



CAMROSE BRANCH ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Roots and Shoots April 2013

Table of Contents

Kudos to Members, Branch News, Upcoming Events, FYI, Tidbits	Pages 2 - 3
Murder in Miami <i>Adele Goa</i>	Pages 4 - 7
Black Sheep <i>Joan Conley</i>	Page 8

CGS 2013 Executive

President	Janine Carroll
Past President	Sharon Olsen
Secretary	Adele Goa
Treasurer	Sharon Olsen
Librarian	Bev Webster
Editor	Joan Conley

Meetings – 2nd Thursday of each month excluding July & August-
7:30 p.m. in Camrose Public Library, Irving Room, 4710-50 Ave.
Camrose, Alberta – December is our Christmas Party & Bring a Friend Night

Website: <http://camrose.abgensoc.ca>
E-mail : camrose@abgensoc.ca

Thrift is a wonderful virtue, especially in an ancestor!

Kudos to Members

Thanks to the creative efforts of CGS member and former Newsletter Editor Sharon Sullivan-Olsen, we have a new front page for our newsletter! Sharon has also designed a much-needed letterhead for correspondence. Thank you so much, Sharon! We now have a bright new look to complement our renewed Camrose Genealogical Society mandate: to concentrate on assisting each other and new members in the search for our ancestors!

Branch News

CGS has changed our meeting agenda. Business will now be discussed at quarterly meetings, leaving our monthly meetings to exclusively assist each other and new members with our searches.

We are again extracting birth, marriage and death articles from past issues of local newspaper The Camrose Canadian. This is a continuation of the two volumes we have already published: 1909-1929; 1930-1940. Contact CGS Librarian Bev Webster for information on the above volumes at:

bdweb@cabl-lynx.net

Upcoming Events

April 11, 2013 – CGS monthly meeting, 7:30 pm at Camrose Library, downstairs board room.

Topics: Investigating alternate search engines & Boolean searches; Family tree forms; and Digitizing the Ukrainian records. Discussion will allow participants to raise stumbling blocks so that those who are more versed in genealogical research can help.

April 20-21, 2013 – AGS Conference 2013 being held this year in Edmonton - topics for both beginning and experienced genealogists. For further information, visit <http://abgensoc.ca>

May 9, 2013 – CGS monthly meeting, 7:30 pm at Camrose Library, downstairs board room.

Topics: Guest speaker Librarian Feena Stromberg – Using Inter Library Loans in our research and other Library information; and Cluster Genealogy. Questions and discussion are welcome.

August 9-11, 2013 – Founders Days in Camrose, an annual event honouring our founding fathers – Camrose Genealogical Society will have a table set up to introduce the public to the fascinating hobby of Genealogy. More news to come...

October 19, 2013 – Free Workshop for CGS members and the public, 1 – 4 pm in the Camrose Public Library, downstairs board room. Topic: “Analyzing and Reading Old Photographs” with a guest speaker from the Provincial Archives of Alberta – more news to come...

FYI

www.ancestry.ca now has the UK Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960 – UK to Canada.

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk now has 2.4 million indexed names of Scots in Scottish property records aka Valuation Rolls; includes details about rents and property value; fully searchable by name and address.

100 FREE genealogy sites: http://genealogy.about.com/cs/free_genealogy/a/free_sites.htm

Source: Powell, Kimberley; about.com genealogy; February 23, 2013

<https://www.findmypast.com.au> is creating an Anzac (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Memory Bank. Anzac Day is celebrated annually (this year on 25 April) to honour the Australian and New Zealand veterans who served in WW1 and WW11. Go to the website for free registration and to be notified when the Anzac Memory Bank goes live. If you had an ancestor who served, you can submit stories, pictures, tributes or poems.

While searching for the pronunciation of the word “consanguineous” meaning “second cousin or closer”, I found the website www.howjsay.com. It’s an online “talking dictionary”! - *Editor*

Tidbits

From the Camrose Canadian archives:

June 7, 1928 – “The weed inspector called in the district last week and had farmers sign agreements to have their patches of Canadian Thistle destroyed inside of five days although no human, to our knowledge, has been able to do it in less than one season so far.”

July 19, 1928 – “Beware of all the transients who will be in Camrose for the Camrose fair. There will be many strangers in our town. Make sure that doors and windows are secure. Perhaps leave a light on at night. Do not leave clothes on the line after dark.”

December 20, 1928 – “The services in the church this Christmas season will be in English only.”

Above Submitted by Fay Carlson

“Traditionally, the third fold in a flag-folding ceremony honours and remembers veterans for their sacrifice in defending their country and promoting peace in the world.” www.fold3.com

Queries

Are you stuck in a branch of your family tree??? Submit your queries to wayjo@telus.net and let your fellow genealogists help you! We exchange newsletters with other Alberta and B.C. genealogy societies so your query will reach many. Be sure to include your e-mail address, surname(s) you are searching, locality, and who/what you hope to find.

Editor

Murder in Miami (Miami, Manitoba that is)

An instructor in Edmonton Branch's Beginning Genealogy course in the late 1990s said "You want notorious people in your family tree, because there is always lots of information about them in newspapers, local history books and even in court documents." Silently I scoffed at the notion of finding any "notorious people" in either Wayne's or my family trees.

Wayne's great grandparents were William George Hamilton, aka George, and Sarah Ann Morton. William and Sarah's youngest daughter, Gladys Aileen Hamilton, had compiled A Short History of the William George and Sarah Ann Hamilton Family in 1977 for a local history book and had updated the information for a 1985 Hamilton family reunion. These 5 pages of information proved very helpful when entering the names, birth, marriage and death information of George and Sarah's descendants.

The information on George Hamilton led me to find vital statistics registrations and local history book sources for his ancestors and his siblings. However, there is so little information on Sarah Ann Morton that her ancestors and siblings were still mysterious. All we knew of Sarah Ann Morton was that she was born near Gananoque, Ontario on April 22, 1864 and married George on August 27, 1884 in the town of Nelson, Manitoba.

Searches of Canadian sources available at the time proved useless without her parents' names. In the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid (OCFA) I found a possible burial for a Mary Ann Morton in Willowbank Cemetery, Gananoque, Ontario but no proof that this was Sarah's mother.

In 1999 I ordered the Marriage Registration from Manitoba Vital Statistics for William George Hamilton and Sarah Ann Morton. Sarah's parents are shown as John G. Morton and Mary Ann Peal. The Willowbank Cemetery listing for Mary Ann Morton certainly could be her mother but there was no way to confirm it and still nothing leading to her father.

Finally, on 30 December 2004, browsing the Manitoba Message Board on Family Tree Maker, now Genealogy.com, I found:

Robert Morton - Murders in Manitoba

My gggrandfather was Robert Morton, born 1799 in Ireland. He came to Quebec and married Sarah. His son John married Mary Ann Seale of Morin Heights, Argenteuil, Quebec. In the 1850's, they moved to Gananoque, Ontario, and in the 70's they moved on to Michigan and then to Manitoba. In 1890, at the age of 90 and probably suffering from Alzheimers, Robert shot his son John and John's second wife Ellen Cruise. These were the first recorded murders in Manitoba. Robert spent the remaining years of his life in an asylum. I have lots of info on the murders, mostly from the newspapers of the time.

I am searching for info on Robert Morton from Ireland to Canada, around 1820.

I have lots of info on the Robert Morton line and will share.

Here was a John Morton and 1st wife Mary Ann Seale (not too different from Peal on the Marriage Registration) and they had lived in Gananoque. If the murder victim was Sarah's father, had I found 2 generations of Sarah's ancestors? It wouldn't be surprising for a descendant to leave out information about murders in the ancestral line, but were they really Sarah's father and grandfather?

I responded to the message saying although I could not supply him with any information on Robert Morton, John Morton and the murders, I had a question for him and asked if the murder victim John Morton and his 1st wife Mary Ann Seale had a daughter named Sarah Ann born April 22, 1864 in Gananoque. A few hours later I received 8 pages (beginning with the word "Bingo") of genealogical information on both of Sarah's parents' families. The "brick wall" had been broken.

The first newspaper report is from *Manitoba Daily Free Press*, February 10, 1890. On the front page is a 2 column article. The byline reads: MIAMI, MAN. Feb.9

DOUBLE MURDER

Shocking Tragedy on Saturday Night in Southern Manitoba.

Robert Morton, Aged 93, Kills His Daughter-in-Law and Son.

The Old Man Takes Offence, at not Being Allowed to Grease His Boots.

Mrs. Morton Complains to Her Husband and the Father Shoots Both.

The 2 columns give a very detailed account of the double murder with statements from eye witnesses, including quotes from both the victims and the murderer.

John Morton had lived on his farm 4 miles west of Miami for a number of years. His father, Robert had come to live with him about eighteen months earlier. On Saturday, John had gone to a neighbour's. According to eyewitness John Daniel Elston (described as an adopted son of John and Ellen) Ellen, John's 2nd wife, had finished cleaning the floors when Robert began 'greasing his boots'. Ellen scolded him and asked him to wait until Monday because she had just cleaned the floor. Robert objected to that, shoved Ellen with a boot and then struck her twice with a tamarack stick from the wood box. Ellen locked herself in another room and sent John Elston to fetch John home.

John arrived home with a neighbour, Mr. Watchorn, and went to speak to his wife. After hearing her side of the story he asked his father why he had acted in this manner. In reply the old man said "Do you see that rifle, I want you to take it down and shoot me, or I

will shoot you." John paid no attention to his father's remark and started to go into another room. The old man then took down an Enfield-Snider rifle, which is usually hung up in the kitchen, went outside and shot through the kitchen window at his son. John Elston and Mr. Watchorn ran off to give the alarm to the neighbours and as they were coming back heard another report of the rifle. When they entered the house they found that the old man had shot Ellen while she was attending to her husband. Mr. Samuel Wood, who arrived after the shootings, reported finding Robert Morton sitting in the corner smoking and more than willing to tell his story. "Morton does not appear to realize the awful deed he has committed, or the consequences, and sits quietly by the kitchen stove smoking his pipe telling the story to everybody who comes in."

Brandon Sun Weekly February 13, 1890 on page 1 gives a brief account of the murders and tells us "On Monday, an inquest was held, when Robert Morton was found guilty, and committed to stand his trial at the next assize."

Manitoba Daily Free Press, February 13, 1890 front page

Post Mortem on the Miami Victims.

MIAMI, Feb. 12—At the post mortem last night a dozen penetrations were found in the intestines of Mrs Morton. A lead bullet was taken out in flattened pieces. Mr. Morton's left lung was completely shattered, the bullet breaking the fourth and left ribs under the left arm and penetrated the thorax. The remains were buried this morning.

Vital Statistics Manitoba Death Registrations for John Morton and Ellen Morton confirm the cause of their deaths:
"Gunshot wound
Instant"

John Morton and his 2nd wife, Ellen Cruise Morton were buried on February 12, 1890 in the Miami Cemetery. A photograph of their impressive tombstone can be seen on the Canadian Headstone Photo Project site at <http://canadianheadstones.com/>

Manitoba Daily Free Press, February 22, 1890 has almost a full column reprint of an article from the *Gananoque Reporter*. This article provides a great deal of information about Robert Morton, his wives and family during their time in Gananoque. Following the death of Robert's wife, Sarah, most of the family relocated to Michigan.

Robert Morton was arraigned before Mr. Justice Bain March 11, 1890 and his trial set for Monday, March 17, 1890.

Manitoba Daily Free Press, March 18, 1890

MORTON IS INSANE.

THE FINDING OF THE JURY IN THE MIAMI MURDER CASE.

Doctors Testify That His Mind is Gone and That He Cannot Distinguish Right From Wrong--(Other Cases.

The Jury's Findings

"The jury then retired but were subsequently recalled, and his Lordship instructed them that if they considered the evidence given warranted them in so doing, they could find a verdict that the prisoner was insane at the present time.

The jury retired, and returned in a short time with the verdict that **they found the prisoner now insane**; and his Lordship made the usual order under the statute for the prisoner to be kept in strict custody in the jail of the eastern judicial district until the pleasure of the Lieutenant-Governor is known."

Robert Morton was confined to the asylum in Selkirk. From the local history book – The Hills of Home, A History of the Municipality of Thompson published 1967:

“Grandpa, as he was affectionately known to the Wood children ... was taken to Selkirk where in his ninety-sixth year, swift and merciful death followed a sudden return to sanity and realization.”

I have found 13 newspaper articles covering the events surrounding the murders.

At the time of the murders, John’s 2 daughters were living nearby. Elizabeth or Lizzie, Mrs. James Duncan lived near Nelson and great grandmother Sarah Ann, Mrs. William George Hamilton lived near Morden. Within the next 5 years, John’s 3 sons and their families arrived in the area from Michigan. By 1907 the 2 eldest sons, Robert and James had moved to Shellbrook, Saskatchewan. One local history book says they moved because of the ‘tragedy’. Another local history book implies they moved because of religious intolerance. Both Robert and James had married Roman Catholics and their 2 sisters were married to serious and very active Orangemen. It seems quite likely they were not made very welcome in the community. We will never know if so little information was recorded, by the family, about great grandmother’s ancestors because of the murders or because of religious differences.

Notoriety certainly helped in the case of 3rd great grandfather murdering his son, 2nd great grandfather. We now have a great deal of information about the ancestors of Sarah Ann Morton and their descendants...and Wayne is welcome to polish his shoes whenever and wherever he wants.

Submitted by Adele F. Goa



Taken the day that the CN Rails reached Camrose

*Submitted by Janine Carroll from the files of the Camrose
Railway Museum*

BLACK SHEEP?

I have an ancestor who could be considered a “black sheep”. I am using a fictitious name.

As many noble young men did, “Henry” joined the Canadian Army in 1916 and was stationed in a Work Camp near his home. He was able to visit his family on a regular basis, but one day while on leave, “Henry” decided not to return to the Camp. Perhaps he had been called to serve in the war and was afraid of dying, or perhaps he just decided that the soldier life was not for him. The Canadian Army did not look kindly on his actions.

The young man was declared a “Deserter” and the Military Police set out to find him and return him to his duty.

“Henry” went to his sister's home where he had lived prior to signing up. He asked the family to hide him. When the MP's came looking for him, he hid in the bushes behind the house until they left.

Once the Military Police were gone, “Henry” said goodbye to his sister and her family, left his uniform there and went away. His sister used the uniform material in a quilt that she was making. This probably served a double purpose: a warm quilt for use by the family, and “hiding the evidence”. His sister had a large portrait of “Henry” in his uniform which remained in the family for years. Although the young man had deserted, his sister was very proud of her brother's military picture, and displayed it always on her living room wall. Unfortunately, many years later, after being passed down in the family and then (regretfully) to a friend who was an antique picture collector, the picture was destroyed in a house fire. The family story is that “Henry” was never seen again...

...and we believed that story until I started our family tree, and found him living a new life elsewhere!

Submitted by Joan Conley



HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE!!!