



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fall 2007 Edition

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Branch & Executive Information             | Page 2  |
| President's Report                         | Page 3  |
| Upcoming Events                            | Page 3  |
| Call for Volunteers                        | Page 4  |
| 1829 Description of the Kingdom of Prussia | Page 5  |
| Websites of Interest                       | Page 6  |
| Library Additions                          | Page 7  |
| Belke Cemetery Revisited                   | Page 9  |
| Did Ellis Island Change My Name?           | Page 10 |
| Members Surname Interests                  | Page 12 |
| Meet the Members                           | Page 15 |
| Celts, Clans and Clover                    | Page 13 |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 15, 2007 regular meeting:  
Featuring guest speaker Les Henry, author of "Catalogue Houses; Eatons and Others"

December 1, 2007: Beginner Workshop,  
1:30 PM. Mayfair Library

December 6, 2007: Pot Luck Supper, 6:00  
PM. Albert Community Centre

January 17th, 2008 regular meeting:  
Featuring guest speaker Elaine Rohatensky  
on the topic of Document Preservation

MEETING INFORMATION

**Place:** Albert Community Centre, 610 Clarence Avenue S.

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

**Time:** The Library is open from 5:00 - 7:00 PM.

The Meeting runs from 7:15 - 9:30 PM. Meetings start with the Presidents' report, followed by member interest discussions, guest speakers or genealogical workshops.

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

**Library Website:** <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 as a Portable Document Format file (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. Please submit by the third Wednesday of the month prior to publication month.

### SBSGS 2007 BRANCH EXECUTIVE

**PRESIDENT:**

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**VACANT**

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Val Bruce

**FUNDRAISING:**

**VACANT**

**CEMETERY COORDINATORS:**

Merle Ward  
merleward@shaw.ca  
Susan Leitch

**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. 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 is requested to assist with setup and re-stacking tables and chairs.

We must leave the facilities clean and tidy so please come prepared to help clean up after each meeting.

We are expected to set up and take down all tables and chairs for every event held at Albert Community Centre.

WE GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE  
FOLLOWING  
ORGANIZATIONS.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are now in our new home, which is once again Albert Community Centre. Due to the fact that we have to pay rent, this necessitates our having to fundraise to cover these increased costs. We could utilize our savings, but that would be fiscally irresponsible on the part of the executive. If you have any ideas or suggestions we encourage you to share these with members of the executive.

Again we are asking for volunteers to assist the executive. There are still a number of vacant positions, so if you could give/donate/spare a couple of hours a month it would be greatly appreciated. I know that many have given of their time in the past and feel that they have done their duty. For those who have done so, we are thankful. In order for our branch to continue to thrive it is imperative that we all assist in any way possible. Maybe your contribution could be a brief article for the newsletter, or an idea/suggestion. Expressing an idea does not mean that you will be responsible for bringing it to fruition.

During the month of September, Tammy Vallee participated in an online radio interview dealing with the subject of Chief Whitecap and John Lake and their historic meeting. Out of this grew an opportunity to garner some advertisement for the Beginner Class. It is with pleasure that we announce that the Beginner Class is full.

We have undertaken to use more free venues for advertising and these are FaceBook, Saskatoon Homepage, the Neighbourhood Express as well as the Sunday Sun. Having the announcement of the Beginner Class on upcoming events brought the Genealogy Society to the attention of more individuals. Thank you Tammy.

### Note to Members:

If your surname interests are not included in this or past issues, they are not on file. Please submit them to the newsletter publisher listed on Page 2.

Pat Ryan's clearing out her collection of books as she and her husband make plans for the future. After his retirement the plan is to hit the road and travel the country. In preparation she is doing some massive clearance. She is donating 1932 to 1998 set of Regina Henderson Directories to our branch. She has held two open house sales of books to her students and the Regina folks; she is now opening her remaining bookshelves to anyone who may be interested. Some books are listed on her website, but as time permits she will try to get more information added. You can check out her website at: <http://ca.geocities.com/pastrelations>

### Facebook

Tammy has created a common interest group for our Society on Facebook, called Saskatoon Genealogy Group (SBSGS). It is another forum for sharing ideas and information. To join navigate to

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4970777987>

## *Call for Volunteers*

*By Tammy Vallee*

Making any organization a success depends highly on the efforts of the members to become involved. As our branch nears closer to celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2011 we need to call on our entire membership to be involved where they can. Although the last few years have seen a decline in membership it should not represent a decline in our pride and our enthusiasm as members. It is at this time we need to work harder and focus our energy on promoting and running a successful branch no matter our numbers. Many feel they that they have spent their time in certain positions over the years and would like to now to only be a member and enjoy the benefits of their time served.

As part of the executive I am asking for all our members to rethink this position. There are many positions available that require very minimal time commitment but greatly ease the workload carry by those currently serving or trying to cover the vacant positions. The 2007 executive welcomes all members with their ideas, new or old, to step up and share their insight and wisdom to help move our branch forward in 2008. If you are interested in learning more about the current requirements of these positions please contact Delores or Tammy. Elections will be held at our November meeting but many positions are available immediately.

Secretary (1): attendance at executive meeting required; duties include recording the minutes of the meeting and disturbing the minutes.

Program Co-coordinator (3): one person needed to attend executive meeting; duties included planning and locating speakers for general meetings.

Fund-Raising Committee (2 to 5): plan and organize fund raising events to cover the expenses of the day to day cost of the branch, such as rent, insurance, speaker fees. One person needed to attend executive meeting or report developments to one of the executive before the meeting.

Publications and Promotion Co-coordinator (2 or 3): To prepare and distribute the brochures, card and other information on the branch to public places. One person needed to attend executive meeting.

Members-at-Large (1 to 3): To serve on the executive, attend meetings, and train for a position on the executive and fill in for those who may be missing.

Facilities Committee (3 to 5): To help set up tables and chairs prior to start of the general meeting and assist with putting away table and chairs after the meeting.

Refreshment Committee (2): To set-up refreshments and goodies at each meeting, pass around sign-up sheet and contact the members who have signed up before each meeting.

Newsletter Committee (2): Help plan, format and distribute newsletters.

Correspondence: To handle in coming requests to the branch such as items for sale, ensure that the information is gathered and mailed out.

When a group forms with different idea, strengths, and knowledge the group as a whole will benefit in this combining of these attributes and be able to grow. Although we need to members to fill these positions, we ask are always looking for the input of the general membership. Please feel free to call, email or write with your comments, ideas or questions.

Tammy Vallee Vice President 668-1380 tamw25@shaw.ca

Delores Maduke President 384-2510 deloresstevens@sasktel.net

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YOUNG - The passing of Mr. Glen Young, age 77 years of Saskatoon, occurred on Monday, October 8, 2007. The Funeral Service will be held on Friday, October 12, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Park Funeral Chapel, 311 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK. Surviving are Mabel Evans; four daughters, Vivien (Rick) Sabadka; Valerie Young and her children, Don (Shirley), Jordan, Sarah, Summer and Julie Anderson, Kirsten (Bill) Broderick, Kohltyl, Slade and Karsynn Irwin, Tara (Darcy), Sienna and Sidney Wesolowski, and James Anderson; Donna Young; Dianne (Jim) Davidson and their son, Robert; one son, Lyle (Val) and their daughters, JaimeLee and Kelly Young; one sister, Shirley (Robert) Stacey; and one brother, Garth (Jannine) Young. He was predeceased by his parents, Harold and Elizabeth Young; wife, Grace Young; son-in-law, Kendal Johansen, and great grandson, Eric Anderson. The late Mr. Young was born and raised at Milestone, Saskatchewan. He married Grace Elliot on April 15, 1954. Grace and Glen established G & G Electric Ltd in 1956 and operated the company locally for over 38 years. In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan and/or the Canadian Diabetes Association. Interment will take place in Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Those wishing to express their condolence may email them to park@arbormemorial.com. Arrangements entrusted to Derryl Hildebrandt (Park Funeral Chapel, 244-2103).

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## 1829 DESCRIPTION OF PRUSSIA

[Editor -- Julian Hoppe very kindly sent me the following item, which quotes an 1829 work describing various nations and peoples. In the last issue we printed the entry on Poland; here is the entry for "The Prussian Dominions."]

### THE PRUSSIAN DOMINIONS

The Prussian states consist principally of two territories, entirely detached from each other. The eastern and much the largest division is bounded N. by the Baltic; E. by Russia and the new kingdom of Poland; S. by Austria, the kingdom of Saxony and the Saxe dutchies; and W. by Hesse-Cassel, Hanover, Brunswick, and Mecklenburg. The western division is bounded N. by the Netherlands and Hanover ; E. by Waldeck, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, Hesse-Darmstadt, and the Bavarian circle of the Rhine; S. by France, and W. by the Netherlands There is besides, the canton of Neufchatel in Switzerland, which is subject to Prussia. The eastern division contains 87,169 square miles, the western division 18,271, and the canton of Neufchatel 330; in all, 105,770. Population 9,904,549. Population on a square mile 94.

### PERSONS AND DRESS OF THE PRUSSIANS

The manners and customs of a country, composed of such various inhabitants, recently united under one sovereignty, must of course be discordant. Silesia and the Slavonic regions, however, contain many peculiarities, which distinguish them from the German territories. The reign of the Great Frederick, who entertained a predilection for the French language and manners, contributed to impart a similar tinge to his subjects.

Modern travelers do not appear to have been much impressed with any striking dissimilitude in their persons between the Prussians and the common Germans. In comparison with the Saxons, who are a lively and contented people, the Prussians appear dull and gloomy; a character which is imputed partly to the military government, and partly to the general anxiety which has been excited by the dangers to which their country has been exposed, when contending with the powers of Russia and Austria, and in latter years we add with France.

The Poles, of whom nearly three million have been subjects of Prussia, are full of life and action, but their features have more of the Asiatic cast than the European. Men of all ranks wear whiskers, and shave their heads, leaving only a circle of hair upon their crown. The summer dress of the peasant consists of nothing but a shirt and drawers of coarse linen, without shoes or stocking, without shoes or stockings, with round caps or hats. The women of the lower class wear upon their heads a wrapper of white linen, under which their hair is braided, and hangs down in two plaits. Several of them have a long piece of white linen hanging round the side of their faces, and covering their bodies below their knees, which makes them appear as if they were doing penance.

The dress of the higher orders, both men and women, is uncommonly elegant. That of the gentlemen is a waistcoat with sleeves; over this they wear an upper robe of a different color, which reaches down below the knee, and is fastened round the waist with a sash or girdle; the sleeves of this upper garment are, in warm weather, tied behind the shoulders; a saber is a necessary part of their dress as a mark of nobility. In summer the robe is of silk; in winter of cloth, velvet, or stuff, edged with fur; they wear fur caps or bonnets, and buskins of yellow leather, the heels of which are plated with iron or steel. The dress of the ladies is a simple polonaise, or long robe edged with fur. The Polish peasants differ widely in their dress from the Russian: the former in particular shaving their heads, leaving on a circle of hair in the middle, while the Russians wear their hair down to the eyebrows, over the eyes, and cut around the neck.

### OF THE CLIMATE AND PRODUCTS OF PRUSSIA

During fours months in summer the air is temperate, warm, and pleasant, and the weather is generally favorable for bringing the fruits of the earth to maturity; but the winter is long and severe, and the autumns are often wet and stormy. The soil is fruitful in corn, flax, hemp, fruit, hops, and pasture.

Prussia also abounds with cattle, a good breed of horses, sheep, deer, and game: wild beasts, such as bears, wolves, lynxes, wild boars, and foxes, are not uncommon in this kingdom. The lakes and rivers furnish a supply of fish; and on the coasts of the Baltic are found great quantities of amber, in which are often enclosed leaves, minerals, insects, grains of sand, &c. from which it could seem that it was once a fluid state, at which time the insects that alighted upon it were caught, and by their struggles to get loose, soon work themselves into its substance, which hardening around them, they are for ever preserved in the greatest perfection.

*(Continued on page 6)*



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Under the polite administration of the late sovereign of Prussia, every art and manufacture improved and increased; and those of glass, iron works, silk, cloth, camblet, linen, stockings, paper, powder, and copper and brass are very much increasing. Being well situated for trade, the extension of which is promoted by a college of commerce and navigation. Prussia carries on a considerable foreign traffic; and to allure foreign merchants and artisans to bring their ingenuity, industry, and monied capital into Prussia, it has been the customs of the present sovereign to offer the most flattering privileges to strangers of this character who will settle in his territories.

#### OF THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF BERLIN

Berlin consists of five wards, exclusive of large suburbs, and the wards are usually separated by canals: the streets are broad and spacious, and some of them are from a mile to two miles and a half long. The houses are neatly built of white freestone, generally one, or at most two stories high. It is one of the finest cities of Europe, and has nothing of that uniformity which is so apparent in most of the new and regular built towns. The architecture, the distribution of the building the appearance of the squares, the plantation of trees both in these and the streets, every thing exhibits taste and variety. The contrast of this beauty and magnificence, with the circumstances of the people, is very striking.

Sometimes, while a person stands gazing at the beauty of a building finely stuccoed with a magnificent front, and all the outward appearance of the habitation of a prince, on a sudden a window opens in the lower story, and a cobbler hangs out a pair of boots; on the second story a tailor will hang out a waistcoat; or other parts of the male dress; or a woman will empty a dish of potatoe-paring on the passengers. A few steps farther, from the top of a house, in appearance a palace, a Jew will salute you from the attic, asking you if you have anything to exchange; in the next story you see linen hanging out to dry, which belongs to an officer, shaving himself by the side of it, and who appears in great poverty.

In all private houses a rigid economy prevails in the kitchen, cellar, &c. ; the only article of expense is dress, and the ladies deny themselves common indulgences for the sake of powder and millinery. They dress very fashionably, and some with great taste and magnificence.

Source: *\_A Geographical View of the World, embracing the Manners, Customs and Pursuits of Every Nation; founded on The Best Authorities\_*. By Rev. J. Goldsmith. Author of Grammar of Geography, Grammar of British Geography, &c. Second American Edition, Revised, Corrected, and Improved by James G. Percival M.D. Illustrated by Eight Copperplate Views New York D.M. Jewett 1829. Pgs. 50-52.

Written by Julian J. Hoppe, Posen, MI [jjjhoppe@gmail.com](mailto:jjjhoppe@gmail.com) Previously published by *\_Gen Dobry!\_*, Vol. VIII, No. 6, 30 June 2007, PolishRoots(R): <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>

### Websites of Interest

<http://www.brozbar16.webpark.pl/galicja.html>

On the Galicia\_Poland-Ukraine mailing list, Lavrentiy said this site was useful because it offers maps of Galicia which include district borders. There are a number of Websites with maps of Galicia; if you have roots in that region, you can't have too many good maps to choose from.

<http://geogreif.uni-greifswald.de/geogreif/?cat=31>

Ken Neumann posted a note on the Posen mailing list about this page, which offers three options: "1) an overview of the maps for the northern part of Poland (including former places such as Pommern, West and East Prussia, northern Posen); 2) an overview of the maps for the southern part of Poland and former Silesia; and 3) the page to 'retrieve maps' (it even describes the contents of each map). This latter is the key page of course. If you know the maps and geography well enough, you probably don't need to use the overview maps ... When you get to this page, simply look at the right-hand column of the page, and the 3 choices mentioned (much of it is in German, but the key parts have English translations). The option listing the maps is the top-most option. Just click on the desired page, and you should find what is described." These are very detailed maps.

<http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/brit4.htm>

Timeline of British history including Acts pertaining to record-keeping requirements and registration of marriages.

## NEW MATERIAL IN SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

*Submitted by Georgiana Chartier*

- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2007 Vol. 24 No. 1  
 White Slave Kidnaps  
 Your Forebear in World War I. What did he do? How can you find him?  
 Websites on North-west Ancestors; Passchendaele remembered 90 Years On  
 All About the Master builder  
 Learn About: Workers in Royal Palaces  
 Boy Soldiers; Ulster Settlers
- MAN M 514.14 MENNONITE HISTORIAN. 2007 – Vol. XXXIII No. 3  
 GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER. 2007 Sep/Oct  
 Beyond Parish records  
 Adventures with the CIA, FBI and Other Agencies  
 Drilling down With DNA  
 Military Records  
 Net Family History
- BC J 15.2118 THE JOURNAL OF THE VICTORIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2007 – VOL. 30 No. 2  
 BC J 15.2118 THE JOURNAL OF THE VICTORIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2007 – VOL. 30 No. 3  
 SASK A 18 ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST: Saskatoon Branch Newsletter 2007 Issue 51  
 SASK A 18 ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST: Saskatoon Branch Newsletter 2007 Issue 52  
 REG N 15 NOW AND THEN. Newsletter Regina Branch of SGS 2007 - Vol. 25 No. 2  
 GB/IRE I 189.200 IRISH ROOTS 2007 Issue No. 62  
 Our Heritage in Stone  
 Tracing Eighteenth Century Ancestors  
 The On-line Princess grace Library  
 Where There's a Will – There's a Relative  
 They Came With Their Faith and Heritage  
 News from the World of Genealogy
- GB/IRE I 189.200 IRISH ROOTS 2007 Issue No. 63  
 Viking Warship Returns  
 What Became of Richard Wilson After He Left Carrick?  
 Research in Old Irish Genealogies  
 The Devereux Merchant Princes of Wexford  
 The Irish times Digital Archive  
 News from the World of Genealogy
- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots 2007 –  
 Jul/Aug  
 When Disaster Strikes!  
 How to Overcome Burned and damaged Records in Your Research  
 We the Undersigned: Researching Petitions  
 Eastern European Research Myths: Busted  
 All the King's men: Loyalists During the Revolution

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots 2007 – Sep/Oct  
 Religious Records – Learn how the Salvation Army, Catholic Church Records and Religious  
 Newspapers can help your genealogy!  
 Aerial Photography: A Bird's Eye View of Your Family Tree  
 Seven Sins of Genealogists  
 Branching Out: Contacting Suspected Relatives  
 Legacy of German Survivors of the Civil War
- GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER. 2007 May/Jun  
 Germanic Genealogy  
 Statewide Names List of Civil War Era: Illinois through Maryland  
 Filling a Commitment: the Updating of a Genealogy  
 Finding Passenger Lists Online  
 The Next Generation: Creating Future Genealogists  
 Net Family History: the Best U.S. Digital Image Sites #2. They Came on This ship
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2007 Vol. 23 No. 8  
 St. John Ambulance & the Vital Volunteers  
 Submariner Sailors –Life Under the Ocean Waves  
 Army Officers. We Help You Find Them in the National Archives  
 DNA – the newest dimension to family history
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2007 Vol. 23 No. 9  
 Births, Marriages, & Deaths. Army Officers and Their Families  
 Start to Finish: On the Trail of a Family surname  
 19th Century Work: The seamier side of the Seamstress
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2007 Vol. 23 No. 10  
 31 Websites: Find Your Missing Relatives  
 Smuggler, Baker, Migrant – What Was Your Forebear?  
 The Malta Convoy: Harrowing Second World War Experiences  
 Stranger than Fiction: Readers' Genealogical Miscellany
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2007 Vol. 23 No. 11  
 Battle of the Ruhr: 65 Years On  
 Two Weddings and a Funeral: Bigamy and Mystery  
 Dad's Army; Life in the Home Guard  
 Ancestors on Strike  
 The 1911 Census: What does it reveal so far?
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2007 Vol. 23 No. 12  
 Online at Last! Millions of births, deaths & more before 1837  
 Archives in London. Explored & Explained  
 Key Records for Family in India  
 All About Laundry Workers  
 How to: Trace nurses – Use Poor Law Records – Find Estate Workers
- ONT F 1.139 Families OGS Newsletter 2007 Vol. 46 No. 3
- ONT O 71.19 OGS NEWSLEAF 2007 – Vol. XXXVII No. 3
- OTTA O 202.01 OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS. 2007 Vol. 40 No. 4

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|--------------------|---|
| HUR R 151.5        | ROOTING AROUND HURON. The Huron County Branch OGS. 2007 Vol. 28 No. 2                                   |
| HUR R 151.5        | ROOTING AROUND HURON. The Huron County Branch OGS. 2007 Vol. 28 No. 3                                   |
| ON LEE/GREN L 55.4 | LEEDS AND GRENVILLE BRANCH NEWS AND VIEWS: 2007 – May/Jun   |
| ON LEE/GREN L 55.4 | LEEDS AND GRENVILLE BRANCH NEWS AND VIEWS: 2007 – Jul/Aug   |
| BC O 18            | THE OKANAGAN RESEARCHER. Newsletter of the Kelowna and District Genealogical Society 2007-Vol. 23, No.4 |
| EURO/EE E 119      | EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST 2007 Vol. 15 No. 7  |
| SK SGS S 1971.9    | SGS CONNECTION BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER TO SGS BRANCHES. 2007 Vol. 12 No. 1                                 |
| BC G 181.16        | GRAPEVINES - NEWS FROM THE SOUTH OKANAGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2007 – Vol. 15 Issue 4                   |
| BC A 20            | Ances Tree. Newsletter of the Namaimo History Society 2007 – Volume 28, No.2                            |
| BC A 20            | Ances Tree. Newsletter of the Namaimo History Society 2007 – Volume 28, No.3                            |
| MAN M 514.14       | MENNONITE HISTORIAN. 2007 – Vol. XXXIII No. 2   |

## Belke Cemetery Revisited

In a previous article entitled *Belke Family Cemetery, Aberdeen* which was published in Issue #49, November-December 2006 of the Armchair Genealogist, I discussed finding Julia Dreger's place of burial and her connection to myself.

Over the summer while reading thru a number of the lists that I belong to, I came across a discussion on the Can-Sask list. This discussion was about the number of little cemeteries that were located in out of the way areas such as on the corner of a farmer's field and who was responsible for maintaining them. While some of them had the grass cut by the RM, others were left to their own devices, or some had the farm owner looking after them. It sounded as if many were left to go back to nature and tombstones were in disrepair.

This brought to mind the condition of the Belke Cemetery, one with few headstones, and of a small size, but one of importance to a few individuals. The Julia Dreger as mentioned above is ensconced in a position of honour, back row, very middle with the largest headstone. Who had honoured her so many years ago is unknown.

Thinking and discussing the decline of the cemetery prompted a Belke descendant and myself to discuss what we could do to honour the deceased ancestors. Our common ancestor was Julia Dreger. Looking at a genealogy relationship chart finds that we are second cousins once removed. While Ron was aware of the connection between our two families he was not sure how we were connected. I was able to share this with him and also provided him with a lengthy list of Julia Dreger descendants..

Utmost to this discussion was the necessity of making repairs to the headstones, the cemetery itself, such as repairs to the gates and having proper identification of the cemetery and those who are buried there. Proper identification means having a sign giving the name of the cemetery and a plaque with names of the deceased. Payment for this was an issue.

I then sent out a number of letters and emails, along with the article of the Belke Family Cemetery. Donations were sought, and at the same time all of the individuals receiving the article were made aware of their connection to this cemetery and to the individuals within its borders. Most were appreciative of this information as they had not known of their connection to this cemetery and some did not know its location. They were interested in their family genealogy. All sent a donation for the repairs, myself included.

This shows what can occur when a group of individuals have a common goal. For myself, this was a way to honour my ancestors, to thank them for the courage and strength they had in coming to a new and foreign country over one hundred years ago. I thank them because of the advantages this has provided for succeeding generations. They should be remembered with thanks and gratitude. That is my way of giving back to society, assisting others to know their roots, branches and stems and where some of these are located.

## DID ELLIS ISLAND CHANGE MY NAME?

How many times have we heard, "Our name was XZYCHZCYT, but after Ellis Island it became XZYC"? Or better yet, AB. The blame has been put on Ellis Island for quite some time. After searching for thousands of names from ship manifests, let's say, "Yes! They did change some names," and "No! They didn't."

I was fortunate that all of my grandparents knew how to spell their names, spelled them consistently, and passed them on intact. Except for when my Czech grandfather spelled Valasek with the proper Czech spelling, but because he went with his Polish neighbor to file citizenship papers, he changed the spelling that one time to the Polish version of the name, Walaszek. His reasoning was, he would pass faster with a Polish name than a Czech name. Of course, when searching through Cook County naturalization papers, I couldn't find him or my grandmother. I asked my dad at the time if he was sure they both became citizens. He said yes, emphatically, even telling me how they had a party for my grandmother's naturalization in 1943, when my dad was 19 years old. It was not until later, after digging through what my aunt called "trash for the garbage," that I found my grandfather's papers and his second naturalization document, generated in 1972, when he petitioned the government to restore his name to its proper spelling of Valasek. This because he was taking out a passport to visit the homeland after leaving it 51 years earlier. Had I seen this paper (fortunately I saved it from my aunt's trash bin) I would have found his original documents a lot sooner. But as it is, I found his originals and then found his corrected ones; so for my grandfather, he filed successfully to be a citizen twice, 40+ years apart.

Now comes the matter of the horror stories of Ellis Island. When most of our European relatives came to New York, they landed at the docks and the ship manifests landed with them. These documents were constructed at the time of sailing or during the sailing based on records provided IN EUROPE. Not at Ellis Island, nor even at the docks. So when a Polish or Ukrainian immigrant stood before the German or French or British shipping clerk, he said his name, with a thick foreign accent, and the clerk wrote it down as best he could. I would have to believe that if the clerk had trouble writing down the name, he may have had the immigrant write it down or correct it for him. But many immigrants were not very skilled at writing, and possibly could not write at all; so of course, they said the clerk's version was just fine. Thus Ellis Island picks up the names from the manifests and continues on with the same spelling -- or possibly created a slightly new one. The immigrant left the dock with his name, a similar one, or a newly created one -- but my guess is, even in that case, it would be one very similar to the correct version. That, of course, was during the age of mass immigration, up to 1930.

Now comes the new horror story of the Ellis Island website, created less than 10 years ago. Have our ancestors received new names? You betcha! And some are horribly mangled. As I continue to work on my Haller's Army database, I am now adding the ship manifests of the returning troops aboard U.S. troop ships as well as normal ocean liners. How do I do this? I have a number of names of troop ships, some with dates of arrivals. Using Dr. Morse's excellent search engines, I can then search the entire ship/sailing for all names on board which were entered into the Ellis Island database by volunteers working through the Family History Centers.

Now before this gets further, we are all indebted to their efforts, typing millions of names so that the rest of us can search instantly at the push of a button. No way around it: when millions of names are keyed in, there will be errors, no doubts, no excuses. These are due to the enormous quantity of data handled, and the limitations of even the best human typist. After all, an error rate of 1% means you got 99% right, and that will get you an A+ in any course you take in school. But if you key in 1,000 names and only mess up 1%, that's still 10 errors. We're talking millions of names; so of course there are more than a few mistakes.

I only wish they had tried harder to let volunteers familiar with a particular ethnic group transcribe those ships which had predominantly that ethnicity aboard. I would rather a Polish researcher handle the Haller army troopships than say, an Uzbek raised by immigrant Chinese parents. Not picking on Uzbeks nor Chinese, but I feel the Polish researcher will do better with the names, especially the first names, than someone who is not accustomed to the language. By the same logic, if a ship contained mostly immigrating Uzbeks and Chinese, my mythical Uzbek/Chinese transcriber would be infinitely preferable to a Polish one.

Let me demonstrate what I've come across after doing over 5,000 arrivals. Remember, I have information on all of these men from their recruitment papers before I ever take a look at the Ship Manifest. And sometimes this secondary

information is the only way I can link a soldier to his recruitment papers.

There are those names which hit exactly on the head (and sometimes I just wonder how that was possible):

Recruitment Papers/Ellis Island database

Augustynowicz = Augustynowicz

Banasiuk = Banasiuk

Cieslewicz = Cieslewicz

Dziadul = Dziadul

Jasnopolski = Jasnopolski

Some names have minor differences which are easily understood and, to the average researcher, quite acceptable:

Recruitment Papers/Ellis Island database

Kaczor = Koczor

Kalinowski = Kalinouski

Konieczka = Koneczka

Konieczko = Konieczka

Krawczyk = Krafczyk

Then we have some names which start to stretch the imagination:

Recruitment Papers/Ellis Island database

Mieczynski = Omiencinski

Nartowski = Wartawski

Nowak = Mawak

Ohcz = Uchacz

Smukala = Smtka

And then there are just some which don't make the grade at all. These are the most troubling, as you have to ask, how will anyone find these men if they don't have other aids?

Recruitment Papers/Ellis Island database

Gozdalski = Sasdalski (Soundex won't catch this one)

Drewniak = Guivmriak (No V in Polish - "iv" is really "w")

Osiecki = Quicki (No Q in Polish)

Radziwil = Gradz...l (At least the transcriber stated up front he/she can't read the name)

Szostek = Lsostck (All you can do is count the number of letters and look for a name the same size)

Swiechkowski, Wladyslaw = Musnicki, Jan (I've seen this a number of times. The transcriber listed one recruit twice and the second name was omitted)

Now, before everyone sends me nasty e-mails stating I should type them up myself, again, my argument is not with the transcribers. (Although taking a very common Polish first name such as Jan and making it Kon is frustrating, especially when one look shows you "Jan" is quite legible.) My argument is with the Ellis Island website. I have contacted them numerous times with corrections of both names and especially for my family, towns of origin. I know that foreign place names are strange to most folks; but when you reasonably can read "Blatnice" and Ellis Island has "Blainice" or "Blatonie," these could easily be corrected. So far, I have had none of my corrections put into place by Ellis Island.

So 5+ years later, anyone looking for Wladyslaw Swiechkowski had better expect to find his new name in America as Jan Musnicki. I bet Mr. Swiechkowski would be surprised!

Written by Paul S. Valasek Hallersarmy@aol.com Previously published by \_Gen Dobry!\_, Vol. VIII, No. 8, 31 August 2007, PolishRoots(R): <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>

## Saskatoon Branch Members Interests

| Member  | Surname                     | Region                      | Country      | Period       |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Len &amp; Mary Hudson</b><br>1712 Kilburn Avenue<br>Saskatoon SK S7M 0K3<br>Phone: 242-7870<br>lmhudson@sasktel.net      | Covlin                      | Maple Creek, SK.            | Canada       | 1913-1937    |
|   | Oliver                      | Alderney, Channel Islands   | UK           | 1858-?       |
|   | Oliver                      | Maine                       | USA          | ?-1913       |
|   | Oliver                      | Chrichton, SK.              | Canada       | 1913-1937    |
|   | Rogers                      | Manchester                  | England      | 1868-1928    |
|   | Rogers                      | Livelong, SK.               | Canada       | 1929-1937    |
|   | Rogers                      | Crichton, SK.               | Canada       | 1937-1950    |
| <b>Delores Maduke</b><br>365-423 Pendencygrasse Rd<br>Saskatoon SK S7M 4Z2<br>Phone: 384-2510<br>deloresstevens@sasktel.net | Drager/Draeger/Dreger       | Aberdeen, SK.               | Canada       | 1903-present |
|   | Drager/Draeger/Dreger       | Neché, ND                   | USA          | 1895-1908    |
|   | Drager/Draeger/Dreger       | Emerson, Manitoba           | Canada       | 1892-1906    |
|   | Drager/Draeger/Dreger       | Volhynia                    | Poland       | 1863- 1900   |
|   | Drager/Draeger/Dreger       | New Jersey                  | USA          | 1895-present |
|   | Drager/Draeger/Dreger       | Texas                       | USA          | 1895-present |
|   | Donat                       | Neché, ND                   | USA          | 1895 - 1922  |
|   | Donat                       | Volhynia                    | Poland       | 1863-1900    |
|   | Wutzke                      | Aberdeen, SK.               | Canada       | 1903-present |
|   | Wutzke                      | Neché, ND                   | USA          | 1900-1907    |
|   | Wutzke                      | Volhynia                    | Poland       | 1863-1900    |
| Friedenberg   | Volhynia                    | Poland                      | 1863-1900    |              |
| <b>Rene Stock</b><br>350 Acadia Drive,<br>Saskatoon SK S7H 3V6<br>Phone: 374-8507<br>rene@stockfamily.ca                    | Stock                       | Chorley, Lancashire         | England      | 1700-1830    |
|   | Eden                        | St. Helens, Lancashire      | England      | 1700-1800    |
|   | Stock                       | Etobicoke Tp, York Co, ON   | Canada       | 1830-present |
|   | Stock                       | Ellice Tp, Perth Co, ON     | Canada       | 1845-present |
|   | Fazakerley                  | Childwall, Lancashire       | England      | 1700-1800    |
|   | Taylor                      | Standish, Lancashire        | England      | 1700-1760    |
|   | Platt                       | Standish, Lancashire        | England      | 1700-1760    |
|   | Hearshnip                   | Lancashire                  | England      | 1750-1820    |
|   | Quinn                       | County Offaly               | Ireland      | 1760-1815    |
|   | Moore                       | County Offaly               | Ireland      | 1760-1815    |
|   | Hussey                      | County Kerry                | Ireland      | 1750-1840    |
|   | Finn                        | County Kerry                | Ireland      | 1750-1840    |
|   | Dalton                      | County Kerry                | Ireland      | 1740-1848    |
|   | Flahavan                    | County Kerry                | Ireland      | 1740-1848    |
|   | Hussey                      | W Ashfield Tp, Huron Co, ON | Canada       | 1840-present |
| Dalton  | W Ashfield Tp, Huron Co, ON | Canada                      | 1848-present |              |

## Celts, Clans and Clover

In the spring Shelley Caldwell sent out a request for those who immigrants from Ireland, Scotland and Wales to Canada to complete a questionnaire. She was looking to capture the story of the immigrants to Canada and their story for a display in the store. Although I was not a first generation immigrant (which is who they were looking for) I offered some of the information, stories and memorabilia that I been given from my great grandmother's short life in Canada.

At the end of August the display was set-up in the store. It is not very big but it is interesting. Some of what I have submitted is there along with others' submissions. There is a map of Saskatchewan on the door to the back of the store, along with places in Saskatchewan that were settlements of the Irish, Scottish and Welsh people or are names of places from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. There is a binder full of information from each country. So take a little time to stop by, look things over and when you are done looking at the display make sure you take the opportunity to check out the rest of the products the store carries.

If you visited the Scottish Pavilion at Folkfest this summer you have had a sneak peek at some of the products they carry.

Celt, Clans and Clover is located on the corner of Broadway and 9th St East.



## Lethbridge Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society

is hosting **Gen Fair 2008**

Saturday, 12 April 2008

Room 250, Sports and Wellness Centre

University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta

Topics: England, Ireland and Scotland - Beyond the Basic Sources

Mary's Genealogy Treasures: Gateway to Family History

Speakers:

Paul Smart, Outreach Manager, Family and Church History Department, Salt Lake City UT

Mary Tollestrup, Lethbridge Family History Centre

Details and registration form at <http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net>

Registration contact: Rod McLeod, 3021 31st Street South, Lethbridge, AB, T1K 6S9