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Fall 2010 Edition

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday October 21, 2010 regular meeting:
Topic: Rita Smith from the Heritage Rug Hookers of Saskatoon—traditional rug hooking dates back to the time of the early settlers. Rita will explain this old art and demonstrate how your ancestors used their cloth scraps to make creative rugs for cold floors. She will bring examples and tell us about contemporary rug hooking which is not necessarily just about rugs!.

Thursday November 18, 2010 regular meeting:
Topic: Sheila Schmutz will discuss the ins and outs of using Y-DNA in your genealogical research.

Thursday December 9, 2010
Pot Luck Supper

This Edition's Coordinating Editor is Bonnie Lymer

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 5:00 - 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.sksgs.tk>

Library Website: <http://www.sbsgs.org/index.html>

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Saskatoon, SK S7S 1M7

MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER INFO

Branch membership fees are \$20.00/ year. 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 \$40.00 (regular rate) or \$50.00 (value-added 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.

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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 Eleanor Ritchie

In September we normally "return" to fall activities. Given that we had such an unusual summer, it's unclear what that means. However, some members of our branch started out by attending the annual Genealogy Conference in Yorkton, jointly sponsored by the Yorkton Branch, the SGS and the Manitoba Genealogical Society.

The theme, Crossing Borders: Immigration and Migration, was ably addressed by sessions on Canadian Migration Patterns, Immigration to Canada and the

Provinces, and Canada, the Promised Land. Other sessions included the Mobile Métis, The Geography of Genealogy, the Home Children, Eastern European Migration, Preserving Family Stories, Genealogical Services at the Library & Archives Canada, Discovering Family Treasures in Quebec, and Hudson Bay Archives and Fur Trade.

The Keynote speaker, Colleen Fitzgerald, a Forensic Genealogist, gave four extremely interesting presentations on the use of mT DNA to do genealogy research and use of photographs in dating events. This is but a brief overview of the conference, but it was very interesting and stimulating.

The hospitality of the Yorkton Branch was superb and included not only good food but an interesting tour of local attractions: the Western Development Museum, St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Orkney School and Church. The conference was well balanced in terms of interest to a group of genealogists with diverse interests and nicely segues into our Symposium in April 2011.

EDITOR'S REPORT Bonnie Lymer

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a great summer, in-between the rain, and managed to stay dry.

We have some great articles appearing in this issue, including some of the highlights of the Genealogy Conference in Yorkton, and an article on the trends in English forenames.

We have a busy year ahead of us, with our own conference coming up in the spring, as well as the Heritage Festival in February. In the next few months, we hope to bring you updated information on those two events in this publication. Please keep in mind that in order for these events to be successful, we need the support of our membership.

If you have any comments or insight that you would like to share, regarding any of this month's articles or any totally unrelated topics, please contact us! We would love to include your views in future newsletters.

2010 - SEPTEMBER - NEW MATERIAL IN THE SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2009 Vol. 26 No. 02
 - Tracing Family Before Parish Registers
 - Searchable 30 Years Early - the 1939 National Register
- EURO/EE E 119 EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST 2009 - Vol.18 No. 1
- HUR R 151.5 ROOTING AROUND HURON. The Huron County Branch OGS 2009 Vol. 30 No. 4
- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots 2010-01 Jan/Feb
 - Family Bibles - We Show You How Your Research Can Benefit.
 - Island of the Dead: Research Records of New York's Most Notorious Isle.
- WELL/ON T 20 TRACES & TRACKS. Newsletter of the Wellington County Branch OGS 2009 Vol. 9 No. 2
- GB/IRE I 189.200 IRISH ROOTS 2009 No. 72
 - DNA Testing - Solving Mysteries and Uniting Families
- CAN D 6 DISCOVERING FAMILY HISTORY. A Guide to Exploring Your Genealogy 2010-01 Jan/Feb
 - Picasso in the Family Tree.
 - find Your Artistic Ancestors.
 - Irish Family History Foundation.
 - Family History for the Young'uns.
 - Find and Understand Wills.
 - Genealogy for Youth.
- ND/USA R 18 RED RIVER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 2009-10 October
- SK SGS S 221 SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN 2009 Vol. 40 No. 4
- SK SGS A 18 SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC. Annual Report 2008
- FAM/COM D 13 DUNDURN MEMORIES. Dundurn and District History Committee. 1982
- GB F 114 FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2010 Vol. 26 No. 03
- MAN M 514.14 MENNONITE HISTORIAN 2009 Vol. XXXV No. 4
- ONT F 1.139 FAMILIES OGS Newsletter 2009 Vol. 48 No. 4
- OTTA O 202.01 OTTAWA BRANCH NEWS. Ottawa Branch of OGS 2010 Vol.43 No. 1
- CAN D 6 DISCOVERING FAMILY HISTORY. A Guide to Exploring Your Genealogy 2010 - Mar/Apr.
 - Civil War Photography and Your Research.
 - Every family photo has a story to tell!
 - Autopsy of a Death Record.
 - One of genealogy's best sources of info!
 - Clues Cleaned From a Marriage Certificate
 - Your ancestors' nuptials can help your research.
 - Blog your family history.
- CAN F .113 FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots 2010- Mar/Apr
 - Natural Disasters and Your Genealogy.
 - How Nature's Wrath Affected Your Ancestors' Lives -
 - 22 Tips for German Research.
 - Your research will thank you!
 - Getting the Most Out of City Directories.
- ONT O 71.19 OGS NEWSLEAF. 2010 - Volume 40, No.1

2010 - SEPTEMBER - NEW MATERIAL IN THE SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

ONT I 16	IRISH PALATINES OGS NEWSLETTER 2010 - March
ON HUR R 1	ROOTING AROUND HURON. The Huron County Branch OGS. 2010 - Vol.31, No. 1
WELL/ON T 20	TRACES & TRACTS. Wellington County Branch OGS 2010 Vol.9 No.3
EURO/EE E 119	EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST 2010 - Vol.18 No.2 - "Forest Guards" in the Podlasie and Masovia Regions. - From the Słownik Geograficzny: Translations of - Entries for Selected Towns and Villages in the Lodz and Piotrkow Areas.
SK R 133	RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF COLONSAY NO.342 West of Second Meridian. Torchinsky Consulting Ltd. 1985
SK R 133	RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CORMAN PARK NO. 344 West of Third Meridian. 2002
SK R 137	RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRANT NO.372 Torchinsky Consulting Ltd. 1995
SK R 1318	RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF RUDY NO. 284 West of Third Meridian. 2003
MAN M 514.14	MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Published by the Mennonite Heritage Centre and the Centre for MB
BC G 181.16	GRAPEVINES. Newsletter from the South Okanagan Genealogical Society.
OTTAWA/ON O 7	THE OTTAWA GENEALOGIST. A Publication of the Ottawa Branch OGS 2010 Vol 43 No 2
GB F 114	FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2010 Vol.26 No 5
GEN A	ANCESTRY 2008-Nov/Dec; 2009-Nov/Dec
GB W 4	WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? Family History Brought to Life.
GB A 6	ANCESTORS. Family history With The Experts 2008- Jan., Feb., Nov.
GB F 8	FAMILY HISTORY MONTHLY
GB F 114	FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE 2009- Vol. 25 No.14
GB P 6	PRACTICAL FAMILY HISTORY
GB Y 6	YOUR FAMILY HISTORY 2007 - Nov.-Issue 57 2008 - March/Issue 61, Sept./Issue 68
USA/GEN F 6	FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE F&W Publications, Inc. Cincinnati, Ohio. 2000-Vol.1, Issue 5 2001-Vol.2- Issue 3 2002-Vol.3, Issue 4 2003-Vol.4, Issue 1,3,4,5,6. Winter, Yearbook 2004-Vol.5, Issue 1,2,3,4,5,6. 2005-Vol.6, Issue 1,3,4,5,6. 2006-Vol.7, Issue 1,2,3,4,5,6. 2007-Vol.8, Issue 1,2,3,4,5. 2008-Vol.9, Issue 1,2,3,4,5,6.

2010 - SEPTEMBER - NEW MATERIAL IN THE SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

SK S 130.514	SASKATCHEWAN MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Official Periodical of the Saskatchewan Mennonite Historical Society 2000-Vol. V - No.3. 2001-Vol. VI- No.2,3. 2003-Vol. IX- No.1. 2004-Vol. X- No.1,2. 2005-Vol. XI- No.2. 2006-Vol. XII- No.1,3. 2007-Vol. XII-1,Vol.XIII-2,3.
USA/NORTH DAKOTA R 18	RED RIVER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, Serving The Red River Valley Of The North Region Of North Dakota And Minnesota
SK SGS S 221	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN.
QUE C 151	CONNECTIONS. Quebec Family History Society. 1994 - Vol.16,Issue 3,Vol.17,Issue 1,2. 1995 - Vol.18,Issue 1 1996 - Vol.18,Issue 4. 1997 - Vol.19,Issue 3,4. 1998 - Vol.20,Issue 3 1999 - Vol.21,Issue 4,Vol.22,Issue 1. 2000 - Vol.22,Issue 3 2002 - Vol.24,Issue 3 2003 - Vol.26,Issue 2 2004 - Vol.26,Issue 4 2005 - Vol.27,Issue 3,4. 2006 - Vol.28,Issue 3,4 2007 - Vol.29,Issue 3, Vol/30,Issue 1
GB F 114	Family Tree Magazine 2010 - Vol. 26, No. 6
SK SGS S 1900.98	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR S 1993 Annual Seminar. Regina Branch
WELL/ON T 20	TRACES & TRACTS. Newsletter of the Wellington county Branch OGS. 2010 - Vol.10,No.1
OTTAWA/ON 07	THE OTTAWA GENEALOGIST. A Publication of the Ottawa Branch OGS 2010-Vol.43-No.3
ONT O 71.19	OGS NEWSLEAF. 2010 - Volume 40,No. 2
ONT I 16	IRISH PALINTINES OGS NEWSLETTER 2010- April.
ONT F 1.139	Families OGS Newsletter 2010 Volume 49,No.2
CAN F .113	FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots. 2010-May/June
PERTH/COU/ON P 3	PERTH COUNTY PROFILES. Newsletter of the Perth Branch OGS 2010 - Vol. 28, No.1.
CD CAN/SASK S 14	SBSGS NEWSLETTER-2003-2004 Arm Chair Genealogist
CD ENG/GB M 25	MAP YOUR ANCESTORS AND THEIR MIGRATIONS FAMILY HISTORY World Place Advisor (For Family Tree Maker) Edinburgh Maps and Guides C 1900-1935 Black's Guide to Warwickshire
GEN I 19	IN SEARCH OF OUR ANCESTORS 101 Inspiring Stories of Serendipity and Connection in Rediscovering Our Family History. Megan Smolenyak 2000.
GEN C 97 CGRS.1997	COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO GENEALOGY,THE Christine Rose,CG,CGL,FASG & Kay Germain
GEN C 97.7	COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO ONLINE GENEALOGY,THE Rhonda McClure 2000.

2010 - SEPTEMBER - NEW MATERIAL IN THE SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

QUE F 1	LES FAMILIES ANCIL EN AMERIQUE. Jean-Marie Ancil, Mathilde Hudon et Leur Descendance. 1996. Volume 1 Volume 2
KENT/ENG/GB A12	ALPHA LIST OF FREEMEN OF KENT ENGLAND
GEN I 7	INTERNET GENEALOGY. Researching Your Family Roots Online 2006 - May,July,Sept.,Nov. 2007 - Jan.,March,May,July,Sept.,Nov. 2008 - Jan.,March,Sept.
GB F 114	FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE
S 130.514	Periodical of the Saskatchewan Mennonite Historical Society 2004-2006
ONT F 1.139	Families OGS Newsletter 2010 Volume 49, No. 3
EURO/EE E 119	EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST. 2010 - Vol.18 No. 3. MENNONITE HISTORIAN. Published by the Mennonite Heritage Centre and the Centre for MB studies in Canada 2010 – Vol. XXXVI , No.2.
PERTH/COU/ON P 3	PERTH COUNTY PROFILES. Newsletter of the Perth Branch OGS 2010 - Vol.28, No. 3
GEN A	ANCESTRY The Family History Source from Ancestry.com 2000-VOL.18,NO.3,4,5,6 2001-VOL.19,NO.1,2. 2003-VOL.21,NO.1,2,3,4,5,6. 2008-VOL.26.NO.1,2,3,4,5.
USA/GEN E 6	EVERTON'S FAMILY HISTORY MAGAZINE 2002- Jan/Feb.,March/April,May/June,
EURO/GER G 5.181	GERMAN GENEALOGICAL DIGEST 2000 - Vol. 16, No.1
USA/NEW ENGLAND N	NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL REGISTER,THE 2000 - Vol.154 - Jan,April
ORVERDAHL-LARSON FAM OR/LAR	OVERDAHL LARSON FAMILY 1)INTRO 2)MUNTHE 3)OVREDAHL BIBLIO 4)LARSON FAMILY
CAN F .113	FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots. 2010- July/Aug,Sept/Oct
OTTAWA/ON O7	THE OTTAWA GENEALOGIST. A Publication of the Ottawa Branch OGS 2010-Vol.43-No.4.
WELL/ON T 20 HURON COUNTY ON	TRACES & TRACTS. Newsletter of the Wellington county Branch OGS 2010 - Vol.10,No.2 ROOTING AROUND HURON. The Huron County Branch OGS.2010 - Vol.31, No.2
ONT O 71.19	OGS NEWSLEAF 2010 – Volume 40,No.3
ONT I 16	IRISH PALINTINES OGS NEWSLETTER 2010-June
EURO/EE E 119	EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGIST 2010 - Vol.18 No.4

2010 - SEPTEMBER - NEW MATERIAL IN THE SASKATOON BRANCH SGS LIBRARY

BRANT COUNTY/ON S 3	SURROGATE COURT INDEX OF ONTARIO,CANADA 1859 -1900 VOLUME 20 BRANT COUNTY
VICTORIA/ON S 3	SURROGATE COURT INDEX OF ONTARIO,CANADA 1859-1900, VOLUME 21 VICTORIA COUNTY
CAN/ONT H 1 5	HISTORICAL ATLAS OF ELGIN COUNTY ILLUSTRATED BY H.R.PAGE & CO. 1877
CAN T 1312	TULIPS AND MAPLE LEAVES IN 2010 Perspectives on 65 Years of Dutch-Canadian Relation. Edited by Conny Steenman Marcusse & Christl Verduyn. 2010
SK U 1118.03	UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS, SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL <u>BICHUK/VISNYK</u> . 2009-Vol.XXIII,No.4 2010-Vol.XXIV,No.1
CAN F .113	FAMILY CHRONICLE. The Magazine For Families Researching Their Roots 2010- July/Aug.
SK SGS S 221	SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN 2010 - Volume 41,No.2
USA/MA M 6	MAYFLOWER FAMILIES IN PROGRESS. George Soule of The Mayflower and His Descendants for Four Generations. Published by The General Society of Mayflower Descendants 1992
USA/MA M 17	THE MAYFAIR QUARTERLY. The General Society of Mayfair Descendants 2008-Vol. 74,No. 2,3 2009-Vol.74,No.2
QUE C 12	QUEBEC 1851 CENSUS OF LACHUTE -ST. ANDREWS GRENVILLE - HARRINGTON - THE GORE. Lesley A. Gill & Shirley E. Gill. 1992
QUE S 1	SAINT ANDREWS EAST. PROTESTANT CEMETERY. Argenteuil County, Quebec. transcribed by:Suzanne Lerossignol & Pennie Redmile.1990-1991
USA/GEN O 17	OUR QUAKER ANCESTORS. Finding Them in Quaker Records Ellen Thomas Berry & David Allen Berry.1990
USA/IL N 17	NEWS QUARTERLY. McDonough County Genealogical Society. 2000 - Vol.XXI,No.1,2,3,4. 2001 - Vol.XXII,No.1,2,3,4. 2002 - Vol.XXIII,No.1
GB/SCOT A 14	ABERDEEN & NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY 2000 - Journal No. 75,76,77. 2001 - Journal NO. 78,79,80,81. 2002 - Journal No. 82,83,84,85. 2003 - Journal No. 86,87,88,89. 2004 - Journal No. 90,91,92,93

A sharp-eyed detective in our midst Eleanor Ritchie

At the recent conference Crossing Borders in Yorkton, Colleen Fitzgerald , the keynote Speaker, presented a mystery picture to the assembly for further identification of when the picture was taken. The subject picture was of a man sitting on a dead horse. This photo has been the subject of intense scrutiny to establish when it was taken, by whom it was taken, and why is a man in a top hat sitting on a dead horse. As of September 2010, the dates and the times have been narrowed down as the best possibilities to Aug 10, 1873 or 1879.

See the story at: http://www.forensicgenealogy.info/images/a_dead_horse_of_a_different_color_corrected.pdf

Susan Leach spotted a tree in full leaf that had not been noticed before and that helped narrow the time frame to the August date. Congratulations to Susan for her exceptional observational skills. Colleen was very excited, to say the least, with this added clue.

TRENDS IN ENGLISH FORENAMES

Warren Steck

Douglas Galbi (2002) reports that in 1510, "John", "Thomas" and "William" together accounted for half of all men's forenames all over England; most of the other half was comprised of the five names "Edward", "Henry", "Ralph", "Richard" and "Robert". The dominance of John and William began before 1300 and endured well into the 1900s. These remain popular names today, but now the top ten most popular English names together account for under 20% of all men's names. Yes, we really do have many more forenames in use today than in earlier times. On the women's side, around 1510 the four most popular names - Mary, Ann, Elizabeth and Margaret - made up more than half of all female christenings. Today they together account for barely 10%.

Why did the popularity of the leading names decline, following centuries of stability? The first wave of naming novelties arrived in the mid-1600s, when Quakers and other sects began to give their children forenames based on words plucked from the Bible. We meet Cotton MATHER and his son Increase MATHER; Makepeace SMITH; Mercy WILLIAMS and Praise-God BAREBONE. The 1600s also saw the rise of "Charles" and "James" as names - the English readily adopted royal forenames - and in the 1700s one finds many more men named "George" and more women named "Caroline". Yet, some popular old names lost ground in the 1700s: "Joan"; "Geoffery", "Walter" and "Stephen".

Just before 1800 there began a fashion - it became especially notable in the United States - for Old Testament names, resulting in Abraham LINCOLN, Noah WEBSTER, Jesse COOPER, Aaron BURR, Isaac WATTS, Jeremiah RAWLINGS, Hiram WALKER, etc. In England the Industrial Revolution with its attendant urbanization and general social disruption made many minor regional names more popular - for example "Alban", "Benjamin", "Charlotte", "Daniel", "Dorothy", "Mark" and "Rowland". After 1850, new secular forenames appeared at a rapid rate, and a few old mediaeval names - such as "Alice", "Allyson", "Bertha", "Ethel", "Herbert", "Hugh", "Roderick" and "Walter" - returned to fashion for a time. For males, "Albert" became very popular in England, because it was the Prince Consort's name; "Wesley" became a popular Methodist forename, "Calvin" a popular Presbyterian one; and regal "Arthur" and "Alfred" enjoyed a brief fashion. "Victoria" and "Victor" were common names of the period 1850-1900. Some names proliferated briefly around 1880 for no apparent reason: "Annabel", "Emma", "Ellen", "Frederick", "Gertrude", "Louise", "Pamela", "Roger", "Rose". Many foreign names entered into English usage as the British Empire expanded and outlooks became "globalized". Some popular Scottish names (for example "Alexander", "Donald", "Isabella" and "Hugh") entered the English repertory easily in the 1800s, yet others such as "Angus", "Ian", "Malcolm" and "Murdoch" have retained their distinctive Scottish associations right down to the present.

After 1880 the average family size plummeted in both Britain and the United States. With fewer forenames required per family, choices became more important, and there was a tendency to seek "uniqueness". Because children were increasingly given "new" names rather than older traditional names, the so-called British "naming system" - in which first sons took their fathers' forenames, and so forth, according to traditional rules - gradually broke down. The fate of "John" deserves mention in that context. In 1510 it was the name of one-quarter of English males. In the 1600s this slipped to one-fifth. By 1825 it had slipped further to one-eighth and the slide accelerated after that. By 1994, "John" was the name of fewer than one Englishman in a hundred.

After 1920, forenames grew increasingly whimsical, bringing us the likes of "Anwar", "Brett", "Dillon", "Duff", "Dwight", "Farley", "Grant", "Jason", "Lucian", "Marvin", "Omar", "Rafi", "Sterling" and "Warne" for men; and "Arliss", "Breanna", "Doralynn", "Fern", "Jessica", "Marci", "Melody", "Natalie", "Suelynn", "Twyla", "Venus" and "Zoe" for women. The list seems endless. The use even of ill-starred names like "Cassandra", "Etsel", "Jezebel", "Tristan" or "Uriah" is part of this modern whimsy, a fad which is still with us. Probably those who choose these last names are ignorant of their baleful connotations.

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Some people today believe that traditional "old-fashioned" forenames are making a comeback. That may be so, but statistics do not yet provide much evidence. In 1994 the most common forename (3.5% of the population) in Britain was "Jack", not as a short form of "John" but as a name in itself. Some old names - John, William, Mary – may well be regaining popularity, but it seems certain that the vast numbers of forenames now in use will preclude any return to times when a handful of well-worn names served the majority of the population.

Reference : Douglas A. Galbi (2002) : Long-Term Trends in Personal Given Name Frequencies in the UK.

A study published online at <http://www.galbithink.org/names.htm> [Galbi is a Senior Economist at the U.S. Federal Communications Commission. The references cited in his data-rich online study are further relevant reading for the topic of changes in name patterns over time.]

Announcement

Congratulations to the Stocks on becoming grandparents for the first time, to grandson Matthew James Stock.

How exciting to welcome a new family member and to add a new name to the Stock Family Tree. Best wishes to the new family as well from all the genealogists at the Saskatoon Branch.

How I Spent my Summer Vacation or No Room in the Inn

Bev Gutenberg

A rule of thumb to follow is for a trip to or through North Dakota, is always make reservations. I, unfortunately, did not follow that rule on a recent trip to the Germans from Russia International Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota, this past July. Therein begins my tale!

After a successful and interesting conference last year in Rapid City, South Dakota I planned for a whole year to attend the conference in Bismarck, North Dakota this summer. I pursued a fellow German from Russia genealogist and friend, Adeline Sanoy, from North Battleford to attend with me. We made our reservations early and paid our registration fees. We were prepared.

Adeline came the day before we left and we got on the road about 9 AM, 20 July, a day before the festivities began. My plan was to leave a day early and go to Orrin, North Dakota on the way to Bismarck and try to find my great grandfather's grave. He had died at the age of 48 in Valley City, ND of appendicitis and pneumonia. I thought he might be buried in the old Orrin Cemetery where his mother was buried. The trip went well and even though we wasted some time en route we arrived in Minot about 6 PM our time. I had forgotten my camera but a quick stop at Best Buy solved that problem and we were soon "tombstone ready". We went to a hotel hoping to register but were told that there were no rooms available in Minot at all. The State Fair was scheduled to begin the following weekend. We were told to go to Bismarck or a smaller centre east of Minot.

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Because Bismarck is only an hour or so south of Minot, we decided to continue on and we could visit Orrin from there. After an uneventful drive we found The Ramkota, the hotel where we were registered the next night and went in to get a room. There wasn't one vacant in the whole of Bismarck! The girl at the registration desk suggested we go to Minot. When Adeline came in I shook my head and we sat in the lobby and giggled. Eventually the hotel staff came to see if we were all right. We decided to go to the car and survey our options. It was getting on to 9:30 Bismarck time and even as we tried to search the streets for a hotel or even a restaurant, there were none available so we returned to the Ramkota and hunkered down for the night in our car.

Unfortunately the adventure didn't end there. We were parked in a well lighted place in front of the hotel. The lights were keeping us awake so I decided to move to a more secluded spot on the right of the hotel. Unfortunately, nature called and I drove over to the main entrance of the hotel to use the facilities and when we returned our parking space was taken so I found another with only one light to disturb our slumber. I was just putting a small quilt on the window to hide the offending light when I became aware of person lurking outside my window. I screamed and tooted my horn and tried to put my car in reverse but I guess I was too unnerved to be successful. The lurker then pressed his face on the backseat window and stared at us. I finally got my car in reverse and as we were leaving he hid by the front of the next car and then he had the nerve to come out and shake his head in disgust at us. We were some scared, let me tell you! I returned to my well lit parking spot in front of the hotel and we tried to sleep, bright lights and all. We were both awake by 5:00 AM and joined the first customers at the breakfast bar at a nearby restaurant.

After breakfast we registered for the conference, I met a few friends from the previous year, had lunch with three of them and finally got into our hotel room about 3 PM and after showers we crashed for a couple of hours. The next three days were filled with conference activities which much to my delight included Canadian content. I was privileged to introduce a long time correspondent via the Kutschorgan listserv, Bob Ell, whose roots reach back to St. Joseph's Colony just as do mine. He gave two workshops: Obituaries - A Vital Research Tool and St. Joseph's Colony. I also attended the workshop of a third cousin and second cousin's husband, Eugene Frison, regarding the German folks who emigrated from the Alsace Lorraine region of Germany/France. I finally got to meet him and his wife, Deanna (Hoffart), my second cousin for the first time. The workshops were interesting and educational. One workshop was a review of the EWZ's (Einwandererzentralstelle) - the records created by the Nazi's in order to ensure everyone was of pure German, not Jewish, descent. Anna Fisher from Medicine Hat, Alberta spoke of her experiences growing up under the communist régime during Stalin's brutal dictatorship. One of my favourite workshops was one given by Val Wangler regarding the Letters published in Der Staats-Anzeiger, a German language newspaper which printed letters from German Russians in Russia, South America, Canada and many areas of the United States between 1907 and 1945. Val traced his grandfather's return trip to Russia using these records. 16,000 of these letters have been indexed and they are in the process of being translated into English.

On Sunday Adeline and I were followed back to Saskatoon by an American. I told everyone this when I returned home but in truth it was a preplanned event. Mary Marando, who is also a German Russian, hails from a suburb of Chicago, Indiana, also has roots in St. Joseph's Colony. In fact her relatives homesteaded the very land my uncle purchased in the late 1930's and the land where my cousin and his wife now farm near the former community of Broadacres. We went to Orrin on the way and visited the cemeteries there and stopped at Rugby, the Geographic Centre of North America for a photo op.

After I arrived home I did my best to show Mary the facilities offered in Saskatchewan. I took her to the Archives where she was amazed by the information given on the homestead files compared with those in the States; we visited the Local History Room of the Public Library, Woodlawn Cemetery and took a trip out to Tramping Lake to view some of the church registers and to visit my cousin and his wife. A couple of German Russian friends dropped by to visit while Mary was here so my conference activity extended over 2 weeks. Mary left on the following Friday and phoned back later that day to tell me she was in Minot and ... There was no room in the Inn!

The Origins of Thanksgiving

Bonnie Lymer

Contrary to what many believe, the Americans did not invent Thanksgiving, nor is the Canadian version of the holiday identical to the traditional U.S. Thanksgiving.

The first documented celebration of Thanksgiving occurred in Canada in 1578 - 43 years earlier than the first Thanksgiving in Massachusetts. Martin Frobisher, the English navigator, arrived in Newfoundland, after an unsuccessful attempt to find a north passage through North America. He held a formal ceremony, giving thanks for having survived the journey. This is considered by most to be the first "official" Thanksgiving in Canada.

Traditionally, however, Thanksgiving has many other roots. The First Nations of North America traditionally celebrated the end of the harvest, centuries before the arrival of Europeans in North America. This tradition extended to French settlers that came to Canada with Champlain and held huge feasts of thanks, which they shared with their First Nations neighbours.

Thanksgiving is not, however, strictly a North American custom. Europeans had similar traditions, known as harvest festivals, to celebrate the end of a successful harvest. Most of these celebrations occurred in October or November. Some of these celebrations include The Saint Leopold Feast in Austria (November 15) to celebrate the start of the wine season, Oktoberfest in Munich (early October), Festa dell'Uva in Tuscany (September), and St Michael's Mass, or Michaelmas, in England (September 29). The European festivals traditionally included cornucopia, which found its way into the Canadian traditions.

There was some American influence on the Canadian celebration. When American Loyalists supporting the British moved north to Canada after the American Revolution, many of their traditions came with them, and this certainly had some influence on our Thanksgiving.

Officially, it was 1879 before Thanksgiving was made a national holiday in Canada. The date changed several times over the course of the years, and was held in November for some of that time. After World War I, because of the timing of the holiday, it often fell in the same week as Armistice Day. In 1957, the date of Thanksgiving was fixed to the second Monday in October.

Given the uniqueness of the Canadian Thanksgiving over its American counterpart (i.e. the American holiday commemorates the arrival of the Pilgrims in the New World, while the Canadian holiday is more closely linked to the European harvest festivals), it seems logical to have separate dates for the two celebrations, and generally speaking, harvest occurs earlier in Canada than in the USA.

When you sit down to your Thanksgiving dinner this year, remember that despite its influences from other parts of the globe, you are celebrating a unique Canadian holiday, celebrated in this country for well over 400 years.