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Fall 2009 Edition

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday September 17, 2009 regular meeting:
Topic "Choosing the Best Genealogical Software
for Your Needs", by branch member Rene Stock

Thursday October 15, 2009 regular meeting:
Sharing Program - " Genealogy Show & Tell"

Saturday October 17, 2009, 9:30 AM Beginner's
Genealogy Class, 1:30 PM Advanced Genealogy
Class, Rusty Macdonald Library, 225 Primrose
Drive

Sunday October 18, 2009, Steak Night Fundraiser
5:00 cocktails, 5:30 supper, cost \$15 at Rodeo's
Lounge, Travelodge

Thursday December 10th, 2009 - Christmas Pot
Luck Supper, 6:00 PM. Albert Community Centre

MEETING INFORMATION

Place: Albert Community Centre, 610 Clarence Avenue S.

Dates: Third Thursday of each month, except July & August.

Time: The Library is open from 5:30 - 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, discounted to \$10.00/year for renewals prior to the previous year-end. There is a \$15.00 charge for all NSF cheques. Joining the Saskatoon Branch (SBSGS) requires that you also join the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) which has an annual fee of \$38.00 (senior rate) or \$40.00 (regular rate). Branch membership also includes 10 branch meetings, access to our Saskatoon Branch Library, access to the SGS Library and a copy of this newsletter 5 times during the year.

This newsletter will be published near the beginning of January, March, May, September & November, and it is available in either printed form or as a Portable Document Format file (pdf) version via Email. For those members of our local branch who wish to have a printed version of the newsletter mailed out, please bring a self addressed, stamped large (9x12) envelope to a general meeting or mail them to the branch or newsletter editor. The number of self-addressed envelopes determines how many times a year the newsletter is mailed out to you.

Articles are always required for the next issue and future issues of the Newsletter. Please submit by the third Wednesday of the month prior to publication month.

SBSGS 2009 BRANCH EXECUTIVE

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VACANT

Our branch will only remain viable if volunteers step forward with fresh new ideas to assist in the running of our society. If you have some ideas on the direction the branch should take and are up to an interesting & rewarding challenge.

Please VOLUNTEER!



THE FAMILY TREE

Housekeeping Rules:

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

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

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

WE GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGE THE
FOLLOWING
ORGANIZATIONS.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There's something about the beginning of September that makes us wish summer would stay a bit longer and this year it is! But the calendar reminds us it is time to get back to usual fall routines...cleaning up the yard, thinking about winterizing etc. And of course back to Genealogy...glad to see you again and looking forward to the programs and exchanges of our successes and progress in our research.

Cliff Rusk relinquished the editorship of our newsletter. We're trying a different approach: Rene Stock will be the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher. Each Executive member will take a turn at being Editorial Coordinator i.e. ensuring there is enough content to publish. We thank Cliff for his generous time as Editor. Wish us luck!

We have a great team of volunteers committed to furthering the goals of our organization: the program committee has lined up an interesting series, genealogy classes are being offered, the library has a host of reading material and genealogical items for sale. A committee has begun planning for the Branch's 40th Anniversary and Genealogy Conference in 2011...mark your calendars for April 28-May 1, 2011 in Saskatoon at the Travel Lodge where we will explore the role of DNA in our family history and a secondary theme looking at migration patterns of immigration.

All our members are willing to share and help with their time and expertise but the Branch still needs more volunteers to carry on its activities. Please consider helping out. Contact me and tell me what you'd like to be involved with and we'll fit you in! Talk to me at a meeting or phone me at 653-1285. Eleanor Ritchie

Steak Night Fundraiser has been scheduled for Sunday October 18. Tickets will be available at the general meeting September 17. Contact Gerry Threlfall, 374-7520, ngthrelfall@shaw.ca. Be prepared to pre-purchase your expected sales!

Members are encouraged to make that extra effort to sell tickets, as fundraising has lagged spending over the past two years.

Websites of Interest *Submitted by Elsie Henry*

WWI & WWII Records for soldiers not found in other places and from different countries <http://www.midwestgenealogycenter.org/>

WWI & WWII Red Cross records being digitized for 2014
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7940540.stm>

The Henderson Directories are digitalized and online for Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Redcliff Alberta, Winnipeg and Brandon Manitoba and Northwest Territories. <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/henderson.html>

Passenger lists with over 30 million records of persons leaving the British Isles from 1890 to 1960. You can search for records of those leaving for destinations including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and USA featuring ports such as Boston, Philadelphia and New York. <http://www.ancestorsonboard.com>

Lethbridge Herald is online for free access:
<http://lethbridgeherald.newspaperarchive.com/>

Everything You Want to Know About Genealogy...Attend a Class!

The Saskatoon Branch SGS is sponsoring two genealogy classes instructed by Bev Gutenberg, on October 17, 2009 at the Rusty Macdonald Library, 225 Primrose Drive.

The Beginner's class will be held from 9:30am-12:00 noon. This class will include the tools of genealogical research: the family unit sheet, the pedigree chart, the correspondence log, the research log and a timeline. Birth, marriage and death records, home and local sources, including church and cemetery research, and popular computer programs will be discussed. This class will give you a good start in researching your family tree.

The Advanced class will be held from 1:30 pm -4:00 pm. This class is a continuation of the Beginner's class. This session will include information on researching at the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Saskatchewan Archives, the U of S Library, and the Local History Room at the Frances Morrison Library. It will also include information that can be found in the Passenger Ship Lists, the databases at the National Archives and Library Canada, Ancestry.com, Obituary Index at the FML, and the newspapers at the University of Saskatchewan Library.

Cost: \$25.00 per session, \$40.00 if attending both sessions

Please register by October 10,2009; Advance registration is required.

Send cheque or money order (no cash please) to:

SBSGS (Saskatoon Branch SGS)

119 Christopher Road

Saskatoon SK S7J 3R8

After October 10, phone (306) 653-1285. Class is limited to 30 participants.

Member Queries

Stock, Ellen, born 17 Oct 1847, Kinkora, Ellice Township, Perth County, Ontario, Canada, daughter of John and Bridget (Quinn) Stock . I have been unable to locate her in (1881 and later) census, marriage, death or Kinkora parish records. Her sister **Sarah Ann Stock**, born in 1857, appears in the 1881 census for Perth County living with another sister Mary Kelly (wife of Patrick H Kelly), but I have been unable to locate any records after that for her. Contact Rene Stock, rene@stockfamily.ca, 350 Acadia Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7H 3V6 if you can provide information or assistance. Thank you!

DeLaForijd/Lefurgey/Laforge/Laforgie - seeking any information on the following families and their descendants. Jean born about 1630 in Lyon, France. His descendant Adriaen Laforge born 1728 in Kings County, NY, USA and died 1788 in Westchester County, NY. Later descendant one John Lefurgey born 1765 in Phillypsburg Manor, Westchester Co., NY died Nov 2, 1818 in Wilmot, Lot 19, Prince Co., PEI. Married UNKNOWN JOYCE Mar 28, 1785 in Springhill, NS. Contact deloresstevens@sasktel.net

I am trying to locate what happened to my great grandfather's sister Hilda Alida (**Anderson, Andreasen/Andreasdatter**) born Norway May 4/1860 on farm Solbergdammen. She came to Beloit (Rock County) with her siblings Olai, Hans, Clara, Alma, Ragna Cecilia and parents Andreas and Hanna Solberg in 1867 from Drobak Norway. Andreas died in 1869 from cholera and is buried at East Jefferson Prairie. I believe Hanna and some of the children lived with her sister Anna and husband Anton Ellefson for awhile then. We had heard that Hilda may have married with the name Sommervald and was in the Chicago area according to a family obit. We have not been able to trace this family member. Jefferson Prairie Church had some of the children's confirmations and Alma's baptism. I could use some help figuring out what happened to her. Brenda Armstrong 306-249-4949 brenda.armstrong@sasktel.net.

I am also trying to locate **Ruth Bicknell** married to Leonard Bicknell (deceased). She lived in Nelson, BC. on Latimer St In the 1970's.

Researching British Home Children

Submitted by Bonnie Lymer

Approximately one and a half years ago, I decided to start working on my family tree. I had always been interested in the history involving my paternal grandmother, but thought that finding any information about her would be next to impossible, due to the limited amount of information that had been provided to me.

Catherine was a British Home Child, meaning that her origins were from an orphanage in England. We did know that she came to Canada through Barnardo Homes, but we did not know the year. She married my grandfather in 1917. Together, they had two children that survived infancy, one of whom was my father. Catherine died of pneumonia in 1938, when my father was two years old. Because he was so young when he lost his mother, my father knew very little about his mother. His father provided him very limited information. It did appear that her childhood was probably not a totally happy one. To the best of our knowledge, she had no known siblings and we knew nothing about how she came to be at Barnardo Homes.

I had been given information about the Mormon website, familysearch.org, and this is where I decided to begin my search. I did a very general search for "Catherine Neal" in "England". The third name to appear was a Catherine Neal born in Lambeth, England in 1896. The year of birth seemed reasonable, so I drilled into the information. My grandfather's name appeared as a spouse. I then contacted my father, who confirmed his mother's birthday. I was thrilled to discover that the birthdate he provided me matched that on the record.

After that, I began by doing some very general research on British Home Children. There turned out to be quite a bit of information regarding these children. I found websites that listed the names of children from Barnardo Homes that came to Canada, along with the year of immigration. Both my grandmother and her sister (whose name I also found on Family Search) appeared on this list. I also found a website listing Home Children and the various ships on which they came to Canada. Again, I was able to find my grandmother and her sister on the list. I now had a year of immigration – 1905.

At this point, I found a website for Barnardo Homes. The website addressed the history of the Home Children and provided a link to contact the organization for more information about specific children. I made contact at this point. I provided the names of the individuals involved, their years of birth, and the year of immigration to Canada.

A few days later, I received a response from Barnardo Homes. They were able to confirm that the two girls had been admitted to Barnardo's. They advised that more information could be obtained. For a cost of £100, they would search their archived records and provide copies of the admission report, all progress records on my grandmother, and the photo taken at the time of admission, assuming it was still intact. Apparently, however, there was a long wait list and there would be a nine to twelve month wait before any information would be received.

I decided to proceed with obtaining the information, although I was doubtful as to how much information I would actually receive. Five months later, I was pleasantly surprised, not only by the timeliness of the package, but also by the amount and quality of the information received.

The sources of information that I received in my Barnardo package included the following:

1. Cover Letter: The cover letter from Barnardo Homes summarized the results of their findings in a three page document. This gave me a general overview of what the package contained. It also indicated that although they were unable to give me details on Catherine's sister, they could (and did) provide details on her last known whereabouts and her spouse's name. (I already knew this, but it was good to have it confirmed.)
2. Photo: The package included a photo of my grandmother taken on the day she was admitted to Barnardo Homes. Although this did not aid my research, it was definitely exciting to see, as it gave me a better idea of who she was.
3. Precis: This is the summary of notes taken at the time of the child's admission. I found this to be extremely useful. It provided details of the family's history, from the time that my great-grandparents met, until the time that my grandmother and her sister were admitted. From the précis, I was able to determine many other family members' names (i.e. my grandmother's grandparents, aunts, and uncles) and residences at the time of admission. It gave me a good understanding of the circumstances that resulted in my grandmother being admitted to Barnardo Homes. I was also able to determine my great-grandfather's cause of death. The précis

indicated that my great-grandmother signed the "Canada Clause", granting permission for the children to immigrate to Canada.

4. **Record Book Entries:** This is the record book maintained on the child during the time spent in care in England. It includes notes on visitation from family members. From these entries, I was able to find not only information on the times that the children were visited by their mother, but also the fact that my great-grandmother remarried. I was able to determine her new married name. I also received clues as to the general health of Catherine while she was in care in England. The record book also contained comments made by my great-grandmother to the caregivers about her concerns and opinions on the care being provided.

5. **Record Card:** The record card indicates the admission date, date of birth, various placements while in England, and details of my grandmother's emigration from England to Canada.

6. **Notes:** Once the children arrived in Canada and were placed in homes here, Barnardo Homes continued to follow up on the children. The representatives visiting the homes kept notes about what transpired. A wealth of information was available to me from this source. Physical descriptions were observed, as were comments about how well she was doing at school. Behavioral issues (favorable and unfavorable) were noted, giving me insight into my grandmother's personality at various ages. Names and locations of the homes were noted, as well as why she was relocated to a different home at different times. I was also fortunate enough to find a note in 1909 indicating that contact had been made by my great-grandmother, asking about her daughters. This particular note was extremely useful, because it made reference to my great-grandmother being in "N.S.W." – or New South Wales, Australia – my first clue as to what happened to her.

7. **Correspondence:** Copies of various letters, from about 1913 through 1928, from representatives at Barnardo Homes to Catherine were provided in the package. This was interesting. References were made to the war and other current events. Information was provided to Catherine at this time as to the last known whereabouts of her family (although no mention was made of Australia). I was, however, puzzled, that copies of Barnardo Homes responses were made available, but not copies of the letters written by my grandmother to Barnardo Homes.

The package that I received from Barnardo Homes one year ago has been invaluable to me. It enabled me to get a glimpse into my grandmother's personality and physical traits. I was able to find out the names of her parents and their family members. I determined how it was that Catherine and her sister came to be at Barnardo Homes. I also received many clues as to what became of Catherine's mother after Catherine's admission to Barnardo Homes. These clues eventually lead me to tracing my great-grandmother and her later descendants, including many who are now living in Australia.

Based on my experience, I would highly recommend that anyone interested in researching their own "British Home Child" invest the money necessary to get information from the orphanage. It was probably the best \$200 that I have spent.§

More Websites of Interest *Submitted by Elsie Henry*

This site is unique in that it reports the latest news in family history research. This includes pertinent news stories (eg. double-decking graves in the UK) and new databases. <http://www.genealogyintime.com/index.html>

Land titles office for Saskatchewan, call 1-866-275-4721 and ask for historical area.

Register for account with credit card. Unblock pop ups just for account number & client number, then you can put pop ups back on. \$10 each owner up to present or they will do an historical search for \$100.00 per hour, maximum \$100.

<http://www.isc.ca/>

Our Roots: Canada's Local Histories Online, includes digitized directories of Western Canadian cities. Keyword search: directory. <http://www.ourroots.ca>

British Columbia city directories 1860-1901 <http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/bccd/index.php>

Toronto Historicity: Toronto then and now. Toronto Public Library Includes digitized copies of Town of York and Toronto city directories, 1797-1881, 1882-1900 will be added. <http://historicity.torontopubliclibrary.ca/webHTY/index.jsp>

NEW MATERIAL IN SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

Submitted by Georgiana Chartier

- GB/IRE I189.200 IRISH ROOTS 2009 Issue 71
- EURO/EE E 119 EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST. 2009 Vol. 17 No. 4
- USA/N DAK R 18 RED RIVER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 2009 - April, July
- OTTA O 202.01 OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS 2009 Vol. 42 No. 4
- SK SGS S 221 SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN. 2009 Vol. 40 No. 2
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2009 Vol. 25 No. 9
- D-Day Remembered-Key events and research tips;
Finding Out How The Society Of Genealogists Can help You!;
Expert Advice, Books, Pedigrees, Manuscripts;
1.3 Million maids & more. Domestic service was the largest occupation in 1911;
Free! Census & Parish Records - Monmouth, Somerset & Channel Islands
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2009 Vol. 25 No. 11
- Your Cotton Worker Families;
Making Australian Connections;
How to Trace World War II Ancestors: Army, Navy, RAF & POWs;
Fascinating Lives of Our Pauper Ancestors;
Free Census & Parish Records-Anglesey, Warwickshire & Prestbury, Cheshire
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2009 Vol. 25 No. 12
- Your Ancestors In The War;
70 Years on World War II Remembered
- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots 2009-07 July/Aug.
- Your Genealogy: a Cautionary Tale;
New York Criminal Records;
Keeping up With the Smiths;
Aboriginal Research; Family Reunion Recharge!;
Parish Records in England
- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots 2009-09 Sept/Oct.
- Recession Proof Your Research;
Find Relatives: Write a Book! The Roots of a Story;
Arriving in New York;
Preserving WWII Veteran Stories;
Sourcing Your Sources
- ONT O 71.19 OGS NEWSLEAF 2009 Vol. XXXIX No. 3
- CAN D 6 DISCOVERING FAMILY HISTORY. A Guide to Exploring Your Genealogy 2009-07 July/August
- 35 Top Sites for Scottish Research;
Arpents, Hogsheads & Firkins ... Oh My!;
Genealogy on a Budget;
NARA Field Branches; Parish Vestry Records
- CAN D 6 DISCOVERING FAMILY HISTORY. A Guide to Exploring Your Genealogy 2009-09 Sept/Oct.
- Dating Old Photographs; Intro to Civil War Research;
A Dozen websites to Bookmark;
Deciphering Old Handwriting;
Evaluating Sources

(Continued on page 8)

GB/IRE I 189.200	IRISH ROOTS 2009 Issue No. 70 Trace Your Ancestors Through Passenger List Research; 1911 Census records for Belfast City; Serving Genealogy at the Guinness Archives; Eccentric Ireland Uncovered; Familysearch.org Database Reviewed
MAN M 514.14	MENNONITE HISTORIAN. 2009 Vol. XXXV No. 2
ONT F 1.139	Families OGS Newsletter 2009 Vol. 48 No. 3 First Nations Research: Regaining Status For the descendants of William Nanigishkung; Black Roots in the Family; Lost and Found: The Identification of a Canadian 'Missing After Action' WWI Soldier; The Baker-Cober Cemetery on Dufferin Street; The life of James Worthington, Chelsea Pensioner
CAN M 1	MARIE-ANNIE. The Extraordinary Life of Louis Riel's Grandmother By Maggie Siggins 2008. Donated by Mavis and Ernie Wall
PERTH/COUN/ON P3	PERTH COUNTY PROFILES. Newsletter of the Perth County Branch OGS 2009 Vol. 27 No.3
HURON/COUN/ON H 3	HURON COUNTY BRANCH OGS. Newsletter of Huron County OGS 2009-08 Aug.
BC O 18	THE OKANAGAN RESEARCHER, Newsletter of the Kelowna and District Genealogical Society 2009 Vol. 25 No. 4
SAULT/STE MARIE/ON S 3	SAULT CHANNELS. Sault Ste. Marie & District Branch OGS Newsletter 2009 Vol. 27 No. 3
LETH/ALTA Y6	YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS. Lethbridge and District Branch AGS Newsletter 2009 Vol. 26 No. 2
BC A 20	Ances Tree. Newsletter of the Namaimo Family History Society 2009 Vol. 30 No. 2
QUINTE/ON N19	THE NEW SEARCHLIGHT. Quinte Branch 2009 Vol. 4 Issue 2 the 18th Branch of the OGS
QUINTE/ON N19	THE NEW SEARCHLIGHT. Quinte Branch 2009 Vol. 4 Issue 3
GEN G 25	GOOGLE YOUR FAMILY TREE. Unlock The Hidden Power of Google Daniel M. Lynch. 2008
ONTARIO FAM/COM H 25	THE HERITAGE YEARS. A HISTORY OF STIRLING AND DISTRICT.STIRLING, RAWDON, SIDNEY, THURLOW, HUNTINGDON Vol. 1. 125TH Anniversary 1983 History of Town & Townships; Organizations, Churches & Sports; Memories, Family Histories, Pictures; Reprint Plus Names Index
ONTARIO FAM/COM H 25	THE HERITAGE YEARS. A HISTORY OF STIRLING AND DISTRICT.STIRLING, RAWDON, SIDNEY, THURLOW, HUNTINGDON Vol. 2. 150TH Anniversary. 2008 All New Information; Maps, Legends & Incidents; Home Children & War Brides; Agricultural Museum, Golf & Flying Clubs; Updates & New Family Histories; Memories, Pictures, Names Index

The Life of a Distinguished Irish-Canadian

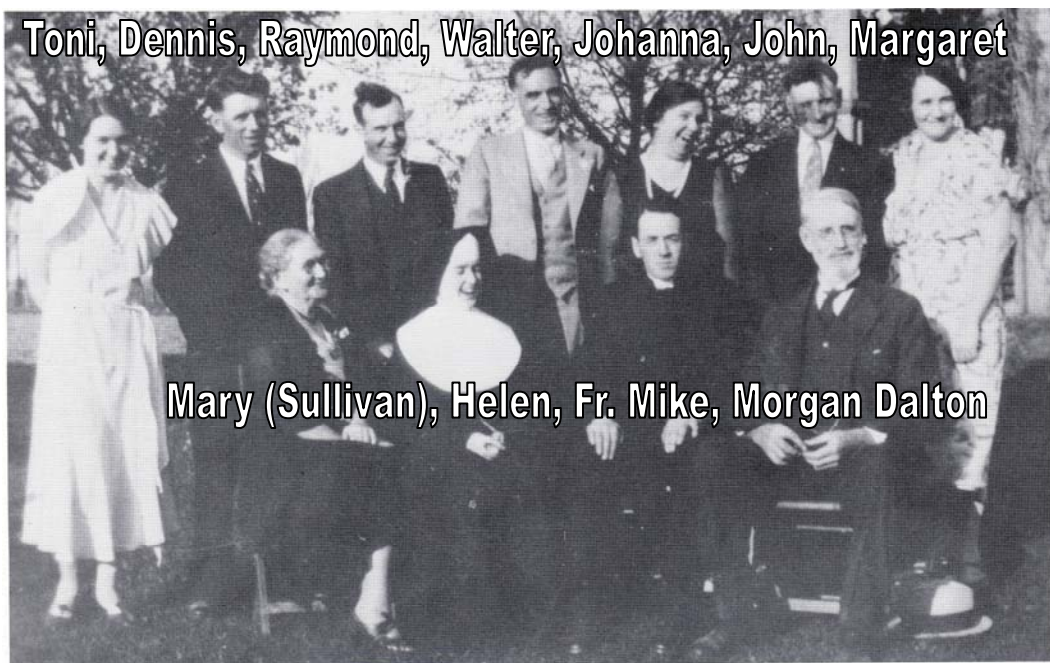
Submitted by René Stock

April 6, 2009 marked the end of the earthly life of Retired Major Reverend Father Michael Joseph Dalton M.B.E., twenty-nine days short of his 107th birthday.

Fr. Mike's grandfather, Maurice Dalton, born 1809, had emigrated from Bromore West, County Kerry, Ireland in the early 1840's. He was the youngest child of Maurice Dalton (1745-1812), by a relationship with Mary Riddle, following the death of the elder Maurice's wife. He had 7 half-siblings; the next older was John Cornelius Dalton, who also emigrated to West Ashfield Township in Huron County about 1847 with 10 children. Maurice met another County Kerry native, Margaret King, daughter of Morgan King and Julia Lane, at Buffalo, New York. The couple married in 1841 at London, Ontario, after Maurice and his groomsman Philip Austin walked there from Ashfield township, a distance of about 75 miles. To this couple were born 10 children, four of whom died tragically at very young ages. Maurice chaired the first Township meeting at Port Albert on January 3, 1842, and was the first Reeve. He became the first Assessor of Huron and Bruce Counties, as well as enumerating a number of the earliest census.



Margaret (King) & Maurice Dalton



Toni, Dennis, Raymond, Walter, Johanna, John, Margaret

Mary (Sullivan), Helen, Fr. Mike, Morgan Dalton

Fr. Mike's father was Morgan Dalton, the 8th child, born in 1857. In 1889 Morgan purchased a farm in West Ashfield, and married Mary Johanna Sullivan, daughter of John and Johanna (Desmond) Sullivan. Fr. Mike was the 7th of the 11 children of this family, born May 5, 1902. The parish of St. Joseph near Kingsbridge was the family's church. Many of the parish's youth went on to religious vocations, including quite a number of Fr. Mike's cousins as well as his sister Helen. After attending Assumption College in Windsor, and

University of Western Ontario and St. Peter's Seminary in London, on May 28, 1932 Fr. Mike was ordained to the priesthood in London. Six months later he was to administer the last rites to his mother on her deathbed. He served as assistant at Holy Name of Mary church in Windsor, and at St. Alphonsus church, also in Windsor.

At the outbreak of World War II, Fr. Mike enlisted as a Chaplain with the Windsor Essex Scottish Regiment, 4th Brigade. The Battalion was stationed in England, and was involved with most of the offensives launched into the European theatre. When asked why he joined, his response was that "the very kids I gave First Communion to were headed off to war; I had to go with them". It is said that "he marched at the front lines with his fellow soldiers, often carrying their weapons when they tired of battle."

Marty Gervais, a reporter with the Windsor Star, having met Fr. Mike in the mid 1990's, vowed to write about him on each of his birthdays after his 100th. He writes,

If there was anything he didn't like, it was losing those fathers and sons to war. He had sensed their inner fears. It didn't matter if the orders were to stay clear of the front lines – he listened instead to his own heart, and drove his jeep to the brink of battle. And he would sit there in the open jeep – its windshield festooned with flowers – and hear the laboured, disturbed confessions of terrified soldiers.

Or sometimes he would join a soldier on a road to a battle and try to ease their woes and lift their spirits.

Somehow Father Dalton believed he was invincible. He said he feared nothing. He figured he had a purpose, a reason to be. He felt lucky. He felt destined and blessed for some higher purpose. How else, he asked, do you explain how twice his truck was hit with shrapnel, and men died all around him?

"I didn't have a scratch. I couldn't even get a cold," he said.

And sometimes he was so lost in the reverie of saying mass on the hood of his jeep that he would suddenly turn to give a blessing, "and there was no one there ... I was all alone. The soldiers had jumped for cover, and shrapnel was flying everywhere. I hadn't heard a thing."

Rev. Matthew George, a longtime friend of Father Dalton, in hearing of his death, said the biggest regret of this priest's life was discovering too late the botched Dieppe invasion. "He had been at a chaplain's meeting and when he found out, he wanted to be put ashore, but they wouldn't let him.

"He cared about those men – and never forgot them," said George.

Of 558 soldiers from the regiment who hit the beach at the 1943 Dieppe invasion, only 44 returned. Although Fr. Mike wasn't part of the landing, he had the job of writing to soldiers' families, notifying them of their deaths. When troops were on the move, he would attempt to relieve their distress by leading them in song.

Fr. Mike attained the rank of Major. He was awarded the Military Cross for bravery, and on 02 Jun 1943 was presented the **Most Excellent Order of the British Empire** by King George VI in Buckingham Palace. Fr. Mike dug into his pocket and handed the monarch a Catholic religious medal! This was the first ever M.B.E. to be awarded to a Catholic priest. Even after the Honoured M.B.E. designation, the most decorated War Chaplain ever



continued to refuse orders to stay behind the advancement of the troops. He felt it imperative to support and console the soldiers even under adverse and dangerous condition. He gave the injured, dying and dead the last rites near the battlefield. He would transform the hood of his jeep into a makeshift altar to offer mass and consolation to hundreds of soldiers near the front. He met and spoke briefly to Charles De Gaulle, leader of the Free French government in exile during the war. He kept a daily account of his observations in a war diary.

Following the war in 1947, he was named Pastor of the Most Precious

Blood church in Windsor, where he spearheaded the building of a new church building and rectory. Other postings were to St. John's church in Woodslee near Windsor, and St. John de Brebeuf at Kingsville. He retired in 1970 from full ministry, but continued to serve as chaplain to the Sacred Heart Sisters in Courtland, near

Tillsonburg.

In 1957 the Historical Branch of the Knights of Columbus awarded Fr. Mike the Order of Alhambra on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of ordination. He was the only living recipient of this Order, all others being conferred on deceased members.

Father Dalton stressed church attendance, family worship, the parish as a community, and devotion to Mary. Father Dalton focused on problems and expected his flock to work with him to find answers. He emphasized the need for unity to build the Church in Christ.

At his parishes, Fr. Mike acted to strengthen the Christian community. He reinstated the Altar Society, the Usher's Club, and the Catholic Women's League, and formed the Boy Scouts and the Legion of Mary. He advocated the rosary prayer and was responsible in inviting Father Patrick Peyton, the famous rosary priest to come to Most Precious Blood Parish to conduct a rosary crusade. Visiting parish families occupied much of his time. Mission and retreats also took priority. He considered missions to be important and used loudspeakers on the streets to announce missions. In 1951, he invited the people to pray for world peace as part of Bishop Cody's Holy Year Mission Crusade of Prayer and Sacrifice.

Marty Gervais describes the man thus: "(he) had a twinkle in those slate-grey eyes and a wit and a humour that bubbled out in the stories he spun for me. He loved to talk. He loved people. He loved life. He loved God. He loved being a soldier. He loved being a priest."

Reflecting on his life as a priest, Fr. Mike estimated that he baptized 400 babies, married 40 couples, buried 50 bodies, visited 4,000 homes and served communion to more than 5,000 people. He accomplished all this, as well as being a war hero, a war diarist, and - well into his 80's, 90's and centenary - a survivor laden with inspirational stories.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Fr. Mike. He was a second cousin of my Grandmother Jane (Hussey) Stock, a granddaughter of John Cornelius Dalton. Marty Gervais' descriptors "twinkle", "wit", and "humour" are personality traits that the two had in common.

Fr. Mike also has the distinction of being the longest lived member of all 13,000+ interconnected persons in my genealogy database, at 106 years, 336 days.



Standing - Fr. Tom O'Keefe - Fr. Cyril O'Keefe -
Fr. Donnellan
Seated - Father Mike Dalton



**Ret. Major Most Rev. (Monsignor) Fr. Michael Joseph Morgan Dalton, M.B.E.
1902–2007**

Book Reviews

THE HERITAGE YEARS - A History of Stirling and District, Vol. 1. 125th Anniversary 1983

As the name states this is the history of the village of Stirling, ("just a few miles north of Lake Ontario") and the surrounding townships of Radon, Sidney, Thurlow and Huntingdon in Hastings County. It describes how the area was settled, first by the "Algonkian tribes - the Hurons and Iroquois" then by the United Empire Loyalists and the sons and daughters of the Loyalists. It contains many family names and their histories with pictures and maps. The index contains 52 pages of names.

Review submitted by Mary Hudson

THE HERITAGE YEARS - A History of Stirling and District, Vol. 2. 150th Anniversary 2008

This book is the 2008 updated history of Stirling Ontario and area. Stirling is located just north of Bellville Ontario. The book is filled with photos of the churches, schools, homes, businesses, families & maps of the area along with their stories.

There are a couple of stories like the Thomas Jessop murder on page 116 that could qualify as a cold case as well as an attempted murder on page 121.

There is a section on treasured memories that is very interesting. The book is well written and it is indexed so if you have a particular family in the area it is easy to locate them.

Review submitted by Elsie Henry

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