

Camrose Roots and Shoots

Newsletter of the Camrose Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society

Volume 5 No. 1

Spring, 2008

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.

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 Genealogical Society and all Camrose branch members are entitled to receive this Newsletter. The Newsletters also go to the other branches of the Alberta Genealogical Society.

In case you are not reading Roots and Shoots on-line:- The Alberta Genealogical Society website is: www.abgensoc.ca. The "Roots and Shoots" Newsletters are posted on the AGS Camrose Branch website which is: www.camrose.abgensoc.ca

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

Executive:

President	Fay Carlson
Vice-president	
Secretary	Deb Trout
Treasurer	John Stoddart
Librarian	Bev Webster

Newsletter Committee:

Fay Carlson	Norm Prestage
Jack Cunningham	

We are beginning the fifth year of our newsletter reporting on branch happenings.

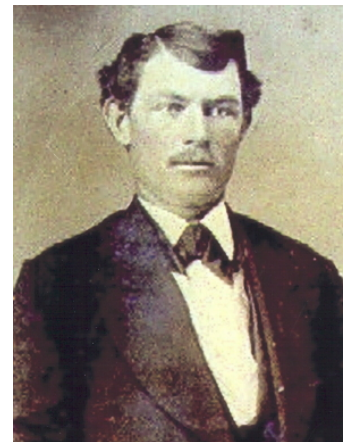
We are also trying to provide useful information about tracing your ancestors – we even add items we think might be of historical interest from time to time. To do all of these things we urgently need input. If you have an interesting story concerning your ancestors or their histories, please get in touch with a member of the Newsletter Committee.

John Hodgson Passon

By: *Fay Edenloff Carlson, February 14, 2008.*

John H. Passon, my Great-great-grandfather, was born in Darke County, Ohio 9 July, 1830. He attended school until he was 18 years old, then learned the millwright trade, serving three years, the last as a foreman.

In 1850 he was working as a millwright in Mill Township, County of Grant, Indiana and was single. The next year, in Blufton, Indiana, he married Minerva French, two years older than him, who had been born in New York. There the first child, Arthur, was born and died. Their second child, Sarah was born there also.



In 1856 they moved by wagon to Minnesota, settling near Roberts Lake. Two more girls, Lenora and Adeline were born there.

He first located in one section, soon sold that, took another and began work at his trade. The

1860 census of Wells township, Rice county shows John, 30, Minerva, 32, Sarah, 6, Lenora, 3 and Adeline, 4 months old. The last child Amy was born in 1862 at their land near Faribault, Minn. At 32 years of age, he enlisted in the Minnesota eighth regiment, Company B, as a Sergeant. He left his wife and four small daughters to serve his country.

This regiment was formed mainly to control the Indians, especially the Sioux. The men were mostly farmers, some lumberman, with an average age of 25-30. They were too mature to make fancy soldiers, but being self-reliant frontiersmen, were used to labour and were expert in the use of firearms.

They spent many months guarding the frontier. One of the battles with 5,000 Indians resulted in 1,000 Indians killed, but only 100 troops wounded with 9 killed. One of the soldiers was scalped and killed. The army buried their soldiers at night, covering and levelling the ground so that the graves would not be found by the Indians. This was the battle of Kildeer Mountain.

They used the small Canadian horses because they were better suited for the travel. On one huge march in June of 1863, the company of 100 mounted men, 106 mule teams and cannons had to lead and guard 120 ox teams of immigrants. They were allowed to leave them only when they were safely in Idaho. As the group left that morning, there was even a band playing, "The girl I left behind me!"

The writer of these accounts related that the officers told his men, "You will remember that under no circumstances must any man turn his back on a live Indian". They crossed over land which no white man had ever seen and witnessed the huge herds of buffalo. One evening as they camped near a river, the buffalo arrived for their nightly drink. The soldiers tried to scare them away with rifles, but instead the animals stampeded. After 20 minutes of confusion, 100 of the huge animals lay dead around them. They then had lots of food for the soldiers.

When this regiment joined the others of

the Union army, they had a reputation of being the best drilled and most reliable in the command. They were called "The Indian Regiment" or "Sherman's Woodticks". They were sent to the front and participated in several battles in Tennessee and North Carolina before the war ended and the regiment was disbanded.

When the war ended and they returned to St. Paul, some one remarked that the Eighth was the largest and healthiest looking regiment that had returned to the city.

They had the satisfaction of never having to turn their back on an un-whipped foe, Indian or Rebel, though severely tested by both. John's daughter, Adeline, five years old, died just 4 days after he returned from his war duties. It must have been difficult for his wife, all alone with four little children, for those three years her husband was gone. She was born in New York, and her family was so far away. I have no report on how she coped with another child dying.

In 1866, one year later, John sold his land and bought in section fourteen. Ten years later he built a fine brick house. The census of Township Warsaw, County of Rice, for 1870 tells us that "John Passon has a value of real estate for \$7,000 and a personal worth of \$1,000". He is 41, Minerva is 42, Sarah is 15. The younger girls, Lenore, 13, and Amy, 8, are attending school. I think that Warsaw was on the outskirts of the city of Faribault.

In July 1876, a milling company was formed with a capital of \$30,000. John Passon was the Superintendent and president. Forty farmers were stockholders. Six acres of land were bought and the Faribault Grange Flouring Mill was built and running by September. It was 50 x 50 feet, three stories high with a stone basement, and there was an engine house 34 x 50 feet, plus a 125 horse power engine. The mill had seven run of stones and the machinery was fully up to those times. It could deliver about two hundred barrels of very superior flour per day which was desired by the eastern market. The complete cost of the building and machinery was about \$30,000. This mill had a short successful life until it was destroyed by fire on 8 Nov, 1876. Faribault had four other flour mills operating at this time.

John was elected to the State Legislature in 1874, district 18 for Rice County and served there until 1876. He also served on many local offices. In 1878, he moved with his family to Gary in the Dakota territories. This is where the youngest daughter Amy, met and married Edward Ripley Ruggles in 1879. Their first born was our Grandfather, Archie, born in 1880. The census of Herrick township, Duel, Dakota Territories for 1880, lists John Passon, wife, Minerva, nephew, Harry Passon, E.R. Ruggles, Attorney of law and his wife Amy. They were all in the same household.

In 1882, John and Minerva moved to Osakis, where he built a sawmill and furniture factory. John, 52 years, also built a house for himself and his wife on the shore of Lake Osakis. I think that John and Minerva wanted to be close their daughters. Lenore and her husband lived in Osakis, plus Amy and her husband E.R. Ruggles.

Census for Leslie Township, Todd County of 1900, shows John and Minerva and living with them is Archie, our Grandfather, 20 years old. John lists his occupation as millwright, even though he was now 69 years old.

Minerva Passon died in 1904. John Passon was the census taker for 1905. His handwriting is clear and beautiful. He lists his age at 74 and occupation as millwright. He declares he has been in Minnesota for 51 years and 10 months, and in the Osakis area for 22 years and 3 months. In 1910, he remarried to a Hattie Brinks, widow. He died in his 90th year on 20th Dec, 1919 in Osakis. He had been a Master Mason for 68 years and a life-long Republican.

I am happy to have discovered so much about John Passon and to have him in my family tree.

Sources:

1. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the state of Minnesota 1874, page 222.
2. History of Rice County, 1882 by Niell Edwards, published by Minnesota

Historical Company Pages 293-301, 333, 493, 494, 497 and 502.

3. The Osakis Review, obituary published December 25, 1919, held at Douglas Historical Society, Osakis, Minn.
4. Family histories from cousin Sharon Fehr, "Preachers, Politicians and Other Storytellers", published in 1995 by Accu Publishing, Ponoka. page 59.
5. Sherry Wrey, a distant cousin, private family history and letters.
6. American Civil war Regiments. From online data base compiled from Historical Data systems of Kingston, Mass. The Generations Network 1999. This is a compilation of military records of individual soldiers who served in the United States Civil War. 1999 and National Park Service, U.S. Civil War soldiers, 1861-1865, Eighth regiment, Company B
7. Minnesota in the Civil and Indian wars, Narrative of eighth Regiment by Hon. William Houlton, pages 386-399, History of Rice County.
8. U.S. Federal census forms of 1850 Mill Township, County of Grant, Indiana. U.S. Archives.
9. U.S. Federal census forms of 1860 Wells, Rice County, Minn. U.S. Archives.
10. U.S. Federal census forms of 1870 Township of Warsaw, Rice County, Minn., U.S. Archives.
11. U.S. Federal census forms of 1875 Faribault, Rice County, Minn., U.S. Archives.
12. U.S. Federal census forms of 1880 Herrick, Duel County, Dakota Terr., U.S. Archives.
13. U.S. Federal census forms of 1900 Leslie Township, Todd County, Minn., U.S. Archives.
14. U. S. Federal census forms of 1905, Leslie Township, Todd County, Minn., U.S. Archives.

Daughters of the American Revolution

by Sharon Sullivan-Olsen

On July 12, 2005, I joined the Mayflower Society by proving my mother's lineage back to the Pilgrims that came to North America. I was pleased to have her lineage recorded for all time and I knew that her ancestors were involved in the Revolution. But there was a void in my heart. I wanted to have my father's (Harry Sullivan) lineage recorded somewhere as well.

I began to search for my father's roots many years ago while his mother Nina Sullivan was still alive. I had heard Grandma speak of a family history book that Eva Sullivan-Spoon (my great-grandmother) had started and to which my mother had sent our names. I talked to Grandma and she gave me a name and address in the United States of the person that possessed the book.

With apprehension I sent off a letter asking if I would be allowed to view the book. I did not believe for a moment that I would be allowed to receive this precious book. But one day the mail contained a parcel from Maxine Enlow and inside was indeed the book that Great-grandma Eva had started. It was copied and returned.

The information went only as far as James Albert Sullivan and one more generation for Eva. James Albert's sister was also listed.

Some 20 years later I began to search for the Sullivan roots. I studied the copies of Eva's book. Then I ordered a death certificate for James Albert that showed his mother as Margaret Buskirk and his father as 'Ben' Sullivan. Later I was to find that Ben was not a correct name but David Sullivan was my Great-great grandfather.

In researching Margaret Buskirk I found her on page 83 in the Jewell Register compiled in 1860. At that time she was 20 years old. The Jewell Register traced the lineage of Margaret and her mother Rhoda Jewell-Buskirk back to Thomas Jewell, a miller, who came to North America in 1635

and settled at Mount Wollaston later to be come incorporated as Braintree.

I contacted the Daughters of the American Revolution with the name of Nathaniel Jewell who lived about the time of the Revolution and asked for a lookup. Since my lineage is from a line of 5 Nathaniel Jewells I needed to be more specific as two of them could have been in the Revolution. Thanks to a genealogy angel in the DAR organization they informed me that the Nathaniel that was married to Elizabeth Crane did indeed fight in the Revolution.

Now it was up to me to find the documentation - no problem!

December 8, 2007 I journeyed to Calgary to meet with the local chapter of DAR. They reviewed my documents and gave me some pointers on how to polish it. January 30, 2008, I met with the historian in Calgary and signed my application of admission to DAR.

Mission completed. My father's lineage is being sent to Washington, D.C. to be entered into the files of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Tidbits from the archives of the Camrose Canadian:

Gleaned by: *Fay Carlson*

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 during the night. Do not leave clothes on the line after dark.

The Newsletter Committee earnestly solicits contributions.