

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

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Camrose Genealogical Society

Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society

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A birth certificate shows that you were born; a death certificate shows that you have died; a photo album shows that you have lived.

A Wee bit o' the Irish

In September of 2009, two friends and I went to England and Scotland. I planned to go off on my own to Ireland. Since all three of us were going to see our ancestors' homelands, we called our group "The Tree Musketeers".

I was only able to stay 3 days in Ireland, hence the title of my article. I just saw a "wee bit o' the Irish"...

From London to Edinburgh to Oban to Glasgow, where I said goodbye to my friends, stayed overnight in Glasgow, and flew the next morning to Dublin. When I arrived early at the Glasgow Airport, I couldn't find the correct floor for my departure. I found one of the Irish airline desks and inquired, to which the attractive young lady replied, "De Patches, De Patches". I soon figured out that she meant "Departures". This was my first experience with trying to understand Irish dialects. The bus which would take me from the Dublin Airport to Knock, Roscrea in County Tipperary was a 3-hour ride and my new "relation" Sadie was there to greet me. Sadie is the widow of my Standish relative, Molua Standish, but she greeted me like her own. Home we went to a home-cooked steak dinner. Although Sadie asked a friend to bring over some white winner for dinner, she informed me that she "doesn't take the drink". Sadie phoned the current owners of the old Standish Estate (then named "Ballytarsna") to ask if I could see where my Standish ancestors lived. We met Jimmy and Tassie out by the chicken shed, where they entertained us with Standish stories. Sadie had loaned a pair of "wellies" (rubber boots) to me as it had been raining for a few days...not unusual on the Emerald Isle. There's a reason why the grass is so green! Sadie broke off a piece of the Standish stable wall and handed it to me for a remembrance. I said, "I don't think they'll let me take this on the plane..." to which Sadie replied, "Then don't tell 'em." That piece now sits prominently in my computer room, at the corner of a plaque which reads "FAMILY ...The love of a Family is life's greatest blessing". Jimmy and Tassie invited us in for tea. Every door is kept closed to keep the heat in. Jimmy, with a devilish grin, offered a "wee nip" to me, but I laughingly declined. Tea included discussions about religion, politics and the neighbours! - a wonderful visit with new friends...

Next day, Sadie drove me to see the churches that my ancestors attended, and the cemeteries where they are buried. Many of the churches and cemeteries are in ruins, but I took some great pictures of both, plus individual gravestones. Another Standish relative, Molua's sister Oonagh, and husband Paul took us sightseeing one day. Paul did his best to find a thatched cottage and then we visited Cashel Castle. Irish lore has it that the Devil bit a piece out of a mountain nearby (the Devil's Bit), then as he flew by, he accidentally dropped a piece, forming the hill where the Cashel Castle now stands.

At Cashel, following lunch, we went shopping. Oonagh's husband, as he waited outside the shop, said "I don't mind the waiting, it doesn't cost a thing. It's when she calls me in that it costs!" I slept for a few hours at their home, then at 1:30 A.M., Paul drove me to the bus stop in Roscrea for my flight to Glasgow, followed by rail to Hemyock, Devon County, England to reconnect with my friends.

Even though I had only a "wee visit", I had a "Craic"! - that's Irish for "I had an exceedingly good time!"

Submitted by Joan Conley

PEASE PORRIDGE HOT
(an Olde English Mother Goose rhyme)

Pease porridge hot,
Pease porridge cold,
Pease porridge in the pot
Nine days old.



This is a porridge made from peas, often left in the pot over the hearth fire for days. In many English and Scottish cottages during the 16th & 17th centuries, few could afford meat. They based their meals on pease porridge, daily adding peas or whatever vegetables were available. The Irish, on the other hand, would have made do with "neeps and tatties" (turnips and potatoes) - Editor

“Irish” Tidbits

The Irish invented many things. Following are three very important ones:

Sir Hans Sloane of Killyleagh, Co. Down is credited with first mixing chocolate and milk in the 1680s. In the 19th Century, Cadbury began to use Sloane’s recipe, sharing the goodness of chocolate milk with the world.

Humphrey O’Sullivan was a typesetter who immigrated to the United States from Co. Cork. To make his shoes more comfortable, he nailed pieces of a rubber mat to his shoes. Now everyone has heels on their shoes.

John Phillip Howard, a mathematician who immigrated to America in 1873, designed and built six, small submersible boats between 1866 and 1898. The final one was purchased by the US Navy.

You can find the Irish Prison Registers 1790-1924 on the website www.findmypast.ie.

My DAR Genealogy Consultant Course

The Daughters of The American Revolution was formed in Washington, D.C. in 1890. It is a non-profit, non-political women’s volunteer organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. Membership is open to those women who can document their ancestry back to an ancestor, either male or female, who aided the cause of American Independence through military, civil or patriotic service.

In December, 2008, I became a member of The Daughters of The American Revolution and joined the Heritage Chapter in Calgary.

I have been involved with genealogy for many years and was glad to be able to prove my ancestry to this group. My ancestor, Edward Ruggles was a minuteman under Captain Simeon Hazeltine. He marched in the Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775. This is the exact date that the DAR mark as the beginning of Independence for America from the British. My ancestor served 10 days and returned home. The reason they were called minutemen was because they were a group of local men who had to be ready to serve at a minute’s notice.

When I saw that the headquarters of DAR were offering a course in Washington, D.C. for genealogy consultant, I was eager to go. I first registered, paid my fee of \$75 and planned to attend in May 2011. However, health problems forced me to cancel and I attended in October 2011, instead.

We were 42 students from across the U.S.A. I was one of the newest members and the only one from Canada. The rest of the group had positions on their respective chapters, and many of them were registrars of local chapters. We had lessons on how to correctly complete an application for membership in the DAR. Many applications are arriving daily. There have been 1236 applications so far this year. If these are correctly done, the staff at D.C. will be able to complete the process easier.

The DAR building in D.C. occupies a complete block in the downtown area. What an impressive place it is! The library is huge and stocked with every book you could desire. We were given a tour of the building which showed us the period rooms, furnished by the chapters from different states and showcasing the furnishings and styles of different periods in American history. I liked the tavern room, where Ben Franklin could have enjoyed sitting with his friends.

The course I took was from Monday morning to Thursday afternoon. I chose a budget hotel, The Hotel Harrington, because of the price and location.

This is the last time that the Genealogy Consultant course will be offered in Washington, D.C. It will, instead, be given as an online course in 3 parts. We all, as the last class of this type, received our diplomas showing that we had successfully completed it.

The Heritage Chapter in Calgary is classed as an Overseas Chapter and is the only chapter in Alberta. Most members live in Calgary with the rest scattered across the province with a few in B.C. and Sask. The national public website is <http://www.dar.org>. The website has great information to help you get started.

The Heritage Chapter of the D.A.R. was the first organized chapter of the DAR in Canada. It was formed October 7, 1982 with 16 members. Some of those charter members are still active even as executive members. I am now the registrar for the Heritage Chapter and am responsible for submitting the applications for prospective members. The Chapter has different social activities with meetings about 10 times during the year.

If you can prove your ancestry to a male or female who helped with the cause of American Independence, you are invited to apply for membership. My email is cfay@cable-lynx.net and I would be happy to help with any questions regarding membership.

I would recommend a trip to Washington, D.C. There is so much history there. Most museums are free. I did a tour of the monuments by night. It was very moving. The most impressive to me were the Korean Monument and the Capitol Building.

Submitted by Fay Carlson, Past President, Camrose Branch of the A.G.S

This is a photo of the DAR library.



Genealogy Tidbits

Testator – one who makes a will

Executor – one designated to perform specified duties esp. the provisions of a will

F.Y.I.

Camrose Public Library has a new microfilm reader. It was purchased with grant money that CPL received. This reader will be very helpful in our genealogy research. It is located on the lower floor of the library. The librarians will show you where it is, and how to use it.

1921 Canadian Census will be released in 2013; firstly it will be transferred on June 1, 2013 to Library and Archives Canada and open for public use...but placing it online will take some time after June 1st to complete...worth waiting for???! Of course!

Scott's Seven Simple Steps to Genealogy Society Success

(Extracted from Onward to our Past website)

Editor's Note: Being a successful genealogy society can be a problem. I recently received this link from our president. Since it is timely, I have added it to our newsletter. Here are the highlights of Scott Phillips' column:

Scrap the paper! Scott suggests sending your society's newsletter electronically.

Redo your dues! Consider raising your dues in order to have a surplus instead of a shortfall.

Establish an online, electronic presence and start out cheap! (in case of wanting to change later).

Scott suggests a Facebook page or developing a website.

Be interactive! Once you start a website or page, be sure to update and reply to queries. Keep it current.

Ask your membership! Members always have opinions and good ideas.

Listen up and respond! Listen, then put those ideas into practice.

Start fundraising beyond dues and start now! Scott states correctly that most organizations have more needs than money. Put those great ideas to use, then review them every year to ensure that your society is meeting its' goals.

To view the complete article, visit www.onwardtoourpast.com/genealogy

Ireland, Irish and I

Having been born in Canada, I was always interested in my Irish roots. It appeared to me that as the Irish people immigrated to North America, they left their Irish culture behind. I knew of Irish stew; I knew of St. Patrick's Day; but what of their culture and what of the history? I took time to visit Ireland and became immersed in the history and folk lore that was told by our tour guide, a history lesson.

I did not go to Ireland in hopes of finding any of my genealogical roots. I knew that the name Sullivan would be a prolific one in Ireland. And my search for the Sullivan name came to an abrupt halt with a John and Betsy in the early 1800's.

On my mother's side the name Wogan was a mystery also. The United States census of 1850 showed both Michael and Elizabeth being Irish. So that was all the information I had on the name Wogan. So I was free to enjoy and experience the Irish countryside.

No wonder it is called the Emerald Isle. As I toured Ireland I found a very beautiful green countryside occasionally wrapped in a thick blanket of fog. The many sites that we visited included quiet harbors, lush green hillsides with ancient burial mounds dotted with sheep at rest. We visited old castles and had an evening of historic music and dance. One evening at a castle we were told we would have to enjoy our supper as in ancient times. That meant no cutlery, but in the end we dined with all the utensils.

Towards the end of the tour we came to a site, St. Kevin's of Glendalough, that was to become a quiet spot in my heart. I sat on a bench beside a brook twinkling in the sun as it gurgled over rocks and with the golden gorse blooming on the edge. The ancient slate church, a round tower of stone, and the nameless memorial stones whispered of history and the quiet peace for those who lay at rest. I could see why the ancient monks had come to this green valley so long ago. I looked deep into the lush valley and all was serene. I wished I had the time to hike into this valley and to explore. That was not to be.

This poem by Thomas Moore called the "Meeting of the Waters" has very special meaning to me. This was the Ireland that I found.

"There is not in this wide world of Valley so sweet
As that veil in whose bosom the bright waters meet
Oh, the last rays of feeling and life must depart,
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart."

When I returned home I began to write a few comments on a handmade calendar. I returned to the photograph of St. Kevin's of Glendalough and thought about my internal experience there. The following piece of poetry came from my heart:

Mending
Valley green
flowers gold
quiet corner
monks of old
spirit soothed
oh, let me stay
to mend my soul
for one more day.

I was at peace in Ireland. A part of heart and soul remains there nestled in that green valley. Ireland, my ancestral home calls me to return one day.

Submitted by Sharon Sullivan-Olsen

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_of_Glendalough

An Irish Blessing
May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

