



CAMROSE BRANCH ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ROOTS AND SHOOTS
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NEW! CAMROSE BRANCH WEBSITE: www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com

Murphy’s Genealogical Laws

I should have asked them BEFORE they died!

NEWS FLASH!!!

Camrose Branch has its own website now!
Thanks to CGS member & Webmaster Deb Trout

Here's the link:
www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com

Upcoming Events

Sept. 14, 2017 - Regular meeting – Topic: TBA

Oct. 12, 2017 – Regular meeting – Topic: “Using Land Records” – Presenter Rosella Peterman – Rosella’s Bio follows:

“We used to live in Edmonton and I was a member of the branch there. At one of the “Finding Your Family Tree” courses I presented a power point segment on the use of land records. I worked for many years in a Legal Land Surveyor’s office so have gathered experience and history of many land records and have used homestead records, etc. to round out the information for my own family research. I feel the information, thus gathered, can give a peek into some of the struggles and achievements our ancestors made.”

Nov. 9, 2017 – Regular meeting – Topic: TBA

Dec. 14, 2017 – Regular meeting – Topic: TBA

Tidbits

LAC (Library and Archives Canada) has Ships Lists of Passengers. Here’s a link to help you get started:

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/Pages/introduction.aspx>



CPR Station
Photo courtesy Camrose and District Centennial Museum

Branch News

Spring Workshop
June 3, 2017
11 – 3 p.m.
Presenter: John Althouse



CGS member John Althouse made 2 presentations: “Introducing Genealogy and Family History to Children and Youth in Classrooms and Other Group Settings, Principles, Activities and Other Ideas” and “What They Don’t Tell You on Ancestry.com and Who Do You Think You Are”. The event was free of charge and open to all. After the morning presentation, we enjoyed our “Bring your own Lunch”.

John has brought presentations to our workshops in the past. He is very knowledgeable regarding genealogy, and as a retired school teacher, knows how to hold an audience’s attention.

John’s “What they don’t tell you...” segment was not a criticism of either Ancestry or Who Do You Think You Are. He merely pointed out that not all information is available on Ancestry...and that the TV program WDYTYA takes many hours to put together (approximately 600 hours from beginning to end product), and makes searching for your ancestors seem easy. John’s point: “It’s not as easy as it looks...”



The 1st part of John’s presentation was titled “Introducing Genealogy and Family History to Children or Youth”. Heather Howe brought her son Evan. He looks very attentive. Sitting next to Evan is Wendy Roth; Trish Eklund is on Heather’s left.

One of John’s statements was “Genealogy societies will teach you how to fish, not give you the fish. Become a student of genealogy”.

Camrose Genealogical Society
at Bashaw Cemetery

We have been asked by the Town of Bashaw to transcribe and update their Cemetery records. The updated records will be put on the Town of Bashaw website, which will be a great help to long distance genealogists.

We started on Friday July 28, 2017, arriving at the Cemetery gates about 10 a.m.



After studying the Plot Map located there, we began to transcribe and photograph the stones. Deb Trout and her granddaughter Irysh, Alora Nelson, Bev Webster, Joan Conley and Janine Carroll attended. It was fun to watch Deb's granddaughter running around, snapping pictures of all the stones. Apparently, Irysh loves to go to cemeteries and museums, not unlike her grandma and the rest of us!



Alora, being an experienced recorder of cemeteries, came well prepared with a cart to carry all the supplies needed to clean around stones in preparation for reading and photographing!



We also brought sunscreen, bug spray, hats, bottled water and a lunch. Here's Bev and Janine enjoying a hunger-satisfying moment in the shade. Thank you to the family who erected the restful benches and stone patio. The two statues are beautiful!



Of course, there are other needs when “working” in a cemetery...Joan found this structure very handy!



All in a day’s work, they say...
until next time...

REMEMBRANCE DAY
Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017



Located in the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, this monument reads “In Memory of all Canadian Veterans of Ukrainian Origin Who Served in the Armed Forces of Canada”. The inscriptions on the left are carved in Ukrainian, English and French. The carved words beneath the soldier read “We Shall Remember Them” in English and Ukrainian.

Each year, the Village holds a “Celebration of Spring”. This year, it was held on May 22nd. A friend and I attended, visited all the sites and enjoyed delicious Ukrainian food! Located just 25 minutes east of Edmonton, it was an enjoyable drive from Camrose.

On the right, the monument reads:

“Dedicated on June 14th, 1986
By The
Royal Canadian Legion
Norwood Branch # 178, Edmonton, Alberta

Ukrainian Canadian Veterans Branch # 141
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Philip Konoval V.C. Branch # 360
Toronto, Ontario
Mazeppa Branch # 183
Montreal, Quebec

Funded & Erected By
Norwood Branch # 178 Edmonton, Alberta

Ukrainian Canadian Veterans Branch # 141
Winnipeg, Manitoba”

Editor’s Note: the initials “V.C.” indicate “Victorian Cross”.

Celebration of Spring
Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
May 22, 2017



As indicated by the prominence of the Canadian and Ukrainian flags, these young people are very proud of their Ukrainian ancestry, and the Canada where they live, while carrying on such traditions as their dances.



From 12 – 4 p.m., over three hundred dancers performed on the Band Shell Stage at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village on May 22nd.

- Submitted by Joan Conley, Camrose Branch Newsletter Editor
For more info: www.ukrainianvillage.ca or call 780-662-3640

In Search of Harland, Part 1 by John Althouse

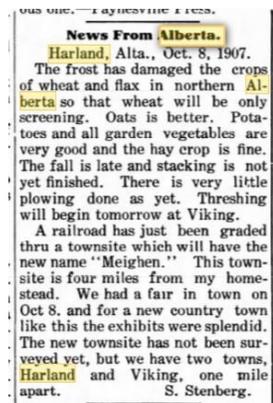
In our modern world, there seems to be increasing expectations that we should receive instant gratification. Essentially, this means here and now, one should receive all he or she wants and needs. As the experienced genealogist realizes this is seldom the case when we research our roots. Genealogical research can be a long, slow, arduous and at times frustrating process often yielding piece-meal results. This is true of most research regardless of type. Fortunate discoveries on the first attempt are exceedingly rare. I have been involved in a personal research project for over 50 years now. This is not a project relating directly to any family in my ancestry nor is about any family at all but may be relevant to history of several families. It is a history of place, a place within the area known to members of Camrose Branch.

My research log for this project begins in 1965 during a period when I was employed at the old Edmonton Public Library not far west of the Hotel Macdonald. As a leisure activity then, I was then collecting post marks from post offices of Alberta, current and past. Knowing that I was doing this, one of my colleagues gave me a gift of a number of old post cards. One bearing the post mark “Harland, Alta.” of these attracted my interest as I could find no reference to it. It did not appear in the book on Alberta post marks that was my sole resource at that time. Shortly after this, I met the author of that book. He had no idea of where the post office of Harland was located let alone that a post office named Harland had ever existed. I checked other available resources, but likewise they yielded little if anything and my time became busy with more weighty matters.



It took four years to come up with the basic identity of the seemingly phantom postmark. The subject of the post card was “Viking, Alberta”. Was it possible that there was a tie between these two communities? In a few minutes of rare spare time, I checked out my theory in the old local history book for Viking. It gave the basics of the story. Initially, there were two post offices/communities in the area: Harland established as a P.O. on March 1st, 1907, and Viking established as a P.O. (post office) on August 1st, 1904. “Harland” had been named after the son of its storekeeper and post master Basil Hilliker. A third area post office was established as Gilpin on August 1st, 1904 but only remained in operation until October 30th, 1916 when rural mail delivery was introduced in its area.

In 1908, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway built its main line through the area. It passed between the two existing places. The railway set up a townsite along the rail line and named it Meighen.



The two merchant/post masters in the outlying areas quickly realized the economic advantages that the town site along a major rail line offered and moved their entire operations to that site where they operated separately for a time. So, as a result, there was a place with three different names, two post offices, and two commercial areas. This was not a desirable situation, and I am certain likely led to a certain amount of confusion.

The situation was resolved fairly quickly. The name Meighen soon was abandoned. Finally, it was decided that the place name Viking would be used for the composite settlement and the name Harland would be abandoned. However, Harland did not lose out totally here as the Post Master for the Viking P.O. became Mr. Hilliker, the former owner of the Harland store and post master there. He held the position of post master in Viking until his death on June 12th, 1932. He also became a leading merchant in Viking. So now, I had the basic data about Harland, but lacked any details about the place itself and life there.



Through the next few decades, I became aware of additional resources that could provide further details and new resources that could help fill in missing details. The searchable database for Canadian Post Office and Post Masters on the Library and Archives Canada website at <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/postal-heritage-philately/post-offices-postmasters/Pages/search.aspx> told me that Harland P.O. then at Section 25, Township 47, Range 13, West of the 4th Meridian had been established on March 1st, 1907 with Mr. Basil Hilliker as its first and only post master. Harland P.O. was closed on October 1st, 1909. It existed in name for two and a half years.

The website also provided additional information on Viking P.O. at Section 18, Township 48, Range 12, West of the 4th Meridian. It was established on July 1st, 1904 with Louis H. Kenepas as its first post master, a position he held until his death in 1908. He was succeeded by J. Kringer who held the post from March 1st, 1908 until October 30th, 1909 when it was closed and the amalgamated Viking post office came into being. Basil Hilliker held the role of post master until his death on June 6th, 1932. The position was taken briefly for about a year by his son, Howard M. Hilliker. It then passed on to Edwin Primett (1933-51), Miss Betty Lou Hockett (acting P.M. for three months in 1951), Howard Verner Gilpin (same name as third early post office) from then to 1958 when he retired, and John Albert Willmer (although some information here appears to be missing). Through local histories, the post office/post master database, and homestead indexes, I was able to piece together basic answers to the question where was Harland, Alberta. So, I had “the Joe Friday” version of the story “the facts and nothing but the facts.”

Over the past six months, I have discovered a number of sources that have provided a great array of detail about the short history of Harland and area. These sources were found in a place far from where a researcher might normally expect to find them; a place where one would not normally search. The second part of this article will examine this later part of my research. So, in the meantime, have patience as any good research including genealogical research can and will take time.

Watch for the continuation of John’s search – in the November 2017 issue of Camrose Branch’s newsletter “*Roots and Shoots*”.

Rest in Peat: Bog Bodies

Posted: 19 Aug 2016 09:10 AM PDT
By Joy Neighbors – Printed with permission

A Peat Bog

For thousands of years, bodies have lain under the mire, waiting for discovery in the murky depths of northwestern Europe's numerous bogs – those wetlands made up of decomposing plant material (peat) that locals cut and dried to heat their homes.

Bog bodies are the well-preserved (including mummified skin, hair and organs still intact) remains of people who usually have died a violent death in the swamplands of such countries as Denmark, the Netherlands, Ireland and Germany. The oldest known bog body dates back to 8000 BCE and consists of the skeletal remains of a female known as Koelbjerg Woman. The oldest well-preserved bog body is called Cashel Man, who dates to 2000 BCE and was discovered in Ireland.

Grauballe Man

Close to 1,000 bodies have been discovered in the world; many subjected to violent deaths and left for the boglands to dispose of. Researchers believe these people were either human sacrifices or criminals punished for their crimes.

Tollund Man

Most bog bodies date from the Iron Age when peat bogs covered a large area of Europe. The most famous bog people of this era include the 2,400-year-old Tollund Man, 2,000-year-old Lindow Man, and 1,500-year-old Grauballe Man. Pre-Roman villagers believed that they could appease, or have favours granted by their gods by tossing possessions, and people in the form of sacrifices, into that slimy black pit. Most of the bodies bear similarities in the manner in which they were bound or staked out to die indicating a ritualistic killing.

Bogs were also used as convenient “killing grounds” for the criminals of a society. Many still wear the ropes used to strangle them, some bear the stab wounds that ended their lives and others show signs of the torture inflicted upon them.

Harald Bluetooth

Bog bodies have also been identified by using the legend and lore of the area. In 1835, Danish ditchdiggers came across the remarkably well-preserved body of a woman who had been staked down and left to die in a place now called Gundhilde's Bog. The swamp was named after a legendary eighth-century Viking queen who, it was said, was on her way to marry Danish king Harald Bluetooth when she was ambushed and drowned. Apparently the legend was true.

The U.S. has its own version of bog people in Florida. These remains are between 5,000 and 8,000 years old and consist only of skeletons; skin and internal organs did not survive in this mire. Windover, Florida is the premier bog site in the U.S. – where in 1982, the excavation of a pond led to the discovery of these American bog people. The remains were found mostly lying on their left sides in a fetal position with their heads aimed toward the west; researchers believe that this may have been a community cemetery bog. Over 160 bodies were unearthed. The dig ended in 1987 with only half of the excavations completed. It is now awaiting a new generation of archaeologist with updated techniques to discover more.

But bog people are not just those who died in the distant past – archeologists have discovered the remains of Russian and German soldiers who fought in Poland along the Eastern Front during WW1. And a WWII Russian pilot whose plane was hit in-flight, crashed into a bog in northern Europe. His remains have been discovered, perfectly preserved for over half a century.

Potter's Field

Years ago, after Dad passed away, I asked my father's sister, my aunt, where my grandfather was buried.

She answered, "In Potter's Field. No one in the family would pay to bury him, so the Town of Brandon buried him in Potter's Field." There was not much love for him in the family. Later, on a cross-Canada trip with my husband, I found my paternal grandfather's unmarked grave in the Brandon Cemetery. Luckily for me, the cemetery caretaker was there that day and he helped me find the grave. Not knowing what "potter's field" meant, I had believed that the grave was somewhere out in a field.

I also have a great-aunt, my maternal grandmother's sister, buried in another cemetery in Manitoba. Fanny was hard to find (in my Family Tree search) since the Town buried her and she also had an unmarked grave. Those were hard times for Fanny and her family and no one had money to give her a proper burial and a gravestone.

So, I was curious about the meaning of Potter's Field, and the beginnings of the name. Here's what I found out:

"Potter's Field" according to Wikipedia is "a burial place for paupers and strangers."

From the website www.word-detective.com, this explanation:

'A "potter's field" is a piece of land used as a burial place for the poor or, in some places, strangers to the community. Most large cities in the world today have a "potter's field." New York City, for instance, has used Hart Island, in Long Island Sound off the eastern edge of the Bronx, for burial of the indigent since the Civil War. Several New York City parks, including Washington Square Park, had previously been used by the city as "potter's fields."

Some people assume that the "potter's field" takes its name from someone named Potter, and occasionally you'll see the term incorrectly capitalized.

But the term "potter's field" comes from the Bible, specifically the Gospel of Matthew. When Judas Iscariot was overcome with remorse for accepting thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus, he returned the coins to the temple. The priests, however, could not accept "blood money" (money used to purchase the death of a person), so they used it to buy land on which to bury the poor and foreigners. The land they bought was rich in clay and had been owned by a pot-maker, so it was known henceforth as "potter's field."

Apart from its use in translations of the Bible, the first appearance of "potter's field" in English dates to 1777 ("I took a walk into the Potter's Field, a burying ground between the new stone prison and the hospital," John Adams). By 1906 the phrase was being used figuratively, as it still is, to mean a place of dishonor and abandonment.' – Quoted from www.word-detective.com

Submitted by Joan Conley, CGS member

HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY, CANADA!

Government of Canada – The Canada 150 Logo

The logo is composed of a series of diamonds, or “celebratory gems”, arranged in the shape of the iconic maple leaf. The four diamonds at the base represent the four original provinces that formed Confederation in 1867; Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Additional diamonds extend out from the base to create nine more points—in total representing the 10 provinces and 3 territories. Created by Ariana Cuvin from Toronto, Ontario, the logo was the winning design in a nation-wide competition.

Source: <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1469537603125>

Click on the link for a picture of the logo.

HELP WANTED!

We need to replace the current Rose Puzzle Logo with a new one for our Newsletter. If you have artistic talents, please submit a Logo to our Editor, Joan Conley at wayjo@telus.net

We would like the theme to embrace both the City of Camrose and Genealogy, if possible.
Decision of the Executive will be final.



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