



Camrose

Roots and Shoots

Newsletter of the Camrose Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society

Volume 6 No. 1

Spring, 2009

The Camrose Branch AGS 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. Where possible, the Newsletters are distributed by e-mail.

The Alberta Genealogical Society website is: www.abgensoc.ca. The "Roots and Shoots" newsletters are posted on line in the AGS Camrose Branch website, which is: www.camrose.abgensoc.ca

Executive:

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

Newsletter Committee:

Fay Carlson	Jack Cunningham
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We are now in the sixth year of our newsletter reporting on branch happenings. We are also trying to provide useful information about tracing your ancestors – we also 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. One such item follows:

A Tale of a Real Frontiersman:

by Deb Trout



Jessie Shoemaker (1821-1895)

From: THE RAPID CITY, South Dakota
DAILY JOURNAL of November 21st 1895

Died: In Rapid City, Tuesday, November
19th, 1895, Jesse Shoemaker, of paralysis, aged

seventy-four years and eight months.

A great many people of Rapid City will miss the familiar figure of Jesse Shoemaker in his accustomed walks around the city, where for years he has made his home. His death was very sudden, as he seemed in his usual health all day, having driven about during the afternoon, and in the evening walked to his son John's house for an evening's visit. His son Alex Shoemaker and family had, providentially it seems, come up from the ranch that day and it was while talking and joking with his children and grandchildren that he suffered the paralytic stroke, which caused his death. As soon as it was noticed that he acted strangely, physicians were called, but their skill was of no avail. He died about two hours later without having been able to speak a word.

Deceased was born March 17th, 1821 in Wayne County, Indiana but removed to Iowa early in life. He was one of the first settlers of Omaha, after which he settled in Grand Island, Nebraska, coming to the Black Hills in 1877. He was married in 1841, his wife dying in this city in 1888. They were the parents of eleven children, only four of whom are now living: Alex and John Shoemaker, Mrs. Fred Brown of this city, and Mrs. Emmett James. He has a number of grandchildren living in the city among whom are Mrs. C. J. Buell and Miss Laura Mitchell. Mrs. Lida Smith of Keystone is also his grandchild.

Mr. Shoemaker was always a pioneer in the vanguard of civilization, being one of those men whose hardships and deprivations smoothed the way for those who came after, many of whom so little appreciate the efforts and self-denials of the old frontiersmen. He was a man whose good qualities were best known by the members of his own family, to all of whom he was kind and generous.

The funeral will be held in the Methodist Church at two o'clock, conducted by Rev. J. W. Robinson, after which his remains will be laid beside those of his wife in Mountain View Cemetery.

This is a synopsis of the life of this old

frontiersman:

I haven't proven it as yet but it is supposed that the Shoemakers came to Pennsylvania from Germany and then to Indiana via North Carolina and Ohio.

On March 17, 1821, in Winchester, Randolph County, Indiana, Jesse Shoemaker was born to Daniel Shoemaker and his wife Anna Margaret Witt. He was the youngest of 9 children.

At age 9 in 1830, his father dies. Jesse remains in Randolph County for a few more years and on Nov 18, 1841 he marries Henrietta Hurley, daughter of Cornelius Hurley and Sarah Goble Hurley.

Shortly after their marriage, Jesse and Henrietta move to Iowa. In November 1842 their first child Eliza was born in Keokuk County.

In 1843 they were in Steady Run Township, Keokuk County. He was one of the original settlers along with his father-in-law and uncle in law, Cornelius and John Hurley.

In 1844 he worked on the survey of Keokuk County roads. Until that time, there had been only trails. What did Jesse do there? From my reading, I believe he was a rancher/farmer/horse doctor.

From 1844 to 1854, four more children were born in Keokuk County, a daughter Lucinda and 3 boys Alex (my great-grandfather), Cornelius & John

Iowa must have been getting too crowded for his liking or the glowing reports of the land in Nebraska were enticing, because in 1855 the Shoemaker family moved to Douglas County, where Omaha is now. Cornelius and John Hurley took their families there as well.

Two more children were born here. Robbie Nebraska Bird in 1855 and Sarah Madova Belle in 1859.

A month after Sarah's birth he was on the move again.

September 15th 1859, Jesse and his partner John Eggerton selected a site for a ranch near the 'Old Lone Tree', 3 miles southwest of Central City Nebraska. The area was called Lone Tree after the single cottonwood tree

growing there on the banks of the Platte River. They were two hours short of being the first settlers in the county. They built a large sod house and stables and the place became known as the Lone Tree Ranch 'for the entertainment of travelers'. (According to a history of Merrick County). I'm not sure if that means the name was the entertainment or they were running a hotel.

That December Robbie dies at Omaha. A few months later, the partnership with Eggerton was dissolved and Jesse moved 6 miles west to the Wood River where he established a ranch and blacksmith shop at 'Shoemaker's Point' near Chapman, Merrick County, Nebraska. The post office was opened here in 1861 and run by his son-in-law's father, W. H. Mitchell.

Jesse's brother Jacob was living in this area as well, and together they donated the land for the Grand Island Cemetery. There is a commemorative sign to this affect.

Jesse was a co-defendant in the first jury trial in the county in a civil suit. I haven't been able to discover what the suit was about.

In 1861 another daughter, Henrietta was born. In 1863 Sarah dies.

In 1864 elections are held to organize Merrick County and Jesse is elected a Commissioner.

This didn't last long as the family was in Grand Island, Hall County in 1864 where another daughter, Hannah Della is born. In 1867 their last child Stella is born here.

On the 1870 Grand Island, Hall City, Nebraska census Jesse's occupation is listed as 'Horse Doctor'

In 1878 the lure of the gold rush in the Black Hills beckoned and the family moved to Rockerville, South Dakota., where he opened a livery stable. Originally established as a mining camp, it was named for the "rockers" which were used to separate placer gold from stream gravel. Rockerville was a boomtown in the 1870s. Gold was discovered in 1876, and by 1880 it had 100 buildings and around 1,000 people.

On the 1880 Rockerville, Pennington

County, South Dakota census, Jesse was listed as the owner of a livery stable. By this time, his children had grown up and were raising families of their own.

I'm unsure how long they stayed in Rockerville but in 1889, Henrietta dies and is buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Rapid City and in November 1895 the frontiersman passes into history as well.

Sources:

1. Shoemaker family bible.
2. Family narratives from cousin Mabel Shoemaker Kiel.
3. 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 US federal Census.
4. Digitized history books of Merrick County & Hall County Nebraska.
5. Digitized history book of Steady Run Township, Keokuk County, Iowa

A perspective of the times:-

1840 - The census of the US was 17mm+ the center of the country's population is steadily moving west.

May 1841 the first wagon train leaves Missouri for California. They would arrive November 4.

1844 - the first telegraph message is sent.

1859 - the Pony Express is born.

1861 The transcontinental telegraph is completed.

May 1869 - the Central Pacific and Union Pacific RR meet at Promontory, Utah.

The 1911 SCOTTISH CENSUS:

by John Stoddart

The position in Scotland regarding access to the 1911 Census differs from that in England and Wales. The Census in Scotland is devolved to the Scottish Parliament and Administration. Scottish legislation (Section 38 and 58 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002) exempts personal Census records from disclosure until after a 100 year closure period.

So, while 1911 Census information for England and Wales is being made available, the same does not apply to information in the

Scottish 1911 Census.

The Registrar General for Scotland believes that this strikes a balance between the interest of the records to family historians and the privacy of the people recorded by the Census, some of whom will still be alive. People who completed the 1911 Census were promised confidentiality. Although that is a long time ago, it is important not to call into question the validity of the equivalent promise on modern Census forms. That could deter people from filling in the Census form, reducing the response rate and making the Census results (which are so important for many aspects of Scottish life) less accurate.

The Registrar General for Scotland plans to release the Scottish 1911 Census information just after the date of the 2011 Census (27 March 2011), by which time the 100 year closure period will have ended.

Above information from ScotlandsPeople "Connecting Generations", a partnership between the General Register Office of Scotland and the Court of the Lord Lyon enabled by brightsolid, formerly Scotland Online. ScotlandsPeople has almost 50 million records available online, for a fee.

The British 1911 Census

by John Stoddart

The "Beta" Version of most of the 1911 British Census is now available from FindmyPast, through the web page 1911 Census.co.uk. The records are available for a fee. Wales and some northern counties of England are not yet available as of mid-March 2009.

The 1911 British Census was the first one completed by the head of each household and not by an enumerator appointed by the government of the day. Forms were distributed prior to Sunday April 12 1911 and all those residing at each address at midnight on April 12 were to be listed. The forms were later collected and tabulated. All the above sounds simple, but not so given the times in Britain. Despite detailed instructions (on the back) as to how to complete the document, most of the

original copies of the completed forms I have seen have errors.

In some cases, the person completing the form listed all the children, he and his wife had had, whether or not they were living at the address on Sunday April 12 1911. These children show up in another location, listed correctly. No attempt seems to have been made by the persons picking up the completed forms to verify the information on them.

The spelling in the transcription from the image is poor. How many ways can you spell the name "Marmaduke"? Worst one so far I have found is "Marmaduack" However, an opportunity to make corrections on line to the Beta version is available, once one pays for the image.

The contract to scan the almost 100 year old paper Census records was let by the National Archives in Great Britain to a company owned by ScotlandsPeople, based in Dundee, who had available state of the art imaging equipment.

Some of the records were damaged by water and had to be restored before they could be processed, hence the delay and unavailability of certain areas.

Over the last year or so, the imaging team from brightsolid has posted on the 1911 Census.co.uk web page newsletter some of their discoveries during the project.

Following are some of the stranger and more interesting entries found by the team.

- A mother of five children whose occupation is listed as 'slave to family'
- An opinionated household head, evidently affronted by the invasive nature of the census, who writes:

'Put some charge on goods coming from abroad... Could you not find something better to do than ask about children that have been dead over 56 years?'

- A household return completed by the enumerator with a supplementary note explaining the sole occupant was 'found dead in chair in house. Monday 3rd April '11'.
- Four professional footballers - Rochdale and Crystal Palace players among them.
- A comment from an enumerator asserting

that seven child household members are the illegitimate offspring of the housekeeper.

- A man who lists his occupation as 'inventor and model maker'.
- The household of Hugh Richard Arthur Grosvenor, the second Duke of Westminster - he's living with his daughter, Lady Ursula Grosvenor, and 18 servants. Grosvenor competed for Great Britain in the 1908 London Olympics as a motorboat racer. He was also noted for his support of various right-wing causes, and his romantic pursuit of French fashion designer Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel. He died in 1953, aged 74.
- The return for one household lists the family cat as a domestic servant, giving the feline's nationality as 'Persian'. We hope the enumerator appreciated the joke.
- One householder, apparently objecting to the intrusive nature of the census, writes on the return:
'Would you like to know what our income is, what each had for breakfast and how long we expect to live on anything else?'
- A number of doodles on census returns, including a sketch of a figure in a bowler hat, and a man in a high-buttoned military style jacket.
- A rather unusual entry, which reads 'tramp - slept out in backyard'.
- A man who lists his occupation as '(anything) nothing special', suggesting the understated British sense of humour was very much alive in 1911.
- George William Coventry, 9th Earl of Coventry, a Conservative politician who was involved in horseracing. He is living with his wife, son, and an incredible 16 servants.
- Lord Mountbatten, listed as Prince Louis of Battenberg.
- Musician and composer John Greenwood.
- A head of household and eldest son whose first names were 'Redemption'
- We've found author John Masefield, who served as Poet Laureate from 1930 until his death in 1967. His most famous works are probably his classic children's novels, along with his large array of poetry.

- The Women's Freedom League, a suffragette organisation, arranged a boycott of the 1911 census. We've already found three apparent sympathisers. One of them, who left the census return otherwise blank, has written: *'No vote - no census. In view of restrictive legislation... I refuse to give details of my household asked for in this document'*. Another - who has partially completed the form - declares: *'If I am intelligent enough to fill in this paper, I am intelligent enough to put a cross on a voting paper'*. She also lists '6 females - addresses and names unknown' who, we can guess, were fellow suffragettes. Many attended all-night parties or stayed with friends to avoid participation.
- We uncovered an enumerator (or possibly a householder) with a penchant for doodling and an apparent taste for the east - on two separate pages are ink drawings of what appears to be an oriental woman; one of them directly above a household.
- We've found a disparaging comment made by the head of a household about a woman in his service. Scrawled on the bottom of the census return is: *'This woman calls herself "about forty" and refuses to say more. She looks 60. She leaves my service tomorrow.'*
- Other finds include: an Earl and Countess, a (presumably) unnamed child listed simply as 'baby', a vocalist with a laryngologist husband, and a man whose occupation is recorded as 'dealer in Christmas cards of fancy stationary & fancy goods commercial traveler 7 months of the year selling the above goods'.

Information above supplied with thanks to 1911 Census.co.uk official Census website.

Notes from the President:

by Fay Carlson

We decided to hold a course in Beginner's Genealogy in March. As part of the advertising, I was interviewed by the Camrose Booster. The article was well-done and resulted in a large registration for the course.

On Saturday, March, 7, even though it was a stormy morning, we had over 25 people from

Wetaskiwin, Forestburg, Daysland, Meeting Creek and Camrose. This turnout proves that many Camrose and area residents are anxious to learn how to start searching for their roots. We are hoping to be adding some new members after this. Some of the participants are even planning on attending the AGS conference in Edmonton in April. Many thanks to Sherran Dermott for leading this.

There is a competition for the best Newsletter of the AGS chapters.

Our Newsletter will be judged along with those from the other chapters. The winner will be announced in April at the AGS Conference. If more of the other chapters sent their Newsletter online, as we do in Camrose, we would be able to print them off and read them at leisure. I have seen some very interesting articles in their Newsletters.

We are still plugging away at our project of Births, Marriages and Deaths from the Camrose Canadian. This is an ongoing task with many volunteer hours used.

The AGS conference in April has been announced with some very good topics covered. Several of our group have made plans and registered.

Remember to submit more articles for the Newsletter. We are always eager to print something that will make us laugh or make us learn.

Quotes from past issues of The Camrose Canadian:

by Fay Carlson

Feb 17, 1915

From District News Donalda:

“A resident of our village is guilty of stealing a quarter of beef from the local Chinese restaurant. Pon Nam Washington, the proprietor, placed the following notice in the post office, Friday, last week.”

If man who did stealing of quarter of beef from honorable Chinese restaurant at town of Donalda - will leave his disreputable name at p.o., he will excite greatest of pleasure in

causing his arrestedness for crime done by him. We express much hate to you, hoping you are the same. Chinese Resterant.

March 25, 1915

Heard on Main Street:

“A male was hauled up on a charge of vagrancy. He was sentenced to 2 months in jail and solemnly promised to not return to Camrose”

June 24, 1915

“It was reported in Ottawa that P. Burns and Co. of Calgary received an order of 50,000 cows and stockers from the French government for delivery to France.

The animals in all probability will be delivered live to France and slaughtered there.”

June 10, 1915

“Four farmers from Castor were committed to the jail at Fort Saskatchewan to await trial, charged with assisting the enemy by contributing money for the benefit of the German Government.”

Camrose Library Policy

AGS Camrose Branch

Bev Webster, Branch Librarian

Our Library is open for genealogical research to any one.

The publications are contained in two locked cabinets in the Camrose Public Library.

Access is gained by asking the clerk at the front desk to unlock the cabinets for your use.

The publications are not to be removed from the site by anyone except Camrose AGS members.

Members taking publications off-site must sign for them in the journal provided.

Publications may be signed out for a period of 30 days at a time.

The Newsletter Committee earnestly solicits contributions for the next Newsletter.