



Camrose

Roots and Shoots

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.

Executive

President	Norm Prestage
Vice-president	
Secretary	Deb Trout
Treasurer	John Stoddart
Librarian	Bev Webster

Newsletter Committee:

Fay Carlson	Norm Prestage
Jack Cunningham	

We are beginning the third year of our newsletter reporting on branch happenings and trying to provide 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.

Countries that our members are researching:

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

Plymouth and Mayflower Update.

By Fay Carlson

In June of 2005, I took my first trip to Britain, which included a few hours in Plymouth, England. I saw the stone steps where the Mayflower left in 1620. The names of all its passengers are carved there. What a feeling for me! I toured the museum and listened to the tale of the departure from England in 1620.

Then, in September, I was one of the Canadians who celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Mayflower Society. We were a group of about 60 members and guests from across Canada, United States and even Australia that met in Plymouth, Mass. We had a tree-planting ceremony, cocktail party, tour of Plimoth Plantation, tour of Cape Cod, and a candlelit memorial service at the gravesite on Cole's Hill.

Plymouth Rock, itself, is very small, because pieces of it have been taken away over the years by souvenir hunters. For that reason, it is now enclosed in a fence. We heard the stories of how during the first winter, when the pilgrims died, they were buried at night so that the Indians would not find out how the population was dwindling.

Plimoth Plantation is a recreation of the first original colony complete with costumed interpreters playing their parts well. William



Bradford, my ancestor, as the Governor of the colony had the best furnishings in his thatched cottage. We watched the ladies prepare lunch for their husbands by cooking in the big black pot over the open fire! Everything is done

to make it as realistic as possible. This is a living history lesson. I include a photo of one of the ladies making lunch.



I was able to tour the replica of the Mayflower, moored there. We all marvelled that anyone survived crossing the ocean in a small ship like that! The town of Plymouth has several of the original houses still standing from 1620 and 1627. The Pilgrim hall museum has some of the articles that belonged to the first pilgrims such as a Bible, a chair and a silver cup. I have never felt so close to actual history.

I hope that I will get a chance to return to Plymouth, wander the streets and feel in touch with my very brave ancestors.

As a follow-up, we, the Alberta Colony of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants, are always looking for new members. If you have an interest or curious, check the website;

www.rootsweb.com/~canms/canada

Our Canadian historian, Susan Roser, can guide you through the process of proving your lineage. My hometown of Camrose now has

three proven members of the Society. Contact me, Fay Carlson at cfay@telusplanet.net if you have any questions.

An Unexpected Find

By John Stoddart

What follows are some notes concerning a 1 ¾ century old Scottish Sampler that hangs on the wall at 6501- 43 Avenue, Camrose, Alberta in 2006.

The Sampler has been in the family as long as I can remember, and used to hang on the wall at "Southwood" in Dunfermline, Scotland when I was growing up. When my parents both died, it came to us in Camrose. Over the years we have talked about having the Sampler re-framed in a more suitable and protective way. It came to us in a frame that had been done by "Boots the Chemists" in Dunfermline, we think about 1972.

In Feb 2006, my wife Lesley decided to take the Sampler to Candler's Art Gallery in Camrose to be re-done. While she was there, the lady slit open the back of the frame to check the condition of the fabric and a letter fell out.

The letter was from Catherine Stoddart (1900-1981) and was dated November 1, 1970, addressed to my mother. It said; and I quote.

"Dear Margaret.

Thank you very much for the pleasant time spent with you yesterday. I did enjoy it and your lunch. This morning I spent looking for some information about Janet Hunter and this is what I found.

George Hunter, son of George Hunter Meallmaker was indentured to Willam Simpson proprietor of Polton Paper mill in 1789. He married Janet Milne on 12th January 1801. His son, also George Hunter, was indentured to Benjamin Porteous, tailor in Loanhead in 1827 by which time his father had died. I assume Janet Hunter was his sister and mother of the 2nd Mrs Robert Stoddart who died aged 70 in 1911 just after our holiday with her and grandfather at Elie. She was therefore born about 1841. The custom was to give the eldest daughter the Christian name of her maternal grandmother - hence Auntie Jen (Janet Safley

Stoddart). i.e. Janet Hunter on marriage became Janet Safley. George Hunter and Janet Milne were the names of Janet Hunter's father and mother. Janet Hunter was born between 1801 and 1827. Girls usually worked samplers at school but they could be worked at any age. George III died 1820, George IV 1820-30, William IV 1830-37. Take your choice. This is all the information I have. I hope that last night's storm did not damage the house or trees.

kindest regards to Robert and yourself.

Kate”

In the early 1970s my mother Margaret made a start on researching a Family tree from information she gathered from family members. Some of her Trees are with the family papers in Camrose and I used them and the notes accompanying them when I started out on the same path. I still use them for reference and guidance 4 years later.

How thoughtful of her to make sure the next person who had new framing done would have information to support the Sampler and who made it.

Clearly the letter is in response to questions my mother asked Catherine (Aunt Kate) when they met on October 31, 1970. These concerned the Sampler and background information on who made it and what age it might be.

Here are some further notes on the Sampler.

From what I have been able to discover, using the letter and other points of reference both from the Internet and other sources;

Samplers were made not only in Scotland but other parts of the world around 1775-1850 or so by young girls, to teach them how to stitch in a precise manner. Good stitchery skills were important if they were to secure employment in their youth at the Castles or large houses owned by wealthy people. One of their jobs was to stitch the property owner's name on the bed and other linens used by the family. This would ensure that the items were not lost when they were sent out to be laundered.

Alphabet samplers were common. Some were very elaborate with pictures consisting of nature scenes included in the designs.

The one we have here is mainly the alphabet, in 4 assorted sizes of letters. There are some quirks to the design in places, for example, the letters J and U are missing in 3 of the 4 alphabets. I am not sure whether or not this was due to space limitations, as the design goes right to the edges of the available backing.



Numerals 1-12, fill up the spaces on some lines.

The following letters appear in one space V I M A M A G. We are unsure if Janet was “doodling” or if they have other meaning. The design includes 2 deer with antlers and flowers in a vase.

The individual letters G H J M are explained thus. They are the first letters in the names of George Hunter and Janet Milne, parents of Janet Hunter.

There are 2 crown motifs stitched into the sampler and Kate is giving us a clue to the age of the item by telling us when certain kings reigned.

The Sampler was made by Janet (Jean in some records) Hunter (about 1811-??) as a young girl. If she made the item in 1820, she would have been about 9 or if, say 1825 she would have been About 14. Lesley and I think it was made somewhere between the years 1820 and 1825.

This means that in 2006 it is about 175 years old and still in remarkable shape. There is very little difference in the fading between the front and the back area where the material is tucked in. I cannot recall a time when the Sampler was exposed to sun-light, which has no doubt helped in preserving it.

The stitching begins right up against the top and left side selvage edges so little space has been left for framing and no allowance for turning under.

There are a number of other Samplers in the

family in Scotland.

Aileen Stoddart in Castle Douglas, a cousin of mine, advised us in March 2006, that the two Samplers she has are not framed, and she has no information on them. They appear to have been made more recently than the one mentioned above.

So where do I, John Stoddart (1942-) fit into this?

Janet Hunter who made the Sampler and whose name is on it, is my Step G G Grandmother on my father's side. My G Grandfather Robert Stoddart (1844-1913) on my fathers side married twice, once to a Isabella Johnson Fisher, who died in 1873 and then in 1874 to Jane Hunter Safley, daughter of Janet Hunter (as she was prior to her marriage to William Safley in 1834).

The following continues the collection of Web Pages of possible interest to Genealogists

(collected by Bev Webster from various sources)

(Web pages for General Sites, the U.S.A. and Canada were given in our previous newsletter – Roots and Shoots 2 – 2)

UK

- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk> National Archives
- <http://www.nationalarchivist.com/archives.cfm> The National Archivist
- <http://www.pro.gov.uk> Public Record Office
- <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> OPR & Civil Registrations available on-line (\$cheap)
- <http://www.old-maps.co.uk> Maps from 1800's
- <http://www.militarybadges.org.uk> Military Badge ID pages: Gives photos of various badges & helps identify them
- <http://www.historicaldirectories.org> Historical Directories for England and Wales
- <http://www.genuki.org.uk> UK Genealogical Links (Great site!)
- <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big> British Isles, General Level
- <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl> British Isles, Country Level
- <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/WAT/index.html> British Isles, Provence/County Level;
- <http://www.freebmd.rootsweb.com> Free listings of Civil Registration in Eng & Wales, 1837-1983 (on-going project, so if don't find ancestors today – try later).
- <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/index.php> UK Birth, Marriages & Deaths
- <http://www.scottishdocuments.com> Scottish Documents
- <http://www.1837online.com> 1837 On-line
- <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org> Proceedings of the Old Bailey

(Thanks to Bev for compiling this collection and making it available to Roots and Shoots)