

# ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST



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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar 20:** Regular Branch Meeting: featuring guest speaker Bev Gutenberg, SBSGS member. Bev will do a presentation on "Sourcing: documenting your sources when researching family history." An important topic which will benefit beginners as well as experienced genealogists.
- Apr 17:** Regular Branch Meeting featuring guest speaker, Lindy Kasperski. Lindy will speak on "History & Research in the Polish Communities of Saskatchewan." Lindy is a Polish historian and genealogist.
- May 15:** Regular Branch Meeting featuring guest Bill Waiser will speak on "Hidden Homesteaders," an examination of the role of women in the Saskatchewan homesteading experience." Bill is a History professor at the U of S and has had eleven books published.

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### 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 fourth Wednesday of the month prior to publication month.

### SBSGS 2008 BRANCH EXECUTIVE

<b>PRESIDENT:</b> Tammy Vallee tamw25@shaw.ca Phone 668-1380	<b>GREETERS:</b> Cindy Paradis Peter Geres	<b>NEWSLETTER:</b> Cliff Rusk c.rusk@shaw.ca 384-8813	<b>REFRESHMENTS:</b> Dawn Keddy—Brezinski
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<b>TREASURER:</b> Rene Stock rene@stockfamily.ca	<b>LIBRARIANS:</b> Georgiana Chartier g.chartier@sasktel.net Phone 652-1286 Elsie Henry Dorothy Peake	<b>PHONERS:</b> Mabel Evans Phone 343-7379 Gina Reid Phone 343-9982	<b>CEMETERY COORDINATORS:</b> Merle Ward merleward@shaw.ca Susan Leitch
<b>SECRETARY:</b> Bev Gutenberg	<b>PROGRAMS:</b> Terri Chappell Michelle Rusk Eleanor Ritchie	<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS:</b> Cindy Paradis	<b>FACILITY COORDINATOR:</b> Cliff Rusk  Education Coordinator: Bev Gutenberg
<b>MEMBERS-AT-LARGE</b> Michelle Rusk			

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.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

What a start to 2008! The Saskatoon Branch was asked to join the Archives Road Show at the Heritage Festival on February 10, 2007. Next was our Open House & Genealogy Fair on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. What a turn out for the Open House and Genealogy Fair, we don't know the exact number of people but the estimate is 50 to 60 people came out to learn more about us. It was very nice to get a chance to talk with so many new faces and to see our members with their displays. These were both great opportunities to for us to promote who we are and what we do to the general public. Thank-you to all those who turned out to support the branch during these events.

Our January meeting was full of many new faces and I understand we have a few new members among us now, Welcome! At the January meeting the vote was made to hold a seminar in 2011 in conjunction with our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Michelle Rusk has stepped forward to head up to seminar committee and Cliff Rusk has volunteered to be on the seminar program committee. If you are interested in being a part of the 2011 seminar please contact them.

There are also still many empty positions that need to be filled to take the workload off the executive. The position in the most dire need of volunteers is fundraising. Please contact Delores or myself if you have questions in regards to this position. April 27 marks the start of National Volunteer Week; this is a time to recognize the millions of volunteers across our nation. At this time I would like to thank our members who generously donate their time and effort to keep our branch moving forward. There are many people who put in a great deal of time behind the scenes to benefit our branch and for that on behalf of the executive and the membership we thank you.

WE GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE  
FOLLOWING  
ORGANIZATIONS.



**Where Do our Ancestors Originate?**

The following is taken from the survey at the January meeting of the Saskatoon Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society.

22 members were surveyed. The following are the countries that are being researched.

England	12	Ireland	7
Ontario	8	Scotland	6
Saskatchewan	7	The Ukraine	4
USA	6	Germany	2

One member is researching in the following areas: Finland, Poland, India, Galicia, Bessarabia, Norway, Sweden, and Metis (Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta).



## Honour Sought For 'Soldier Bear'

**A campaign has been launched to build a permanent memorial to a bear which spent much of its life in Scotland - after fighting in World War II.**

The bear - named Voytek - was adopted in the Middle East by Polish troops in 1943, becoming much more than a mascot. The large animal even helped their armed forces to carry ammunition at the Battle of Monte Cassino. Voytek - known as the Soldier Bear - later lived near Hutton in the Borders and ended his days at Edinburgh Zoo. He was found wandering in the hills of Iran by Polish soldiers in 1943. They adopted him and as he grew he was trained to carry heavy mortar rounds. When Polish forces were deployed to Europe the only way to take the bear with them was to "enlist" him. So he was given a name, rank and number and took part in the Italian campaign. He saw action at Monte Cassino before being billeted - along with about 3,000 other Polish troops - at the army camp in the Scottish Borders.



The soldiers who were stationed with him say that he was easy to get along with. "He was just like a dog - nobody was scared of him," said Polish veteran Augustyn Karolewski, who still lives near the site of the camp. "He liked a cigarette, he liked a bottle of beer - he drank a bottle of beer like any man." When the troops were demobilised, Voytek spent his last days at Edinburgh Zoo. Mr Karolewski went back to see him on a couple of occasions and found he still responded to the Polish language. "I went to Edinburgh Zoo once or twice when Voytek was there," he said. "And as soon as I mentioned his name he would sit on his backside and shake his head wanting a cigarette. "It wasn't easy to throw a cigarette to him - all the attempts I made until he eventually got one." Voytek was a major attraction at the zoo until his death in 1963.

Eyemouth High School teacher Garry Paulin is now writing a new book, telling the bear's remarkable story.

### 'Totally amazing'

Local campaigner Aileen Orr would like to see a memorial created at Holyrood to the bear she says was part of both the community and the area's history. She first heard about Voytek as a child from her grandfather, who served with the King's Own Scottish Borderers. "I thought he had made it up to be quite honest but it was only when I got married and came here that I knew in fact he was here, Voytek was here," she said. "When I heard from the community that so few people knew about him I began to actually research the facts.

"It is just amazing, the story is totally amazing."

Story from BBC NEWS:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk\\_news/scotland/south\\_of\\_scotland/7208505.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/south_of_scotland/7208505.stm)

Published: 2008/01/25 11:21:26 GMT

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### \*\*\* DOING YOUR FAMILY GENEALOGY USING TOTAL STRANGERS \*\*\*

Anyone doing genealogy knows where to get the answers: your own family, of course. Who better than the people you are studying for information about themselves, than themselves? One group of people often overlooked are those who, for some reason or another, were tied-connected-herded-relocated-locked up with-lived next to, or for gazillion other reasons, attached to some of your relatives. School and work are perfect examples. You may be 100% Polish, but it's very unlikely that everyone in your school or office is 100% Polish as well. For that reason, you might find yourself (or an ancestor) in a group photo with every race/ color/ creed/ size/ and shape of people out there. If you knew this, and knew where these folks are, you could ask their families for a copy of the photo with you or your ancestors in it.

My dad served in World War II, and, after the war, spent six additional months in Korea on U.S. Army depots. At that time, he took numerous photos of the Japanese families living in the area who would visit the U.S. bases and interact with the soldiers. I bet their descendants not only don't know of these photos but would love to see them as well, considering how poor these families were, most likely not equipped with cameras and the means to develop photos of their own.

Another source of information can be pen pals. During World War II, my mom was in high school. A favorite pastime, especially for girls, was to write to soldiers overseas, to cheer up their spirits with a "letter from home." Well, my mom not only wrote to a number of U.S. soldiers and sailors she knew from home, but also to British fliers and sailors, as well as one Polish RAF pilot. They exchanged photos and correspondence throughout the war. The letters are interesting, and the photos are very nice as well. I've often thought, "I wonder if these families, especially the foreign soldiers, know that their ancestors' pictures exist and are well preserved in Chicago?" Most likely, these men are now gone; if they didn't share the information with their children, their descendants wouldn't have a clue (then again, maybe they couldn't care less). I've thought of looking up these families when I've visited England, but just couldn't find the time. Not that I'm that curious about what their families have done; but I wonder if my mom's photos and letters are preserved in some London suburb, or a village in Sussex, or in Luton, where some were based.

It is quite a stirring feeling to walk into a stranger's home, say, 4,000 miles from yours, and she opens a box and pulls out a photo of your grandfather! That's what happened in Warsaw in 1974 when we visited not a true stranger, but an unknown cousin we recently discovered in the phone book. We went over to her apartment, and found out that not only was she my grandfather's first cousin, she also had his army photo, which was passed down from World War I. It gave me goose bumps-here was Grandpa's photo sitting in a "stranger's" apartment!

Another time, I realized I had no sample of my paternal grandmother's handwriting. Sure, I grew up with her until I was 13, but after her death, and then subsequently, my grandfather's, all paperwork seems to have disappeared. (That was before I got very active in genealogy.) So I sat around saying, "I wonder how my grandmother wrote and how she sounded in letters." I contacted my family in the Czech Republic and asked if any of them had anything written by my grandmother. Well, lo and behold, they turned up a stack of letters she wrote "back home" in the 1930s, talking about the latest family happenings and gossip, and the like. I did get to separate a few examples for my files, and wonder now, what happened to the rest.

So don't rule out the possibility that material pertaining to your family may be lying in a location which has nothing to do with your family at all, and by all accounts, shouldn't be there for any reason. Or by "total strangers" who may turn out to be unknown relatives, or attached to your ancestors in ways that might not occur to you offhand.

I am now trying my luck at making such a connection. The following names are those of men who went into officer's training at Camp Borden for Haller's Army. They are the third class of officer trainees, and yes, my grandfather is one of them. If anyone can make a connection, then possibly I may have a photo of their ancestor, or maybe they have one of mine, or a letter or postcard pertaining to either ancestor or their experience during the war. This list comes from Canadian muster rolls; where the original is, I do not know. My source was Wincenty Skarzynski's memoirs, which listed the class and showed what the document looked like in 1917.

Maybe you have a photo of my grandfather, but you just don't know who that tall guy is next to your relative?

### Third Class of Officers - Camp Borden, Ontario 1917

Andruszkiewicz, P.	Gruchacz, L.	Mierzejewski, W.	.Rutkowski, S.R.
Basowski, M.	Gut, J.L.	Miller, L.R.	Sielawa, S.
Baskiewicz, F.	Jedrczak, J.	Miller, R.	Smakosz, V.T.
Bialas, F.	Karczewski, S.	Minoga, J.	Smiecinski, F.
Blacha, S.	Kargol, W.	Misiewicz, P.	Sobieski, I.
Bratuszewski, S.B.	Kawszewicz, J.	Mlochowski, K	Solon, S.
Brzezinski, B.	Klimczewski, H.	Mulak, J.	Sosien, S.
Budziak, L.	Kogut, G.J.	Niemiec, P.J.	Sosnowski, C.A.
Butlak, S.A.	Kolasa, S.J.	Niski, B.	Stach, L.S.
Ciapa, J.	Kordecki, W.	Nowak, Z.F.	Staniszewski, A.
Ciecierski, W.	Kosinski, F.	Nowakowski, S.	Stepkowski, J.
Cieslicki, A.	Kostrubala, J.	Pajewski, M.	Stygar, W.
Czaban, W.A.	Kowalczyk, A.	Paluch, M.K.	Szczepanski, P.A.
Czaczkowski, B.	Kowalewski, A.	Palaszewski, S.	Szwagiel, W.
Czajkowski, W.	Kowalski, M.	Partyka, S.	Szwejkowski, J.
Dabrowski, J.	Kozlakowski, A.	Pasniewski, J.R.	Tenerowicz, J.
Dombrowski, A.	Kozlowski, J.F.	Pawlak, W.A.	Truszkiewicz, F.
Draczkowski, S.	Kukuczka, J.	Pawlowski, W.	Twardowski, S.J.
Dudek, W.	Kuzminski, F.S.	Perzan, J.	Wenda, B.
Dworzecki, F.	Kwasniewski, T.	Pospula, J.	Wenglicki, J.W.
Dzierzgowski, P	Lawcewicz, G.	Przybylowski, S.	Wienckus, Z.F.
Galasiewicz, F.	Lucywo, B.	Pszczolkowski, K.	Wojtylak, B.
Galinski, W.J.	Lyczak, A.B.	Pulaski, S.	Zajackowski, W.
Gawalkiewicz, W.	Malinowski, A.T.	Radziwanowicz, A.	Zarzecki, W.L.
Godziszewski, R.	Marszewski, M.	Rolka, I.	Zegarski, F.R.
Golaszewski, W.	Matejkowski, A.	Rucinski, J.H.	Zebrowski, S.
Gorczyca, W.	Matuszkiewicz, J.	Ruminski, J.A.	

Written by Paul S. Valasek <[Hallersarmy@aol.com](mailto:Hallersarmy@aol.com)>.

Previously published by \_Gen Dobry!\_, Vol. VIX, No. 1, 31 January 2008,

PolishRoots(R): <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>.

## More Circumstantial Evidence

Submitted by Rene Stock

Some of you may recall an article from Issue 48 of The Armchair Genealogist (Sept-Oct 2006) entitled Circumstantial Evidence. In it I documented my search for my Stock ancestry in Lancashire, England from pre-civil registration times, and how the fact that the family was not of the Established church was hindering location of records.

I found the following excerpt of the will of James Stock the Elder of Chorley, Lancashire dated 29 April 1836, from microfilms of the LDS library.

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

In the original article I stated that I believed James the younger to be my ggg grandfather, who emigrated to Canada with his wife Grace (Fazakerley) and five sons. This belief was based on the location, the similarity of given names between the families of James the younger and James the elder, and approximate ages.

Since then more circumstantial evidence has surfaced. I found the marriage record of James Stock to Mary Eden dated 09 Apr 1787 at Winwick, Lancashire in the IGI. I recalled that my ggg uncle Edward Stock had named his new house in Toronto in 1887, Eden Court. Historical records do not indicate why he gave it this name, but if that marriage record is the correct one, that would have been his grandmother's maiden name. As I have yet to encounter baptism records for the children of James the Elder, this is the only link I have to believing that the 1787 marriage is James Stock the Elder.

I have hunted through the records of a number of parishes in the surrounding region that were available from the LDS, but no baptisms of any of these families appeared (except those of the children of James the younger, at St. Swithins at Liverpool, a Roman Catholic church). All were Church of England records. The Hardwicke Act of 1754 had required that all marriages be performed by Church of England ministers, but had made no such requirement of baptisms. This is why I was able to find a few marriages, but no baptisms. As many of the Catholic parish records have not been filmed by the LDS, and many more not recorded at all for fear of discovery and punishment, I thought the likelihood of further progress was very poor indeed.

Another gg grandfather of mine is William Hearsnep, born somewhere in Lancashire in 1811. His daughter Ellen married James Edward Stock in 1872 in Perth County, Ontario. In researching the Hearsnep line, I came across a website currently maintained by Robert Haresnape. It is believed that Haresnape was the original name, and that Hearsnep became an alternate spelling of the same name in one line, possibly at Aughton. One of the Hearsnep's mentioned on the site, Margaret, had married a Peter Stock at Ormskirk in 1823. I contacted Bob who undertook the task of locating baptismal records for William and possible siblings. Bob procured from the Lancashire Record Office, a microfilm for St. Mary's at Aughton, a Catholic parish, with baptism records beginning in 1798, and marriage records beginning 1837 (the year Hardwicke's Act was repealed, when civil registration began). He found no Hearnsep entries, but did find the baptism of the aforementioned Edward Stock (builder of Eden Court), firstborn of James Stock and Grace.

As well Bob found baptism records for the children of John Stock and Dorothy (Bullen), William Stock and Elizabeth (Pinnington), Thomas Rawlinson and Marjery (Stock), and William Bullen and Ellen (Stock), all mentioned in the will of James the Elder as his children.

An added surprise to me was the baptism of Edward Stock. I had found an entry in the records of St. Swithins, Liverpool dated 07 Oct 1817, for "unnamed" Stock, son of James and Grace, and presumed this to be Edward. Bob had found the actual baptism for Edward at St. Mary, Aughton in 1816. As there is no mention in family history of a sixth son arriving in Canada, it is likely this unnamed son died in infancy.

Of course I will continue to search for a Catholic marriage record for James Stock and Grace Fazakerley in the hopes that James' parents are named, and a baptism record for the same James in the hopes that his mother's maiden name is recorded, as hard evidence, but for me this additional circumstantial evidence will suffice!

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## BOOK REVIEW

*Eleanor Ritchie*

### **Irvine, Sherrie and Dave Obee, *Finding Your Canadian Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide***

This book is written for the beginning genealogist by two well-known and experienced genealogy researchers and writers. Dave Obee is well known in Western Canada as a conference speaker and author. The book is well organized, clearly written and modestly priced.

The Introduction describes the beginning major sources often referred to by the beginner: "the Web", Library and Archives of Canada, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com.

The remaining chapters are organized to direct the researcher to the major records: Vital Records of Births, Marriages & Deaths; Records re: Probate, Land, Military, Census, Immigration and Newspapers. Resources pertinent to each province are outlined. Also included are sections on three groups of peoples in Canada: Aboriginal, Acadian and United Empire Loyalist. The book concludes with precautions to observe such as hazards in Research, the Internet and Canadian History.

Other information which I would like to have seen is 1. The inclusion of reference to John Pihach's boo *Ukrainian Genealogy*. It could have been included in the section on Aboriginals, Acadians and Loyalists; and 2. Note could have been made that some Internet Databases are free e.g. Collections Canada and some are only accessible by subscription e.g. Ancestry.

None the less, this is a very important and helpful addition to the literature on conducting genealogical research in Canada. It is an excellent companion to *Tracing Your Roots in Saskatchewan*.

Look for it in the Saskatoon Branch Library!

