

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

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Murphy's Genealogical Laws

“Done! Everything in the family tree has been found and is completely organized” –
said no genealogist. Ever!

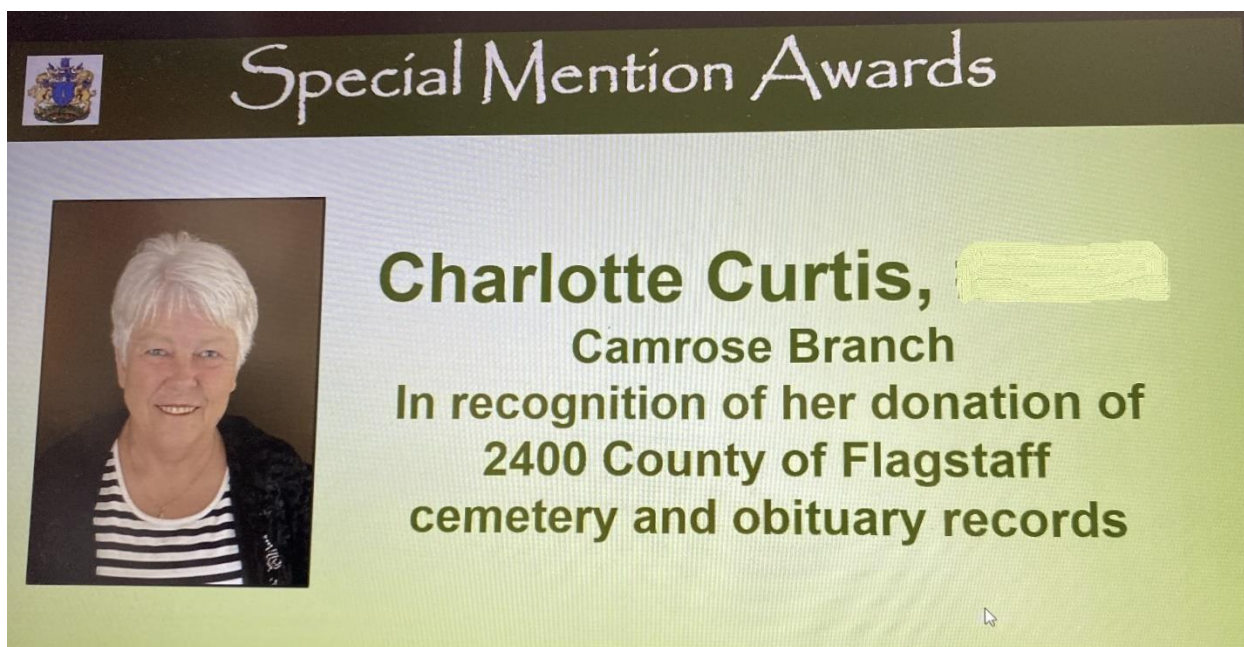
Branch News

Two CGS Members receive Special Mention Awards from AGS at AGM

During the AGS GenFair 2021 AGM, which was hosted virtually this year by Wetaskiwin Branch, our own Camrose Branch President Deb Trout was awarded a Special Mention Award for her work on taking on the website calendar and Zoom bookings. Deb has served as both Secretary and President for Camrose Genealogical Society. She takes particular interest in our workshops, which we present twice a year at our local Camrose Public Library. Deb has worked for years on her own Family Tree, and has told our group many interesting stories.



Congratulations, Deb and Charlotte!



Charlotte Curtis, Camrose Branch member, was also recognized with a Special Mention Award. Charlotte has collected 2400 cemetery and obituary records from Flagstaff County, Alberta newspapers, and entered and organized those records into a database which she then donated to the Alberta Genealogical Society. Charlotte says "The database is comprised of the deceased's Name, Death, Birth, Age at death, Cemetery interred/inurned in, Town Location of the cemetery, Parent's Names of deceased, Spouse/Partner Name. A new last column identifies that the death occurred during the Covid-19 restrictions." Charlotte joined Camrose Branch in 2018 and faithfully attends our meetings, even though she has to drive from out of town.

Editor's note: for further information, see Charlotte's article in our Camrose Branch newsletter "Roots and Shoots", May 2021, Volume 18, No. 2 under the title "My Obituary Obsession".



"You have to use Geography to do Genealogy" – Dave Obee, Dave@CanGenealogy.com

Upcoming Events

Gathering of the Clans in Sedgewick, AB – Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021. This from their webpage:

“The Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival (GOTCHF, pronounced like “gotch” but with an “f” sound added on at the end) is a public event hosted annually in Sedgewick, Alberta. The day includes highland festivities, such as highland dancing, a petting zoo, artisan and food vendors (and Scotch whiskey!) and local breweries. The day concludes with a pig-roast supper and a Ceilidh (dance) (pronounced kay-lee) performed by the band Cabot’s Crossing. In 2019 (pre-Covid) they had over 900 people in attendance, along with 5 Clan tents, 6 Demonstrators, 9 Alcohol and Food Vendors, 15 Forms of Entertainment, 31 Tents in the Vendor Village, and more.” Editor’s note: this is always a fun event. Try it this year!

Camrose Branch Summer Social – Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021 – 2 p.m. - Valleyview Cemetery Tour guided by Vice President Janine Carroll – Potluck snacks following the Tour. Bring your beverage of choice and a lawn chair. If the day is extremely hot, umbrellas come in handy!

CGS Monthly Meetings begin again in September. Watch for an email from President Deb with details.....dependent on Covid rules from Alberta Health Services regarding public meetings.

Gathering of the Clans Aug 24, 2019

Before Covid hit, some of us attended the Gathering of the Clans in 2019. Held in Sedgewick annually, this is a must-see event. Here are some pictures that I took, as Newsletter Editor, at the 2019 Clan Gathering.



Camrose Branch had a table at the Gathering in 2019. Pictured are CGS President Deb Trout and her daughter. I think Deb’s granddaughter Irish was in the back of the tent, checking out the lunch snacks! Unfortunately, no one is available to man a table at this year’s upcoming

**Gathering of the Clans,
scheduled for this Saturday, Aug. 21st in Sedgewick.**



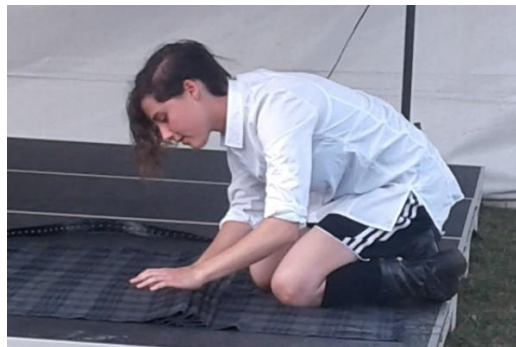
One of the many Scottish Clan bands in 2019 at Sedgewick, AB



Some Clan flags – Clan Hay, Clan McNicol, Clan MacPherson and others



Clan performers, only too happy to pose for me! Merlin, the Magician, on the right



This young lady demonstrated the way to fold the tartan to make a wearable kilt. The kilt is worn in many ways, as well as being used for a blanket on a chilly Scottish night.



Young Scottish dancers in costume, with help from a little audience fan



Of course, there was a stone-throwing competition, both male and female competitors. That's the marker standing in the sand. There was also someone nearby with a tape measure in case of a close toss.

CGS Ghost Walk June 24, 2021

Hosted by Janine Carroll, the Ghost Lady and CGS VP



Janine “introducing” our downtown Camrose ghosts



Camrose Cemetery 1907-1920
Located just outside of Camrose on Hwy 833/53 Street



CGS member and Librarian Bev Webster trying to transcribe (with his fingers) the inscription on a broken gravestone



Our “Ghost Lady” kept Camrose Branch members entertained!

Genealogy Gleanings

Contributed by CGGS President Deb Trout

1. Genealogy in Action!!! see attached
2. How to Use Podcasts for (Better) Genealogy Research from Family Tree Magazine
<http://enews.familytreemagazine.com/>
3. Unusual Occupations from Family Tree (UK)
<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/unusual-occupations-of-the-last-150-years>
4. Canadian Resources from Family Tree (UK) These are geared toward British researchers but are good reminders for all of us
<https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/how-to-find-your-canada-ancestors/>
5. Creating a Genealogy Binder from Family Tree Magazine
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/organization/how-to-make-family-history-binder/>
6. 10 Key Italian Genealogy Resources from Family Tree Magazine
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/italian/a-little-italy>
7. Alberta Homestead Records are on Internet Archives from Finding Your Canadian Story
This blog tells you where to find them and how to access them. And access is FREE versus Ancestry
<https://findingyourcanadianstory.ca/2021/07/04/alberta-ancestors-homestead-records-on-internet-archive>

>> NEWS

> TORONTO UNSOLVED

Did slain cabbie inform on bootleggers?

Relative haunted by photo believes he's uncovered what got his great uncle murdered in 1917

PETER EDWARDS
STAFF REPORTER

The uneasy feeling started decades ago when Joe Lapello was tidying up his parents' basement and he opened a shoebox full of family photos. He found himself staring at a face that looked much like his own. It was his great uncle Carmine from a century ago, who drove a cab in Toronto's downtown when he was murdered.

The photo brought back painful memories to Joe's father, who remembered playing with Carmine every weekend. Joe's dad was only seven years old when he was lifted up to Carmine's coffin to say a last goodbye.

Carmine Lapello's body was found by the road in Etobicoke's Humber Bay neighbourhood on the morning of July 20, 1917. He had been stabbed 14 times. He was just 20 years old.

When Joe, now 67, became an adult, he set out to try to make sense of the murder.

In time, he started to think he could perhaps even solve it.

Obviously, it was far too late to bring the killer to justice, but Joe hoped his search would do something about his uneasy feeling.

Joe's journey into his family mystery took him into city and provincial archives and online genealogy sites. It also included meeting with the Etobicoke Historical Society, a handwriting expert and a troubled elderly man who worked with Joe's great uncle in the downtown taxi business.

Joe's investigation also pulled him into a study of the Ward, a long-vanished downtown neighbourhood, which was framed by College and Queen streets, and Yonge Street and University Avenue. A century ago, the Ward was Toronto's worst slum, and tightly tied to the bootlegging empire of mobster Rocco Perri and his equally criminal common-law wife, Bessie Starkman.

Connecting all of those worlds was Carmine Lapello's taxi stand on Toronto Street, by the King Edward Hotel on King Street East.

In time, Joe put down his findings into a self-published book, "Murder Lost to Time: The True Story of One of Canada's



JOE LAPELLO, TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTOS

Toronto taxi driver Carmine Lapello, left, was stabbed to death mysteriously in 1917. Lapello's great nephew says he believes his relative may have ran afoul of notorious Hamilton bootleggers Rocco and Bessie Perri.

Oldest Unsolved Murders.

"I took my great uncle's picture and attached it to my computer's monitor as a reminder of my decision," Joe wrote. "I found his glare acerbic, almost judgmental, but I couldn't bring myself to put the photograph back in its box."

Joe saw physical similarities between himself at 20 and his great uncle at that age. Joe drove a cab, too, for a time in 1975 before working in construction and sales.

At the time of his murder, Carmine was trying to win back his ex-wife, Marguerite, whose primary complaint about him was that he didn't earn enough money.

Everything Joe discovered supported the belief that Carmine was drawn into the early Toronto underworld because he was madly, dangerously in love.

Carmine's obsession with Marguerite was all-consuming and, eventually, unlawful. "(S)he was practically forced to marry him as he threatened he would drink acid if she didn't accept his proposal," Joe writes. When another man became interested in Marguerite, Carmine tried to chase him away by posing as an agent of the "Black Hand," an early group of extortionists.

In 1916, as his marriage crumbled, Carmine was broke.

A year later, he had rebounded dramatically, buying two taxi cabs, a few ruby rings, a brass bed and a gold hunter's watch. It was a suspiciously large amount of money for a young downtown Toronto cabbie.

"I was sure ... that Carmine was earning money from another source," Joe writes.

So what happened?

In 1916 the Ontario Temperance Act was passed, making the consumption of alcohol illegal everywhere except in private residences. Alcohol could only be commercially manufactured in Ontario if it was for export.

Suddenly, Toronto residents were consumed with a desire to visit "tea rooms," code for speakeasies where alcohol could be illegally consumed. An especially high number of tea rooms dotted the Humber Bay area, where Carmine Lapello's body was found. It was on the western outskirts of the city of Toronto, where tea room owners hoped to avoid the prying eyes of Toronto authorities.

Joe's research brought him to the Archives of Ontario. It was there that he managed to get a copy of the only remaining police report on the case.

Joe also checked the Toronto City Archives, which led him to a stack of court records on flimsy onionskin paper.

It was while studying this six-inch stack of papers that Joe experienced a eureka moment.

He learned that his great uncle Carmine had been hit with two criminal charges in May 1917 — two months before his murder — for something called "I.S.A."

Then the criminal charges seemed to vanish, and Carmine was back in his cab. At first, Joe had no clue what "I.S.A." meant.

Further research showed it stood for "Illegal Shipping of Alcohol".

"This meant Carmine had been working for bootleggers, delivering their illegal alcohol using his taxi cabs," Joe concluded.

But Carmine wasn't worried about the law.

He cared only about reuniting with Marguerite.

"What did it matter to him that the source of his extra needed income was illegal, if it got him the chance to get his beloved ex-wife back?" Joe writes.

To keep making money and improve his chances with Marguerite, Carmine had to stay out of jail.

He apparently became what was known as a "spotter." Bootleggers hated "spotters," people in the illegal booze trade who passed on information to police for lighter treatment or money.

"Carmine was arrested twice in 1916 for illegal shipping of alcohol, and I believe the police talked him into being a spotter or informant to have the charges again him dropped," Joe said in an email.

In May 1917, there was a major bust at High Park that would have driven the bootleggers to hunt down "spotters" in their ranks.

On July 13, 1917, there was another big bust in High Park on Rowland Place that cost bootleggers more than \$10,000 in illegal alcohol.

There was a strong chance that that booze was the property of Rocco Perri and Bessie Starkman of Hamilton, Canada's top bootleggers, since they were the top suppliers of alcohol for the GTA's many "tea rooms."

If the Perri gang believed Carmine was a spotter, they had a couple of possible choices.

They could permanently silence Carmine or endure more busts, and possibly even return to life in the Ward.

It wasn't much of a choice.

It took Joe a couple of years of research to reach this conclusion. He reasons he has taken his probe as far as he can and he has no plans to write a followup book.

It's far too late for the justice system to deal with Bessie Starkman.

She was shot to death in her mansion on Bay Street South in Hamilton on August 13, 1930. Her murder was also never officially solved.

Rocco took a walk from his Hamilton home in 1944 to clear a headache and never returned.

Queries

Submitted by Camrose Branch member Donna Tindall

Donna's mother-in-law said this "cookie Jar" was brought over from Ireland in 1925 by her grandparents. Donna's son was only 4 years old when his paternal grandmother passed away. She left the cookie jar to him. Donna and her husband gave it to their son at Christmas time after his marriage.

"Does anyone know more about it? Was it really a cookie jar? It has gold around the flowers. How I can find out more about it? It was very precious to my mother-in-law, and very pretty."



The letters on the bottom of the silver lid are difficult to read. This is what the current owner thinks they are:
H&HEPNS

Also, there are 4 numbers on the bottom of the cookie jar: 328...the last number looks like a 4.

Contact Donna at dtindall@cciwireless.ca



Gravestones in St. John's Cemetery, Stewarttown, Ontario

Editor's note: I took a picture of this peaceful scene in June 2014 when visiting Conley and Standish relatives in Ontario.

A cousin gracefully hosted my visit to all the local cemeteries where my ancestors are buried.
I have Standish ancestors buried in this cemetery.

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