

# Camrose

## Roots and Shoots

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Newsletter of the Camrose Branch  
of the Alberta Genealogical Society

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The Camrose Branch meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the boardroom of Camrose Public Library. New members and guests are always welcome.

Genealogy is said to be the fastest growing leisure time activity today!

We are a branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society, based in Edmonton. Memberships run from January 1 to December 31. All members are entitled to receive each issue of "Relatively Speaking," the regular publication of the Alberta Society and all Camrose branch members are entitled to receive this Newsletter.

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### Executive

President	Sherran Dermott
Vice-president	Norm Prestage
Secretary	Diane Shields
Treasurer	John Stoddart
Librarian	Bev Webster

### Newsletter Committee:

Fay Carlson	Norm Prestage
Jack Cunningham	

We are now into the second year of our newsletter of branch happenings and information about tracing your ancestors! We urgently need your input. If you have an interesting story concerning your ancestors, please get in touch with a member of the Newsletter Committee.

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### Some Countries that our members are researching:

Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine and U.S.A.

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### England and Wales Census

We hope the following information concerning census (Censi?) of England and Wales will be useful for those searching for information in that part of the world.

There has been a Census every 10 years since 1801, excluding 1941. However only those that date from 1841 are of any real value to the family historian. The administration of the early Census returns (1801-1831) was the responsibility of the Overseers of the Poor and the Clergy.

Starting with the 1841 Census, the administration passed into the hands of the Registrar General and Superintendent Registrars. The 1836 General Registration Act paved the way for this reform.

The emphasis of the Census changed from questions related to population size and numbers of persons engaged in certain occupations to a much more detailed analysis of individuals and families.

The Census was taken on the following dates:

10 Mar 1801 - Records no longer exist, with a few exceptions.

27 May 1811 - As Above.  
 28 May 1821 - As Above.  
 30 May 1831 - As Above.  
 7 Jun 1841 - A few local indexes exist, see Genuki county pages.  
 30 Mar 1851 - Many local indexes exist, see above.  
 7 Apr 1861 - A few local indexes exist, see above.  
 2 Apr 1871 - Part on Ancestry.com Web page / access through Library.  
 3 Apr 1881 - National Index available. See L. D. S. Web page.  
 5 Apr 1891 - See Ancestry.com / access through Library.  
 31 Mar 1901 - National Index available on line. Fee based site.  
 2 Apr 1911 - 100-year closure, will be opened 1 January 2012.  
 The April 26 1931 Census was destroyed during

WW2.

The WW2 "National Registration II Census was held 29 Sept 1939.

By entering "Free Census" into your search engine a number of possibilities for research emerge. The information is at best fragmented and many entries will lead you back to Ancestry.com, which is a fee-based service. You may get lucky though.

The information provided above comes in the main from the extensive and very wide ranging "Genuki" Web site. Try it, you will be informed!

*John Stoddart*

### Mayflower Certificate

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of August of last year, member Fay Carlson had the honour and delight to be officially entered as a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

As proof of this event, and because we think it is interesting, we are including a replica of the certificate that she now proudly possesses.



The story of her search follows.

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## Searching My Mayflower Line

*by Fay Carlson*

I am very happy to finally be able to say that I am a proven Mayflower descendant, no. 73,786. My mother always told us that her family had come from the Mayflower line, but no one of my relatives had proven it until now. I worked on this for over a year, on and off, using many different sources. I am grateful for the help I received from Susan Roser, the historian of the Canadian Mayflower Society. She gave me advice and let me know when and what to submit to her. You must use a historian to prove your lineage. When all the papers are in order, you are approved, pay the fee, you receive the certificate.

I am the 10<sup>th</sup> generation from William Bradford. Our line is through Governor Bradford's granddaughter, Hannah Bradford, who married Joshua Ripley. One tidbit about Hannah is that she was the first and only physician in the Plymouth settlement. It is said that the first male doctor, Dr. Richard Huntington, received much of his training from her.

I began the search of David B. Ripley, as much as I could, by biographies of Yale graduates, recorded in the library of New England Genealogy Society in Boston. I was impressed with the hand written records of Marlborough, Hartford, Connecticut, of 1729-1852, which I was able to order and view through the Family History Library in Wetaskiwin.

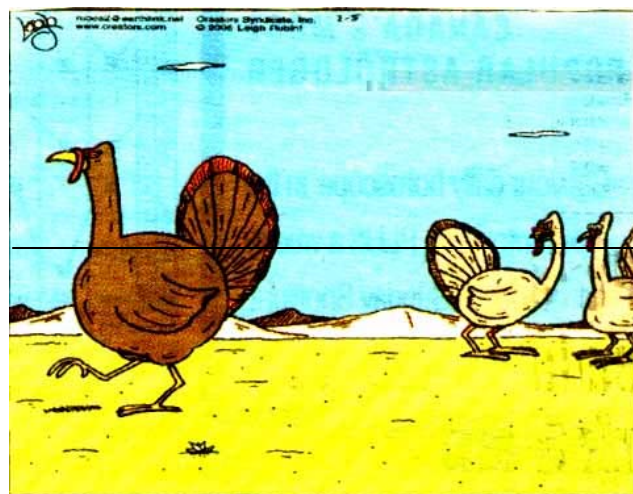
American vital records are mostly kept in the county seat, so you need to know what county to look for. The prices when I ordered, were much lower in price than a vital record I wanted from Alberta. I learned to know what kind of record to order. You need a long form showing the parents names, for births, deaths and marriage. My mother did not have a birth certificate from Minnesota, so I was able to use the record of the whole family crossing the border through Emerson, Manitoba, in 1917, which lists each person's age at the time. I used some census records from U.S.A. There are lots of info on

these, even as to how much money they have and the value of their property.

I have a trip planned for England in May, 2005, and at the end of our tour, we will be staying near the area where the Ruggles family lived in 1600s. We plan to visit Spains Hall, a castle owned by the Ruggles-Brise family. During the tour we visit Plymouth, England. In September, 2005, the Canadian Mayflower Society is having a special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Plymouth, Mass. I am booked for that also. Two Plymouths in one year! That is a topic for a future article.

If there are any other Bradford descendants in the province, I would like to hear from them. The Bradford site, on the Internet, shows some who claim to descend from Governor Bradford's line, Noah Webster, George Eastman, (Kodak), Clint Eastwood and Hugh Hefner. Just like any family, all sorts are included!

I hope you enjoyed my little journey back to the Mayflower. More stories will follow.



"Get a load of that snob. He struts around like he's really something just because his ancestors were eaten by the pilgrims who came over on the Mayflower."

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### Notice:

I have obtained a copy of "The Black, Green and Gold". It is a yearbook of the Camrose Normal School from 1926-1927. It has photos of Teachers and pupils from those years. If anyone would like a look up, let me know - Fay Carlson at 780-672-8431.

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## McDougall and Lincoln

*By Jack and Sheila Cunningham*

In researching family history one must be prepared to accept what comes, be it good or bad. The bad tends to be more interesting, and certainly more entertaining, but occasionally other interesting stories are found. The following is one of those.

First it must be stated that Sheila is directly descended from Emily McDougall and that William McDougall was Emily's brother. William was a politician in Ontario when it was Canada West. He was also one of the fathers of Confederation and was at both the Charlottetown Conference and the Quebec Conference with John A. McDonald. This may seem somewhat surprising to us now because he was a prominent member of the (Liberal) opposition party but it is so.

A McDougall family story, found in the "McDougall family papers" in the Toronto Public Library, tells of a visit to Washington made by William McDougall and John Galt in November of 1863 on a trade mission for the Government of Canada. The "Reciprocity Treaty"<sup>1</sup> had to be ratified each year and the story tells how McDougall and Galt were received by Lincoln who agreed to sign the treaty but not right then because he was soon leaving to give a promised small speech the next day at a small town called Gettysburg. He graciously invited them to go with him as his guests to attend a ceremony for the dedication of the cemetery for the dead at the Battle of Gettysburg, which had taken place a few months back. The story says that McDougall accepted and went with Lincoln by train and stayed overnight in the town and then went with him in his carriage to the cemetery the next morning. It was also mentioned that Lincoln was preoccupied with rewriting or revising the speech he intended to give. It was further mentioned that Lincoln's speech was surprisingly short, that its value was recognized by McDougall, but not by the American reporters of the time. It was said

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<sup>1</sup> Now called "Free Trade".

that when McDougall returned to Toronto he told George Brown, the editor of the Toronto Globe, that "it was a speech that would go down in history".

This is in itself, an interesting story, but because it is somewhat in the line of family lore, we have attempted to investigate it, particularly to confirm McDougall's role in it and also to research the historic events. The search has been most interesting and we have so far been able to determine the following bits of information:

1. President Lincoln and Secretary Seward traveled by special train to Gettysburg on November 18, the night before the ceremony. Lincoln had insisted on arriving the night before because train travel was uncertain during the Civil war and he did not wish to run the risk of being late.

2. The New York Times of Thursday, November 19, 1863, on the first page has a paragraph dated: "Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 18" and says:

"The French Minister, M. Mercier, and Admiral Renaud; the Italian Minister, M. Bertinatti, and his secretary of Legation, Mr. Cora, with Chevallier Isola and Lieut. Martinez, of the Italian navy, and Mr. McDougall, of the Canadian Ministry, accompanied by the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, travelled to Gettysburg to-day. This party also accompanied President Lincoln and his private secretary Mr. Nikolay, and several members of Cabinet and others, who were in the special train which left here at noon."

This confirmed the presence of McDougall on the journey.

3. Lincoln and Seward stayed overnight at the home of David Wills, a prominent Gettysburg resident who had purchased the 17 acres of land to be used as the cemetery on behalf of the Government. Wills was in charge of the planned dedication ceremony. The Wills house, on the south-east corner of the central square, is a historic house in present day Gettysburg. It contains a private museum. We do not know

where McDougall stayed.

4. The battle of Gettysburg, was fought at the beginning of July and was one of the biggest and most important battles of the Civil War. It marked the turning point for the North and the beginning of the end for the south. Close to 50,000 men became casualties there in the space of three days. By November many of the dead had been buried in shallow graves on the site. Many of the thousands of horses were still on the battlefield and had not been buried.

5. The main speaker at the ceremony the next day was to be Edward Everett, a noted orator of the time and an ex president of Harvard. Lincoln had been invited by Wills to make some dedicatory remarks after Everett's speech.

6. Lincoln dined at the Wills house with Seward, two other cabinet members who had come with him, the French minister and some high military and naval officers.

7. The cemetery is about one half mile from the Wills house. In the Boston Daily Advertiser, Monday, November 23, 1863, under a small heading "Consecration Ceremonies" it says, "A noble black charger was furnished for the President, and as he emerged from his quarters and mounted the mettlesome steed, his appearance and bearing created a very favourable impression upon the honest burghers and yeomen who had gathered to greet him."

8. A small platform with chairs was provided for the speakers and important guests, but all others had to stand.

9. Everett's address lasted for over two hours, Lincoln's speech lasted for three minutes (272 words). The prayer that preceded Lincoln's speech was four times as long as was Lincoln's speech<sup>2</sup>.

10. Ever since the event, authorities have been discussing the writing of the Gettysburg address,

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<sup>2</sup> It is said that a photographer was setting up to take a picture and that Lincoln finished and sat down before he had a chance to take it.

and what words he actually used<sup>3</sup>. Several copies (up to five) in his own handwriting exist, as well as at least two copies made by correspondents on the scene. All differ slightly as to some minor punctuation changes and word insertions but not in the spirit of the address<sup>4</sup>.

11. His "little speech", as he termed it, was said to have been interrupted some five times by applause and at the end was followed by long hand clapping.

12. There does indeed seem to have been surprise and disappointment at the brevity of Lincoln's speech.

13. In the New York Times of the next day, both Everett's (7 columns) and Lincoln's speeches are printed, but there are no editorial comments about either. In the "Supplement to The New York Times" of the next day, November 21, 1863, there were comments on all components of the ceremony. The comments were not bylined but said, "The President sat between Secretary Seward and Mr. Everett. It referred to Mr. Everett's "splendid oration" and about Lincoln's speech it said: "Mr. Lincoln's brief address was delivered in a clear loud tone of voice, which could be distinctly heard at the extreme limits of the large assemblage<sup>5</sup>. It was delivered (or rather read from a sheet of paper which the speaker held in his hand) in a very deliberate manner, with strong emphasis, and with a most business like air." - There were no comments on the content of Lincoln's address.

14. In our National Library in Ottawa, Sheila has perused copies of the Toronto Globe for the remainder of 1863 and could not find any comments on the Gettysburg Address.

The process of our research was most interesting

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<sup>3</sup> It had, after all, to be carved in stone – on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. It seems that none of the reporters turned on his tape-recorder!

<sup>4</sup> An excellent account of the controversy can be found in the book "Lincoln at Gettysburg" by Garry Wills. Simon and Schuster, 1992.

<sup>5</sup> Lincoln apparently had a rather high-pitched voice, which seems rather surprising.

and involved extensive literature searches and visits to the battlefield and to the excellent interpretive center at Gettysburg<sup>6</sup>.

The story also appears in Hansard because it was told by John Diefenbaker during a speech he made in parliament when President Eisenhower visited Ottawa.

William McDougall went on to be appointed Manitoba's first Premier but never took over that office after he was denied entry by Louis Riel. He promoted the acquisition by Canada, of Rupert's Land from the Hudson Bay Company. This vast territory eventually became the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and the North West Territories. He refused a knighthood (not so John A. MacDonald) but did accept being made a Companion of the Order of the Bath, by Queen Victoria, in 1867. He died in Ottawa in 1905.

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## Names being Searched

At a recent meeting, it was suggested that our members contribute lists of family names with enough identifying information to potentially make a match-up with family groups others might have. Here is my contribution:

### From my adoptive family:-

Cunningham – lived in County Derry and County Tyrone, Ireland in the 1800's, Alex (my Dad)'s branch immigrated to Toronto in 1875.

Chambers - lived in County Derry or Tyrone, in the 1800's. Mary Chambers married Alex (my granddad) Cunningham in County Tyrone in 1848.

Coulter– the family had a transport company in Toronto in the late 1800's. Catherine Coulter married Alex Cunningham in Toronto in 1890.

Shaw – lived on Islay, Scotland in the 1800's.

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<sup>6</sup> Our research extended considerably beyond Gettysburg because it turns out that eight of Jack's family members (all emigrants from Quebec) fought in the Civil War – four of them were killed. We have visited many of the battlefields where they fought

Donald immigrated to Wellington County, Ontario before 1872. Moved to North Dakota in 1894. Donald died in Yellowgrass, Saskatchewan in 1915.

McEachern – also from Islay. – Margaret married Donald Shaw in Harriston, Ontario in 1872.

### From my Birth Family:-

Smiles – lived in Edinburgh, Scotland in the 1800's and well before. John Weston immigrated to Edmonton, Alberta by 1910. Other sons went to Australia, South Africa, Fiji and Burma. John (Jack, son of John Weston) was my father. Most famous Smiles was Sir Samuel, born 1812, author of "Self Help".

Forrest – lived in Glasgow and later in Edinburgh in the 1800's. Robert Smith Forrest was a famous artist in Edinburgh. Margaret married John Weston Smiles in 1897 in Edinburgh.

Dunn – lived near Glasgow, Scotland in the 1700's, immigrated to Ryegate, Vermont, USA in 1798. T.K. Dunn moved to Wisconsin about 1880 and his son Will Congor went to Wabamun, Alberta in 1903 and to Edmonton in 1912. Daughter Gladys was my mother.

Whitehill – (also spelled Whytehill) from Renfrew, Scotland, Immigrated to Ryegate, Vermont before 1800. Many descendants still live in Ryegate and nearby Groton Vermont.

Prevey – (original form Privé). From Brittany, France to Québec about 1700. Moved to New England in mid 1800's then to Wisconsin. Minnie married Will C. Dunn in 1893. Brother Warren also came to Edmonton and founded Edmonton City Dairy.

Bessette – Jean arrived in Québec in 1665, killed (scalped) by the Iroquois in 1692. Descendants moved to New England in mid 1800's. Six Bessette brothers fought in the Civil War, 3 killed. Marie-Christine married Francis Prevey in Massachusetts in 1844.

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