

ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST



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A persons mind is like a parachute,
it only works when it is open.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 20th: Regular Branch Meeting**
Branch Elections - volunteers required
Guest Speaker , Cameron Hart (BA; Archivist) will present "Organizing and Preserving Your Photographs."
- Dec 11th: Annual Christmas Potluck and Social at 6pm** [Bring a delicious dish to share.] We invite you to share a favorite Christmas memory, tradition, or Christmas family story. Also, feel free to bring and share an ornament or gift that has special memories for you.
- Jan 15th: TBA**
- Feb 8th: Saskatoon Heritage Festival at the Western Development Museum**

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 6:00 - 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

PRESIDENT: Tammy Vallee tamw25@shaw.ca Phone 668-1380	GREETERS: Cindy Paradis Peter Geres	NEWSLETTER: Cliff Rusk c.rusk@shaw.ca 384-8813	REFRESHMENTS: Dawn Keddy—Brezinski
VICE PRESIDENT: Delores Maduke deloresstevens@sasktel.net Phone 384-2510	WEB MASTER: Gus Morrow gustaveous@mail.com	MEMBERSHIP: Gina Reid reidg@shaw.ca Alice Schneider Jschneider@sasktel.net	FUNDRAISING: VACANT “volunteers are required”
TREASURER: Rene Stock rene@stockfamily.ca	LIBRARIANS: Georgiana Chartier g.chartier@sasktel.net Phone 652-1286 Elsie Henry Dorothy Peake	PHONERS: Mabel Evans Phone 343-7379 Gina Reid Phone 343-9982	CEMETERY COORDINATORS: Merle Ward merleward@shaw.ca Susan Leitch
SECRETARY: Bev Gutenberg	PROGRAMS: Terri Chappell Michelle Rusk Eleanor Ritchie	PUBLIC RELATIONS: Cindy Paradis	Facility Coordinator: Cliff Rusk Education Coordinator: Bev Gutenberg
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE 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.

WE GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGE THE
FOLLOWING
ORGANIZATIONS.



President's Report

By Tammy Valle

Greetings everyone;

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our November meeting. It is that time again, Branch Elections; there are many open positions and people looking for help on their committees. Keeping our branch as an active and interesting group requires more people willing to step forward and volunteer. Many of the open positions require minimal time commitment but would take a great load off the executive.

My first position on the executive was as member-at-large 5 years ago; and it has been a very rewarding learning experience. This is a great opportunity for all interested members to get involved in the management of our branch.

At our September meeting the membership voted to attend the Saskatoon Heritage Festival on February 8th at the WDM and host a Celtic Dance Fundraising Event on March 7th at the Sutherland Hall. We require members to volunteer to help organize these events and sell tickets to our fundraising events.

At the branch meeting on February 19th, we will again be holding our Genealogical Open House; where all members are invite to bring their displays and work in progress to share with other members and guests. We will require members to work on getting our sales items ready, as it has been a long time since our sale items were attended to.

We now have purchased our own LCD projector and a screen that will save on rental costs. Our own branch library has changed it's library hours from 6 — 7 pm and during our coffee break on meeting nights, to give membership more opportunity to access it.

Cameron Hart will be our guest speaker in November and our annual potluck Christmas Supper is on December 14th, starting at 6:30 pm.

Regards
Tammy

CANADA FREE GENEALOGY RESOURCES
<http://expertgenealogy.com/free/Canada.htm>

Saskatchewan Intercultural Association

When the immigrants flooded Canada a hundred years ago they adjusted to life with little support from official societies. Today things are a much different for those who choose to start a new life in Canada. There are groups across our province that work at assisting those new to our province and preserving cultures from around the world.

Saskatchewan Intercultural Association (SIA) is a non-profit organization that provides services for immigrants and refugees in Saskatoon. Their organization works in partnership with community and immigrant-serving agencies, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), and a wide network of private and government funders. SIA runs several different programs through their organization. Mentorship, MYWAY and ELT/IIP Programs help people find employment and offer English as a Second Language classes. SIA membership includes over 75 ethno-cultural heritages, each having a distinctive tradition in music and dance. Through workshops and regular classes, many of these cultural groups developed a polished repertoire for the numerous public performances organized by the Association. For over 40 years, the SIA Performing Arts Program has provided multicultural performances in Saskatoon.

SMS (Saskatoon Multilingual School) was established in 1983 through co-operation with the Catholic School Board. The school now includes over 900 hundred students and 146 teachers. Since 1988, the Saskatoon Public School Board has provided space at Estey School, Aden Bowman Collegiate, Walter Murray Collegiate, Mt Royal Collegiate, W. P. Bate School, College of Education U of S, and Private homes. Evening and weekend classes are held for children and adults in 29 languages. High school credit classes are offered in the following languages: German, Mandarin, Polish, Ukrainian and Spanish Language. Heritage Languages classes are also offered in Arabic, Cantonese, Dari, & Pashtu (Maihan), German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Tagalog (Filipino), Tigrinya (Eritrean), Ukrainian, Sinhala, Yoruba, and Vietnamese.

The SIA is making the transition to life in Canada a great deal easier than what our ancestors experienced. In the world of genealogy, as we research our ancestors, it is very possible we will find family records that are written in a language we don't understand. Word guides from the FHC or online translators work well for basic records like church records or census, but aren't always best for deciphering those old letters or books. If you have these records but are unsure of who can help you try contacting Jess Foulston the Saskatoon Multilingual Schools Coordinator for the SIA. He does not have a list of translators, but he does of the contacts to try find you some help.

If you are looking for some translating help or just interested in learning more on the SIA contact:

Jess Foulston

Saskatchewan Intercultural Association

1702- 20th St West

Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Z9

Tel: 978-1818

Fax: 978-1411

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sms.sia@sasktel.net

THE RICH ONES RODE IN THIRD-CLASS RAILWAY CARS TO HAMBURG OR LE HAVRE

How did your ancestors travel to Hamburg or le Havre to take the boat to America? I have discovered what appears to be a unique copy of a publication [1] that might tell you. Recently, I scanned the entire book, *Hamburg-American Line, Hamburg American Packet Co.: European Rates of Fare from the Interior of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, to Hamburg and Havre: In Connection with Prepaid Passages by the Steamships of the Hamburg American Packet Company, January, 1885, No. 20*, New York, Chicago: C. B. Richard & Co., General Passenger Agents of the Hamburg American Packet Co., [1885], 50 pp., at the Library of Congress. Unfortunately, no other editions [2] of the book seem to have survived anywhere.

The list, which is in alphabetical order, does not contain every location in these countries, only every location with a railway station. The alphabetical order is affected by the presence of the umlaut. Thus, names containing the umlaut vowels ä, ö, and ü -- which can also legitimately be spelled ae, oe, and ue, respectively -- are alphabetized as if they were spelled with the extra e instead of the umlaut symbol. The German "scharfes s" [ß] stands for and is alphabetized as "ss."

Each entry for the total 8,527 locations lists the name of the railway station, followed in German by the province or principality in Germany, or sometimes even the Administrative District. For Austria, the province is listed. Bosnia and Croatia are included. For Switzerland, the canton is listed and the fact that the location (in German) is in Switzerland. For Hungary, the county is listed and the fact that the location is in Hungary. One great advantage is to be able to identify the location by the name used at the time and to locate the place in the intermediate jurisdiction, smaller than the country. For example, the entry for what is today Wronki, in the powiat [county] of Szamotuly in Wielkopolskie voivodeship, reads, in German, "Wronke (Posen)," meaning that the town was in Posen Province [3], and lists the charge for the rail fare as \$6.05 to Hamburg with no entry under le Havre.

As indicated in the example above, the next column lists the price of such rail carriage to Hamburg, third class, in U. S. dollars. Not every listing has an entry because, in some cases, the researcher must look in the last column to find the charge for rail carriage to le Havre, identified as Havre in the list, also at the third class rate. A few locations provide the price for carriage to both locations. There are two sets of columns on each page.

You can see the entire book on Polish Roots under the category "Immigration and Ships" at http://www.polishroots.org/immigration/hamburg_rates.htm. To enlarge the image, place your pointer over the page and click the left mouse button.

The pages indicate the third class rail fare from every railway station in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Switzerland, and from the city of Luxembourg, [4] as well as from Schaan (near Vaduz) and Nendeln, the only stops listed for Liechtenstein, [5] which has all of 5.9 miles of railway, but none for Vaduz, the capital.

The reason for the publication was to enable the clerks of the agent, C. B. Richard & Co., of New York and Chicago, selling ship passage tickets on the Hamburg American Line, to know how much the person already in the United States should pay for such rail carriage from a given railway station in Central Europe to either of the two main European ports where the Hamburg American Packet Co. docked its transatlantic ships for persons in Europe about to travel on a Hamburg American Packet Co. ship to New York. .

Continued on Page 6

Thus, the person in the United States, usually a close relative of those beginning their journey, could pay at any C. B. Richard & Co. office in the United States, or at offices of its agents, to have the person or persons in Central Europe transported by rail to the port of Hamburg or le Havre for boarding the ship to the United States. C. B. Richard & Co. was technically a banking firm, established 1847, with offices, originally at 6 Barclay Street, but sometime before 1874 at 61 Broadway, New York City, and at Washington and La Salle Streets, Chicago, Il. It also had offices under the name of C. B. Richard & Boas, Bankers and Commission Merchants, 7 Admiralitätstraße, Hamburg. Most likely, the agent then handed the ship passage ticket and the railway carriage ticket to the purchaser in the United States, who then mailed the package to the waiting relatives in Europe.

Most immigrants were so poor, even in 1885, that they walked to Hamburg in Germany or le Havre in France, but some were fortunate enough to have a rich relative in America. In some cases, young people had to earn their way all the way to the port. In at least one case, a person walked, taking two years to cross Germany, and learned the baking trade en route to Hamburg. So those who rode on the train were the lucky ones. It meant that the relative in America could afford to pay for the train trip, which they shared with animals. Essentially, they traveled in a bare cattle car. Only from about 1900 did the third class railway cars contain wooden benches.

Both the Russian and German authorities attempted to prevent illegal border crossings of the Russian Prussian/German border. Relations between the two countries were not particularly friendly most of the time. The Russians required exit permits, and the German authorities, as they saw it, did not want Russian peasants bringing poverty, disease, and crime into Germany. Some Russian peasants thus declared that they were from some town in Posen Province and took care not to speak Russian, especially if they were Jews. They stuck to Yiddish, which is about 65%-66% German, and higher if one excludes religious terms, which would normally not be the subject of conversation with German authorities. German authorities probably could not distinguish between Eastern Yiddish and Western Yiddish, as scholars do today. The German authorities normally would not detain someone long enough to verify if the peasant was from a given Posen town distant from the location of interception. A telegraphic message could have helped but was seldom, if ever, used. The reasons are unknown. While it might have been too dangerous to travel at night, there were too few police to do the job even in times of health crises, such as in the cases of cholera in Posen in 1831, 1837, 1848, etc. The German authorities tried later to police the situation and were often unsuccessful. Those remaining for more than a few days in Hamburg or accepting employment had to register with the Hamburg police. Those records still exist, [6] as do the Hamburg Passenger Lists.[7].

To give some idea of how much money the charges were: In 1885, \$7.60, a typical fare from Posen Province, would have been about 2 week's rent for a poor apartment in an undesirable part of New York City, a lot of money. At that time, a 20-mark gold piece was worth US\$4.76 and 1 silver mark was worth 48 U. S. cents. An ounce [8] of gold was worth \$20.61 at that time.

The most expensive passage was from Sarajevo, Bosnia, at \$23.35, but a number of locations in Siebenbürgen cost \$22.50. Perhaps there was a surcharge for locations in Siebenbürgen because it was so mountainous. More likely, it was simply that the private railway line set the prices high. Locations further away were often cheaper. For example, Budapest to Hamburg cost \$13.30. Salzburg (Salzburg) cost \$8.90 while Salzburg (Com. Weissenburg, Siebenbürgen), cost \$20.50, and Tömös (Com. Kronstadt, Siebenbürgen), cost \$22.50. Siebenbürgen was then in Hungary but after 1921 was transferred to Austria after a plebiscite. In 1885 most or all railways in Central Europe were privately owned. Some private railways may still exist in Switzerland, usually in remote, mountainous areas.

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The Library of Congress plans eventually to post the pages of this book on its own Web site, too, although PolishRoots has already done so. The Library of Congress has wonderful treasures, too infrequently discovered. The search continues.

ENDNOTES

[1] My recent e-mail to HAPAG-Lloyd, Hamburg, the current name of the company, received the reply that the company had no such books among its holdings. I found no other copy in any other library in the United States or in Germany.

[2] The sole edition found at the Library of Congress is number 20 so there should have been at least 19 earlier editions. No information survives as to subsequent editions.

[3] The agent would have been expected to know that the Posen was in Germany.

[4] There are 45 municipalities in Luxembourg with railway stations today. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Railway_stations_in_Luxembourg.

[5] Today there are four stops, the two listed plus Forst Hilti and Schaanwald. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Liechtenstein.

[6] See the last 17 entries at

http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=titlefilmnotes&titleno=197879&disp=Reisepa%C3%9F%2DProtokolle%2C+1851%2D192++&first=301&last=400&column s=*,0,0, which includes ship clearances for the ships themselves.

[7] Available in German, among other places, on <http://www.Ancestry.com>, where they can be searched in German.

NEW MATERIAL SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

Submitted by Georgiana Chartier

GB F FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

114 2008- Vol. 24, NO. 9

- I was the family skeleton! The journey of an adoptee.
- Digging up your family history. Learn about your past with archaeology.
- Great ways to find your family.
- DNA clues and results
- Step-by-step research back to 1700s.
- World War 11 Duties: The Air Raid Warden
- Researching London ancestors before 1841
- Ancestors in Poverty- Try almshouses, workhouses, children's homes and more.

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GB F FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

114 2008- Vol. 24, NO. 10

- Born a foundling; died a pauper –Ancesters revealed.
- Crab and lobster fishermen-Fishfolk of old.
- Surname solutions; What does yours mean?
- New lands, new lives. Tracing migrant ancestors.
- Tales of the riverbank.

GB F FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

114 2008- Vol. 24, NO. 11

- Q & As – Helpful solutions to your queries - FREE
- Life stories – Born in a workhouse ... fostered age 6.
- Family photos & likenesses.
- Apprentices & freemen- Fascinating records - Step-by-step advice.
- Our ancestors at war with Napoleon:Key websites and battles.

GB F FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

114 2008- Vol. 24, NO. 12

- Disaster! Inquest 130 years on.
- How to: Trace German ancestry.
- Newspapers & periodicals-Your ancestors in print.
- Finding family free! Online and in the library.
- Ellis Island records.
- Discover British relatives in Canada.
- Identify Your Soldier. Part 1: General uniform.

GB/IRE I 189.200 IRISH ROOTS

2008 - Issue No. 66

- Beginners Guide TO Genealogy- A Step Further
- 2008 – The Year Of The Potato- Find Out More.
- The Man Who Helped To Preserve Ireland's Past
- Hanna Sheehy Skeffington – Leading Figure in the Irish Suffrage Movement

CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE.

2008- July/Aug

- 10 Reasons To Look For Siblings.
- Scaling the Paper Mountain
- Decade of Looking for Donald.
- The Genes They Are A-Changin'.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- Encyclopedias.
- THIS Old House

Continued on Page 9

- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE.
2008 – Sept/Oct
- Hit A Genealogy Home Run!
 - Civilian Conservation Crop Records
 - What Was the Militia?
 - Do You Speak Lineage Lingo?
 - Take a Tour of New YORK'S Humanities Research Library.
 - An Introduction to Patent Records.
- ONT O 71.19 OGS NEWSLEAF.
2008 – Volume 38, No.3
- ONT F 1.139 Families OGS Newsletter
2008 Volume 47, No.3
- GEN E 225 EVERTON'S GENEALOGICAL HELPER
2008 – July/AUG
- One Old LETTER.
 - Quebec Celebrates Its 400th Anniversary.
 - Finding Missing Pieces of the Puzzle.
 - THE Civil War Era.
 - Germanic Research.
 - Just for Genealogy Beginners.
 - Net Family History.
- EURO/EE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST
E 119 2008 – Vol. 16, NO. 3
- GEN I 7 INTERNET GENEALOGY. Researching Your Family Roots Online
2008 – May
- We Look at 20 of the Best Websites for Tracing Your Italian Roots!
 - Wanna Be (Virtual) Friends?
 - Finding Confederate Pension Papers.
 - Accessing Digital Books on the Net.
- SK SGS S 221 SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN
2008 – Vol. 39, No.
- BC C 14 CARIBOO NOTES. Quesnel Branch British Columbia Genealogical Society .
2008 – Vol.25, No. 2
- MAN M 514.14 MENNONITE HISTORIAN
2008 – XXXIV, No. 2

Continued on Page 10

SK/SASK A 18 ARMCHAIR GENEALOGIST: Saskatoon Branch Newsletter
2008 - Issue No. 57

BC A 20 ANCES TREE. NEWSLETTER OF THE NAMAIMO HISTORY SOCIETY
2008 – Volume 29, No.2

HURON COUNTY ON ROOTING AROUND HURON. The Huron County Branch OGS.
HUR R 1 2008 – Vol. 29, No. 2

BC THE OKANAGAN RESEARCHER. Newsletter of the Kelowna
O 18 and District Genealogical Society
2008-Vol. 24, No.4

SK D 119 DIRECTORY OF ARCHIVES IN SASKATCHEWAN 2008.
Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists

GEN M 16 MOULD PREVENTION AND COLLECTION RECOVERY:GUIDELINES FOR
HERITAGE COLLECTIONS.
Technical Bulletin 26 Canadian Conservation Institute. 2004

GB/ENG 1901 Census Warick, Warwickshire
BRITISH DATA ARCHIVES Parish Records-Broseley,Shropshire
F 9 Back Issues FTM July/Aug 1986,PFH July 2002
Software- Custodian Demo Special Bonus :
– Mr. punch’s History of The Great War (Extract) PC & Mac
Disc 47 JULY 2008

GB/ENG 1901 Census Romsey, Hampshire
BRITISH DATA ARCHIVES Parish Records- Ingham, Suffolk
F 9 Back Issues FTM August 1987,PFH August 2003
Software-RootsMagic DEMO Special Bonus:
– Wesley’s journal (Extract) PC & Mac
Disc 48 AUGUST 2008

GB/ENG 1871 Census Ramsgate, Kent
BRITISH DATA ARCHIVES Parish Records- Windlesham, Surrey
F 9 Back Issues FTM September 1988,PFH Aug/sept 1997
Software- LEGACY Special Bonus:
– Deeds That Thrill The Empire-Part 2 PC & Mac
Disc 49 September 2008

Continued on Page 11

- SK H 8.5 HENDERSON'S SASKATOON DIRECTORY. 1968
- SK H 8.5 HENDERSON'S SASKATOON DIRECTORY. 1993
- THUN P 20 AST TENTS. Thunder Bay District Branch OGS Newsletter 2008- Vol. 29-2 JUNE.
- BC A 20 ANCES TREE. NEWSLETTER OF THE NAMAIMO HISTORY SOCIETY
2008 - VOLUME 29, NO.3
- EURO/EE E 119 EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST. 2008 - Vol.16 No.4 Vol.
- MAN M 514.14 MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Published by the Mennonite
Heritage Centre and the Centre for MB studies in Canada
2008 - Vol. XXXIV - No.3
- OTTAWA ON OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS.
OTTA O 202.01 2008 Volume 41, No 4
- GB F FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE. & FAMILY HISTORY CHART
114 2008 Vol. 24, No.13
- HAIDIMAND COUNTY/ON HAIDIMAND COUNTY BRANCH OGS NEWSLETTER
H16 2008 - Vol. 19, Issue 3
- ON/LEEDS/GREN NEWS AND VIEWS. Leeds and Grenville Branch OGS
N 22 2008 - May/June.
- CAN F 6 FRONTIER FAREWELL: The 1870s And The End Of The Old West. Garrett Wilson.
2007
- BC THE OKANAGAN RESEARCHER. Newsletter of the Kelowna
O 18 and District Genealogical Society 2008-Vol. 25, No.1
- WEYBURN/SASK HERITAGE ECHOES. The Weyburn Branch SGS Newsletter 2008-Fall
WEY H 5
- GB/IRE N 7 THE NATIONAL GAZETTEER OF GREAT BRITIAN AND IRELAND

InfoUkes: An information resource about Ukraine and Ukrainian's

<http://www.infoukes.com/genealogy/>

From the Clans, Celts & Clover October 2008 Newsletter

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

Submitted by Tammy Vallee

Scottish Sorcery

When you think “witch”, what comes to mind? A wart faced old women in a black dress with a broom? Actually, all it took was a birthmark or freckle, or singing and dancing outside, or simply someone’s accusation that could have you executed as a witch.

Although there have been stories of witchcraft since the beginning of time, persecutions didn’t begin until the 1500s. The Witchcraft Act of 1563 made it illegal for anyone to be or consort with a witch. The first major persecution, the North Berwick Trials, began in 1590 with King James I and VI. Returning from Denmark with his new bride, a powerful tempest almost killed them. The King believed witchcraft was the cause of the storm and nearly 100 people arrested. Many were tortured and burnt alive.

The Forfar Witch Hunt of 1661 and the Auldearn Trials of 1662 were prolonged by accusations made by “witches” in order to save themselves. At the Aberdeen Trials, 7 women were accused of using magic to murder others and using body parts from the victims to create potions. The Pittenween trials of 1704 were based on the word of a 16 year old boy. Each of the accused was tortured. One was even crushed to death under large stones. It was later discovered that the boy had made it all up.

The Renfrewshire Trials of 1695 began when 11 year old Christian Shaw caught a housemaid drinking forbidden milk and threatened to tell her mother. The housemaid told the girl that the devil would take her to hell. Christian began having fits and visions, claiming that the maid was torturing her. She vomited up feathers, hay, wax, stones, even a hot coal. There were accounts of her floating around the room and moving things without touching them. She also accused several others of witchcraft. Over 20 men, women and children were imprisoned and examined by “witch prickers.” Several children and one minister were found dead on the morning of the trials. Fourteen of the charged were found not guilty. The remainder were hanged and burned. Christian was cured after the executions.

The Witchcraft Act was abandoned in 1736. It is estimated that over 4,000 people were executed as witches in Scotland alone. Only four “witches” are recorded as being executed in Ireland, and only three in Wales. So for those of you with freckles or birthmarks (like myself), be thankful that things have changed!!

This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.

-Ellen Goodman,

