



# PAST FINDER

DRAYTON VALLEY BRANCH  
ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Re-Burial of Catherine Davies  
Near Puerto Madryn, Argentina  
MichéLe Henderson 3<sup>rd</sup> from left  
In Front Row

**Volume 22 Issue 2  
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Drayton Valley Branch  
 Alberta Genealogical Society  
 PO Box 115  
 Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0

Meetings held 7:00 pm  
 Third Wednesday of each month  
 Except July, August and December  
 In the library at Wishing Well Apartments  
 5208 – 47 Ave Valley, AB

The Branch library and resources are located at Wishing Well Apartments and are available to members seven days a week from 9:00am to 9:00 pm. The library is on the second floor. Members are given an access code to open the key lock box which will give them access to the building and another key lock box by the library door will give them access to the library.

#### EXECUTIVE

President-	Connie Stuhl	780-542-9288
Past president	Colleen Andersen	780-542-2787
Vice President –vacant		
Secretary	Bev Wright	780-542-7292
Treasurer	Bev Wright	780-542-7292
Historian	Vacant	
Library	Colleen Andersen	780-542-2787
Newsletter	Miriam Roberts	780-542-2215
Publicity	Miriam Roberts	780-542-2215
Fund Raising	Vacant	
Volunteer Hours	Colleen Andersen	780-542-2787
Communication	Vacant	
Parliamentarian	Vacant	

#### TWIGS, BARK & KINDLING

Please send me some articles for the Past Finder, I need some input.  
 I request anyone who will be celebrating 25 years as a member of AGS in the coming year, please notify the executive.  
 We welcome John Althouse, Regan and Jolene Seely and Susan Schwindt as new members, after Genfair  
 Colleen Andersen received a certificate at Genfair for 25 years of membership in AGS, congratulations Colleen

This will be my last Past Finder

**NB** Past Finder will be published in Spring and Fall x 2 a year.

## President's Report

I am sitting outside on my deck enjoying a beautiful August evening, listening to the birds and sounds of summer. A book on the Fry side of my family tree is open, as I had questions from family that I needed to find answers for, and I hope to find them in there. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to get out and explore and perhaps add a bit more information onto your family tree.

I wish to welcome our newest members, John Althouse, Susan Schwindt and Jolene & Regan Seely. If I have not caught up with you yet to present you with an AGS pin, membership card and beginners package, I hope to do so soon. Congratulations to Colleen Andersen on receiving your 25 year membership certificate!

In April we held a successful Gen Fair, with many positive comments from the attendees. Thank you to our presenters, Ronald Kelland, Susan Haga and Lianne Kruger. This format had not been tried at a Gen Fair before, with speakers throughout the day, but for a branch where most of the AGS members in attendance had to travel, it offered them something else other than a quick look at the displays. This also kept them in attendance for the AGS Annual General Meeting which must have a certain minimum attending. This format may work for other small branches where attendees need to travel. A special thank you goes out to the small but mighty team that organized Gen Fair. Colleen Andersen, Miriam Roberts and Bev Wright, this could not have happened without your help!

The vendors that attended were Shop the Hound, Frontier's Edge and also local author Lil Ross. The Drayton Valley Museum also offered books written by a local author, Brian Loosmore. The books proved to be quite popular. There were representatives from the North American Festival of Wales, showcasing their upcoming conference in Calgary September 1 – 4. We even had a representative from the Western Review who attended Ronald Kelland's presentation, went away to attend another function, then returned for more of the presentation by Susan and Lianne. This resulted in good representation of our group in the next issue. There was also a display from the Drayton Valley and Area Legacy Project, which is planning to digitize the history of Drayton Valley, starting with the newspapers. I was especially pleased to see the local Family History Centre represented at this event.

In May I gave a talk on DNA and clues that can be found in photographs. Looking at photographs, we often assume what the event is, and as shown in this talk it may not always be correct. One of the photos looked like a photo of a wedding, but on closer examination, all participants were women. They were actresses in a play. So in this case you would be searching for an actress not a bride. In June we met at a local restaurant for supper.

I look forward to meeting with everyone at our next meeting on September 21. Bring your stories of what you have done over the summer and questions about any brick walls you are encountering. One of the benefits of attending a Branch meeting is to ask questions of those in attendance, there are always ideas of how to tackle the tough questions. Any ideas you may have for future meetings would be great, so we can plan a program that would both suit your needs and interest you.

Connie Stuhl, President



Lyn Meehan at AGS Table at Genfair

#### John William Roberts (JWR)

I realize that I had more information about him. In the Jones Family History prepared by John and Doreen Jones of Hamilton Ontario, about the descendants of Thomas and Jones of Llanfwrog, also Clocaenog and Derwen of the old county of Denbigshire, Wales, I found his name in the introduction.

JWR was born on August 26, 1884, at Maesmor Fechan, Llangwm, Denbigshire, Wales, in the 1891 census he was recorded as a scholar and lived at Cefn Griafolen (Cefn Griolen). In the 1901 census he was recorded as a farmer's son, at the same farm as in 1891.

In the casualties of World War 1 it is recorded that he farmed in South Alberta from 1910 to 1915. He joined the Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment) on February 4, 1915 in Cardston, Alberta according to his attestation paper, and gives his address as Woolford, (Cardston County), Alberta.

In his description he was 5ft. 4ins. tall with dark brown hair and blue eyes. There is a photograph of the headstone, but the inscription is not very clear.

#### Miriam Roberts

### **England/Wales border. By Miriam Roberts**

In *Relatively Speaking* Volume 44, Number 1, (February 2016) issue, two articles drew my attention to this subject. In Gloria Cathcart's article "Gardeners at Government House: tools for the task" she mentions she "surprisingly" found Ernest J. Stowe in the parish of Stowe in County of Radnorshire in 1911 census. This is not a real surprise to me, it is only about 65 km between Stowe and Worcester. There were trains at that time and there was no check points at the border in that time period.

In "Inaduequacies of Online Genealogy Sourcing" Celia Heritage mentions the Diocese of Lichfield covering areas in England, but it does not mention it covers part of Wales as well.

Since I grew up in the main part of Flintshire, a border county of Wales, I have encountered in my family research, family on my father's side crossed the border to the detached area of the same county, in the late 1700s, as well as a branch of my maternal family crossing the border in 1283.

Historically the border between England and Wales has changed many times. However it has remained constant since 1974 the last time the counties of Wales changed. The area along the border was also known as the Marches, because it was controlled by people marching along the border.

The earliest definitive record of a border was that of Wat's Dyke, a 64 km earth work boundary running from Basingwerk Abbey in Flintshire to Maesbury in Shropshire. It is thought to have been built sometime during the 716 and 757 AD in Aethebald's reign. Another dyke called Offa's Dyke is thought to have been built sometime between 757 and 796 AD by the king of Mercia (England).

A 283 km long distance footpath runs between Liverpool Bay in the River Dee Estuary to the Severn Estuary in the south, called Offa's Dyke path. An 8 foot mound was built on the side of Mercia and a 66 ft wide ditch was excavated on the Welsh side to protect Mercia against attacks/raids from what is now Wales.

It was customary for the English to cut off the ears of every Welshman found to the east of the dyke, and for the Welsh to hang every English man found to the west of the dyke. It symbolizes the separation between England and Wales.

There is a theory that there was a wall built in Roman times between 193 and 211 AD.

However after the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 he set out to subdue the Welsh and appointed Marcher Lords to rule over the Marches. The greatest of these Lords were the Earls of Chester, Shrewsbury, Hereford and Gloucester. These lords ruled by their own law, whereas in England fief-holders were accountable to the King of England.



While fierce hostility between the Marcher Lords and the Welsh was a fact of life, nevertheless much intermarriage occurred between Norman descendants and Princely Welsh families.

My 20x great-grandfather Sir Roger de Pyvelsden born 1229 was given Emral, an estate in Wales and was appointed in 1284 by King Edward 1 as the sheriff of Anglesey and the first Constable of Caernarvon castle in 1293 to collect taxes for the French wars. He died on January 17<sup>th</sup> 1294, by being lynched in Caernarvon by the Welsh for objecting to those taxes. Whether he was a Marcher Lord is something I have not been able to discern.

Much blood has been shed over this border, and my family on the Welsh side were involved in protecting the borderland.

The Laws in Wales Acts between 1535 and 1542 abolished the jurisdiction of the Marcher Lordships and they were absorbed in new or existing English or Welsh Shires, but some of the Marcher lords survived so did some of the rights over land and tenant. There is a list of Marcher Lordships and successors shires in Wikipedia.

The historic county of Monmouthshire was formed from the Welsh Marches in the Laws of Wales Act 1535. The second Laws in Wales Act 1542, enumerated the counties of Wales and omitted Monmouthshire, which led to ambiguity as to whether the county was part of England or Wales. Since 1974 it is definitely in Wales, the original Monmouthshire has been split up and the part next to England is called Monmouthshire.

For the purpose of the law, Monmouthshire was looked after by the courts at Westminster in England. Flintshire was attached to the county Palatine of Chester, and had its own Great Sessions. Records of the Courts of Great Sessions (GS) have been held at The National Library of Wales since 1962. The council for the GS was established in the reign of Henry V11 to administer the Marches and the Principality of Wales. The jurisdiction of the council extended over all Welsh Counties excluding Monmouthshire, and the English counties of Cheshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, but it was abolished in 1689. If anyone is researching family history in the border counties of either England or Wales, it would be wise to check each side of the border. The National Library of Wales is a good place to start researching

Wales was a country of large amounts of natural resources, such as coal, iron ore, lead, copper and slate. This caused migration to occur to the northeastern part of Wales from Lancashire and the Wirral in Cheshire. My father's aunt Margaret Ellen Jones married Edward Hooson in 1897. The Hooson (originally Hugheson) family had migrated to northeast Wales, from Derbyshire in the early 1700s, they have been found in Denbighshire and Flintshire. The families traveled with donkeys, and their children rode in panier baskets, they became known as panier children. Southeast Wales was also an area rich in natural resources, to which people from Somerset crossed the border and also some came from Montgomery shire in Wales.

Church jurisdictions did not coincide with the civil changes to the border. Part of Flintshire and Denbighshire were in the Diocese of Cheshire. The parish of Penley and the Welsh part of Llanymynech in Shropshire were in the Diocese of Lichfield. Whereas the diocese of Hereford included parts of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Monmouthshire. Parochial records in Wales had a poor survival rate compared to England, especially before 1800. A large number of Welsh people were nonconformists, many of the records from these churches known as chapels did not survive. The people who worshipped at the Baptist Chapels had their children baptized as teenagers or young adults, they were not baptized as infants. The records that have survived may be kept at the archives of the locality the family was from or at the National Library of Wales. The parishes on the border may be kept at the appropriate dioceses in England.

The Church in Wales is not the established church, disestablishment was affected in 1920 under the Welsh Church Act in 1914. Since 1920 parishes overlapping the border were allocated to the Church of England or to the Church in Wales, again the civil border does not correspond with the ecclesiastical border.

#### Sources of Information

1. Welsh Family History (Second Edition) a guide to research, edited by John and Sheila Rowlands.
2. Second Stages in Researching Welsh Ancestry edited by John and Sheila Rowlands.
3. The History of Halkyn Mountain by Bryn Ellis.
4. The Surnames of Wales for Family Historians and Others.
5. Parish Registers of Wales by C.J. Williams and J.Watts Williams.
6. Wikipedia.

#### Use of DNA in solving mystery of a skeleton by Miriam Roberts

In May 2015 I received two newspaper clippings on the use of DNA in confirming a family connection in Wales. A skeleton was found in Puerto Madryn, Argentina in 1995. It was established from the shape of the bones by archaeologists they were those of a European woman about 40years of age. The skeleton had a slight deformation, which was matched by the only known photograph of Catherine Roberts. She had no descendants in Argentina, her only known surviving son had left for Canada around 1900. I did try and find a match in Canada but without a first name, age and location. I was not successful.

To conclusively establish identity of the bones, researchers had to sequence the mitochondrial DNA of the remains, which is transmitted through female descendants. Doctor Fernando Coronato of Argentina traveled to Wales many times and finally was able to locate two women who were related to Catherine.

Nia Ritchie was able to travel to Argentina to have her DNA tested, she was thrilled when they confirmed that the remains were that of Catherine. A movie named Patagonia Bones was released in July 2015, to tie in with 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Welsh settlers arriving on the ship Mimosa, Catherine was one of the passengers.

Fast forward to June 2016, I wrote a short blurb for the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) newsletter “Hwyl” to publicize Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) having a table at the marketplace in NAFOW in September 2016 in Calgary. David Matthews of Calgary emailed me to notify me of the write-up being in Hwyl. The interesting newsletter included a short article titled Patagonia: The Calgary Connection. Naturally I was amazed to read the story that Michéle Henderson of Calgary is a great great-granddaughter of Catherine Davies. I knew immediately that it was the same story as above because she was holding a photograph of Catherine Davies, which I had seen in the newspaper clippings from Wales.

I emailed Elaine Westlake the president of Calgary Welsh Society to ask if she could send me Michéle Henderson’s email address. About 2 weeks later I received a reply from Michéle and she explained that Catherine’s married name was Davies, and she sent me a letter which I couldn’t open, but Connie Stuhl was able to convert the attachment to a Word document and a pdf. Document, I was able to it print off.

After finding out that Catherine’s surname was Davies, I checked the source of the passenger list of people emigrating to Canada from Patagonia via Liverpool in 1902 that I previously looked at for a Roberts family. There was a Henry and Ann Davies and a family of 8 children, on the ship. In the reply I received from Michéle she confirmed it is the family of her great-grandparents. I had a hunch about this group who emigrated to Saltcoats, Saskatchewan. I had read previously about these families coming to Canada in an article, including the passenger list, in *The Clwyd Family History Journal*, in December 2009, which I still have.

The letter she attached to the email was very profound, it was written to her whole family relating her experience of traveling to Argentina.

She explains that the Welsh settlers had left Wales on the ship *Mimosa* on May 28<sup>th</sup> 1865 to maintain their way of life, culture, traditions and values. Michéle’s amazing Canadian side of the story reveals more about Catherine, she died just three weeks after landing at Puerto Madryn and was buried in a wooden coffin close to the place where the 153 Welsh settlers had landed just three weeks before. There was no cemetery and the grave was unmarked, over time the location was lost. Her name was remembered by everyone, being passed down from generation to generation. In 1995 a construction worker found a skeleton. The investigation to put a name to the human remains as well as finding family connections, began.

During the two month sea voyage Catherine’s son John age, 11 months died of hydrocephalus, and was buried at sea. In 1868 Catherine’s husband died, their two remaining orphaned sons William and Henry were raised by family who emigrated the same time. In 1872 Henry became the sole survivor of the family at the age of 12 when his brother William died. Eventually Henry married Ann Williams and farmed near Trelew about 40km from Puerto Madryn. Henry and Ann and eight children (2 children died before they left Patagonia) were among the passengers who were on the ship the *Numidian* coming to Canada. They helped establish the town of Bangor, Saskatchewan.



Michéle's grandfather, she calls him taid pronounced tide, the Welsh word for grandfather, William Edward Davies was seven years old when he came to Canada

In April 2015 Michéle received a text message from Doctor Fernando Coronato while the family from all over Canada were celebrating her mother's twin sisters' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Vancouver. The message read "We had the DNA results today: they match!! The remains belong, yes, to Catherine Davies!! After 20years of incertitude (sic).the mystery is over. I'm happy. Please tell your mom." What a celebration that must have been!

Michéle was invited to Argentina for the re-burial of Catherine's remains, she thought about it for a week and she realized she couldn't pass it up. She is fortunate she does speak and write Spanish, although in Mexican Spanish, which are different dialects, she says .."yikes"...She arrived on August 14<sup>th</sup> and was met by Facundo Lopez Morgan, a descendant of the aunt and uncle who raised Henry.

During the five days she spent in Argentina she spent a day in Trelew, and visited two schools, she was fascinated with the Spanish-Welsh bilingual elementary school, and interviewed by a radio station. She did many other things including visiting the museum in Gaiman, as well as seeing the film Patagonia Bones. Her visit to these two towns brought back memories of visiting my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins there.

The re-burial day was scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> , 150 years to the day Catherine had died. The ceremony began at 10.00am when Michéle met with Fernando Coronato and Facundo as well as other scientists who worked on Catherine's identification process. The press had been invited to the ceremony as well. Catherine's remains were inside a beautiful, polished wooden box, and she was able to view them. It was an emotional and poignant moment when she tried on Catherine's wedding ring. Michéle placed a hematite cross in the box as she was the only member of her family present at the re-burial. The box was buried at the site of where the skeletal remains were found. A huge engraved grey-colored slab of granite was placed over the grave.

Michéle was overwhelmed at the press conference when she was interviewed by several reporters and one in particular was difficult to understand as he spoke so quickly! She saw herself on TV later that day. The next day as she was leaving Argentina at the airport she found 3 newspapers covering the ceremony. She said it was weird seeing her own photograph on the cover of a newspaper.

In the speech she had prepared for the occasion she thanked the people, in Spanish, English and Welsh for the warm welcome and felt like it was a dream from which she would wake up any moment. She recalled many happy hours with her Taid and her great-aunts and hearing their stories. Her Taid died in 1995 at 100 years of age, she still misses him. She doesn't say if he was told about finding his grandmother's remains.

The match of DNA was made from a direct female line, Michéles' line could not be used, their common ancestor was Elizabeth Edwards, Catherine Davies' great-grandmother. This story ties in with the presentation on DNA Connie Stuhl gave in May.

## Book Report by Miriam Roberts

The Story of Kinmel Park, Military Training Camp 1914-1818.

Author: Robert H. Griffiths

Publisher: Gwasg Carreg Gwalch

Description: 227 pages, soft cover about the above named camp near Rhyl, North East Wales.

Kinmel Camp was built for the purpose of training Welsh troops from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, South Wales Borderers, and the Welsh Regiment. Although most of the trainees were from Wales, there was a definite Canadian presence there. The book is compiled from extracts of local newspapers.

The camp had a special branch of railway built for the use of the camp. There were up to 40,000 troops there at one time. On February 19, 1916 local residents were upset to see twenty wounded soldiers on their "four mile tramp" from the main line to the camp, they would have provided them with transportation. The camp had quite an effect on the locality.

The camp developed a bad reputation and was nicknamed "Kill'em Park". There were deaths of soldiers there who had never left the camp to go to war, among those was William Fraser McCaskill of Surrey, B.C., he died on October 24, 1918 from the Spanish Flu contracted at the camp, he was buried at St. Margaret's churchyard at Bodelwyddan.

There were another forty deaths of Canadian soldiers in and around Kinmel Park in 1918, who were also buried at Bodelwyddan.

Canadian troops, 15,000 to 20,000 troops were housed there after Armistice day, November 11, 1918, waiting to be repatriated. Trouble started between the Canadians and British soldiers who were there to maintain order and discipline at the camp. The standard of food deteriorated post armistice, it was described by some of the Canadian as pigswill. The riots that erupted between the Canadians and British have been the subject of a book and television drama.

On a lighter note, David B. Milne, an official Canadian artist was a permanent member of the Canadian Contingent at Kinmel Park.

I am indebted to my sister-in-law, Nora Jones for sending me this book.

(The book refers to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, but the regiment is also known as The Royal Welch Fusiliers, as well the Welsh Regiment is sometimes called The Welch Regiment)

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### National Registration Act 1939 Miriam Roberts

I received three emails from my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin Graham from Australia containing information released from the National Registration in the United Kingdom with information on my aunt and uncle, and my fathers' cousins.

The National Registration was released by Find My Past in 2015, but it was for a pay of £9 per look. Not surprisingly not too many people bought the records.

Find My Past released the The National Registration with the subscription fee in February 2016 with an increase in the 6 month fee, Graham didn't say how much of an increase there was. Being an avid genealogist he is taking advantage of the records, and asked me if would like him to do a look up, I took advantage of the offer and received my parents records in no time.

The National Registration (NR) Act 1939 was an Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom. The initial NR Bill was introduced to Parliament as an emergency measure at the start of World War 11, Royal assent was given on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1939. The Act was started on September 29, 1939, (National Registration Day). This resulted in Identity cards having to be produced on demand.

The records include the Borough, Urban District and Rural District, and Registration District and Sub District.

Headings are address, schedule No., and Sub No., Surnames and other names, M or F, Birthday and year of birth, marital status and occupation. Cards were issued to all the people registered. Parents had to keep the childrens' cards. The first adult cards were brown, in 1943 they issued blue Adult NR Identity cards.

The names of people who are still alive are not released. "This record is officially closed" is stamped across these records.

The reasons for the introduction of these cards were:-

1. The major dislocation of the population caused by the mobilization and mass evacuation and also the wartime need for complete manpower control and planning in order to maximize the efficiency of the war economy.
2. The likelihood of rationing (Introduced from January 1940 onwards)
3. Population statistics. The NR was in fact an instant census.

However the NR did not include place of birth and disabilities. The records I received helped me fill in some dates of birth I did not have. The act was repealed on May 22, 1952.

While the act was in place government issue labels were placed on such things as margarine, I was surprised to see the new labels for "Stork Margarine", come out.