

ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST



September—
October 2006

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Fall 2006 Edition

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 8th General Branch Meeting**
guest speaker is:
Mark MacKenzie,
Art & Artifact Conservator
Western Development Museum
- Dec 13th General Branch Meeting**
Pot Luck supper

OUR MEETING LOCATION

Place: St. Francis Catholic School @ 2141 McPherson 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 followed by member interest discussions, guest speakers or geographical workshops.

Dates: The 2nd Wednesday of each month except for July & August.

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

Library: <http://www.sbsgs.org>

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

PRESIDENT: Karen Haffermehl wk.haffermehl@sasktel.net Phone # 382-2338	GREETERS: Merle Ward Peter Geres	NEWSLETTER: Rene Stock - publisher rene@stockfamily.ca	REFRESHMENTS: Dawn Keddy—Brezinski Val Bruce
VICE PRESIDENT: VACANT	WEB MASTER: Gus Morrow gustaveous@mail.com	MEMBERSHIP: Gina Reid reidg@shaw.ca Alice Schneider Jschneider@sasktel.net	FUNDRAISING: Delores Maduke Harold Baker Joyce Lappin Cindy Paradis Lynda Andrew
PAST PRESIDENT: Cliff Rusk	LIBRARIANS: Georgiana Chartier g.chartier@sasktel.net Phone 652-1286 Elsie Henry Dorothy Peake Mary Hudson	PHONERS: Mabel Evans Phone 343-7379 Gina Reid Phone 343-9982 Isabelle Lenz Phone 382-6803	CEMETERY COORDINATORS: Susan Leitch Merle Ward
TREASURER: Rene Stock rene@stockfamily.ca	PROGRAMS: Bernadette Prokopetz Terri Chappell Bev Gutenberg	PUBLIC RELATIONS: Cindy Paradis	FACILITY COORDINATOR: VACANT
SECRETARY: Delores Maduke deloresstevens@sasktel.net Phone 384-2510			
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Joyce Lappin Karen Pidskalny			

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

Thank you for the opportunity to learn and grow as your President for the past year. It is with regret that I have chosen to step down, but my singing career and my health have ruled to be the first and foremost part of my life.

I do hope that St. Francis School will continue to be available as our meeting place and that future moves are not necessary.

The new Executive will be in place on January 1, 2007 and will lead you into the future with renewed vigour and vitality.

Once again, thank you to each and every one for the support that you have shown over the past year.

Karen Haffermehl

Thank You!

- To member Myrna Sprecker for a particularly generous financial donation
- To the Fundraising Committee for planning and staging three successful events to date this year
- To the librarians who, in addition to their regular duties, have had to deal with a move to storage then into our new facility
- To the Cemetery Committee for their ongoing work in transcribing grave marker inscriptions
- To all Committee members—Greeters, Webmaster, Program, Newsletter, Membership, Phoners, Public Relations, Refreshments, for your efforts in making the past year a successful one

General Meeting November 8

Annual elections will be held to fill Executive positions, as well as Committees.

Members are requested to come prepared to take on an active role in the operations of our organization!

General Meeting November 8, Guest Speaker

Mark MacKenzie, Art & Artifact Conservator at the Western Development Museum, will speak on document preservation. Some topics covered will include proper storage, cleaning techniques, how to display, and when you need a conservator. Sure to be informative about protecting family treasures. Guests welcome.

A Simple Fire

Submitted by Delores Maduke

While researching the family history of Ferdinand Donat and Katherine Uhl Donat, I found that after the death of Ferdinand in 1910, that Katherine had remained on their farm, but later she had remarried and that she no longer farmed.

What had happened to this farm and why did she no longer remain in possession of it, were questions that I had. I contacted the county office in the Court House at Cavalier, ND. Unfortunately for me, there had been a fire and these records had been destroyed.

Little did I know that this one sentence, "there had been a fire and the records were destroyed" would lead to an entertaining afternoon, when I visited Neche and Cavalier ND.

I could not find much information about Katherine Uhl, but was able to find the address and phone number of a Stanley Ouhl in Cavalier. What were the odds that he may be related to my Katherine Uhl. I sent off a letter to him and received a lengthy reply that informed me that Katherine Uhl was his Aunt Kate. I phoned him to let him know about my trip to Neche and indicating that I would like to visit with him. He was willing to see me.

I went to visit with Stanley on a warm June afternoon. His house is located across, on the side street, from the Court House in Cavalier. Right behind the Court House is the police station and the jail. Stanley has a good view of all of these buildings from his front veranda.

We sat on the veranda and drank iced tea. Not the Canadian version of iced tea, but rather cold tea with ice cubes in. Neither of us had met the other before, but Stanley was providing me with useful information about his family. He was very talkative. When I told him about looking for records and that these were not available from the Court House due to a fire, Stanley laughed.

Stanley informed me that this incident was more than a fire and he had a front row seat to the goings on due to sitting on the veranda at the time. He said that a disgruntled man had fire bombed the Court House with a Molotov cocktail, throwing this into one of the back ground floor windows. Thus the fire that burned the records! Not only had this occurred, but the same individual went on to fire bomb the police station and shoot one of the police men as he came out of the police station. There were police cars all over the place and they were in front of Stanley's house. There was shooting, so at this point Stanley indicated he went in his house to get out of the line of fire.

I was entertained by Stanley's description of the incident. Sometimes one little statement can lead to a whole story. We spent a pleasant afternoon together with Stanley telling me personal details about his family. He told personal details to a complete stranger. Go figure! That is genealogy research, people just want to share, and older individuals just want to talk and be heard.

**RED RIVER VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**



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 are 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/index.htm>

The Spirit Guide to Genealogy

Submitted by Tammy Vallee

Our endless pursuit of information to add to the family tree can take us genealogists to all kind of places all over the world. Yet no matter how much information we find most of us still have brick walls somewhere that just won't crumble. For some people they believe that their ancestors guide them to new records or these ancestors have the power to keep their lives secret even after death. I am one of these people. I believe my ancestors watch over me; they are my genealogy guides.

One of the most common comments I have heard over the years from people working on their family tree is "Only if I could have asked my parents or grandparents when they were alive". Since I started questioning my family when I still had three grandparents and numerous great aunts and uncles it has not always brought the success I seek. The questions I want to ask are to my great grandparents or further back; the family that had died before I was born.

Coffee time with the girls bought a new avenue to light, not the most common route that most of us would take but one I decided to venture down. A very good friend told me about her and her family experience with a woman from Alberta who can channel people from the past. She mailed me the link to her web page so I could read up on her. What really caught my attention was how she explained what she did. She said that you can't always control who comes through and if you get someone you don't recognize then you should do some work on your family tree. After reading that I decided I wanted to meet this woman. I gathered some pictures and made a list of questions I was looking for information on. I booked a time for her next trip through Saskatoon.

The morning came for my visit, I choose to only take a half hour appointment, it is not cheap and I didn't want to spend too much if I wasn't buying what she had to say. We met at her friend's house where she stays when in the city. She told me a man with a strong jaw (perhaps had an accent) was there, I think this probably grandpa Peter, but I wasn't sure so I we moved on. She channeled my grandfather who had just passed away and I spent a lot of time talking and listening to what she said about him. Next was my great grandmother Lizzie. Lizzie was trying to tell me that their would be a site on the computer that would be able to lead me to more info on her parents, but it would take about 3 months for me to find it. We then went over the pictures I had, they were ones I wasn't sure about. But we asked my grandfather once again about these pictures, one was his aunt and the other his grandfather.

It didn't take long for those 30 minutes to pass. For those of you have ever seen the Physics at the Fringe or the Ex know that you talk and listen but 5 minutes after you leave you can't remember what all was said. Well my whole visit was recorded onto tape for me. I can just play it back and listen any time I want; this was included with the visit.

I know this is something that not everyone is interested in or may not have had much luck with, but she told me I was not the first to come to her looking for info on my family tree. My list of questions didn't get me very far, not all spirits can tell you the exact answers you are looking for. So asking where Henry Sutton was born in Essex or who his parents were won't give me the answer I want. I need to work on writing my questions to get at answers I seek.

The best part for me was knowing that my grandfather was there and hearing what he had to say. As for the website that will give me the info on Lizzie's parents I am not sure if I have found it yet or not. The Donegal mailing list recently had posting about Inishowen Genealogy, a group that specializes in the area where Lizzie was from. After five years of having a very hard time getting info from Donegal I was very excited to hear about them. I mailed away my letter to see if that was what I was looking for or if it'll be another dead end. In the mean time I will make another visit to see this woman on her next trip to Saskatoon. Hopefully I will get a few more questions answered and some new insights to these elusive ancestors of mine.

Visiting Neche, North Dakota

Submitted by Delores Maduke

For a long time I have wanted to visit the area of Neche, North Dakota, as this was where my German ancestors first came to live upon their arrival from Volhynia, Russia. This became more of a quest for me upon my finding information about my great great grandparents Heinrich Donat and Karoline Kroening Donat. It was this spring that I became aware that they had immigrated along with other family members. Why would individuals who are in their late 50's decide to leave their home, village, family and friends to come to an unknown place?

My trip to Neche, ND included being accompanied by my parents, Jack and Violet (Wutzke) Maduke, and my mother's sister Adeline (Wutzke) Olkanych. All of these people are in their 80's. We would visit with mom and aunt's first cousins, the Henschels, who lived in the area. These lovely family members are also in their 80's. One would think that this was a great fountain of information that I had on hand. But it seems as no one in their families was very talkative about their relatives. A time when there were secrets to be kept or just that they knew who their relatives were and didn't need to talk about them to the younger generation. What a pity, all of that history lost and forgotten.

I had looked for a long time for the location of the cemetery on land donated by Rudolf Schaeeler, but using the Internet had not been able to find any mention of it. Fortunately, the cousins were very helpful in that their parents were buried in this cemetery. What luck, they knew the location and were willing to take us there.

From a newspaper article I knew that following the death of Heinrich Donat on March 14, 1906 from stomach cancer¹, that "Henry Donat, 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-up children. The funeral took place yesterday, the remains being interred in the settlement cemetery."²

In speaking with my family members and mom's cousins, no one had any knowledge of Heinrich or Karoline Donat. I obtained further information that led me to believe that I would be able to find the site of Heinrich's grave. I had been given the following identifying information: "Felson Twp., Lutheran Cemetery, land a gift of Rudolf Schaeeler, on NW ¼ 4, 163, 54W. The first grave was that of Johann Schaeeler, died 1903. Rudolf Schaeeler placed a large cross on the grave of his father-in-law, Heinrich Donat, after his death in March 1906. This was later replaced by a large metal cross, the gift of Ed Wiesenthal and Adolf Stegmann."³



I was hoping that with this information I would be able to find the spot. I only hoped that there were no other large metal crosses within this cemetery. The other information that I had was the verbal history from the cousins was that this cross had been donated by Rudolf Schaeeler and had been brought from Russia.

It was a warm and sunny day in June, 2006 when we drove out to the cemetery. It was located exactly as described, being four miles west of Neche, ND. It is a little cemetery, which seems to be only used by the oldest german families in the area. There was no sign of new graves. Upon turning into the

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cemetery, there it was, right before my eyes, the large metal cross that I had been told about.

This was doubly exciting for me as I was able to share the information about the great grandparents with my mother, aunt and cousins. These were great grandparents that they did not know about and had not ever been given told about. The second, was that I was seeing the grave site of my ancestors and I can



honestly say that this brought tears to my eyes and that I was in awe. I know that this was the site of Heinrich Donat's last resting place even though there were no names on the cement base of the cross.

On one side of Heinrich Donat's black iron cross there was a rounded tombstone with the name Donat, and a verse about the individual having been taken in the blossom of his youth. From the verse about this being a male and having died young. I surmised that this may be the grave of Ferdinand Donat who had died 13 April 1910⁴ and was buried in this same cemetery⁵. There was no date, first name or any other identifying marks on this stone.

Not far from the Donat grave marker was another flat marker that had the name of Rudolph Donert died 5 October 1949.⁶ There are variations in spelling for Rudolph's last name, as he changed it not liking to having a German sounding name. This information was provided by the Henschel cousins who had known him in life. His parents have been listed as August Donat and Annie Drager. August Donat being

the son of Heinrich and Karoline (Kroening) Donat. Annie Drager being the daughter of Gottlieb and Jullia (Friedenberg) Dreger. This would make Rudolph/Roy Donat/Donert/Donhart a first cousin once removed to the Wutzke/Henschel ladies that were accompanying me.



There then ensued some discussion between myself and the Henschel cousins, who also did not know of Ferdinand Donat, being the son of Heinrich and Karoline (Kroening) Donat, or the relationship of Rudolph Donat. They had made the assumption that the two Donat/Donert stones were connected to the same person.

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The verse on the Donat stone indicates a young male, while Rudolph was in his 50's and could not be considered young. This is one mystery that remains.

While in the cemetery I took pictures of numerous headstones of relatives. Rudolf and Pauline (Donat) Sehler (last name not spelled Schaeeler as their adopted son did not want a German sounding name) along with Juliane (Draeger) and Julius Henschel. There were also Rienhold and Gustav Henschel, along with Russell Houston (husband of Martha Henschel). Another interesting headstone was that of Maria (Schmidtke)⁷ Stegman.

Maria Schmidtke was the daughter of August Draeger Schmidtke Schewe, sister to Adolf Draeger. Adolf was the grandfather of the Wutzke/Henschel ladies. What turned out to be more interesting was that the daughter of Maria Stegman was residing in Cavalier, ND. We just had to look up this lady. Her name is Martha Muth, and she is 80 years old. She is the second cousin to the Wutzke/Henschel ladies.

What became more interesting about this whole trip was that upon my arrival home and doing more research, I found the following article: "Roy Donhart, Joliette Dies Wednesday. Funeral services were held Saturday, October 8 at 2 P.M. from Christ Lutheran Church at Neche for Roy Donhart, who passed at the Drayton hospital on October 5, after a short illness. Mr Donhart was born June 15, 1893 in Russia and came to Neche with his grandparents when a young boy. Pallbearers were Julius Stegman, Henry Stegman, Adolph Hilderbrant, Fred Stienke, Adam Menke and Ed Greening of Neche. Attending funeral services from out-of-town were Mr and Mrs William Dreger and Mr and Mrs Louis Dreger all of Saskatchewan."⁸ My mother and Aunt were just amazed with this article. Which proves that the Draeger/Dreger/Wutzke families in the Bergheim District knew about their cousin Rudolph Donat. Uncle Louis was remembered for his many trips "flying low"⁹ to Neche, ND. This was described to me that he drove rather fast; one could assume that this was not at the speed limit, but rather above.

All in all this was the most fascinating time that I had on a trip that was intended purely for research. I stood in awe at the foot of the large black cross of Heinrich Donat and thought about the strength, fortitude, courage, and conviction that my ancestors had in making a decision to come to an unknown land. I salute them and remember them.

¹ Certification of Death #133-06-001001

² Neche Chronotype 17 March 1906 pg 5

³ A Kuehn Family Scrapbook Felix Kuehn, 1992

⁴ *Certification of Death* #991-186

⁵ St Paul's Lutheran Church Records. Gretna, Manitoba

⁶ *Certification of Death* #2918-107

⁷ Names in brackets not included on the headstones, but provided by writer for clarification.

⁸ *Red River Valley News* 6 October 1949 pg 4

⁹ Memories of Violet (Wutzke) Maduke

The Census

Census Taker: "Good morning, madam, I'm taking the census."

Old Lady: "The what?"

Census Taker: "The c-e-n-s-u-s!"

Old Lady: "For lans sakes! What with tramps takin' everythin' they kin lay their han's on, young folks takin' fotygrafs of ye without so much as askin', an' impudent fellows comin' roun' as wants ter take yer senses, pretty soon there won't be nothin' left ter take, I'm thinkin'!"

-1890 Harper's Weekly

NEW MATERIAL IN SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY*Submitted by Georgiana Chartier*

- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE.
The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots.
2006-July/Aug
Special Issue-Dating and Preserving Old Photos
- How to Identify Old Photos and Where to Find Them on The Internet
 - DNA Success Stories
 - Illustrating Your Family History
- 2006-Sept/Oct
- 10th Anniversary Issue
 - Ships of Our Ancestors
 - The Best Genealogy Books
 - Civil War Home Guard Records
 - Jamestown
 - DNA Projects
 - Translation Websites
 - 20th Century Desperate Housewives
 - Researching in Private Archives
- GB/IRE I 189.200 IRISH ROOTS
2006-No.58
- Historical Maps
 - Genealogy and Heraldry Bill 2006
 - Hiberno-Mexican Historical Links
 - Finding John Dargan
 - Bridging the Gap: Australia to Ireland
 - News from the World of Genealogy
- 2006-No.59
- Speirbhean
 - A Nation of Johns and Marys
 - Irish Genealogy Archives in Spain
 - Volunteer Soldiers During the 'Emergency'
 - The Big House
 - News from the World of Genealogy
- GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER
2006-May/June
- Email Can Turbocharge the Search for Your Roots
 - Tending the Roots of an Ontario Family Tree
 - Finding Lost Relative at the County Poor Farm
- 2006 -July/Aug
- DNA to Africa
 - The Magic of Mind Mapping

GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER
2006 -July/Aug
 State Censuses and Substitutes:A Selected List for
 - All 50 States

BC J 15.2118 JOURNAL OF THE VICTORIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, THE.
2004 - Vol. 27, No. 3, 4
2005 - Vol. 28, No. 1, 2, 3, 4
2006 - Vol. 29, No. 1

GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE
2006-Vol. 22, No. 9- July
 - 90 Years on the Men of the Somme
 - Website for Scots Ancestors
 - Soldier Search in the National Archives
 - A Pilgrim in Spain
 - It's Here: Family Historian 3
2006-Vol. 22, No. 10- August
 - Was Your Ancestor a Spiritualist Medium
 - Female Emigrants to South Africa
 - Registers of the Royal Naval Chapel, Greenwich
 - Data Basics from RootsUK.Com
 - Subscription Hospitals
 - Using WW I medal Rolls
2006-Vol.22, No. 11 - Sept.
 - Ploughmen and Penny Boys
 - Death on the Niger
 - Heraldic Detective Work
 - Buying Documents Online
 - Post Office Packet Ships
2006-Vol. 22, No. 12 - October
 - A Nation of Saints - Irish Naming Traditions
 - Search Smarter When You Google
 - Victorian Wars on the Web
 - Research in Sweden
 - Missionaries in South Africa
 - Inside Lincolnshire Archives

SPRECHER/SPRECKER THE SPRECHER/SPRECKER REGISTER
FAM SPR Compiled by Myrna Helen Sprecker 10 October 2004
 Donated by Myrna Helen Sprecker 2 Copies

GB/ENG Census West Ham, Essex 1851(H0107/1768-69)
BRITISH DATA Parish Records Yorkshire Vol.
ARCHIVE F 9 Back Issues FTM July 1992-PFH July 2000
 Bonus Essential web Sites
 Software Legacy 6.0 Standard
 Disc 22 **FOR REFERENCE ONLY - DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY**

GB/ENG Census East/West Kingsbury, Somerset 1841
BRITISH DATA Parish Records Shropshire Vol.1
ARCHIVE Back Issues FTM August 1993-PFH August 2001
H0107/949-950)-69 Bonus Online Master Name Search
F 9 Software 6 Key Shareware/Demos
Disc 23 **FOR REFERENCE ONLY - DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY**

GB/ENG Census Barnstaple (Part) Devon 1871
BRITISH DATA Parish Records Hampshire Vol.9
ARCHIVE Back Issues FTM September 1994-PFH September 2002
RG10/2182-2186 Bonus Essential Web Links
F 9 Software Roots Magic V2 Demo
Disc 24 **FOR REFERENCE ONLY - DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY**

GB/ENG Census Sevenoaks, Kent 1901 RG13/746-750
BRITISH DATA ARCHIVE Parish Records Cornwall, Vol.9
ARCHIVE PC & Mac Back Issues FTM October 1995-PFH October 2003
F 9 Bonus Essential Web Links PC & Mac
Software PhotoPlus 7 Legacy 6 standard PC
Disc 25 **FOR REFERENCE ONLY - DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY**

CAN/NS LUNENBURG COUNTY NOVA SCOTIA
L 3 Marriages 1861-1887. Transcribed by Lynda Andrews-Nixon.
2006. **FOR REFERENCE ONLY - DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY**

PRINCE ALBERT HEIRLINES - Newsletter Prince Albert Branch of SGS
PA H 59 2006 - Vol. 23- No. 2
WEYB H 518 HERITAGE ECHO'S (WEYBURN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER) WEYBURN
2006 - Spring

SK SGS S 1971.9 SGS CONNECTION BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER TO SGS BRANCHES.
2006 - Vol. 11, No. 2

GB/ENG K 6 KENT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL
Member of the Federation of Family History Societies.
2004 - Vol. 11 No. 1.
2005 - Vol. 11-No. 2,3,4,5.
2006 - Vol. 11-No. 6,7

BC G 181.16 GRAPEVINES - NEWS FROM THE SOUTH OKANAGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2004 - Vol. 12, Issue 3

ONT F 1.139 Families OGS Newsletter
2006 - Vol. 45, No. 3

OTTAWA ON OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS.
OTTA O 202.01 2006 - Vol. 39, No.4

MAN M 514.14 MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Published by the Mennonite Heritage Centre and
the Centre for MB studies in Canada
2006- Vol. XXX11 - No. 2,3

ONT O 71.19 OGS NEWSLEAF
2006 - Vol. 36, No. 3

SK SGS S 221 SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN
2006- Vol. 37, No. 1

GB/IRE I 1819 IRISH RECORDS Sources For Family And Local History
James G. Ryan. 1997 Donated By G. Chartier

SK C 2112.20 CULTURAL REPORT. SASK CULTURE
2006 - Vol. 13, Issue 1

BIG B 97
12, No. 2,3 BIGGAR ROOT BOOSTER Newsletter Biggar Branch of the SGS. 2006 - Vol.

GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE
2006- Vol. 23, No.1
- Land Girls Feeding Britain in WW1
- How Should I record My Sources
- Websites for Medieval Genealogy
- Militia & Reserve Substitute Lists
- An Ordinary Northamptonshire Family
- Brewers and Distillers

GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER
2006 - Sept/Oct

SK P 2380 PROVINCE WITH A HEART Celebrating 100 Years In Saskatchewan.
Regina Leader Post/Saskatoon Star Phoenix 2005.
Donated by Valerie Bruce

GB/ENG Census Saxmundham, Aldeburgh Area Suffolk 1851
HO107/1802c-1802d Parish Records Gloucestershire Vol. 9
BRITISH DATA Back Issues FTM November 1996
ARCHIVE PFH November 2000
F 9 Bonus Essential Web Links
Software- Family Historian 3 Demo
Disc 26. FOR REFERENCE ONLY - DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY

BC J 15.2118 JOURNAL OF THE VICTORIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, THE.
2006 - Vol. 29, No. 3

CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families
2006 - Nov/Dec
- Census Records on Line
- Dating Old Photographs
- Finding a Wandering relative
- Burial Customs and Traditions
- The Case of the Killer Cousin

SK SGS S 221	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN 2006 - Vol. 37, No. 3
USA/NORTH DAKOTA R 18	RED RIVER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER Serving The Red River Valley Of The North Region Of North Dakota And Minnesota 2006 - April, June
USA/WISCONSIN T 25	TRACING YOUR GERMAN ROOTS Maralyn A. Wellauer 1986

Circumstantial Evidence

Submitted by Rene Stock

Two years ago an elderly aunt, knowing that I was somewhat computer literate, challenged me to take on the task of recording family history. I had no idea what an addictive, time-consuming, at times frustrating and others satisfying, pastime this could be!

Of course the first line to follow is one's own surname. Knowing that grandfather William had come from Ontario, I soon came upon the history book for the township of Ellice, county of Perth.

According to this source, James Stock and his wife Grace (Frazelli) had emigrated with their five sons Edward, John, Peter, Joseph and James, from Chorley, Lancashire, England in 1813 to the Mimico region of Upper Canada.

Every answer produces more questions. All census information for the five sons from public library microfilms had their birth years ranging from 1817 to 1827. They obviously did not emigrate in 1813. Further web searches led to the history of Toronto website, which claims the emigration year as 1830.

The Family Search website was the source for baptisms for my gg grandfather John. I ordered the film for St. Swithin's Catholic Church in Liverpool, and was able to find baptismal records for the five sons and a daughter Mary. None of them had a maiden name for the mother, Grace.

How did an English farmer meet an Italian girl in the early 1800's? More web searches produced a marriage record for James Stock and Grace Fazakerley for 22 Apr 1815, at St. James Church, Toxteth Park, Liverpool, England. The Fazakerley website explains that the surname is an old English one, having to do with a foxhole. There's even a section of Liverpool called Fazakerley, which was a neighbouring village that was consumed by the city's growth.

Another dilemma. The St. James church is Church of England, yet all indicators were that the family was Catholic. The record had no parents listed for either bride or groom, and both were listed as being "of this parish". A response from a Fazakerley descendant on the Shetland Islands to a posting I placed on the Fazakerley message board of Rootsweb provided the answer. Apparently an Act passed about 1753 required that all marriages be performed by Church of England clergy. This Act was repealed once civil registration was enacted in 1837.

Finally Grace's maiden name was confirmed with the discovery of three daughters born in Canada,

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Mary, Catharine and Ellen, and baptised at St. Paul's, Toronto. The maiden name Fazakerley appeared on Ellen's baptism record.

James Stock appeared to have crawled out from the cabbage patch. I spent hours hunting through films of parish records from Liverpool through to Chorley, posting messages on websites, contacting message board posters, and generally was frustrated at every turn. Finally about June 2005 I found a message board posting by a living descendant of Mary Stock of Chorley, estimated to be born about 1804, daughter of James and Mary, who had married James Lancaster. She had no other information on that family, other than her family was Catholic as far back as she could determine.

I stumbled on one other lead - reference to a will for James Stock the elder of Chorley, dated 1836. I ordered the last of a set of three films for 1836, surnames beginning with P to Y. Wrong one. Ordered the second, which had this will on it. The will is six handwritten pages, is dated 29 Apr 1836, probated 25 Aug 1836, and lists the names of his children. Here is an excerpt:

And in the next place do and shall divide aforesaid and equally amongst all my children herein after named, namely, John Stock, William Stock, Catharine Heskeyne now the Wife of Richard Heskeyne, Ellen Bullen now the Wife of William Bullen, Margery Rawlinson now the Wife of Thomas Rawlinson, James Stock the younger, Peter Stock and Mary Lancaster now the Wife of James Lancaster share and share alike and to their respective Executors Administrators and Assigns And I do hereby order and direct the same to be divided and paid to them their respective Executors Administrators or Assigns at the end of twelve months next after the decease of her my said Wife Mary Stock or as soon afterwards as conveniently may be

For genealogical purposes, James the elder might have been so kind as to name the spouses of his sons, but such was not the case. Was James the younger the same as James husband of Grace?

Until hard evidence appears, I must rely on circumstantial evidence. My James was from Chorley. His children were named Edward, John, Peter, Mary, Joseph, James, Mary (I believe the first Mary died), Catharine and Ellen. Edward was Grace's father's name and Grace had a brother Joseph. James the elder's children were named John, William, Catharine (same spelling), Ellen, Margery, James, Peter and Mary. The dates coincide with the ages of the children, my James being born about 1793, according to census records.

Although I will continue the search for hard evidence, it is my belief that I have located another set of gggg grandparents. Only 14 more to go!

A Short Course in Human Relations

The six most important words in the English language are:

I was wrong. Please forgive me.

The five most important words: **You did a good job!**

The four most important words: **What is your opinion?**

The three most important words: **Can I help?**

The two most important words: **Thank you.**

The one most important word: **You.**

The least important word: **I.**

***** MALE OR FEMALE: WHICH IS IT? *****

One of the reasons I like to answer questions on surnames is because looking up the answers constantly teaches me something new. Every so often I come across a tidbit I think may interest others, and this is one of those times.

It has to do with the feminine form of Polish surnames that are adjectival in form. One of the first things we researchers learn to deal with is that names such as Lewandowski or Nowotny have distinctive feminine forms, Lewandowska or Nowotna. We should expect our female ancestors to show up in Polish records under those forms, not under the masculine versions. No exceptions, right?

Well, if you weren't born yesterday you know better than to fall for that one. There are always exceptions! In this case, it has been true for a long time that Polish females almost always used the feminine forms. But there's strong evidence that custom is changing.

The whole question came up when a researcher wrote, "I'd be interested in learning anything you can tell me about this Polish surname - Wyczesany ... I did a search on the link you provided (<http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html>) which shows 350 people with this surname as of 1990. It appears to be obscure. There are also another 150 people with a variation on the spelling, Wyczesana."

I started my reply with basic info on pronunciation and meaning:

"Wyczesana, pronounced roughly 'vich-ess-AH-nah,' is the feminine form of Wyczesany ('vich-ess-AH-nee'). Though none of my sources mentions the name's origin, I'm pretty sure it developed as a participle of the verb wyczesac, 'to comb out.' Wyczesany would mean literally 'combed out,' and that form would apply to a male; a female would be Wyczesana. Presumably this started as a nickname for an ancestor whose hair was always well combed, never tangled and messy-looking."

But then I verified the data given on the Słownik nazwisk Website, and started wondering. 150 females, 350 males!? How can that be? That shouldn't happen, unless something really odd is going on. The numbers for males and females with a specific name should not differ by more than a few percentage points. In a given instance anything is possible; but this sort of discrepancy is a red flag, a sign saying "You'd better take another look at this; something is weird here!"

Then I remembered a phenomenon Prof. Kazimierz Rymut had mentioned in his foreword to the CD-ROM *Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use In Poland at the Beginning of the 21st Century*:

"But in recent decades surnames of the Nowotny and Gorny type are more and more often encountered in reference to women. There are women whose identification papers give their surnames in forms of that type, such as Gorny and Zagrodny. This is a new phenomenon in Poland, and one spreading rapidly, even though linguistic handbooks regard these name forms as incorrect."

I remember I mentioned this once to Polish researcher Iwona Dakiniewicz, and she was astonished; she'd never run across it. But the more I've worked with data from the 1990 database online at <http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html>, and especially with the more comprehensive and accurate 2002 data from Rymut's CD, the more I've come across obvious discrepancies in numbers. A significant number of surnames that were masculine in form were showing up as two or three times as common as their feminine counterparts.

The 1990 data did not tell me enough to figure out what was going on with this specific name. But the 2002 data from the CD breaks the numbers down by gender, indicating the number of males with M. and females with F. I'd never really stopped to look closely at this before, but decided it would only take a few moments to crunch the numbers for these entries.

The 2002 data showed 147 Polish citizens named Wyczesana, 440 named Wyczesany. All the Wyczesana's were female -- and so were 142 of the Wyczesany's! Adjust the figures in light of the data I just gave, and you have 147+142 females = 289, compared with 298 males (440-142). Once you take that into account, the

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numbers are much more in line with what we'd expect.

In case you're interested in this particular surname, the data from 1990 and 2002 both showed it all over Poland, but with the largest numbers in the general area of Krakow and Tarnow, in southcentral to southeastern Poland. The 1990 data showed 98 Wyczesany's in Krakow province, 131 in Tarnow province; the numbers for Wyczesana were 57 in Krakow province, 61 in Tarnow province. The 2002 data showed a similar distribution (adjusting, of course, for the changes in provinces as of 1999). So while a given Wyczesany family could have come from anywhere, odds are decent they came from that general area, between Krakow and Tarnow.

Back to this whole masculine/feminine issue. Of course, you can't jump to conclusions based on only one set of data. Close examination in this case, however, confirmed the impression I'd received while looking up many other names. I will take time to examine this point in the future whenever I come across a significant discrepancy between numbers of males and females, just to verify that the phenomenon is real. But based on what I've seen before, I'm pretty sure it is.

Why are Polish women forsaking the feminine forms? I can think of several possible answers, but I have no way of testing which ones hold up under examination.

I have noticed a tendency in Poland in recent decades to shed some of the complexity of name forms. These days, for instance, married women are much more likely to call themselves Nowak, not Nowakowa (Mrs. Nowak), or Zaremba, not Zarembina (Mrs. Zaremba). Unless I'm very much mistaken, unmarried females rarely advertise their status by using the traditional forms with -owna and -owna. This all may be partly due to a tendency to modernize, to junk old forms that no longer seem to serve a useful purpose. The attitude of many is that distinctive feminine forms may be nice, but they aren't efficient. These days a lot of us are embracing efficiency, only to realize too late that we've given up something that gave life flavor and charm.

Feminism might have something to do with it, too; I don't think American women are the only ones to resist social practices that have no other purpose than to set them apart from men. Such practices strike many as inconsistent with a desire for legal equality. (Others, of course, feel women should never settle for mere equality).

Personal security might also be a factor. I know some women who live alone don't want the address on their mail, for instance, to make it clear they're female, as that might make things too easy for sexual predators. Simply from that standpoint, mail addressed to "A. Wyczesany" is less of a tip-off than mail addressed to "A. Wyczesana." No point, in effect, putting up a sign saying "Hey, creeps, a single woman lives here." My understanding is a lot of American women choose to go by names that don't reveal their gender for precisely the same reason – for instance, "A. Jones" instead of "Amanda Jones."

Maybe these factors are involved. Maybe it's due to something I haven't thought of. All I can say is, this particular change is showing up in Poland. It's hardly universal, and perhaps in time most people will opt to preserve the distinctive feminine forms. Then again, in a generation maybe they'll be nothing more than a memory, a footnote in old books. We'll just have to wait and see.

In the meantime, this is one more of those things they teach you is always true, that actually isn't. In older records, however, you can generally rely on seeing females called Wyczesana, not Wyczesany; Nowotna, not Nowotny; Wisniewska, not Wisniewski. So when it comes to what you'll see as you trace your family tree, the old rules still apply. These days ... well, it ain't necessarily so.

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