



# Camrose

## *Roots and Shoots*

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### **Newsletter of the Camrose Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society**

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#### President's Notes *by Fay Carlson*

Welcome to Sharon Olsen, who has taken over as editor of our newsletter from Jack Cunningham. Jack was editor from the first issue that we produced and we will miss him greatly. Thanks so much, Jack.

I hope that you will give Sharon your full co-operation. This includes submitting any articles that you think would be of interest. We all have found special stories during our searches and please share them with us. It could be a short little joke, poem or story of your family.

I was not able to attend the Directors meeting or the retreat at St. Albert held in September. I was in Europe enjoying two very different cruises. The first was in Norway on what is called, "The most beautiful cruise in the world". I went on a Norwegian coastal ship from Bergen to Kirkness and back to Bergen, 2,800 kms of the Norwegian coast line and fjords, over 11 days. It was an unforgettable trip with 400 fellow passengers from twelve countries.

In 1883, my grandparents came from the

area east of Trondheim, to Minnesota. I had visited Norway before, but this time I wanted to experience the trip by ship. I would definitely recommend it to anyone.

The second part of my holiday was a Mediterranean cruise on a huge Italian ship. The highlight here was my tour of Pompei. It was eerie to stand in areas that had been built before Christ, and realize how quickly it had been destroyed by the volcano. We walked through what had once been rich homes and temples. I was surprised at how large the area was that has been uncovered and there is still much that has not been touched. The guide told us stories that could make you cry, describing how this disaster could have happened.

We were happy to participate in Founders Day in August. The two families honored this year were the Pratt and Burrows families. Our club also entered the Community Registration night in September. We had an information booth for the first time hoping to attract new members to our organization.

We have booked Deanna Bullock for a workshop November 7, from 12:30-3:00 P.M. There is no cost, but we ask that you

pre-register by calling the library at  
780-672 4214

We continue to welcome new members. Come out and meet the group, every second Thursday evening at 7:30 P.M. at the Camrose Library. Our members are always ready to help with any problems in your search. They have years of experience in researching different countries and other special problems.

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**Founders Days**  
*by Bev Webster*

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of The City of Camrose in 2004 it was decided to have a celebration called Founders Days. The idea of the event is to honour the Founding Fathers of Camrose. The event has been running annually since. It is usually the second weekend in August. Each year the Founders Days Committee chooses one or more of the Founders to honour.

The Camrose Branch of AGS contributes to the event by doing a Family Tree of the honourees for the current year.

When the names are chosen, we scour the local history books for the honourees and their families, looking for information on when and where they came from, also births, marriages and deaths and any other information that is of value to trace their ancestors and descendant. We also use the census records online and ask the Camrose Public Library to bring in any census records films that are not on line. In no particular order the following are used to extract as much information as possible: local newspapers, cemetery records, visit funeral homes, AGS Master Data Bank files. When a new name is discovered the whole process is started over.

If possible we contact relatives of the honourees to ask for their help with the project. Family members that we have talked to in the past have been very helpful and they look forward to seeing the end product. They have supplied their own family trees, which we use to expand our project. We try to get wedding pictures and pictures in later life of the honouree and their family.

The completed Family Tree is on display during Founders Days at the Genealogy table of the Camrose Branch of AGS. It is open for anyone to look at, make suggestions about and/or corrections to. We usually meet other family members of the honourees at the table and they add their input to the family trees. When Founders Days is over and the corrections have been carried out, the booklets are given to the respective families of the honourees.

We then wait until next year to start the process over again.

*(From an e-mail from Bev Davis)*

*The Burrows family would like to thank the Camrose Genealogical Society, especially you and Bev Webster, for all your hard work preparing and displaying our family history in Camrose for the Founders Days Celebration. You did a outstanding job.*

*Sincerely, Bev Davis*

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The following is a portion of an ad in the Camrose Canadian printed Feb 11, 1942 encouraging Canadians to Buy Victory Bonds.

**The Spirit of  
The Pioneer Mother  
Flames Anew Today.**

Think Back to the old days - when Canada was young.

Think of the high courage, the indomitable will of those pioneer women. Within the stockade or in the open field, they toiled - yes fought - by the side of their men for the safeguarding of everything they held dear.

In the hearts of the women of Canada today this old spirit flames anew today! Gone are the heavy muskets, and log barricades - but the love of freedom, the stubborn resolve to win through at all costs - these things remain unchanged, unchangeable! ....

## **Kings Daughters - Filles Du Roi Founding Mother**

*My Canadian Heritage  
by Sharon Sullivan-Olsen*

For some time I have been looking for the family of Maria Anne Leroy-Freer. The Freer Family history came to me from a distant cousin. I enjoyed reading the History of New Paltz. Within the covers of this old history book that I found at <http://www.archive.org/details/texts> I read about a tiny trunk with the initials HF which had been formed by a blacksmith. This small trunk had been buried in a cellar during the American Revolution and eventually was housed in a bank vault. When it was finally opened it contained many original documents of value to the early history of New England. Original documents showing the purchase of land from the Esopus Indians, tax notices, and an apprenticeship agreement where Hugo Freer's daughter Sara was to learn the art of dressmaking and a letter from Jean Giron to 'Nephew Huger and Niece Huger' and closing 'your brother salutes you and your sister salutes you'. My curiosity kept me on the trail of the mysterious Marie Anne Leroy.

Marie Anne Leroy, I was informed was from Canada. I recalled having studied about the young women of France who came to New France as 'Brides of Canada' in the 1600's. Hoping for some information I googled those words. I came up with nothing of any consequence at that time. I tried to search for dates that would fit with what I knew of her. No luck. That was three years ago.

In June 2009, I went to World Connect and looked for Marie Anne Leroy-Freer. I found

that someone had already researched her. So back to the computer with different questions on the search engines. I began to find web sites that talked about the 'Kings Daughters'. But still I did not have any concrete connection.

At a meeting of the Camrose Genealogical Society there was a discussion of the Drouin Collection. This collection is of records were early Canadian births, marriages, and deaths. Could I find a Marie Anne Leroy? I did not have a subscription to Ancestry.ca so I needed to find a different way to try to access these records.

Over the course of my family history search I have found many wonderful people who were willing to help. Could I find another 'Genealogical Angel'? It was worth a try.

I went to Rootsweb and found a Montreal message board. I left a note wondering about the catholic records and before long I had a reply. Dare I ask for help to get these records? I was lucky again. Before long 'Angel' had posted the baptism records of the Leroy family. All in French!

I had also been informed that the Millet Library subscribed to Ancestry.ca. Back to the computer to find times when the library was open. Now to find the time to visit Millet and hope for success. I wanted to find Jean Giron and more.

Success! More French records. Now I needed to find a site that would help me translate these records. Again I had success with limitations. I was able to transcribe enough to get a story and a genealogy.

Here is what I found about my 'Founding Mother of Canada' ancestor:

A marriage record of Claude Deschalets and Simeon Leroy dated September 3, 1668. Claude's parents were the late Francois Deschalets and Jaquette Chevallereau.

Simeon's parents were Richard Leroy and Gillette Jacquet.

A baptismal record for Marie Anne their daughter at the Notre Dame Quebec on May 7, 1673.

The marriage record for Jean Giron and Madeleine Deschalets (twin sister of Claude), Sept 3, 1668, was the next entry in the marriage register after Simeon and Claude.

A marriage record for Francois Paris and Elizabeth Deschalets is recorded on November 26, 1668. The three sisters were all married at the Notre Dame, Quebec.

Now that I had the records I wanted to know about the history in early New France. King Louis XIV had been sending members of the military to New France to defend the borders of his new colony. However, there was a growing population of males with a definite shortage of wives for these men. King Louis came upon a plan. He would advertise for young marriageable aged women to travel to New France with the idea of establishing households. He would 'adopt' them and give them a dowry plus pay for their passage to New France.

The marriage register showed Claude Deschalets and her two sisters, Elizabeth and Madeleine were orphans. Without parents to assist them, I believe that they would have been left to the trials of the era to find a living by any method. I feel certain that they were adventurous and willing to stake their lives and future on coming to the New World.

Voyages across the ocean at that time were long and wrought with dangers. I can well imagine that the young sisters spent countless hours in conversation. Perhaps wondering where their lives would take them, who they would marry and fears of the unknown land and the dangers of life in

the wilds of New France and holding on to each other as they were tossed about during storms at sea.

Who was Simeon Leroy? I have interpreted the records to show him to be a master carpenter in the parish of Notre Dame. Was his occupation one of the deciding points for Claude to accept his proposal of marriage?

Simeon and Claude had 9 children. After the loss of an infant daughter in 1681, Simeon and Claude moved to the southern part of New France which today is Albany, NY. They left a daughter and a son with the childless Jean and Madeleine Giron. It was this decision to move south that brought Marie Anne into the presence of Hugo Freer. The Old Dutch Church of Kingston Parish Records show births of grandchildren of Simeon and Claude to both the Leroy family and the Freer family. Marie and Hugo Freer's grandchildren and grandchildren are in the register also.

The internet gives the following history of the Parish of Notre Dame in Quebec. 'The Notre-Dame de Quebec is located on the same site since its humble beginnings in 1647'. The parish had been in existence for about 20 year when Simeon and Claude were married.

It is hard to imagine the lives of these pioneers. I am very proud of the tenacity that Claude showed in coming to the New World and in raising a family in an environment that was often hostile. I am extremely proud to have her as my 8<sup>th</sup> great Grandmother.

Marie Anne Leroy and Hugo Freer lived their lives in Kingston, NY and area. I like to think that the church where Claude and Simeon were married looked like the stone church built in New Paltz by the Freer Family. Perhaps the design and the building methods of these early churches came from rural Normandy with my 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> great

Grandfathers.

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### KISSING THE BLARNEY STONE

*Submitted by Joan Conley,  
Camrose Genealogy Society  
Oct 2009*

Well, I wasn't near the Blarney Stone, but I was in Rockforest, near Knock, Co Tipperary in the Republic of Ireland. The widow of a distant Standish relative had invited me to stay with her. Sadie said, "My house is small, but we'll manage...you might have to sleep in the doghooos !" As we both laughed, I knew we would get along fabulously.

Sadie's husband Molua Standish (died 2002) is descended from Robert Standish born Mill Park 1904; Robert was the son of Joseph Standish of Mill Park (1864-1949); Joseph's father was Robert Standish of Mill Park, and Robert's father was James Standish of Mill Park, Knockballymeagher (c 1738).

Molua has 3 living sisters: Dymphna Mary Standish (Bracebridge, ON), Winnifred Ann (Oonagh) Standish Kelly (Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, IRL), and another sister who resides in England.

"The Tree Musketeers", as we called ourselves, separated at Glasgow, Ruth and Sharon going on to the South of England while I was staying overnight in Glasgow to fly to Dublin the next day.

I had a picture of an unknown couple that had been given to me by a Conley widow. The photographer's name "Ralston" and "Glasgow" were on the front of the picture, and the address "195 ½ Argyle Street" on the back. Argyle Street is a main thoroughfare, so I found where the Studio

would have been located...right between where Woolworth's and Pizza Hut now stand! The entrance, stairs, and the old studio are long gone.

My next stop would be the Mitchell Library where I hoped to discover more about my Conleys and the Ralston photographers. I was told that the Ralstons were well-known for their photographs of ships. Since I wanted to set a time frame for when the couple's picture was taken, it was suggested that I search the Glasgow Postal Directories. The Directories were brought out in 2 carts, and I found that the Ralston family operated their business from 1857-1872. Now I had a time frame. It is believed that my Conleys came from Scotland prior to 1846 (source: land records, Canadian censuses, etc.) so this couple stayed behind or were planning on coming to Canada.

I also had pictures of 2 gentlemen wearing scarves, one draped over his shoulder; the other over the shoulders and then wrapped around his waist...perhaps some significance to a clan? The librarians told me that the scarves are "tweeds" not "tartans" and were not likely a type of clan clothing. I found nothing further about the scarves.

The next day, I flew from Glasgow to Dublin, then by bus to Roscrea where Sadie picked me up.

Sadie uses peat to heat the house, so we "toured" the peat bog. Earlier Sadie had called the current owners (and relatives by marriage) of the Standish Estate. The Hennesys invited us over for tea and to see the land. The house is gone, but the stable still stands. Sadie waded into the muddy grounds with her "Wellies" and broke off a piece of the stable stone for me to take home. The Hennesys have lived there for 21 years. When I thanked both of them (between hugs) for their hospitality, Jimmy simply replied, "We're Irish..."

Sadie's sister-in-law Oonagh and husband Paul took us on a day trip to Cashel Castle. Paul told me that the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common surname in Ireland is his surname "Kelly", the 1<sup>st</sup> most common is "Murphy"...

The following day Sadie and I visited the churches that the Standishes attended, and took pictures of the Standish plots. The Knock church has Standish Celtic gravestones in the churchyard behind the church. This is the inscription on one of the Standish stones :

*"In Loving Memory of Joseph Standish, Ballykelly died 14<sup>th</sup> July 1949 Aged 85 years; His wife Ellen died 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1940 (Interred in Curraguneen); Martin Hennesy died 30<sup>th</sup> July 1975 Aged 69 years; His wife Mary Kate nee Standish died 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1978 Aged 76 years"*

You can see the Standish/Hennesy connection there...

Courageneen Church 1812 AD is located in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Here we found more Standish Celtic gravestones. The facade of the church and the church floor are all that remains.

Skirk Roman Catholic Church and Cemetery is located at Borris-in-Ossory, Leix Co. A stone there memorializes John Standish of Ballytarsna, which I believe was the name of the Standish Estate. Named also are other family members including John's wife.

My time with this delightful family ended too soon. Across the Irish Sea once more, then by rail to Taunton in England to reconnect with my friends. What an exciting 3 days I had with my newly-discovered Irish relations !...

and that's no Blarney !!

*Genealogy is the fastest growing leisure activity today!*

## **Tracing your Norwegian Roots**

*Submitted by Fay Carlson*

On my recent trip to Norway, I stopped at The Tourist office in Bergen. I found a folder entitled , *Norwegian Roots?* I include some of the information that was included.

The Digital Archives of Norway

<http://digitalarkivet.no>

This is a public service where you can search in transcribed material for free, more than 10 million records of 3800 data files.

The Digital Archives include the Norwegian National censuses of 1801, 1865 and 1900, as well as the Norwegian emigrant databases and many other records.

The internet service for browsing Norwegian digitalized parish records has been available since 2005. These records are digitised from microfilm and indexed, making it easy to start the first page of a register, the start of a list of records or the start of a year in this list. From this point you can browse through the pages in the register or through a list of records, even though the records are scattered around in the original parish register.

Over the next couple of years, other records, such as the real estate documents of Norway up to 1935, will be published.

*"How to trace your ancestors in Norway"*, is available at

<http://digitalarkivet.no/sab/howto.html>

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**The Camrose Branch of the AGS**  
meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur of each month - 7:30 p.m.  
in the boardroom of Camrose Public Library  
**Everyone Welcome**

The Alberta Genealogical Society website  
[www.abgensoc.ca](http://www.abgensoc.ca)

**Thank you for your submissions!**  
**The Newsletter Committee**