



Camrose Branch Alberta Genealogical Society

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

May 2018

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Murphy's Genealogical Laws

The 37 volume, sixteen thousand page history of your county of origin
isn't indexed!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 14, 2018 - Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. at Camrose Public Library downstairs –
Topic: DNA Stories

Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 – Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. at Camrose Public Library downstairs –
Topic: TBA

Sat., Sept 15, 2018 - CGS Presentation Open to Public – Camrose Public Library downstairs Meeting Room

Guest Speaker Wayne Shephard – First (1st) presentation will be “**Genealogy and the Little Ice Age**” based on a book written by Wayne. The second topic is to be determined.

Mark the Date and plan to attend!

*** CAMROSE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DOES NOT MEET IN JULY & AUGUST. A SUMMER GET-TOGETHER WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE. ***

Tidbits

Canadian Parliament Votes to Establish British Home Child Day

Gail Dever, [Genealogy à la carte](#)

On Wednesday, February 7th a group of dedicated descendants of British Home Children witnessed Canada’s Members of Parliament vote unanimously to pass the private member motion to declare September 28 of every year, British Home Child Day.

More than 100,000 British home children, from infancy to 18 years of age, were sent to Canada from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales between 1869 and 1948 as home children. Most of these children were used as farm labourers and domestic workers in homes across Canada. A large majority of these children were from orphanages and institutions, while others were children from streets.

**Every family has
one weird
relative.**

**If you don't know
who it is, then
it's probably you.**

My Trip to Grosse Ile Quarantine Station
Sept 2017
Submitted by CGS member Joan Conley

I have always been fascinated with the story of my (Scottish) McDougall family.

The surname changed. In Scotland it was McDougald with a “d”; in Canada the records indicate the spelling of McDougall with an “l” at the end of the surname....not unusual, as we historians know.

Alexander and Mary (Brown) McDougald emigrated to Canada in 1834 with their 6 daughters and Alexander’s mother, Mary (McDiarmid) McDougald. Alexander was born about 1797 in Lower Thillinan on the Isle of Islay (pronounced eye-lah). The island is located in the Inner Hebrides and belongs to Scotland. Mary was also born on the Island but I don’t have an exact birthplace yet. Alexander & Mary were married 18 Feb 1821. Following their marriage, they lived in Tallent on the Isle of Islay. All of their daughters were born on the island. When the family emigrated to Canada, the girls’ ages ranged from 1-year-old Janet to 12-year-old Ann. Alexander & Mary’s 2nd oldest daughter Euphemia (Effie for short) was my 2X great-grandmother who married Archibald Conley.

My friend Barb and I went to the Isle of Islay (Scotland) in Sept of 2015 where we searched and found many McDougald family gravestones...and met some McDougald family members...but that’s another story for another time...

During the years 1830-1834 many immigrants were leaving Europe and the British Isles because of poor living conditions, the Industrial Revolution and political unrest. In 1831 the Asiatic Cholera epidemic raged throughout Europe. 1832 saw the opening of the Quarantine Station on Grosse Ile with the British Army in control, since Canada was a British colony. In 1834 a new Cholera epidemic began, during which time 31,000 immigrants arrived in Canada through the port of Quebec. It was this year that my McDougall family came to Canada.

Barb & I started our trip back East with a 10-day tour of Newfoundland & Labrador. When the tour was over, we flew from St. John’s to Montreal to Quebec City where we stayed for 4 days. There was only one way to get to Grosse Ile from Quebec City. Since neither of us wanted to drive, we took an Uber rental car with driver. We already had our Canada 150 Passes for any Parks Canada facility. They were free to all as Canada celebrated its 150th Birthday in 2017. Grosse Ile is managed by Parks Canada.

We had pre-purchased our Cruise ship tickets for the trip across the St. Lawrence River to Grosse Ile. We prepaid for a picnic lunch with our choice of sandwich, a snack bar, juice & an apple. The lunch with homemade bread was packaged up in an insulated souvenir lunch bag – cost \$5.75 Canadian!

Once we were all on board (it was a large crowd with no seating room left up top...which is where I wanted to be so that I could see everything!), the Captain announced that since there were so few English-speaking tourists on board, we could have a personal tour in the wheelhouse! What a bonus! Front row seats! Maximum occupancy is 106.

It took about ½ hour to reach Grosse Ile, and we were on the island for 4 hours.

The Celtic Cross (pictured below) was erected by The Ancient Order of Hibernians in 1909 to honour the memory of the Irish immigrants who died on the Island. In 1847 nearly 100,000 immigrants (mostly Irish) set sail for Quebec. That year was one of the worst years for diseases.



Grosse Ile and the Irish Memorial – I hoped to find the grave of Alexander and his 8 year old daughter Flora, who also died on the Island.

The island is divided into 3 Sectors – Hotel Sector in the West, Village Sector in the centre and Hospitals Sector at the East end of the Island. The Eastern Wharf, used to disembark the sick, was destroyed by a storm in 1926. Tourists and staff land at the Western Wharf.

The Disinfection Building was used to disinfect clothing, luggage, and the immigrants. Mercury Bichloride was used to disinfect leather, fur & belongings that could not withstand the extreme heat. There were 44 shower stalls, all numbered to correspond with the number on each individual's clothing bag.





Once clothing and bodies were disinfected, a Disinfection Certificate was issued to the immigrant.

There were First, Second and Third Class hotels – yes, the sick immigrant was put in hospital, and the families were housed according to their financial situation!



The Second Class Hotel is bigger than it looks in this picture. The front of the hotel faces the water and there's no real path there, so I had to take the picture from this end.

There were two (2) churches, Anglican and Catholic.



The Anglican Chapel, Grosse Ile, Quebec



The Catholic Chapel, Grosse Ile, Quebec

In 1847, there were twelve (12) shelters known as Lazarettos which were used to house the ill. In 1904, it was decided to convert a room according to the theories of a Danish physician, Dr. Finsen, who asserted that sunlight was dangerous for smallpox sufferers. They were thought to have a better chance of survival and fewer scars if protected from sunlight by means of red filters. The room was painted red, red glass put in the windows, and red bulbs were used in the light sockets.



The Red Room

There was a Guard Post where British soldiers tried to keep the healthy and the sick separated. This was a difficult job since family members wanted to be together, especially if one was about to die.



It was believed that fresh air would help with the healing so windows were often open.

The Irish Cemetery contains the remains of both immigrants and staff members who died of these terrible diseases. Some have crosses, some do not. Mass burials were required at times. Many Irish residents still come to visit their ancestors who are buried on Grosse Ile. One cross had a scarf tied around it, evidence of a recent visit....

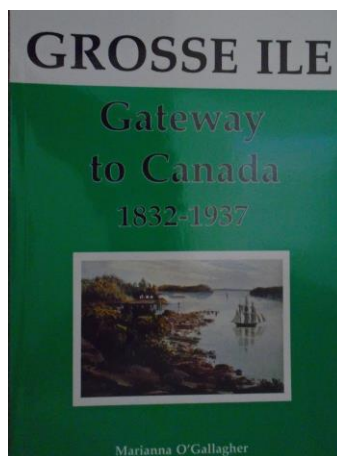
I found my 3x great-grandfather Alexander McDougall on the plexiglass wall located next to the Irish Cemetery. This wall contains the names of those identified who died on the island. Alexander's 8 year old daughter Flora is not named on the wall. I was told that many times when a child died with a parent, he/she was buried with the parent. I could find no record of her death but there are family records indicating that she died on the island with her father.



Our Canada Parks guide stood on the other side of the glass in order to make Alexander's name stand out. There he is – Alexander McDougall, my 3x great-grandfather from Scotland!
Alexander died in 1834 from Typhoid Fever.

While checking out the gift shop, I found this book and bought it just as a souvenir. At home, I found my great-grandfather's records in the book, under "Table No. 2 – Nominal List of persons who died in the Grosse Ile hospital since the 1st of May showing in what manner the property was disposed of". This record is priceless, as is the book which cost \$20 including tax!

Alexander McDougall, age 37, Vessel Name – Stirling Cattle, Sailed from Greenock (Scotland). The family would have had to cross the Sound of Jura, the Sound of Bute, and the Firth of Clyde to get to Greenoch from their home on the Isle of Islay. It takes 5 hours & 16 minutes in light traffic today but it would have been much longer then. They had to travel East before heading out to the Atlantic Ocean and West to Canada. Alexander was admitted on the 8th of August and died on the 24th of Typhus. His property was "Sent to Quebec care of Dr. Morin". (Alexander's family had gone on to Quebec City...)



Family Story: Alexander's mother Mary (nee McDiarmid) McDougald left Port Ellen, Islay, Scotland in 1834 with her son, his wife and 6 grand-daughters. It took at least 6 weeks to cross the Atlantic. When they reached Grosse Ile, Alexander & his daughter Flora were not allowed to leave the Quarantine Station with the rest.

Coming up the St. Lawrence River, the going was very hard, so the men got off the boat and walked along the shore so that the boat would be lighter with only the women & children on board. Alexander's mother was a very strong, healthy woman, so she said that she would walk with the men, but keeping up with the men proved too much for her. She became overheated. When they stopped for a rest, someone gave her a drink of cold water and she dropped dead. They buried her somewhere along the St. Lawrence River. What the men didn't know was that all the family's money was sewn into the lining of her coat!

When the men caught up to the boat, Mary heard that her mother in law had died. She and her 5 little girls went to the farm they were buying at Lot 5, Concession 5, West Caledon Township, Peel County in Ontario. Here she farmed with the help of neighbours, who worked for a share of the crops.

A couple of years later, Capt. Archibald McDougald came to Canada to visit his sister Mary, Mrs. Alexander McArthur, who was a neighbour of Mary (Brown) McDougald.

Archibald was a cousin of my ggg-grandfather Alexander McDougald (who had died on Grosse Ile); he was also the Best Man at Mary & Alexander's wedding. Well, Archibald stayed in Ontario and married Mary in 1842.

Archibald & Mary had 2 more daughters Margaret (born 1844) and Isabelle (born 1846). Margaret was our grandmother." – written by Margaret & Marjorie McLeod.

Margaret and Marjorie McLeod have both passed away, but they corresponded for many years with me, sharing the family history, facts and stories.

Archibald & Mary McDougall are both buried in Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery, Duntroon, Simcoe County, Ontario.





Others Don't Care About Genealogy Like We Do (and We Need to Know That)

Anyone who knows me knows that I am passionate about genealogy. I bet people would say the same about you. Anything that will help us discover our ancestors and preserve their memory, we're all over it.

We've talked here in the newsletter recently about getting others to care. I want to share with you something that happened to me a few days ago.

Last year, I agreed to help a woman find her biological family. Ironically, she wasn't the one who was excited about doing this — it was her daughter who wanted to know, if for no other reason than to find out more about her own family medical history. The woman (who I'll call Joan) had been adopted as a baby. She had a copy of her original birth certificate and has known her biological mother's name for years, but she never felt the desire to look into any further. After seeing how important it was to her daughter, Joan agreed to take a DNA test and gave me a copy of her birth certificate.

"I'm just doing this so my daughter can know more about the medical stuff." Joan really didn't care about her biological family tree.

Over the course of the year, I discovered that Joan's biological mother had herself been adopted. (That added a whole new layer to the puzzle!) As I shared my findings with Joan and her daughter, Joan took in the information, but didn't seem too excited about it.

Then a few days ago, I saw Joan. She came up to me and was so excited to talk about her family history — her biological family history.

"Do you think we can find more about my birth mother's family?"

It was an excitement and a curiosity that hadn't been there before with Joan.

There's a lesson in this for all of us. Not everyone cares about genealogy like we do. Sometimes we make a discovery and we expect those around us to have the same sense of excitement that we do... and we get disappointed when they don't.

But caring about one's family history doesn't always come like a bolt from the sky. Sometimes, it's a quiet whisper that gradually gets loud enough to hear.

If you have someone who you're trying to convince to care about their family history, don't give up. Keep at it. You never know when that whisper will be heard.

Until next time,
Amy

Printed with permission. For more genealogy information, visit www.amyjohnsoncrow.com

GenFair 2018 Camrose Genealogical Society

AGS GenFair 2018 was held at the Masonic Hall, Camrose, AB on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Our theme was “All Roads Lead to Family.”



Newsprint was used as a drawing surface. Four posters were drawn by the local Camrose Library Friday Craft Kids, then the GenFair Committee had a ‘Cut & Paste’ work party to make the other 5. All 9 were hung on the walls.



There were 78 attendees from all over Alberta, including several AGS Branches: Wetaskiwin, Brooks, Grande Prairie, Drayton Valley, Edmonton and AGS.

Camrose Branch table was manned by CGS Librarian Bev Webster who had books for the taking with a donation. Camrose member Fay Carlson occupied a table looking for new Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) descendants.

One of the Vendors was Steven Brese who has started a new business. He films a member of the family (usually an elder) who talks about his/her history and tells family stories. Check out the link: www.legacyfilms.ca

“Shop the Hound” was also there with mouse scanners, Flip File, etc. These are very popular with those of us who have already purchased them.

The 2018 AGS GenFair was attended by 78 people along with about a dozen others who arrived for the AGM. There were several Branch displays, books, magazines and periodicals to sell or give away.

Our two (2) presenters were very well received.

Glynys Hohmann, from the Provincial Archives of Alberta delivered a talk titled: “Hatched Matched & Dispatched”

Rosella Peterman, retired Land Title Searcher spoke about: “Using Land Records in Exploring Your Family Tree”

Members of the Camrose Branch provided snacks and beverages for everyone attending throughout the day.

AGS Membership Committee reported that we signed up 3 new members at GenFair 2018.

Ancestry DNA Kit was won by Camrose Branch member Kim Fischbach. Congratulations, Kim!



**Have a great summer!
Happy Ancestor Hunting!**

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