



CAMROSE BRANCH ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

November 2014

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Upcoming Events

Nov. 13, 2014 – Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 at 7:30 pm, Irving Room, Camrose Public Library –

Topic: War Stories – July 28, 1914 was the beginning of the 1st World War

Dec. 11, 2014 – Christmas Meeting – bring goodies, coffee supplied – casual get-together, 7:30 pm, Irving Room, Camrose Public Library – always a fun time!!! Topic: Christmas Family Traditions

Branch News

June 2014 meeting – President Janine Carroll gave a slideshow presentation on the “Gravestone Preservation” course that she recently enjoyed in Chicago, Illinois. Janine wants to pursue this as a career, and she enthusiastically passed on all that she learned. Her instructor/restorer and the study group went to Mount Carroll Cemetery, near Chicago, for hands-on instruction. “Cemeteries are open air museums”, Janine says. In this particular cemetery, some stones are 30 feet high, and of course, there are footstones. Gravestones that resemble trees are often tributes to a member of the Woodsmen of America.

Unfortunately, most damage to the stones is done by lawn mowers and cemetery staff. Sometimes, footstones are used to prop up leaning gravestones, perhaps further damaging both stones. Environmental damage can be done, as well – trees are sometimes damaged by other trees, fallen or stronger varieties. Water seepage is another environmental cause of damage to the gravestone base.

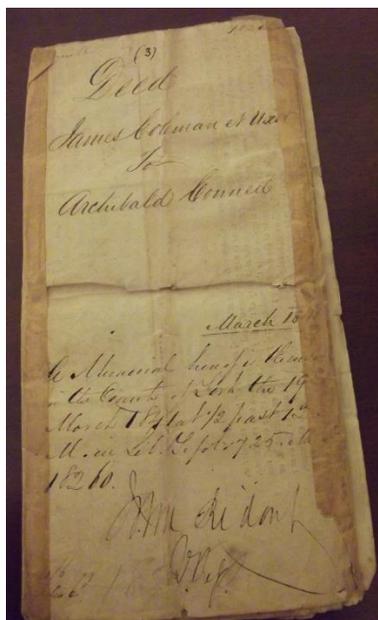
A solution called “D2”, which is biodegradable and contains no soap or acid, removes lichen from the stones. This solution should not be diluted. Tools used to clean a gravestone without damage are: natural bristle brush and a plastic scraper. Bring water from home. Don’t use the piped cemetery water. It may contain rust or other harmful minerals because of old pipes. Don’t use water pressure when cleaning with water. It was very interesting, Janine. Thank you for sharing!

July 27, 2014 Camrose’s Valleyview Cemetery Tour – Janine Carroll and Adele Goa guided our tour, pointing out the gravestones of Camrose’s past prominent citizens, interesting facts about those citizens, their contributions to the growth of our city, and some trivia.

The Mah family stone is especially beautiful.



September 2014 meeting – The topic was “What you did last summer”. I missed the meeting, but I did make a trip to Ontario in June, visiting cousins and researching my Standish and Conley ancestors. It was a very successful trip, and I was able to copy my great-great grandfather’s Land Deed of Purchase in 1841. Unfortunately, the lawyer made an error when writing his name on the front of the Deed, but his signature clearly says “Archibald Conley”! My cousin, who drove me all over the area (including cemeteries and Tim Horton’s) was born on the original homestead, and still lives there.



Deed: James Coleman
To
Archibald Connell
March 1841

October 2014 meeting – Topic: “Women in our Attics”. Fay Carlson told the story of her great-aunt Kathrina Dorothea Edenloff – (see Page 4 in this issue). Joan Conley related the story of her paternal grandmother Bertha Mae (nee Carson) Conley. Adele Goa reported on Wayne Steel’s grandfather’s cousin, Lillian Steel, who never married. Adele feels that women who remain single are sometimes forgotten in our histories. Sharon Olsen brought her beautiful Family Tree album, along with a collar embroidered by her great-grandmother Eva May Holmes Flynn, who became Eva May Spoon, and framed pictures of Eva and her husband. Along with these wonderful stories, interest was added to the meeting with our President Janine Carroll talking to us via Skype from Bruce Mines, Ontario. Janine reported that, on her trip across Canada in the last few days, she “saw” one ghost and “heard” one ghost in the old motels where she stayed...hoping to hear more about that, Janine!

The World’s Largest Cemetery

“Many people know the Great Wall of China took over 1700 years to build but not everyone knows that it is also referred to as the world’s largest cemetery. This is a reference to the fact that over one million people died constructing it. It is said that every foot of wall represents one life lost. Construction was ordered to continue with each Dynasty that came to power, despite the lives lost throughout the process.” –

Source: <http://travel.ca.msn.com>

War Brides of the Second World War

Excerpts from the book “Please Take Care of my Daughter” by Ben Wicks

As the war brides traveled across Canada by rail to their husbands and new homes, many remarked on how short the (Canadian) telephone poles were. There is an explanation: since many war brides arrived in winter, the telephone poles were buried in feet of snow!

Back home in England, the war brides had been teased by their family and friends that Canada was full of cowboys and Indians, just like the Hollywood movies that the English favoured. One bride fainted on the train platform when she was greeted by her husband’s family in full Indian regalia. Too bad her husband had neglected to tell her that he was Native Indian.

Another English lady and her Canadian soldier married on his 48 hour leave, but he couldn’t tear himself away so stayed with her for another 24 hours. Upon return to camp, the soldier’s commanding officer remarked that his honeymoon must have tired him out. “So, I am going to give you lots of time to rest: 21 hours CB (Confined to Barracks), 21 hours KP and 21 days lost pay”. The Canadian soldier’s new bride said that war time was very difficult, but it was all worth it! – *Submitted by Joan Conley*



Breakneck Steps, Quebec City, QC, about 1870



Dora's Story

I have a special place in my heart for my Great-Aunt Kathrina Dorethea, my grandfather's sister, even though I never met her. Kathrina was born 15 March, 1859 in Sunsväl, Sweden to Pehr Pehrsson Edenlof and Martha Thoresdotter. She had two older brothers and a younger sister. My great-grandfather, Pehr went to America in 1868 and on 5 July, 1868, he signed a certificate to say that he wished to renounce his Swedish citizenship and become an American. He began to write letters back to Sweden to convince his family to join him. The oldest son, Pehr Mathias, came from Sweden in 1871 to help his father with the homestead in Minnesota. Old Pehr went back to Sweden and returned in 1873, to Minnesota with my grandfather, Nils, 20 and Kathrina, 14. Great Grandmother Mathilda and the youngest daughter Sigrid never came to America to complete the family.

So, Kathrina, 14 years old, was the housekeeper for her father and 2 brothers for several years. The 1875 census shows her living with her father and 2 brothers in Isanti County, Minnesota on the homestead. In 1880 Dora was living and working in a shop in Minneapolis. She wrote to her sister back in Sweden that she had a wonderful Norwegian boss, called Elder. She said that she finished working in the weaving factory and worked as a cashier. She went to work at 8 in the morning and was done by 8 in the evening with 2 hours free time in the middle of the day. She begged her mother and sister to come and join them in Minnesota. She said that her boss had offered her a free return ticket to Sweden. I found the record that Dora did go back home to Sweden to visit in 1884, but returned to U.S.A.

I found her on the 1890 census listed as Dora Edenlof and working in Tacoma, Washington as a milliner. Her letters show that she moved to California in 1890 because it was better for her health. On some of the census she listed herself as a widow and did not always give her correct age.

When, in 1999, I began my research on Pehr Pehrson Edenlof, my Great-grandfather, I was determined to find more information on Kathrina Dorethea. The family story was that she had died long ago. Because she never married and because the name Edenlof is unique, I found out that she died in Los Angeles, California in 1947. I ordered her death certificate and what a thrill to get so much information from it! The certificate cost \$22 but worth every cent.

She had distanced herself from her family so the information was given by a neighbor. She had been in a sanatorium for 1 ½ years, had been in California 28 years, 18 years in Los Angeles, and in U.S.A. for 75 years. She died of arterial arteriosclerosis and senile psychosis. Her birthdate was listed as July 17, 1859 so she was 87 years old.

The information and name of her father, mother and birthplace were listed as unknown, just born in Sweden. The name and address of the informant was listed. The name and signature of the doctor and the funeral director were on the form. She was cremated, which I don't think was very common in 1947.

There are very few photos of her, but I know that she worked as a milliner for many years. I can imagine that she even made some hats for movie stars. I believe she was a strong brave woman and I am proud to have her as my great aunt.



Submitted by Fay Edenloff Carlson

10 inventions by Women

Source: <http://tech.ca.msn.com>

- Bette Nesmith Graham invented the first correction fluid (for typing errors)
- Polish-American chemist Stephanie Kwolek invented Kevlar, now used for producing everything from bicycle tires to body armour used in combat situations
- American Mary Anderson invented car wiper blades
- American Tabitha Babbitt built the 1st circular saw for use in a lumber mill
- American entrepreneur Marion Donovan invented the disposable diaper
- Hedy Lamarr, Hollywood star along with a composer friend invented a system by which radio-guided torpedoes could not be jammed by the enemy
- American socialite Josephine Cochrane invented the dishwasher
- Working on her late husband's unfinished project, American Martha Coston eventually invented the signalling system of a flare
- Anna Connelly patented the 1st exterior staircase fire escape in 1887
- Ruth Wakefield created the chocolate chip cookie

That's strange; half my ancestors are WOMEN!

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you ?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

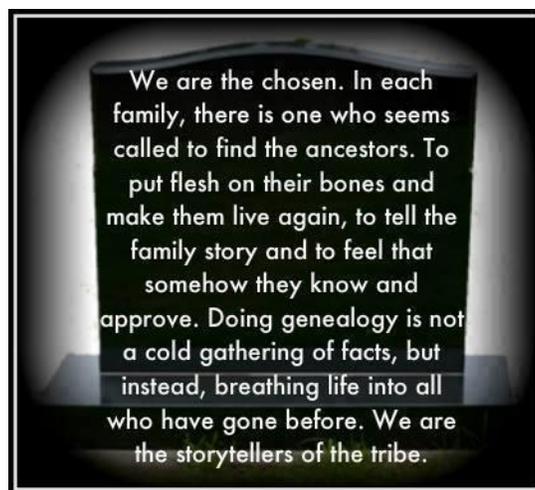
If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown





Huffington Post Blog Page

Getting started on your Family Tree:

- Start with yourself and work backwards. Many people make the mistake of starting their family trees with the oldest known relatives and working down.
- Use the 1940 US Census. It became publically available just last year and lists full household names, occupations and family members. A new treasure trove that's available through all the genealogy programs.
- Use the Social Security Death Index. I worked backwards through a full generation on my mother's side simply by finding my grandfather's death certificate. Just adding an exact date and place of death opens up quite a bit of family mystery.
- Use EllisIsland.org but remember, not every ancestor from a foreign country came in through Ellis Island. Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia also processed many immigrants.
- Use the ships manifests, which are all handwritten. They may contain spelling/human errors so take some liberty and search slight variations in spellings.
- Use military records. Draft registration cards include physical descriptions like hair color, height - fascinating sources of information.
- Visit Stevemorse.org - a clearinghouse for helping you find genealogical information.

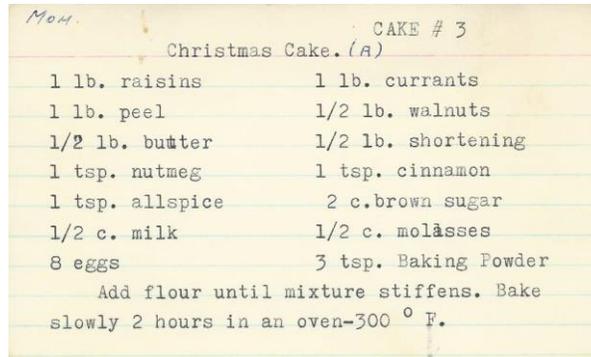
And here are some of my own tips from my (Note: see author's name below) experiences:

- Don't go it alone -- corner that cousin or aunt. Sit them down and let them add some different perspective from their family's point of view. You'll flesh things out much more quickly.
- Visit the cemetery. Just by entering in the date of the death of relatives buried in our cemetery plot, I could access the Death Certificates which held a lot of family information including age, place of death, spouses, children and more.
- To get any real work done you'll need to pay. Most of the genealogy programs let you do a certain amount of record keeping for free, but to access their records you'll want a yearly subscription. You can save money by researching on public sources but it's significantly more time consuming. Average fees are about \$70 a year.
- After two pretty intensive months, my tree has grown wider with more information. It actually goes back five generations now, which is a big improvement over the three I started with. Still, I was unable to go back further than the Shetl in the Ukraine, but at least my own kids will be spared some of the agony when they get around to caring.

Written by Robin Raskin, published on the Huffington Post Blog page www.huffingtonpost.com Aug 2014



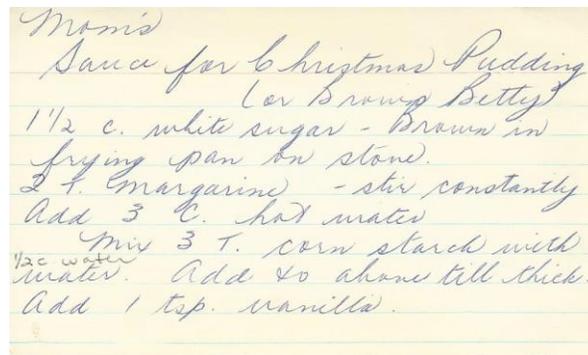
Mom's Christmas Cake



Mom always made 3 Christmas fruit cakes – small, medium and large.

I wasn't too fussy on the cakes, but I knew there would always be a small surprise inside each piece, a coin wrapped in parchment paper!

As a child, I thought that Mom wrapped the coin in the paper and baked it inside the cake. When I got a little older, I stumbled upon Mom tucking the wrapped coins inside each piece of her 5 children's dessert! She covered that well by asking me if I wanted to help. Mom's homemade sauce made the fruit cake enjoyable for me. It was so good! That is one of my favourite family Christmas traditions...



Submitted by Joan Conley
from Zetta Conley's Kitchen

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

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