

# ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 18th:** Regular Branch meeting:  
Featuring SBSGS member Harold Baker with a presentation on "Self-Publishing My Family History". Here I am, with boxes of files, a computer filled with family history information, hundreds of relatives wondering whether they will ever hear from me, and asking myself, -- dare I wait any longer for those few tardy responses that just might lead to the perfection. I crave? My conclusion - It is time for action NOW and my timeline for publishing must be firm!
- Oct** Regular Branch meeting:  
Speaker & Presentation TBA
- Nov 20th:** Regular Branch meeting & Branch elections  
Presentation : "How to take care of your Photo Collection".  
The Resource person is an experienced archivist , especially in cataloguing photographs.

## 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
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b> Delores Maduke deloresstevens@sasktel.net Phone 384-2510	<b>WEB MASTER:</b> Gus Morrow gustaveous@mail.com	<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b> Gina Reid reidg@shaw.ca	<b>FUNDRAISING: VACANT</b> “volunteers are required”
<b>TREASURER:</b> Rene Stock rene@stockfamily.ca	<b>LIBRARIANS:</b> Georgiana Chartier g.chartier@sasktel.net Phone 652-1286	<b>Alice Schneider</b> Jschneider@sasktel.net	<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>PHONERS:</b> Mabel Evans Phone 343-7379 Gina Reid Phone 343-9982	<b>Facility Coordinator:</b> Cliff Rusk  <b>Education Coordinator:</b> Bev Gutenberg
<b>MEMBERS-AT-LARGE</b> Michelle Rusk		<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS:</b> Cindy Paradis	

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

*Tammy Vallee*

Welcome back everyone! I do hope everyone had a great summer. I know mine was a busy as ever but I was able to attend some big events this summer. In July I attend a Ceilidh (a Celtic gathering) held by the Lake Diefenbaker Pipe Band School. My hometown of Outlook, SK also celebrated it's 100th anniversary on the August long weekend. The rest of the summer was spent on house renovations, attending all the usual Saskatoon festivals and hanging with the boys.

I haven't done much genealogy, but I did find on very interesting website Genes Reunited. I heard about this site through a rival company who was complaining that Genes Reunited had more members then them and they want to be #1! Well it didn't take me long to get hooked into the site and start connecting with distant cousins around the world. There is a membership fee if you want to have the ability to contact other members but for me it paid for itself in the first couple weeks.

So check out <http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/> and when you upload your family tree remember to hide your living relatives! It may be a UK site but I have connections with my lines in Finland, Austria, Ireland, the US and Canada.

With September here it is time to get back to business. The program committee has lined up a great selection of speakers to take us into the winter!

At the first fall executive meeting I presented the group with a new idea for fundraising. A Celtic Dance to be held in March of 2009, it was decided that it will be brought to the membership and a vote to be held on if we should precede with it. This will be done at the September meeting.

Michelle and Cliff Rusk have put out the call for volunteers for the 2011, SBSGS 40th Anniversary Conference. Facilities and Programs Committee, as well as the Fundraising Committee need to get started planning by September 2008. As well as committee members, they are looking for suggestions on the conference's theme (title), as well as the topics or speakers you would like to see at the SBSGS Conference 2011. This Seminar requires the support of the entire branch membership to ensure our conference is a success. Please find the time to contact Michelle or Cliff so the planning can begin!

### Family Tree Quote

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking.

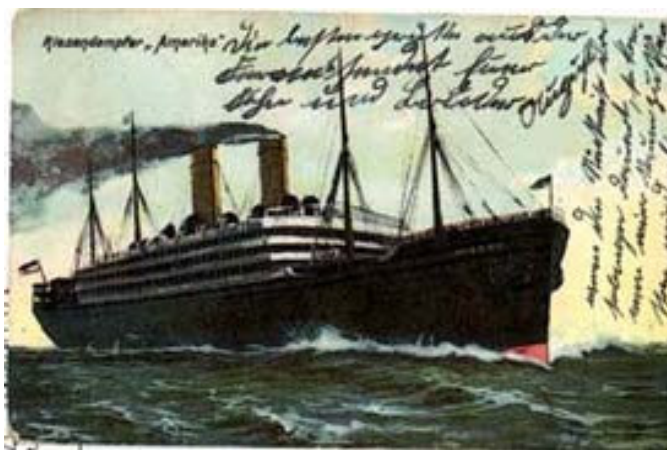
~Author Unknown

## Postcard Collections

*Submitted by Bernadette Prokopetz*

Prior to computers, fax machines, email, and Blackberries, people stayed connected to one another through letter writing and postcards. Pencils, fountain pens, and bottles of ink were the instruments of the day. People took pride in their penmanship. This has slowly become a lost art in today's society. These traditional ways of keeping in touch have lost popularity in favour of speedier electronic methods.

Postcards have been in use since the late 1800s. They were a very popular means of communication in our ancestors' day. They were readily available and inexpensive to buy. They could even be purchased on board passenger ships that our ancestors emigrated on. My own grandfather sent several postcards to his family back in Germany when he emigrated in 1911 to America on board the steamship Kaiserin Auguste Victoria. These cards eventually made their way with the rest of the family to the United States and then on to Canada. Not only do they contain my Grandfather's comments about his journey, but they also show a picture and name of the ship on the reverse side. The postmark documents the date, time, and place from which it was mailed.



Steamship Kaiserin Auguste Victoria of the Hamburg-Amerika Line

If you are fortunate to have uncovered a stash of old family correspondence in a dusty corner of the attic or tucked away in an old suitcase that was long forgotten in the back of a storage room, you already know what a wonderfully rich family history treasure you have discovered.

I accidentally stumbled upon such a collection in my own family when I was a little girl. One day I opened a dusty old suitcase and discovered a treasure-trove of letters and postcards. Not long before that my father had given me a stamp collecting album. I thought I had hit the jackpot when I discovered the old letters and postcards, each with a beautiful old stamp on it. I thought no one would notice if I tore the stamps off and put them in my album. Postmarks did not have the same importance to me back then. My stamp collection has survived to this day, but that was the last time I saw that old suitcase.

Over the years I have been fortunate to connect with several distant relatives who are the guardians of these priceless gems in my family. They have generously shared their collections with me by scanning both sides of each card and saving the images to CDs. Each time I look at them I discover new clues or details that I missed on previous viewings. They have provided me with a means for fleshing out the stories of my ancestors' lives and are invaluable pieces of evidence when creating timelines (unless someone has picked the stamps and postmarks off!!).

*Continued on Page 5*

Many interesting social history facts and tidbits can be gleaned from old postcards. My own ancestors wrote about the cost of grocery items at that time, their jobs, their families, military involvement, sent birthday and anniversary greetings, and informed others of deaths in the family, and so on. Many have beautiful Victorian photos or sketches on the front. Some have photos of the towns and villages where the family lived. Some even included photos of ancestors. These treasures were packed into their luggage and taken with them on the ships that brought them to their new life in North America. These cards were often the only link to the families they left behind.

In some families these priceless collections have been destroyed or sold to antique shops. Chances are that even if none of these artefacts survived in your own family, there may be other branches of your family tree in which they have. Your challenge is to figure out under which leaves to look.

## Ceilidh

*Submitted by Tammy Vallee*

When I was first told about the Ceilidh (a Celtic gathering) it was by one of the teachers on the Sutherland Voyageurs Canoe trip I attended in June. It was his band, *Back of the Bus*, that was going to be playing and he said it would be a lot of fun. To me it sounded worth checking out, I called up my family with Irish roots and told them about. Since it is held on the 3rd Thursday of July only my aunt, grandmother and I could attend, which was good because I didn't know how to get out there on my own!

It was a true cultural event I watch unfold that night as I sat back with my coolers. The Ceilidh is in a fund-raising event for The Lake Diefenbaker Pipe Band School <http://www.kinnairdbagpipes.com/school.php> and 2008 marked its' 6<sup>th</sup> year. First the students that had attended the Lake Diefenbaker Pipe Band School played along the shore of Lake Diefenbaker to kick the night off. The students were not just children, one of them was a teacher I have met several times while subbing at Brunskill School. Now I am not one for bagpipes but through out the night I can say I was very impressed! It was lively and unscripted music we heard. Listening to a jam session on the bagpipes was a new experience for me but one I would do again. The staff and students playing together was a great show to watch. The night's entertainment also included the school's Instructional Staff of Ken Eller, John Fisher and Alan Walters.

There was a silent auction (I was out bid every time) that ran through out the night. The bar was open and the view from the hall was very beautiful. The lunch included haggis and yep I did pass on that! The Ceilidh was open to all ages and they filled the hall! Besides the music it was very interesting to watch everyone interact. The real party started after the lunch when many of the older crowd had headed home. The chairs were pushed back and people started dancing. *Back of the Bus* played till the wee hours of morning while those in attendance danced with who ever was nearest.

I think what impressed me the most was the people who took so much enjoyment from the night. People like my grandmother who was singing along to the Irish music, the children dancing with their grandparents, the people in their kilts, and the students with their music. It was their opportunity to enjoy the culture, show their pride and have a good time. For those who don't descend from Irish or Scottish roots (this is Finn country) still embraced the culture of the event and joined in the fun!

I wish I had something to compare it to for those folks who have not attended a night like this but the closest event we have in Saskatoon is Folkfest. I could say take the Scottish & Irish Pavilions and mix them together for the type of atmosphere, but that still doesn't really paint the picture I want. I will say it was a great show that filled the Hitchcock Bay hall and I am looking forward to going again next year!

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**Ken Eller:** also known as "The Captain", has had a 40 year piping career at the Grade 1 level. He has been 15 times a winner of the North American Pipe Band Championships with two bands: the 78th Fraser Highlanders and the Clan MacFarlane Pipe Band. Now retired from active competition, he is a full time piping educator. Ken has been a member of the Piper's and Pipe Band Society of Ontario (PPBSO) since 1962 and also a member of the Eastern US Pipe Band Association (EUSPBA). In 1984/85 he was admitted to the panel of Adjudicators for both of these organizations. In 2005, Ken was accepted by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) to their panel as an international adjudicator. Ken is the moderator of the teaching website, [www.thecaptainscorner.com](http://www.thecaptainscorner.com) where visitors can receive lessons or simply catch the latest in piping news.

**John Fisher:** John Fisher is back at the Lake Diefenbaker Pipe Band School for 2008! John is the former Lead Drummer of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band, a former North American Drumming Champion, and a former member of the World Champion Shotts and Dykehead Pipe Band drum corps under Alex Duthart. With over 30 years experience as a drummer, performer, and educator, he has gained an international reputation as a master of technique, rhythm and musicality. He was a faculty member of the Percussion Institute of Technology at the Musician's Institute in Los Angeles and performed for many years as a session drummer in Los Angeles and Canada.

**Alan Walters:** Alan is a full-time piping instructor, judge, and professional competitor from Surrey, BC. He also pipes for Highland Dancers nationally and internationally. Alan has two CDs performed on the Scottish Smallpipes for competitive dancers titled "Strictly Time" and "Strictly Time II". He is known in Canada and the US for the many workshops and seminars he delivers. As a former member of Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band, and a past Pipe Major of Triumph Street Pipe Band, Alan has worked with some of the best piping talent.

## Friske Family Reunion

Descendants of Karl Samuel & Amelia (Geisler) Friske are invited to a family reunion at the old Bergheim School northeast of Saskatoon on **Saturday, September 27, 2008.**

There will be a **brunch at 11:00 am** (supplied – pancakes and sausages) then some who may want to go can visit the Bergheim church, surrounding cemeteries, old farm homesteads or others might just want to stay to visit and play horseshoes. There will also be a short presentations updating everyone on where we are in tracing the family history. Family photo's will also be taken. A **BBQ Supper at 5:00 pm** (meat supplied) and please bring a salad or desert for potluck. We would appreciate that each family bring a bristle board showing your family tree photos including parents, which will be displayed in the hall. There is a registration fee of **\$20.00** per family to cover the cost of the food.

Please contact one of following members of the organizing committee by **Friday, September 12, 2008** if you are able to attend and how many will be attending.

Email: Clifford Rusk (Adeline (Friske) Rusk) at [c.rusk@shaw.ca](mailto:c.rusk@shaw.ca)

Roxanne Stephens (Connie (Friske) Jabusch) at [rox.stephens@sasktel.net](mailto:rox.stephens@sasktel.net).

Phone: Connie Jabusch 306-931-8679

Mail: Elma (Friske) Turuk, 313 – 201 108<sup>th</sup> Street East Saskatoon SK S7N 1P7

Thank you and we look forward to see you on September 27, 2008.



## New in the Genealogy World

Ancestry now has the 1891 Canadian Census online.

The Saskatoon Public Libraries have new computers which run faster and memory sticks can be plugged into the towers!

The 1916 census for Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan is out on microfilm and available for interlibrary loan. There is no index, but feel free to record the information from the films you order in and I am sure it won't take long for us to get one together.

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911.008-e.html>

Reel #	Start of Reel	End of Reel
T-21925	Manitoba – Brandon – Sub-district 1 (Townships 7 & 8)	Manitoba – Dauphin – Sub-district 1 (Townships 23 to 32 inclusive)
T-21926	Manitoba – Dauphin – Sub-district 2 (Townships 23 & 24)	Manitoba – Lisgar – Sub-district 17 (Townships 1 & 2)
T-21927	Manitoba – Lisgar – Sub-district 18 (Townships 1 & 2)	Manitoba – Marquette – Sub-district 22 (Townships 19 & 20)
T-21928	Manitoba – Marquette – Sub-district 23 (Townships 19-22)	Manitoba – Portage la Prairie – Sub-district 7 (Townships 10-12)
T-21929	Manitoba – Portage la Prairie – Sub-district 8 (Townships 10-12)	Manitoba – Selkirk – Sub-district 8 (Townships 16 & 17)
T-21930	Manitoba – Selkirk – Sub-district 11 (Townships 16 & 17)	Manitoba – Souris – Sub-district 17 (Townships 3 & 4)
T-21931	Saskatchewan – Maple Creek – Sub-district 25 (Townships 12 & 13)	Saskatchewan – Moosejaw – Sub-district 17 (Moosejaw City)
T-21932	Manitoba – Winnipeg Centre – Sub-district 4 (Winnipeg City)	Manitoba – Winnipeg Centre – Sub-district 31 (Winnipeg City)
T-21933	Manitoba – Winnipeg Centre – Sub-district 32 (Winnipeg City)	Manitoba – Winnipeg North – Sub-district 21 (Winnipeg City)
T-21934	Manitoba – Winnipeg North – Sub-district 22 (Winnipeg City)	Manitoba – Winnipeg South – Sub-district 21 (Winnipeg City)
T-21935	Saskatchewan – Assiniboia – Sub-district 1 (Townships 1 & 2)	Saskatchewan – Battleford – Sub-district. 16 (Townships 39-42)
T-21936	Saskatchewan – Battleford – Sub-district 17 (Fractional Township 43)	Saskatchewan – Humboldt – Sub-district 37 (Townships 39-41)
T-21937	Saskatchewan – Humboldt – Sub-district 38 (Townships 39-41)	Saskatchewan – Last Mountain – Sub-district 11 (Townships 27 & 28)
T-21938	Saskatchewan – Last Mountain – Sub-district 12 (Townships 29 & 30)	Saskatchewan – Mackenzie – Sub-district 20 (Townships 29 & 30)
T-21939	Manitoba – Souris – Sub-district 18 (Townships 3 & 4)	Manitoba – Winnipeg Centre – Sub-district 3 (Winnipeg City)

Continued on Page 8

T-21940	Saskatchewan – Mackenzie – Sub-district 21 (Townships 29-31)	Saskatchewan – Maple Creek – Sub-district 24 (Townships 12-15)
T-21941	Saskatchewan – Moosejaw – Sub-district 18 (Townships 17 & 18)	Saskatchewan – Prince Albert – Sub-district 12 (Townships 42 & 43)
T-21942	Saskatchewan – Prince Albert – Sub-district 13 (Township 44)	Saskatchewan – Qu'Appelle – Sub-district 22 (Town of Indian Head)
T-21943	Saskatchewan – Qu'Appelle – Sub-district 23 (Townships 19-21)	Saskatchewan – Saltcoats – Sub-district 10 (Townships 20-22)
T-21944	Saskatchewan – Saltcoats – Sub-district 11 (Townships 21 & 22)	Saskatchewan – Saskatoon – Sub-district 12 (Townships 37-39)
T-21945	Saskatchewan – Saskatoon – Sub-district 13 (Townships 37 & 38)	Saskatchewan – Swift Current – Sub-district 26 (Township 21)
T-21946	Saskatchewan – Swift Current – Sub-district 27 (Townships 22-25) TO Saskatchewan – Weyburn – Sub-district 29 (Township 15)	Alberta – Battle River – Sub-district 1 (Townships 33-35) TO Alberta – Battle River – Sub-district 6 (Townships 36-38)
T-21947	Alberta – Battle River – Sub-district 7 (Townships 36 & 37)	Alberta – Bow River – Sub-district 25 (Townships 33 & 34)
T-21948	Alberta – Bow River – Sub-district 26 (Townships 31-34)	Alberta – Calgary East – Sub-district 11 (a & b) (Township 31)
T-21949	Alberta – Calgary West – Sub-district 1A (Calgary City)	Alberta – Edmonton East – Sub-district 9C (Edmonton City)
T-21950	Alberta – Edmonton East – Sub-district 9D (Edmonton City)	Alberta – Edmonton West – Sub-district 6 (Townships 56 & 57)
T-21951	Alberta – Edmonton West – Sub-district 7 (Townships 58-59)	Alberta – Lethbridge – Sub-district 20 (A & B) (City of Lethbridge)
T-21952	Alberta – Lethbridge – Sub-district 20 (C & D) (City of Lethbridge)	Alberta – Medicine Hat – Sub-district 8 (Townships 7-9)
T-21953	Alberta – Medicine Hat – Sub-district 9 (Townships 7 & 8)	Alberta – Red Deer – Sub-district 16 (Township 38)
T-21954	Alberta – Red Deer – Sub-district 17 (Townships 38 & 39)	Alberta – Strathcona – Sub-district 18 (City of Edmonton, Part 3)
T-21955	Alberta – Strathcona – Sub-district 18 (City of Edmonton, Part 4)	Alberta – Victoria – Sub-district 36 (Township 56)
T-21956	Alberta – Victoria – Sub-district 37 (Townships 55 & 56)	Alberta – Victoria – Sub-district 41 (Fractional Townships 57 & 58) Manitoba Indian Reserves Saskatchewan Indian Reserves

### Family Tree Quotes

GENEALOGY, n. An account of one's descent from an ancestor who did not particularly care to trace his own. Ambrose Bierce

I don't have to look up my family tree, because I know that I'm the sap. Fred Allen



## NEW MATERIAL SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

*Submitted by Georgiana Chartier*

- CAN F 2 FOR BREAD AND A BETTER FUTURE. Emigration from Poland to Canada. 1918-1939  
Multicultural History Society of Ontario. Anna Reczynska 1996
- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE 2008-May/June
- Old Photography
  - Who Knew Documenting the Past was such a Painstaking Process.
  - Fur Trade Records and Resources
  - Tracking a Household in the pre-1850.
  - US Censuses
  - Plus Special Features on Documenting and Preserving Your Family Heirlooms.
- SASKATOON
- SASK A 18 ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST: Saskatoon Branch Newsletter  
2008-Issue 56
- Thunder Bay On
- THUN P 20 PAST TENTS. Thunder Bay District Branch OGS Newsletter  
2007- Vol. 28-4 Dec.  
2008- Vol. 29-1 March
- BIG B 97 BIGGAR ROOT BOOSTER Newsletter Biggar Branch of the SGS  
2008-Vol.14,No.2
- ONT F 1.139 Families OGS Newsletter  
2008-Vol. 47, No. 2
- ONT O 71.19 OGS NEWSLEAF  
2008-Vol. 38, No. 2
- WEYBURN/SASK
- WEY H 5 HERITAGE ECHOES. The Weyburn Branch SGS Newsletter  
2008-Spring
- GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER 2008- Sept./Oct.
- Figuring Dates- How you can figure out dates for genealogical events when no documents exist.
  - Sounds and Family History- Sounds can play a great part in your family history. Learn how.
  - Whereas.. Use Memorial Resolutions to enhance your family history.
  - The Art of Oral Interview.
  - Germanic Research.
  - Just for Genealogy Beginners.
  - Net Family History.

*Continued on Page 10*

ON/LEEDS/GREN NEWS AND VIEWS. Leeds and Grenville Branch OGS  
N 22 2008 – July/Aug

GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER 2008-May/June  
- I Once Was Lost  
- Mining State Historical society Periodicals  
- Researching the Priests in the Family  
- The Civil War Era  
- Germanic Questions Answered  
- Net Family History

OTTAWA ON OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS.  
OTTA O 202.01 2008 Volume 41, No 3

GB

F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2008 Vol.24 No.8  
- Steps to find Your Elusive Ancestors  
- New-Look National Archives  
- Top websites for Kent, Sussex, Surrey & Hampshire  
- Exploring borders- Where Did They live?  
- Become a Specialist on the Family Name  
- RAF Death- the Truth Behind the Story

GB/ENG 1871 Census Warminster, Wiltshire  
BRITISH DATA ARCHIVES Parish Records-Lesbury, Northumberland  
F 9 Back Issues FTM May/June 1985,PFH June 1999  
Software-PAGEPIUS 8-Full Program LEGACY DEMO  
Special Bonus – The Illustrated London News  
PC & Mac Disc 46 JUNE 2008

## Relative Reactions

*By Delores Maduke*

There are many different reactions that relatives and family members have when one starts to discuss their fascination and pursuit of family genealogy. What are some of the reactions that you have encountered?

For myself, there has been a wide range of reactions. In some instances, I have been provided with conflicting stories and there is no way of ever proving or disproving either one. A family member who prides herself on being an authority on “all things relative” has given me erroneous information; and continues to maintain the accuracy of this information even when presented with contrary facts.

One family member was aghast and stated, “You should not do this, you might find out something you won't like or you don't want to know”. What my ancestors have done is not going to cause me any grief, distress or embarrassment. It might have been something they wanted to hide but they probably knew it would come to light some time in the future.

While relatives are still alive, I have taken care in not sharing some information that may come as a complete surprise to them. While relatives are still alive, I have taken care in not sharing some information that may come as a complete surprise to them. To do so may cause them to reassess how they see themselves within the family network. It is important to not disturb family dynamics. Sometimes my source of information is only one individual and this information does not come from anyone else. This relative has indicated that I am not to tell anyone else this secret. How does one ferret out this information without causing some one to take issue with what you are doing? If you discover the answer to this, let me know.

Some look at me as if I had lost my mind and why would I want to waste all this time with people who are long dead. Long dead does not mean they and their contributions to where we are today need be forgotten. Why if not for my ancestors I would not have been born in this country. The alternative is too scary to think of.

Some family members tend to ignore me. They don't answer letters, the phone or return phone calls. If I do get in contact with them, they have no information. That is until they want to know something about Great Uncle Henry or Great Great Grandpa Johann, then they seek me out. There is some sharing of information at this point. Don't expect this momentary interest to carry forward. It was a spur of the moment flash and then forgotten. They will ignore me until the next time they want to some information. This is also the family member who doesn't ask me directly but will go through a third party to get this information.

Everyone has a different response or reaction and it is genuinely a happy day when out of the blue I get a letter in the mail, containing original identified pictures dated prior to 1917, copies of documents from prior to 1895 and a copy of a funeral invitation with the notation that it was post marked 1936. Who would think that you would get an invitation to a funeral? Was this a common practice during that time frame? This funeral invitation provided me with a new story, name and avenue of pursuit. What a wonderful treasure and a new direction in which to pursue my all-encompassing hobby.

The ones who really surprise me are the relatives who approach my questions with guardedness. "Why are you doing this?" "Why do you want to know?" Then all of a sudden they open up and all sorts of information and stories are told. They become animated and call me back with more information as these come to mind. For some older relatives they are happy to have someone who wants to listen and hear what they have to say. They want to share their memories of an earlier time in their life.

Some family members are genuinely interested and amazed that I can remember so many names, places, dates and relationships. They are just as excited about all of this history as I am and are willing to listen to me go on and on.

They too question why Martha was such a popular name and remark that we have six of Martha's among our relatives. Or they realize that they are named after some long forgotten relative. They really love to hear what I have learned and are more than willing to share what they can remember or have documented.

Everyone's reaction is different and you may have had similar or differing ones. It would be nice if all our relatives were interested in this hobby of genealogy, but it is heartening that more of an interest is occurring as time passes.

## Somewhere in Saskatchewan

*Submitted by Bev Gutenberg*

Every once in a while you find a community that has become a 'Mecca' for genealogists without really trying. This weekend I went to visit a friend in Harris, Saskatchewan. Peggy was a couple of grades behind me in school but as former residents of Laird, Saskatchewan there is a bond that is quite strong. Peggy married a man from Harris and after being married about 10 years they returned to his hometown to live. Peggy adopted it as her own. Twenty-eight years ago they bought, moved it into town and gradually remodeled one of those Eaton's Catalogue Houses. It stands at the end of Main Street. Their home was one that was featured in the presentation given at a regular meeting of SBSGS. I went to see the house but saw much more. It is a neat little community of about 191 citizens. The town has its own resident artist who painted murals all over town. The murals were of local people and Peggy introduced them all to me. Her son-in-law was on the mural on the side of the museum. The town has been recognized in recent years by the revitalization of the tale of the 10 day Ruby Rush in 1914. The following information is from the Virtual Saskatchewan site, [http://www.virtualsk.com/current\\_issue/ruby\\_rush.html](http://www.virtualsk.com/current_issue/ruby_rush.html) Alex McCarthy had a bit of mining experience under his belt - the details are hazy since the story went unspoken until a few years ago. McCarthy told his working chums he was sure the big rock contained rubies. He used a pick to break off a chunk and sped 20 miles back to town to visit the Gordon boys.

The seven Gordon boys of Harris were a presence beyond their number, which would not be noteworthy at the turn of the century if it weren't for the fact they had no sisters and one of them had to be a seventh son. Be that as it may, the Gordon boys were adroit at commerce -- they farmed and operated hotels in Harris and a nearby community. They also ran the Harris bar and managed the local poker table, situated in a small black building out back.

"Harris was a pretty wild little town back then," recalls former resident Ivy Page, now 90. "And the Gordons, well, they were a pretty big part of it."

In addition to their business savvy, several of the brothers worked in the mines in the United States before the family moved to Canada. McCarthy sought their ranging expertise.

"We'll look after it," he was told when he showed them a piece of the rock. And with that, the Gordon boys scurried off to Saskatoon to stake their claim.

"Quartz discovered at Valley Centre, 20 miles northwest of Harris, contains diamonds, rubies and gold", reported the region's daily newspaper. The Ruby Rush was on. Within three days, 2,000 to 3,000 "prospectors" descended upon the tiny town, some no doubt motivated by the famous tales of instant wealth that grew out of the Klondike Gold Rush 16 years earlier. Accompanying these men of chance was the predictable assortment of scalawags, n'er-do-wells and painted ladies.

While the Gordons were the prime beneficiaries of the influx, other town residents heard opportunity knock and they answered the door. Supply and demand raised the price of eggs to a dollar apiece at the local grocery stores. Russ Fielding, local butcher and owner of one of three automobiles in the town, charged \$2 a head for the 20-mile ride out to the claim site, and \$5 return fare. A heated argument ensued when Fielding tried to double the fee for portly blacksmith Sam Burnett. In addition to the overflow business they enjoyed when prospectors flowed into the hotel and bar, the Gordon boys capitalized on the simply curious by pitching a tent over the "ruby rock" and charging all comers 10 cents a peek. Meanwhile, the man they hired to guard their prize, a fellow who came to be known as "Alkali Pete", spent his nights collecting neighboring stakes and his days re-selling claims at highest bid.

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Harris, during the ruby rush, had many of the trappings and colorful characters of a Skagway or Dawson Creek during the Klondike Rush. What it didn't have was gold, rubies or diamonds. The last prospector clip-clopped out of town, empty handed like all the rest, 10 days after the Gordon boys staked their claim.

For years afterwards, The Ruby Rush was a forbidden subject among residents of Harris, current population about 250. They were embarrassed by the incident and worried about rubbing salt into old wounds -- descendants of the main players still live in the area.

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For years afterwards, The Ruby Rush was a forbidden subject among residents of Harris, current population about 250. They were embarrassed by the incident and worried about rubbing salt into old wounds -- descendants of the main players still live in the area. The community theatre production of *Call of the Land* and its sequel toured all over the province a few years ago. It was written by a couple of local residents and was an overwhelming success.

The museum was a real surprise. The history of Harris is chronicled there but more than that. Some enterprising soul collected the wedding photos of most of the community's couples and they are in a large books for all to see. Some of the people involved have done short pedigree charts of their families and some of the families have 4 generations of wedding pictures. The museum also has a section with four or five wedding dresses on manikins. On a table in front of the display is the picture of the day the wedding outfit was first worn. In the back room we found the local artist at work painting a wilderness mural to enhance the animals that the museum received for the Museum of Natural History in Regina. There are a couple of deer, a bear, two reindeer, a baby bison, a white wolf and a huge moose. One is able to get close up and personal with these stuffed animals. The size of the moose filled me with awe. The artist was the one who had painted the murals throughout the town. She was working busily on completing the mural. She said she is able to get about 2 square feet done a day. She had sketched the whole mural and was filling it with colour. She was on a deadline because she was moving an old church into town and starting a studio there. She intends to teach classes as well as do her own painting there. I believe the town got a grant to pay for her work. Outside the museum was the old water tower -- it had been moved into the museum site from a spot across the highway. The interior of the water tower was a recreation of the history of the railroad in Harris.

## Family Matters

*Submitted by Delores Maduke*

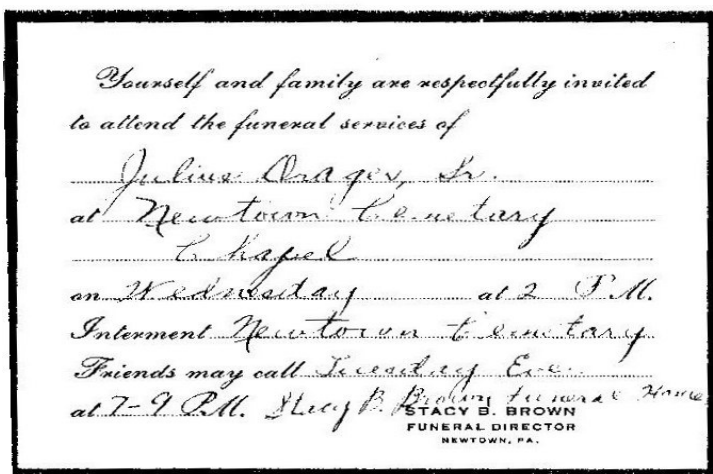
Leona lives in Burnaby, British Columbia and I had not counted on her for any family information due to her not have grown up or lived in the Bergheim District near Saskatoon. I had phoned my mother's cousin Leona for an entirely different matter. What she had to say during our conversation floored me.

Our conversation consisted of her telling me that Adolph Drager (my gr grandfather) had served in the Russian Army and she had his discharge papers. The other information that she imparted consisted of Adolph having 2 brother's who had emigrated from Eastern Europe, with one going to New Jersey and the other to Texas. She did not know their names, and could give me no further information other than that during WWI her father and his cousin had gone to Philadelphia to see the Liberty Bell and visit their uncle in New Jersey. Then some time in the 1950's a cousin had come to visit her father in Burnaby. She thought his name might have been Frank and his father was Frank Sr.

I had information about a number of Adolph's siblings, but there was no Frank among them. The closest was Friedrich. While I had the names of these siblings, I knew of only Adolph's sister who had emigrated from Volhynia, Russia, to North America.

I thought about this information roam for a while and asked relatives here if they had any information or knowledge regarding this matter. None of them seemed to be aware of this family member or had any information. I again contacted Leona. She could not give me any further information, but did remember seeing an obituary that had been mailed to her father. She would try and find this. Did I think this could happen, not on your life!!!

Several months later the mail arrived and Leona has sent me a copy of Adolph Drager's discharge papers from the Russian Army, along with an even bigger surprise. The surprise was a copy of an invitation to a funeral addressed to my great uncle and she indicated that it was post marked 1936. Imagine how surprised and excited I was.



This post card indicated that it indeed was an invitation to a funeral for Julius Drager Sr. at Newtown Cemetery Chapel on Wednesday at 2 PM, with interment in Newtown Cemetery. Brown Funeral Home of Newtown, PA was looking after the arrangements. Was this Julius Drager Sr. my great grandfather Adolph's brother? Since this was in Pennsylvania and not New Jersey.

No month was indicated, and the only clue was that this was postmarked in 1936. I quickly joined a couple of lists for Pennsylvania and posted this information. I was not expecting a great deal of response to this query. In fact, to my surprise, I quickly had numerous responses. One indicated

that Newton Cemetery was in Buck's County. Other's sent copies of census data that was very helpful. The most significant information that was sent was a copy of Julius Drager's obituary, along with that of his wife Roseanna. Also there was a page of the cemetery listings that showed the location of their graves. How fortunate was that and all from posting the information from a funeral invitation.

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The information in Julius obituary indicated that he had died on 3 Oct, 1936 in Yardley, Pa at age 82. The right age for Adolph's brother Julius. It listed his widow and 7 children, 4 daughters and 3 sons. Among them was a Julius Drager Jr. Was this the cousin who had gone to Burnaby, BC to visit his cousin Bernhard Drager? I could only assume so.

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The obituary for Roseanna Drager left me with a bit of a quandary as it her as being the widow of Julius Drager. She died on 27 Aug, 1947 in Trenton, NJ, having formerly resided in Dolington and had been a native of Russia. The questions come as it lists 6 daughters and 3 sons. The sons' names are consistent in both obituaries. Of the daughters', only one is listed with her given name, all others use Mrs then the husbands names. One of the names, Mrs Charles Balderston is consistent in both obituaries. Mrs Mathilda is listed in both, but with differing last names. Perhaps 2 marriages.

The other information that I was provided with from my queries on line was that there was a Balderston site that listed this Julius Drager in the family tree. I went to this site and looked at this Julius Drager and found him to be the same one buried in Newton Cemetary. This was indeed a find. I posted an email to the individual listed on the site. Imagine my surprise when receiving a response it was indeed a descendant of Julius Drager. There the waters started to become murky as this individual insisted that Julius had arrived from Ukraine and not Volhynia, Russia as I had documented. After some explanation of the history of this particular area in Eastern Europe I was able to convince the person these were indeed the same parts of the country.

Ray, who I had been sharing the information with, informed me that it was his wife, Mary Jean, who was the descendant of Julius Drager and that it was her grandmother who had married the Charles Balderston. We were able to confirm the relationship thru the funeral invitation and the obituaries. I did ask about a brother of Julius who may have gone to Texas and if that story was familiar to them. It was not. Mary Jean was not able to provide a lot of detail about her great grandfather Julius, but did say she would send a picture of him and Rosie, along with one of the 5 daughters.

I did find that Buck's county lies just across the Delaware River from New Jersey. I also discovered that the towns listed in the obituary were only across the river from Trenton, NJ, where some of Julius Drager's sons had resided. Mary Jean and I are 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins, having a gr gr grandfather in common. Interestingly enough she was raised in the Newtown area, but now resides in Texas. We are maintaining contact thru emails and hope to continue to do so, with further exchanges of information.

What a treasure that was to open the mail and see the funeral invitation. I never expected one little paper to generate so much further information. Stranger things can happen and maybe I will be able to trace the brother who emigrated to Texas. For now I am happy with the information I have found, and am trying to solve the mystery of the 7 or 9 children and where their descendants are.



## THE FLOUR SACK

BY COLLEEN B. HUBERT

IN THAT LONG AGO TIME WHEN THINGS WERE SAVED,  
WHEN ROADS WERE GRAVELED AND BARRELS WERE STAVED,  
WHEN WORN-OUT CLOTHING WAS USED AS RAGS,  
AND THERE WERE NO PLASTIC WRAP OR BAGS,  
AND THE WELL AND THE PUMP WERE WAY OUT BACK,  
A VERSATILE ITEM, WAS THE FLOUR SACK.

PILLSBURY'S BEST, MOTHER'S AND GOLD MEDAL, TOO  
STAMPED THEIR NAMES PROUDLY IN PURPLE AND BLUE.

THE STRING SEWN ON TOP WAS PULLED AND KEPT;  
THE FLOUR EMPTIED AND SPILLS WERE SWEEPED.  
THE BAG WAS FOLDED AND STORED IN A SACK  
THAT DURABLE, PRACTICAL FLOUR SACK.

THE SACK COULD BE FILLED WITH FEATHERS AND DOWN,  
FOR A PILLOW, OR T'WOULD MAKE A NICE SLEEPING GOWN.  
IT COULD CARRY A BOOK AND BE A SCHOOL BAG,  
OR BECOME A MAIL SACK SLUNG OVER A NAG.  
IT MADE A VERY CONVENIENT PACK,  
THAT ADAPTABLE, COTTON FLOUR SACK.

BLEACHED AND SEWN, IT WAS DUTIFULLY WORN  
AS BIBS, DIAPERS, OR KERCHIEF ADORNED.  
IT WAS MADE INTO SKIRTS, BLOUSES AND SLIPS.  
AND MOM BRAIDED RUGS FROM ONE HUNDRED STRIPS  
SHE MADE RUFFLED CURTAINS FOR THE HOUSE OR SHACK,  
FROM THAT HUMBLE BUT TREASURED FLOUR SACK!

AS A STRAINER FOR MILK OR APPLE JUICE,  
TO WAVE MEN IN, IT WAS A VERY GOOD USE,  
AS A SLING FOR A SPRAINED WRIST OR A BREAK,  
TO HELP MOTHER ROLL UP A JELLY CAKE,  
AS A WINDOW SHADE OR TO STUFF A CRACK,  
WE USED A STURDY, COMMON FLOUR SACK!

AS DISH TOWELS, EMBROIDERED OR NOT,  
THEY COVERED UP DOUGH, HELPED PASS PANS SO HOT,  
TIED UP DISHES FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED,  
AND FOR MEN OUT IN THE FIELD TO SEED.  
THEY DRIED DISHES FROM PAN, NOT RACK  
THAT ABSORBENT, HANDY FLOUR SACK!

WE POLISHED AND CLEANED STOVE AND TABLE,  
SCOURED AND SCRUBBED FROM CELLAR TO GABLE,  
WE DUSTED THE BUREAU AND OAK BED POST,  
MADE COSTUMES FOR OCTOBER (A SCARY GHOST)  
AND A PARACHUTE FOR A CAT NAMED JACK.  
FROM THAT LOWLY, USEFUL OLD FLOUR SACK!

SO NOW MY FRIENDS, WHEN THEY ASK YOU  
AS CURIOUS YOUNGSTERS OFTEN DO,  
'BEFORE PLASTIC WRAP, ELMERS GLUE  
AND PAPER TOWELS, WHAT DID YOU DO?'  
TELL THEM LOUDLY AND WITH PRIDE DON'T LACK,  
'GRANDMOTHER HAD THAT WONDERFUL FLOUR SACK!'

*Submitted by Eleanor Ritchie*