing of the actual tombstones, those who can type up the transcriptions, those who will proof read them and those who will put the finished product together for sale in the future.

I would like to congratulate the fundraising committee on the great job that they did with the last steak night, we raised over \$1100.00. Great Job!!

I would really like to see more people involved in our fundraisers. There were 160 tickets sold and only 19 of them were to Branch members. We are having a **garage sale on June 24<sup>th</sup>** at Harold Baker’s. Please let’s make this an awesome event by getting our donations to his place during that week. We also need people to come and help out! The committee would also appreciate any ideas for future fundraisers.

Thanks to the people who have done programs for us the last few months. Bernadette and Terri put together an excellent presentation on how to organize your genealogy. It was very well researched and pleasantly presented, even those of us who are obsessed with organization, learned something new. Also, Michelle did a wonderful power point presentation on War Brides of World War II for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event. Isn’t computer technology amazing? This month the presenter will be the Executive Director of the SGS, Linda Dunsmore-Porter. She is a wonderful lady and I am sure she will give a great presentation. And lastly, don’t forget to come out in June for the annual Dessert Social.

Please step forward if you are interested in helping organize any future workshops. If no one volunteers, there will not be anymore workshops. This isn’t part of the Executive’s job description!!!!

Thanks for all the help in the past and we look forward to working together for the betterment of the Branch in the future.

*Karen Haffermehl*

**Upcoming Garage Sale on May 24th**

**Donations are required for this event** and individuals are welcome to put prices on their articles, making sure that the price is reasonable. This would assist the sellers. Please drop off your items after June 19th at Harold Baker's, 26 Moxon Crescent. Volunteers are also needed and to let the Fundraising Committee know if you wish to volunteer.

**TO ALL BRANCHES OF THE SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

This notice is to inform your branch that the Swift Current Genealogy Society will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society.

Come join us for June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Swift Current. The following is an outline of the celebration:

**Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>** - at our office downstairs at 321 N Railway St E.

Social time from 7:00 – 9:00 pm No charge for this time of visiting and looking through our collection of material. Coffee and goodies will be provided.

**Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>** - at our office

Open House from 11:00 – 4:00 pm. for the general public and to SGS members.

Saturday evening Supper at 6:00 pm.(cash bar), with a program at 7:30 pm. This will take place at the Eagle's Hall at 1910 S service road West. We will also have a Silent Auction table.

The cost for the two days is \$20.00 per person ( spouses are more than welcome to attend with you ). Please respond by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please make your cheque payable to the Swift Current Genealogy Society and mail to the address listed below. We wish to welcome anyone from your branch to come help us celebrate this special occasion. If any of your members have a memory or photo etc. to share, please let us know. We look forward to having you celebrate with us. If there any questions, I would be glad to answer your query at: Beverly: phone: 297-3122 (h)

Or our office address: 321 N Railway St. East  
Swift Current SK  
S9H 1C6

**Just a quick reminder of the two major events happening in Edmonton this summer.**

The Federation of East European Family History Societies is having a conference there in June, and the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe conference will be in Edmonton in August. The two events will be quite different in content and scope, and will complement each other quite nicely.

The FEEFHS conference, which will be co-sponsored by the Alberta Genealogical Society, will feature speakers such as Thom Edlund, Larry Jensen, Kahlile Mehr, Irmgard Hein Ellingson and Ceil Jensen. These people will bring a vast amount of knowledge about Germany, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and other parts of Eastern Europe. There will also be tours of museums and archives in the Edmonton area. The conference will be held from June 16 to 18.

I'm mentioning it now because the deadline for getting the special room rate at the hotel is May 15, just a few days away. More information on the conference is at: <http://www.abgensoc.ca/FEEFHS.html>

Hope to see you there!

Dave Obee  
president of FEEFHS, and one of the original members of SGGEE as well.)

## Ferdinand's Children

*Submitted by Delores Maduke*

I have been researching my grandmother's uncle Ferdinand Donat. He died on April 13, 1910 and his widow Catherine remarried on January 1, 1911. At the time of Ferdinand's death there are two surviving children. Heinrich Donat born 10 April 1905 and Margaret Juliane Donat born 3 September 1907.

The Census of 2 May 1910 indicates that Kate Donnit remains in the same residence as head of household. Along with her is son Henry age 5 and daughter Margaret age 2. As well there is a John Ouhl age 16, listed as servant. I conclude that John is Kate's brother as her maiden name was Uhl and Ouhl could be a variation.

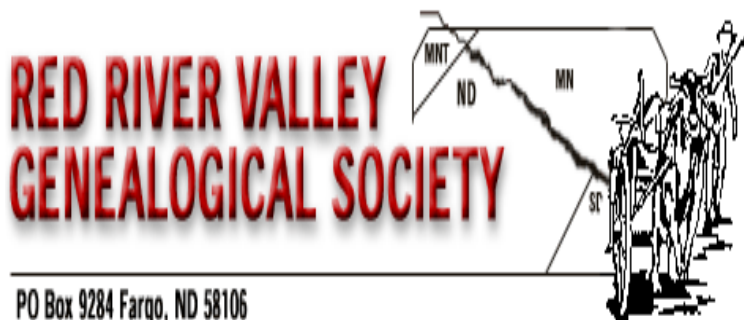
Katherine Donat remarries on 1 January 1911 to a Fredrick Stelzer. In the North Dakota Census of 9 January 1920, this family is listed as residing in the Neche Village. Fred is listed as head of house employed as a labourer with the railroad. Katherine is listed as his wife, along with children Henry (14), Margaret (12), Annie (8) and Helen (3). They are all listed as children of Fred and under the Stelzer name.

After searching for Donat's within the State of North Dakota, I was unable to find any Donat's related to this family. I then surmised that maybe they continued to use the Stelzer name throughout their lifetime. In order to find this family I decided to send out letters to all of the Ouhls and Stelzers listed in the telephone directory for North Dakota. To date I have not received any replies from the six letters sent to the Stelzers. I sent one letter to the only Ouhl listed and at last received a reply.

Mr. Ouhl resides in Cavalier, North Dakota and is the nephew of John Ouhl; as mentioned in the 1910 census. He informed me that at some point after arrival in the United States that the name was changed from Uhl to Ouhl. Mr Ouhl provided a list of all his aunts and uncles, of whom Katherine was one.

From the information provided to me by Mr Ouhl it would appear that Kate Uhl Donat Stelzer and her husband Fred had left Neche to reside in Cavalier, North Dakota. They lived in Cavalier for years and then moved to Illinois. Mr Ouhl stated that Henry's whereabouts were unknown and that he may never have married. Margaret had married and lived in Wisconsin. Annie too had married, was divorced and lived in Walhalla, North Dakota. Helen may have moved to Illinois with her parents. That was all that was provided in the letter, which I was most grateful to receive.

Fortunately in this kernel of information was a nugget of gold. Mr Ouhl included the address of Annie's daughter, one of Katherine Stelzer's granddaughters. What a treasure. I then proceeded to write Katherine's granddaughter in Arizona. At this time I have had no response to my letter. I have made a number of attempts to call and found the number was not in service. I then found an alternate number and could only leave a message on the answering machine. I have not had a response and have tried calling on a number of occasions, with no response. This is where this particular family history ends for the moment.



PO Box 9284 Fargo, ND 58106

112 N University Drive, Suite L-116, Fargo, ND 58106-9284

Through the efforts of one of our executive members, we will now be exchanging newsletters with the **Red River Genealogical Society**. This will be of interest for those of our members who are researching in the eastern counties of North Dakota and the western counties of Minnesota

<http://www.redrivergenealogy.com/>

## Research Trip

*Submitted by Delores Maduke*

Contemplating a genealogical trip can be exhausting, but fun. I have thought about going to North Dakota to visit the town of Neche and surrounding area for some time. This is where my great grandparents first settled when arriving from Europe. Thru the research that I have completed I have found that my ancestors lived in what was considered a German settlement that was located about 4 miles west of Neche. In this same area is the cemetery where some of my ancestors were buried. I want to get as much done as possible as I may only make this trip once.

My mother, father and aunt are in their 80's and suddenly they have decided that they would like to come too. My mother and aunt's desire to travel is that these were also their relatives. Can't argue with that. They also want to visit some cousins they have never met. This will be the one and only opportunity for them to visit with these cousins, as they are all in their 80's. They have always known of these cousins, just never had an opportunity to visit them. Now is the time.

I have thought about how to prepare myself for this trip. I am going for the research aspects and have to get some visiting in at the same time. Maybe a list would help me. So far I have made a list of all the relatives that I know about, some that I have talked to and some I have not spoken to as yet. Will give all of them a telephone call prior to leaving, at least a couple of weeks in advance as it would be difficult to see them if they are not home.

Documents are especially important to take, whether this is a file, pictures, articles or notebooks. Don't forget the address and phone numbers of all the individuals you are going to connect with. It is difficult to give them a call when your address book is back at home next to the phone. Taking a copy of your family tree to show where each individual fits would be helpful. They may want to be able to see exactly where they are in the family tree. Remember all those photos you have that no one knows the identity of the individuals? Take them along too. Someone may know who he or she is, thus solving a mystery.

Plot your journey on a map, following a specific route can save you time and may help make things a little easier, instead of backtracking; you can make a circuitous journey. I have plotted on the map a complete circle of my travels. Will let everyone know if this works after my return. I have looked on the Internet and have a list of accommodations that sound reasonable and are located in the vicinity of the area that I want to be.

Don't forget that you will want to take a lot of pictures and ask a lot of questions. A digital camera is not a necessity as disposable cameras can work just as well. Tape record any interviews or make notes. Don't be afraid to ask all kinds of questions, no matter how silly they may seem. Keep all of your documentation.

Thinking about and planning a trip to another country seems to be a lot of work, but one needs to be organized, take documentation, have a plan and be prepared to take the proper equipment with them. Currently a passport is not necessary to travel to the USA, just a birth certificate and driver's license need be shown. Will let you know if it is that simple.

Be prepared for the unexpected, such as a new place name, or being given new contact names. In my case it is a natural disaster. A couple of weeks ago Neche, North Dakota and area was flooded by rising river waters due to the spring run off and there has been some road closure. So far some roads are still closed and I am waiting to hear when these are opened. The roads that are currently closed are in one specific area of Neche, North Dakota that I want to see. This area is especially important, as this is the location of the cemetery where my great great grandparents are buried. I find that I need to be flexible about my departure date, because of the road conditions. Now that is being prepared for the unexpected.



## Children of a Genealogist

*Submitted by Tammy Vallee*

As genealogist we search for information in all kinds of places. We are probably one of the few groups who enjoy heading to a cemetery in search of information. To others who do not take have a great interest in genealogy this seems a bit odd to them. Over the years I made my husband drive for hours in bush in search of lost cemeteries. I have made many trips to different cemeteries with my three boys in tow. My boys are 4, 6 and 11 years old. If there is one joke in the family is that my boys can spot two things from a mile away, a yard sale or a cemetery. This joke headed to a new level over Easter. My mother watched Steven (the 4 year old) and Nathan (the 5 years old) while the rest of the family headed out to work at my grandmother's farm. Mom and the boys enjoyed the day in town. First they loaded the wagon, grabbed some Popsicles and headed for the park. They played for a bit on the different items in the park but soon my boys found their way to the sand box. With their Popsicle sticks they built roads and bridges. This kept Steven interested for a bit until he headed out to explore the park some more. Leaving Nathan alone in the sand box to explore his imagination.

Of all thing my son could do with those sticks he decided to build a cemetery. He broke up the sticks to make headstones and level to sand all nice before placing his newly created headstones in the sand. When he was finished he called his grandma back to show her what he had done. My mom knowing he was pretty proud of his work just smile and told him how nice it all looked. The whole time trying not to laugh and thinking that he spends to much time with me searching for cemeteries. For what other little boy then that of a genealogist would spend his time in a sand box making a cemetery.

## LAWS OF GENEALOGY

*Submitted by Joyce Lappin*

- the document containing evidence of the missing link in your research invariably will be lost due to fire, flood or war.
- your great,great, grandfather's obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.
- the town clerk you wrote to in desperation, and finally convinced to give you the information you need, can't write legibly and doesn't have a copying machine.
- the Will you need is in the safe on board the "Titanic".
- the spelling of your European ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.
- copies of old newspapers have holes which occur only on last names.
- no one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, always rented property, was not sued, and was never named in wills.
- you learned that great aunt Matilda's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical material to a flea market dealer somewhere in Canada.
- yours is the ONLY last name not found among the 3 billion in the world famous Mormon archives in Salt Lake City.
- ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.
- the 37 volume, sixteen thousand page history of your country of origin ISN'T INDEXED.

## NEW MATERIAL IN SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

*Submitted by Georgiana Chartier*

### CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Maaazine For Families

- Researching Their Roots.
- Researching Mexican War Records
- French Canadian Church Records
- Surname Mailing Lists
- The Curse of the Common Surname
- Finding Death Records Online
- Using the Internet to Search the SSDI, Obituaries,  
Death Notices, Cemeteries and Other Sources

### ONT 0 71.19 OGS NEWSLEAF

2006-Vol. 36, No. 2

### ONT F 1.139 Families OGS Newsletter

2006- Vol. 45-No.2

- Jane Austen Visits York
- A Seaman's Diary
- Review of Books of Interest to Genealogists
- The Little Group That Could
- Wesleyan Baptism Registers
- The Name Game
- Genealogy Scam
- The Secret Past of William and Mary Mayne
- Rebellion of 1837-1838

### GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

2006-Vol. 22, No.8

- Run Rabbit Run - Life as a Warrener & Gamekeeper
- India Office- Records at the British Library
- Internet Sites for Canal Folk
- Using Local Papers
- Little Known Sources: Male Servants' Tax

### GB/ENG

Census Daventry, Northants 1871(RG10/1490-93)

BRITISH DATA ARCHIVE Parish Records Surrey Vol.1

F 9

Back Issues FTM June 1991-PFH June 2005

Bonus Essential Weblinks

Software 4 Software RootsMagic Demo 7 GEDmil 1.8

Disc 22 FOR REFERENCE ONLY - DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY

### BC G 181.16 GRAPEVINES - NEWS FROM THE SOUTH OKANAGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2006-Vol.14- Issue 6



## A REUNION AND A MYSTERY

*Submitted by Mary Hudson*

That describes the Cadillac Community and School reunion, July 8-10, 2005!

Len and I went down early to visit friends and family around the countryside. I grew up on a farm south of Crichton, SK and took my high school in Cadillac, six miles east of Crichton. The reunion consisted of pancake breakfasts, a parade, touring the village, the museum, the school and the quilt show. Over six hundred people were served a delicious roast beef supper on the Saturday evening. The church service was lead by alumni of the school, followed by a Strawberry Tea, with strawberries **and** Saskatoon berries, a special treat! It wound up with a demolition derby on Sunday afternoon.

My brothers and sister and some of their families got together for an impromptu family reunion at the home farm. It was great being all together! It turned out to be the last time as my sister passed away with cancer on November 11.

Another highlight of the week was finding my grandparents graves! When my Granny Rogers died in 1945, she was buried in the Cadillac cemetery but there was no money for a head stone. In 1947 there was a fire in Cadillac that burned the municipal office where the cemetery records were kept.

While driving past Cadillac I asked Len to stop at the municipal office. Pauline, the lady who was working there turned out to be the sister – in – law of a cousin of mine. She looked up the records for the Cadillac cemetery. My granddad Rogers had died in 1950 so we knew where to start looking. She searched a few cupboards and finally found the first book after the fire, starting in June 1947. Half way down the page was Robert Rogers, my granddad, with the particulars of his death and burial, including the plot and lot numbers. Pauline then pulled out the map of the cemetery and pointed out the exact plot. She then made a copy of that part of the map. With map in hand off we went to the cemetery! With the help of lot markers and head stones we found the spot where my grandparents are buried. For years I was told that there were no records of where my grandparents' graves were, but with a little searching I was lucky enough to find mine.

One last point, in the cemetery book in the remarks column after granddads information was the comment, "Buried in lot near Mrs. Rogers? WB".

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### Research Help Offered

I have been researching my family tree for about 20 years now. As part of another group I became a village coordinator for 13 German Russian villages; 12 of these are in the Prischib or Eugenfeld Colonies in the Tarurien area of Russia. I have all the Parish records typed up for each village from the years 1833 to 1885. Presently, I am looking at the Parish records from the Kronau Colonies, Swedish Colonies, and most of the Nikolajew area. I have worked on at least 60 surnames from the Taurien area, with 1/3 of these being related to me. The surnames I am researching are Beck, Dieno, Doehl, Eichorst, Freund, Guggenheimer, Muench, Nagel, Paul, Probst, Schatz, Schaeufele, Schumacher, Selig, Speier, Stammier, Stuhlberg, Umbach, and Werner.

If you are researching the same names as me, or looking in the same areas of Russia, please contact me as I could possibly offer some help.

I am newly researching my mothers side of the family. Her father's side worked for the Hudson Bay Co c 1789. Names are: Weigand, Rose, Linklater & Corcoran; her maternal line is from Devon, England and the names being researched are Barnes, Battershell, Potter, and Norcott.

**Brian Schatz**

Box 285

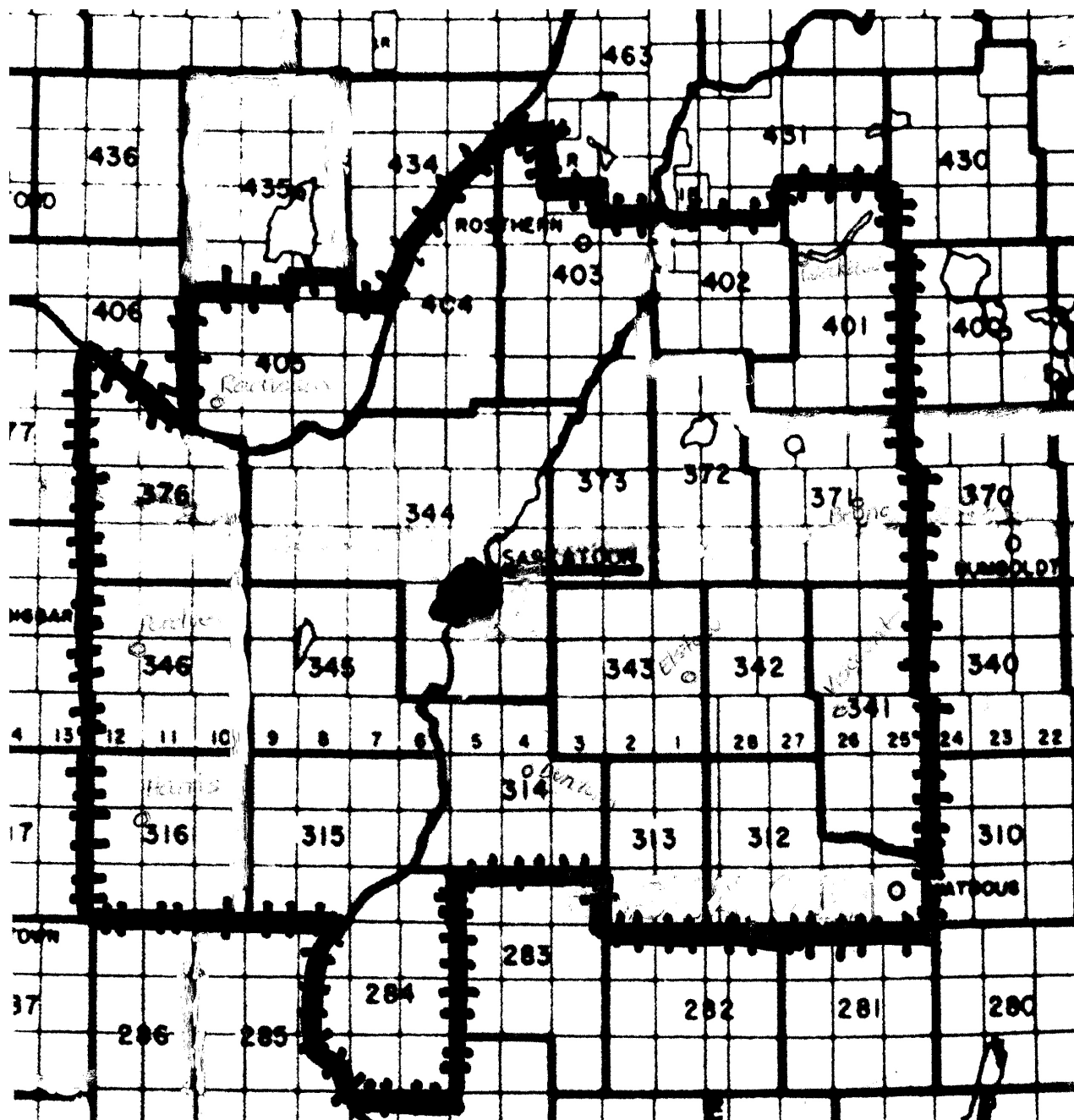
Young, SK

S0K 4Y0

Email: [brian.schatz@sasktel.net](mailto:brian.schatz@sasktel.net)

### More Grave Thoughts...

This map shows which R.M.s the Saskatoon Branch, SGS, is responsible for doing cemetery recordings. There are over 300 cemeteries in this area - about 90 remain to be done.



Cemetery Recording Form

Cemetery Name: Hill Dale RM of Prairie Rose No. 309  
 Land Location: Sec. 11 T 33 R 18 W 2

Last Name	First Name/Initials	Yrs	Mth	Da
<u>Smith</u>	<u>John R</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>
Plot # <u>17</u>	DOB <u>15 May 1903</u>	DOD <u>25 July 1983</u>		
Row <u>6</u>	Misc <u>Husband of Mary</u>			
Grave <u>2</u>	<u>Father of John Jr</u>			

For transcribing from headstones:

- Cemetery name: fill name or cemetery and RM name and number
- Land Location: location description and land location.  
eg.: 6 mile west of Markinch Sec SW11 T 33 R 18 W2
- Last Name: record the name exactly as shown on the headstone even if you know it is spelt wrong.
- First Name/Initials: again, exactly as shown on the stone.
- Yrs. Mth. Da.: this is the age of deceased as shown on the stone. If it is not on the stone, do not fill in.
- Plot#, Row, Grave: each cemetery has its own method for identifying the graves. Fill in whatever is available in order for a researcher to find the grave, change the words if required.  
eg.: some cemeteries may have row #15, plot 6, grave 1. Others may have section #46, row #21, grave numbers not shown on markers.
- DOB: date of birth if given on the stone. Day/month/year.
- DOD: date of death as shown on the stone. Day/month/year.
- Misc: whatever family information is written on the stone. Include things such as 'wife of John Smith' or 'son of Bill and Mary Jones'. Do not include things such as 'Rest in Peace', 'Beloved Child' as no specific family information is learned from these.  
The recorded information should be given exactly as shown on the stone, but additional information can be included if the source of the information is stated.

These forms are provided for your ease of use and to make recording uniform across the province. However, you can use plain paper, or make your own forms if you prefer. As long as the same information is provided for our files.

Some people prefer to record the stones onto an audio cassette and type it up later or enter into a computer program (such as the SRI program or word processor in a format that can be used for SRI). Please be careful to spell out names when recording so there are no errors later when typing.

CEMETERY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ R.M. of \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Land Location \_\_\_\_\_ SEC \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME/INITIALS	YRS	MTH	DA
PLOT #	DOB	DOD		
ROW	MISC.			
GRAVE				
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME/INITIALS	YRS	MTH	DA
PLOT #	DOB	DOD		
ROW	MISC.			
GRAVE				
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME/INITIALS	YRS	MTH	DA
PLOT #	DOB	DOD		
ROW	MISC.			
GRAVE				
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME/INITIALS	YRS	MTH	DA
PLOT #	DOB	DOD		
ROW	MISC.			
GRAVE				
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME/INITIALS	YRS	MTH	DA
PLOT #	DOB	DOD		
ROW	MISC.			
GRAVE				
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME/INITIALS	YRS	MTH	DA
PLOT #	DOB	DOD		
ROW	MISC.			
GRAVE				
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME/INITIALS	YRS	MTH	DA
PLOT #	DOB	DOD		
ROW	MISC.			
GRAVE				

### Cemetery Recording from files or registers.

#### **When copying cemetery records held by offices such as RM's or churches or held by people who have private cemeteries.**

Photocopying is preferable to hand copying as it eliminates copying errors. Always copy the title cover or page of the register as well as the recorded names. If you photocopy the records it is not necessary to transcribe them onto the cemetery recording sheets. If the cause of death is shown, try to exclude it from the copies, if this is possible. For example, you may be able to place a strip of paper over the column of information. If it is not possible we will still accept the records but will have to be very careful at SGS not to release that information to the public as it is considered confidential and protected by law in Saskatchewan.

If copying by hand is necessary, copy the same information as you would if recording headstones. Do not record the cause of death if it is given. You can use the recording forms for this if desired. Write legibly as this will be used by many people and someone will be using your copies to enter into SRI.

When submitting photocopied or hand-copied records include:

- name/address/phone number of submitter.
- the date the copies were made.
- the last burial date that is shown in the records.
- location the records were found and copied.
- comment on the general condition of the records.

*Submitted by your friendly Cemetery Coordinators,*  
Merle Ward & Susan Leitch

From: Gwen Schmidt, MLIS  
Virtual Reference Librarian, Information Services  
Saskatoon Public Library

As you probably know, the Library has the 1851 Census on microfilm, but now there's an online option too. Library and Archives Canada is pleased to announce the launch of the Census of 1851 (Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia). By 1851, the pattern of decennial census taking had been established. Searchable by geographic location, the 1851 Census offers a rich source of information about Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the middle of the 19th century. The information on these images can be used to prepare family histories, the history of towns and villages, research immigration trends and a great deal more. See what you can discover!

You are invited to visit:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1851/index-e.html>

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1851/index-e.html>

## Writing a Family Story from a Timeline

*Submitted by Bev Gutenberg*

Like many family history researchers I have a yearning to write a book to share with all my family but I have found that using the programs included in the popular Genealogy software is confusing to many of my kin. They don't understand the generations, the numbers and wonder why the children are not included with their parents when the parents are first mentioned. I chanced upon a solution to this dilemma when I decided to create a timeline for a family no one knew much about.

The timeline was created from official records such as birth, marriage and death registration, the census records and other sources such as directories and local histories. I used history books that told of the events at the time in question and drew it together in a narrative. In doing the timeline I started with the first date and wrote in point form what event had occurred at that date. Following is an example of my timeline:

**13 May 1839** - Jane Elizabeth McKee is born in Ireland to Samuel McKee. (from Elizabeth Hunter's death registration)

**1863** - immigrated to Canada (1871 Census)

**1 September 1864** - First child, a daughter, Mary Ann, is born. (letter from Mary Ann's grandson)

**1866** - Son, Samuel, is born.(1871 census)

**17 April 1867** - second son, Thomas, is born (British Columbia Death Registration)

**18 March 1869** - third son, John is born. (1901 Census)

**27 June 1871**- fourth son, George, is born in Wilfrid, Brock Township, Ontario County. Elizabeth is referred to as Eliza and there was no midwife or doctor. His father whose occupation is listed as farmer with Weaver put in the residence above Wilfrid, Brock, registers his birth on 27 July 1871. (Ontario Birth Registration)

I knew for example that the BMD registrations began in Ontario about 1867 but it took a few years before the practice of registering this info became popular. The first-born children's birth dates were from indirect or secondary sources such as death registrations or the census records. When I wrote the narrative I used more complete citations. I decided to write the narrative centring on the matriarch of the family, using a feminine point of view. The story I created was easy to read.

### **Jane Jane Elizabeth McKee, Wife of William John Hunter**

Jane Elizabeth McKee was an Irish lassie. It may be from her or it may have been a combination of her genes and those of her Irish husband, William John Hunter that produced the trademark red hair of future generations of Hunters. Another similarity between the present day Hunters and those of early Ontario is their habit of calling their children by their second name. Both Jane Elizabeth and William John must have preferred to go by their second names, Elizabeth and John. Elizabeth is also referred to as Eliza in the 1871 Census and that of later censuses

Not much is known about Elizabeth's early life except that she was born in Ireland on the 13 May 1839 to Samuel McKee and his wife. She married another Irish descendant, William John Hunter, possibly in the United States and together they started a new life in what was then known as Canada West in the small community of Wilfrid. Wilfrid originally was given the name Prospect but by the time John and Eliza arrived there, it was already known as Wilfrid. The name change occurred because there was another community named Prospect and people in the community did not want to have their mail delivered to the wrong place. The Conner & Coltson's Directory of the County of Ontario for 1869-70 describes Wilfrid as a village in the township of Brock, 36 miles north of Whitby. The population of Wilfrid was about 75. John is listed among the businessmen in the community as a weaver. The Lovell's Dominion Directory 1871 describes Wilfrid as a small village in the Township of Brock, County of Ontario. The distance from Newmarket (a station of the Northern Railroad) is 30 miles (fare \$1.50), from Whitby (the County town) is 38 miles and from Toronto 60 miles. Mail is tri-weekly. Population of Wilfrid was 110. Included in the residents of Wilfrid was John Hunter, weaver. The church at the time was the New Connection Methodist Church. In the space of two years the town has grown from 75 people to 110.

All that is known about this early part of Elizabeth's life is both William and Jane Elizabeth immigrated to Canada in 1863. Canada was a colony of Britain at the time and welcomed many Irish countrymen to its shores, particularly if they were Protestant. The British were hoping to counteract the position of the French and Roman Catholic residents. Upper and Lower Canada had become Canada East (Quebec) and Canada West (Ontario) and was 4 years away from becoming the Dominion of Canada. There has not been a clue about why the Hunters immigrated but the United States was in the throes of a Civil War when they came to Canada, perhaps they were fleeing the war and wanted to return to British rule.

Religion appeared to have played a big part in the lives of the Hunter family as it did in the lives of most Canadians of that era. The church was an integral part of the early settlers' lives, it provided more than a religious component to their lives, churches were social centres of the communities. John gave his religion and that of the children as New Connection Methodist on the 1871 Census. Elizabeth said she was Utilitarian. In the 1881 Census both Elizabeth and William reported they were Presbyterian, but by 1891 both had become Methodist and remained so for the rest of their lives. Elizabeth was one of the 13 members of the Ladies Aid group of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1963 as part of the celebration for the Wilfrid United Church the following short biographical sketch was written about her:

When churches were few and far between and transportation was slow, if a family lived in a community near a church of a different faith they often went to that church. The Unification of the Methodist and Presbyterian Church did not occur until 1925,.

**Mrs John Hunter:** (Marjorie Taylor)

*John Hunter came from England and settled in this area, in the home now owned by Mrs. Melvin Meek. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter had 2 daughters and 2 sons and no doubt there were more in the family. They operated a weaving shop and did lovely work. Mrs. Meek and Mrs. Orvan Chambers have rugs made by these people. One of the daughters, Mary Ann, married a West.*



John was a weaver who 'worked on his own account', custom weaving in his own home in Wilfrid probably for people within the community of Wilfrid. It is more likely the townsfolk came to him for their cloth needs. Much of the clothing individuals wore was homemade. Elizabeth assisted him in this livelihood. The raw product they used was yarn and they made cloth and flannel. In the 1871 Census of the 1871, Schedule 6, Return of Industrial Establishment William stated he owned \$40 worth of fixed capital and earned \$400 in a year for 8 months work. He spent \$500 for 1000 pounds of yarn that he wove into 2000 yards of cloth for which he estimated he earned \$1000. Other independent weavers made between \$150 a year and \$10 per month. Not one of the censuses reports Elizabeth as working in the business although the 1871 Schedule 6 says that a man and a woman both work at the weaving. The schedule doesn't name those who worked but those were the days when women's work was not entirely recognized. The family most likely had a garden, milk and beef cattle in addition to pigs and chickens to supplement their income and provide food for the table.

Elizabeth was 25 when she gave birth to her first child, Mary Ann, on the first of September 1864, three years before Confederation. A son arrived in 1866 and was named after Elizabeth's father, Samuel. A second son, Thomas, was born on 17 April 1867. Elizabeth now had her duties as a mother as well as a weaver to occupy her time. An active two-going-on-three year old, a one-year old and a new baby must have kept her very busy in the days before automatic washers and paternal participation in child rearing.

On 18 March 1869 when baby Thomas, was nearly two, John was born. John was one of the three men in Wilfrid who researched the history of the Wilfrid United Church for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 1938. John never married and would remain with his parents until their death. More than two years passed before another child, a son, was born to the Hunter household, George made his appearance on 27 June 1871. George was to move to British Columbia as a young man and gradually acquire several hardware and paint stores in the growing city of Vancouver during its boom period. Two years later William or Willie was born on 12 July 1873. The Hunter family now consists of six: 11-year-old Mary Ann is no doubt receiving a great deal of practical experience helping her mother care for her 5 brothers. The birth of a sister, Elizabeth Jane, on 15 November 1875, must have been a happy time for Mary Ann, perhaps she welcomed her sister because there would be someone to share the workload. Two more brothers would arrive before the Hunter family was complete. James was born 10 May 1878 and Henry, also known as Harry, was born 23 July 1880. Elizabeth's family was complete. At the age of 41 she had 9 children from a newborn to a 16-year-old.

When the census taker came around in April of 1881, Elizabeth was 42, included in her household were John, 41, and the children Mary Ann, 17, Samuel, 15, Thomas, 13, John, 11, George, 9, William, 7, Elizabeth J. 5, James, 3, and Henry, 9 months. Both Elizabeth and John said they were Presbyterian this time around. Both Samuel and Thomas are employed as labourers and Mary Ann is at home helping her mother while John, George and Willie are at school.

Between 1888 and 1889 Thomas and Samuel left Wilfrid, Ontario and went west to Vancouver, British Columbia. The first CPR transcontinental passenger train had arrived in Port Moody on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1886. William Van Horne, general manager of the CPR, chose Vancouver, then called Granville, a community of 400, as a terminus, in 1886 but the tracks had not reached that far.

The journey took 5 days and 19 hours. It was a minute late. The first transcontinental passenger train from Montreal arrived at the terminus on May 23 1887. There is no doubt that the journey from Wilfrid to Vancouver by Samuel and Thomas was taken by train. They arrived in a community that had been destroyed by fire in 1886 and one which had embarked on a tremendous growth spurt, which continues to this day. It is small wonder that the two of them became involved in the building trade. Thomas may have done carpenter work to begin with eventually forming his own contracting company; Samuel was described as a carpenter, contractor or builder. It is highly likely that they worked together in the building trade. There are 13,000 people in Vancouver in 1891; it had grown by over 12,600 souls in 6 years.

Elizabeth and John both claimed they were Methodists when asked that question by the enumerator, William McMaster, on 7th of April, 1891. With Samuel and Thomas gone the remaining Hunters were John, 21, George, 20, and Willie 17 are all employed as labourers, Mary Ann, 27, has no occupation listed but she remains in the Hunter home presumably helping her mother, Elizabeth, 15, James, 12, and Henry, 10, are all going to school.

The 1890's are a busy time for Elizabeth. Her eldest daughter, Mary Ann age 27 married Charles Rundle West age 31 on 10 February 1892 in Wilfrid. They live in the next county, Victoria, close to Elizabeth and John..

Then on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1892 - Thomas, aged 25, marries Jane Maria Simpson, affectionately known as Janie or Jenny, in Vancouver. Janie is the 28 year old daughter of Theodore Simpson and Isabella Day formerly of New Market, Ontario. Both were single and Thomas gave his occupation as contractor. The young couple makes their home with Janie's widowed father, a retired baker, at 1106 Melville Street in Vancouver. Samuel is a witness at his brother's wedding. One can only suppose that a telegram from Thomas informed his parents of this happy occasion.

On 5 July 1893 Elizabeth's oldest son, Samuel then 27, married Victoria Amanda Paton in Vancouver, British Columbia. Victoria is 21 years old. She is the daughter of Adam Paton and Lucretia Jane Smith and was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Perhaps a letter announced the news of this marriage to the folks back home in Wilfrid.

May of 1894 was a very exciting time for Eliza, she became a grandmother, for the first time, and the second time, and the third time all in the space of 20 days. First, on the scene, was a grandson, Charles Theodore Hunter, who was born to Thomas and Janie in Vancouver on 11 May. Five days later, on 16 May, little Frances Helen Vera Hunter makes her debut, also in Vancouver, a daughter of Samuel and Victoria. One can only imagine the telegraph wires buzzing with this good news. Then on the 31<sup>st</sup>, the last day of the month, Elizabeth's first-born daughter, Mary Ann, gives birth to her first-born a daughter, Mary Elizabeth West, Elizabeth's first namesake. It is very likely that Elizabeth assisted her daughter in the childbirth. Elizabeth's place in history is assured with 3 new grandchildren!

The next year a black edged telegram is delivered bringing sorrow to Elizabeth and John. Samuel, their oldest son has succumbed to typhoid fever on 2 July 1895 in Vancouver after an illness of three weeks. He leaves a young wife and a 13-month-old baby daughter. Samuel was just 29. There was no time to say goodbye. How difficult it must have been for Elizabeth to be so far away at a time like that.

The next few years seem to fly by, Mary Ann and husband, Charles Rundle West have 3 more children in rapid succession on 15 June 1896, a son, John Rundle West is born, on 6 March 1898, a namesake for his grandpa, another son, George Charles Harvey West is born and on 21st August 1900, a third son, Albert Henry Hunter West. Little Albert is named after his mom's youngest brother.

The 4th Census of Canada 1901 finds Elizabeth (61) and William (60) still plying their trade as weavers. John (32) and Elizabeth (25) remain in the family home. George, Willie, James and Henry have all joined their brothers 'out west'.

Mary Ann and Charles West have yet another son, Wilfrid Lorne Englebert West, on 24 January 1903. Mary Ann has named this son after her girlhood home, Wilfrid.

On 4 June 1904, son, George (33) marries Margaret Isobel Eldridge (35) at 908 Thurlow Street, Vancouver, BC. Margaret was born in St. Armand, Quebec. George and Margaret remain childless.

On the first of November 1907 Mary Ann and Charles have their last child, a daughter, Annie Viola. Mary Ann has used both her names in naming her daughters.

1910 brings two more weddings for the Hunter clan, 31 May, 1910, son, Henry, and Caroline Riggins of Montreal, Quebec were married at 235 Hass Street in Vancouver and on 30 June 1910 James marries Annie May Taylor in Vancouver. He is 32 and she is 26.

The day after James' wedding, on the first of July 1910 Elizabeth's husband, William John Hunter, spouse of 47 years dies at the age of 70 in the village of Wilfrid of arterial sclerosis and heart disease. The attending doctor is W. J. Boynton of Pefferlaw, Ontario. William John has been ill since May 1st.

On 26 January 1911, another granddaughter and namesake, Laura Elizabeth Hunter was born at home, 562 7th Avenue East, Vancouver to James and Annie May and on 2 May 1914 Elizabeth's tenth and last grandchild, James Russell. is born at 55 - 655 Hornby Street, Vancouver to son, James and his wife, Annie May.

May 13, 1917 - Elizabeth dies in Wilfrid, Ontario at the age of 80 years of Bronchitis 1 week duration. She is buried in Cannington's Cedarvale Cemetery.

Dr. Boynton is the attending physician and the informant is John Hunter of Wilfrid. She left to mourn her passing, two daughters, 5 sons, 6 grandsons and 4 granddaughters. Her husband, John, and a son, Samuel, have predeceased her.

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**Editors Note:** If you are interested please contact Bev Gutenberg directly for information regarding the numerous sources that she has researched and which she cited in the writing of this family timeline..

**\*\*\* YOU SAY SIKORSKY, I SAY SIKORSKI \*\*\***

*Submitted by Delores Maduke*

I ran across a couple of items in the newspaper the other day that caught my attention and might be worth commenting on. One headline, on the front page, dealt with a Teamster strike against Sikorsky Aircraft. The other, on the international page, talked about some political fence-mending being done by the Polish Defense Minister, Radek Sikorski. The contrast, Sikorsky vs. Sikorski, struck me.

It brought to mind a question I've answered many times, but one that keeps coming up: why do surnames sometimes end with -ski and sometimes with -sky? Is there any significance to it? I thought it might not hurt to talk about this a little in *\_Gen Dobry!* I have already discussed the matter--you can read some remarks on this and other questions regarding surname endings here: [http://www.polishroots.org/surnames/surnames\\_endings.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/surnames/surnames_endings.htm). But since people keep asking about this, why not focus on this specific question and try to shed a little light?

\* Who Cares How You Spell Surnames? \*

Now the first thing you have to understand is, surname spelling has never been very consistent! In fact, I think our ancestors would be puzzled by our emphasis on something that seemed thoroughly trivial to them. That's true whether you're talking about Polish, German, English, you name it. William Shakespeare has always been a figure of some importance to people who read and wrote quite well; yet documents created during his lifetime spell his name more than a dozen different ways! (For an interesting article on this, see <http://shakespeareauthorship.com/name1.html>). This is not an exceptional case: until pretty recently people seldom made a big deal out of surname spellings, whether their own or someone else's.

And really, why should they? Most folks couldn't read; if they could write anything at all, their penmanship seldom amounted to more than a halfhearted stab at their own names. In this modern world of computer databases and national security and credit card applications it's hard to relate, but our ancestors didn't know or care how their names were spelled. They were practical people, and in everyday life in some small village, it didn't make one damned bit of difference whether you spelled a name Shakespeare or Shakspere, Sikorsky or Sikorski, Hoffman or Hofman. People usually wrote a name down the way it sounded to them, and didn't lose any sleep over whether it was "correct." On most people's list of priorities "correct spelling" rated right up there with "How much wood can a woodchuck chuck?"

In fact, I've often wondered if some Poles felt it was downright patriotic to make their names as confusing as possible. Emphasis on consistent spellings was not the Poles' idea -- the partitioners, German, Russia, and Austria, started demanding the use of consistent, unvarying surnames. Why? It made people easier to keep track of. The Germans, Russians, and Austrians wanted to make Poles pay taxes and serve in their armies; and Poles were not terribly anxious to do either of these things. It's a lot easier to cram unpopular measures down people's throats if you know where they live, so to speak. And how do you know that if you're unsure whether you're looking for Bukowski or Bukowiec or Bukowicz? All three empires enacted regulations designed to make Poles easier to identify, including emphasis on surnames that never varied (except as dictated by grammar).

I don't know if Poles confused things on purpose. I just know, if I were a Pole living back then, I'd figure what's good for the Prussians or Russkies can't be good for me. Maybe I wouldn't misspell my name on purpose; but I'd have no incentive to make things easier for my oppressors!

Whether that was a factor or not, researchers soon recognize one truth: if a name can plausibly be spelled more than one way, it will be. In older records, especially, -i and -y were often treated as interchangeable. So even in Polish records you'll see Sikorski one time, Sikorsky another.

\* Always -ski, Never -sky \*

As compulsory education began to increase literacy and create in people's minds an awareness that there was a right and wrong way to spell words, a consensus began to develop as to how names should be spelled. Gradually most Poles learned that in their language, y can never follow k or g; the vowel must be i. In other words, always -ski, never -sky.

Perhaps that's because the vowel represented by y in Polish is a tense little "short i" sound, while the i is a nice, open "ee". (Compare the Polish verb for "to beat," bic~, which sounds kind of like our word "beach," with the word for "to be," byc~, which sounds more like our word for a female dog.)

For whatever reason, Poles don't like to combine the guttural k or g with the sound they write as y. For them it's much more natural to pronounce ki than ky, gi than gy. So they turned this preference into a spelling rule. Actually there are a number of rules regarding use of certain consonants with i or y in native Polish words (words borrowed from other languages may violate these rules). Here are the ones I can remember offhand (using ~ to stand for the diacriticals, except note that I use z~ for accented z and z\* for dotted z):

- \* never c~y, only ci or cy
- \* never czi, only czy
- \* never di, only dy, dzy, or dzi;
- \* never ge, only gie;
- \* never gy, only gi;
- \* never ke, only kie;
- \* never ky, only ki;
- \* never l~i, only li;
- \* never ly, only l~y
- \* never n~i or n~y, only ni or ny
- \* never ri, only ry
- \* never rzi, only rzy
- \* never s~i or s~y, only si or sy
- \* never sz~i, only szy
- \* never ti, only ty (t + i -> ci)
- \* never z\*i, only z\*y
- \* never z~i or z~y, only zi or zy

It's not that the human mouth can't form these sound combinations; l~i, for instance, would sound a lot like our word "we," and pronouncing that word causes us no trouble at all. But all languages have their quirks, and Poles, for some reason, avoid these particular combinations.

In case you think we're immune to such whims, English doesn't start words with the "ts" sound that Poles write as c, as in *\_corka\_* (daughter), and Germans write as z, as in *\_Zeitung\_* (newspaper). English doesn't start words with the "shch" combination Poles write *szcz*, as in *Szczepan* (Stephen). In modern English we drop the initial "k" sound in *knee*, but the German word meaning the same thing, *Knie*, is pronounced with that k loud and clear. There are jillions of examples that you only become aware of once you start studying other languages.

Now we finally have an answer to our Sikorski/Sikorsky question. Radek Sikorski is a Pole, his name must end in *-ski*. The Sikorsky Aircraft company is named for Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky, a Russian-born aviation pioneer. When Russian names are written in our alphabet, it's OK to spell them *-sky*. In fact, that's the way we usually render the ending for Russian names.

Permit me to skip blithely over complications, such as the fact that Sikorsky actually was born in Kyiv, Ukraine, and the Ukrainians claim he's one of them, not a Russian at all (see, for instance, <http://www2.uwindsor.ca/~hlynka/ukfam.html>). Or the fact that Sikorskiy is actually a more accurate phonetic rendering in our alphabet of the Russian Cyrillic version. And that you may even see the Ukrainian version of the surname rendered as *Sykorskyj* in our alphabet; spellings with *-skyj* show up especially often in the surnames of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada. (Obviously that final *j* is not meant to be pronounced as in English, but rather as in German or Polish, as a consonantal *y* sound. Are you sufficiently confused yet?)

If you're philosophically-minded, these facts can be relevant when you ponder the question "What IS the correct spelling of this name, anyway?" The answer: spelling is always a consensus among the speakers of a given language. As such it is subject to change; at any given time there can be popular variants that become more common than the "correct" spelling. Ponder this as you drink your Lite Beer or listen to Prince's "I Would Die 4 U" or let your kids watch Nick at Nite.

(Along these same lines, read Paul Valasek's "Olny Srmat Poelpe Can" below.)

Anyway, as practical researchers, we can't get too carried away with philosophical conundrums. For our purposes, if we need a rule of thumb it's best to go with this equation: *Sikorski* = Pole, *Sikorsky* = Russian (or Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian, etc.)

Was religion a factor? Not usually. People often have the impression that Jews' surnames end in *-sky*. In general, however, the spelling of Jews' names was influenced by the same factors that influenced their Christian neighbors' names. Polish Jews tend to prefer *-ski*, Czech Jews prefer *-sky*, and so on. As best I can tell, the determining factors were linguistic and cultural, not religious.

\* And Yet ... \*

So why do we often see the names of Polish Christians and Jews spelled with *-sky* in our records? If you do much research you're going to find plenty of people who were unquestionably from Poland, yet they show up as *Gorsky* or *Dombrowsky* or *Piontkowsky*. There must be some reason they kept getting stuck with a misspelling. And why would English-speakers prefer *-sky* over *-ski* anyway? It's not as if our language tends to use either combination very much.

I've never seen an authoritative explanation of this, and if someone can point me toward one, I'd be grateful. But I do have a theory: the Czechs did it.

So why do we often see the names of Polish Christians and Jews spelled with –sky in our records? If you do much research you're going to find plenty of people who were unquestionably from Poland, yet they show up as Gorsky or Dombrowsky or Piontkowsky. There must be some reason they kept getting stuck with a misspelling. And why would English-speakers prefer –sky over –ski anyway? It's not as if our language tends to use either combination very much.

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Czechs use a modified version of the Roman alphabet, and render the standard Slavic adjectival ending as -sky (with an accent over the y). When Czechs emigrated, their names didn't have to be transliterated from the Cyrillic alphabet, as was necessary with Belarusians, Russians, and Ukrainians; they were written in letters reasonably familiar to western Europeans. I think Germans, in particular, got used to seeing –sky (ignoring the accent over the y) whenever they encountered that ending, and tended to use it as well when dealing with Poles, Russians, and other Slavs. Since many emigrants' papers were filled out by Germans, the German preference for –sky affected the spelling in them.

What's more, the Czechs were the first Slavs to immigrate to America in large numbers. When Poles started crossing the Atlantic, they found sizable and well-established Czech settlements in many areas. In fact Poles often went to Czech churches until they got enough numbers and money to start their own parishes. So in North America, too, the Czech spelling -sky probably imprinted itself on English-speakers as the standard version for all Slavs.

Now Poles' names are, of course, also written in the Roman alphabet, with modifications. Some people noticed they spelled their names with–ski and went along with it. I imagine that's why we see a respectable number of Polish surnames spelled correctly in the U. S. and Canada. But let's face it, most non-Slavs can't tell a Pole from a Czech from a Ukrainian. The Czech version's greater familiarity often won out, and a lot of Poles ended up as –sky whether they liked it or not.

\* Conclusion \*

So what conclusion should we draw? Well, as usual with surnames, you can't trust generalizations. By and large, Polish names are more likely to be spelled –ski, while –sky more likely shows up in the names of Czechs, Russians, Ukrainians, etc. But that's just a rule of thumb; there are plenty of exceptions. Often the only way you can tell ethnic origin for sure is to trace the family history. The way people spell their names may give you a useful clue; but you can't really count on it. If you see one fellow called Sikorski and another called Sikorsky, odds are the first is a Pole, the second a Russian. Still, do yourself a favor and dig a little before you jump to any conclusions.

Written by Fred Hoffman <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>]. Previously published by \_Gen Dobry!\_, Vol. VII, No. 2, 28 February 2006, PolishRoots(R): <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>.

**Have a great summer & see you in the fall!**