



Celebrate!

On February 15, 1965, at noon, the Canadian Flag was raised on Parliament Hill for the first time. On February 15, 1996, then Prime Minister Jean Cr tien declared February 15th as National Flag Day of Canada. "Canada's flag is a symbol that unites Canadians and expresses throughout the world our pride in being Canadian and reflects the common values we hold so dear: freedom, peace, respect, justice and tolerance honouring Canadians of all origins who through their courage and determination, have helped to build and are continuing to build our great country. The maple leaf flag pays homage to our geography, reflects the grandeur of our history and represents our national identity." In 2025 the Red Maple Leaf on the White background will be 60 years old.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-flag-canada-day.html>

Branch Council Executive:

Chairperson – Terry Dunnigan #118067	email: oxfordchair@ogs.on.ca
Vice-Chair - Vacant	email: oxfordvicechair@ogs.on.ca
Treasurer - Bob Martin #104360	email: oxfordtreasurer@ogs.on.ca
Secretary - Frances Gottschlich #30639	email: oxfordbranchsecretary@ogs.on.ca
Past Chair – Markley Bond # 4839	email: oxfordpastchair@ogs.on.ca

Committee Conveners:

Cemeteries	Cathy Bechard
Education	Carol Bossenberry
Library	Carol Bossenberry
Membership	Liz Buchanan
Newsletter	Sharon Young
Programs	Carol Bossenberry
Publicity	Liz Buchanan
Research	Cathy Bechard; Pat Adam, Patti Wallace
T.O.N.I.	Jan Post
Volunteer Coordinator	Starla Mitchener Dassy
Website	Don Karges

Resource Centre Volunteers:

Pat Adam; Marion Baker; Cathy Bechard; Carol Bossenberry; Starla Mitchener Dassy; Frances Gottschlich; Janet Hayward; David Henderson; Fran Irwin; Mary Metcalfe; Jan Post; Marg Riley; Doug Smith; Patti Wallace; Deb Watt; Sharon Young.

Ontario Ancestors Oxford County Branch

82 Light Street, Governor's House, Court House Square, Woodstock, ON.

Hours - Tuesday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> email oxford@ogs.on.ca mail Box 20019, Woodstock, ON, N4S 8X8
Phone 519-421-1700 or 1-855-MyRoots (855-697-6687) Ext 322

Membership to Ontario Ancestors / Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is \$63 plus \$15.00 to join Oxford Branch.
2100 Steeles Avenue West, Unit #202, Concord ON L4K 2Y1 <https://ogs.on.ca> email info@ogs.on.ca
Phone 416-489-0734 or 1-855-MyRoots (855-697-6687) Hours Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Check the website for changes to membership information or information about other Branches.

The Tracer is published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by Oxford County Branch. We invite original articles, transcriptions, queries and web sites of interest that have genealogical relevance to our members. Submissions will be accepted in Microsoft Word™ or Rich Text Format via email oxfordnewsetters@ogs.on.ca or sent to the above address. Submission deadlines for 2024 are January 19th for February issue, April 19th for May issue, July 19th for August issue, October 18th for November issue. All submissions are published at the editor's discretion and we reserve the right to change the formatting and wording.

Message from The Chair

It is with great honour that I assume the role of Chair for this outstanding organization and on behalf of the organization, I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to Markley Bond for her years of service and leadership.

By way of introduction, I would like to share a little of my Bio. I am a retired Elementary School Principal who is celebrating 50 years of marriage in May with my lovely partner Dianna. We have 4 adult children, 7 grandchildren, and an 8-month-old Golden Retriever named Kipling.

While not originally from Oxford County, we have made Oxford our home for the past 25 years where I have been active in various Board administrative roles in local Libraries, Optimist Clubs, Woodstock Badminton Club, Minor Ball Coaching, and the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario.

I look forward to meeting each of our members and embracing the great genealogy detective work undertaken by our volunteers in the service of connecting families with their past.

Sincerely,

Terry Dunnigan



Oxford Branch of Ontario Ancestors 2024 Annual Report

Oxford Branch celebrated another year of accomplishments in the 45th year since the branch was founded. A huge thank you goes out to our dedicated volunteers who contributed 5534 hours of their time, staffing the resource centre three days a week and working on projects from home to keep Oxford Branch viable. Five volunteers received the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards: Markley Bond, Doug Smith, Beth Martin and Bob Martin received their 5 year awards; Fran Irwin and David Henderson received 20 year recognition.

The membership coordinator reported the total membership for 2024 was 153 (a decrease of 5 from 2023). This includes 33 new members. There are 32 member residing in Oxford County, 120 within Ontario, 8 members from other provinces and 25 members residing in the USA.

The Research Committee of three experienced volunteers, responded to approximately fifty requests. These included newspaper lookups of various kinds, wills, land records, house histories, branch library lookups, local history book requests, etc. There were several family history inquiries that involved many hours of research time – some successful – for others the brick walls remained.

The Research Committee continues to work closely with the County of Oxford Archives; also assisting with questions forwarded from the Oxford Historical Society, Norwich Archives, Woodstock Public Library, Oxford County Library as well as local Historical/Heritage Societies.

The Webmaster reported about improvements, streamlining and enhancements to the website: simplifying navigation and searchability, standardizing links to open in new tabs for a consistent user experience, and improving the layout in the members-only section and the public areas of the website. A dynamic slider was added to highlight events on the home page and the “contact us” page was made more visible. Items continue to be sold on the Branch Marketplace, 49 sales were conducted this year.

Training on the use of Office 365 was provided to volunteers. A SharePoint library was created for easy access to Council-related documents and support provided for the ongoing migration of digital files from local computers to a SharePoint repository. Digital records were backed up and organized on OneDrive.

Facebook Membership increased by 30, bringing the total to 569 members.

T.O.N.I. is The Ontario Name Index searchable on the OGS website. The T.O.N.I. Coordinator reported that a total of 9,356 names have been submitted in 2024; 7,245 cemetery names and 2,011 other names have been submitted. All cemetery submissions have now been completed. Since 2014 a total of 214,859 Oxford County names have been submitted to T.O.N.I.

The Branch meetings continued to be virtual during 2024. This past year we learned about old stone buildings in Oxford County, a former slave owner who became a Mayor of Woodstock, a home child story with a happy ending, finding land records online;

locating resources in a university library, a local WW I soldier and a famous Canadian inventor.

In January, Vicki Brenner shared information about the Stone Houses of Zorra Township Project; in February, Hilary Dawson spoke about Hunting for Hidden History: How Slavery Came to the Town of York; in March, Al Fewster told us his Grandma's Secret; we learned how to navigate the Onland.ca site with Ken McKinlay in April; and Kathryn Harvey took us on a virtual tour of the Scottish Collection in the McLaughlin Library at the University of Guelph in May before the summer break. Meetings resumed in October when we learned about Oxford County native and WW I Soldier David Morton Gerrie with Peg Perry and in November Grant Maltman told us about Sir Frederick Banting – The Man You Thought You Knew.

The Program and Education Coordinator taught genealogy classes at the Tillsonburg Senior's Centre (January - April) and at Ingersoll Centre for Senior's and at the resource centre in the fall. Over 50 Learning Unlimited participants heard a presentation about The Route to Oxford Roots at the Woodstock Senior's Centre in June.

Volunteers put up the Oxford Branch display at the Woodstock Recreation & Leisure Fair in March; the Oxford County Library Local History Fair in April; at the Ontario Ancestors Conference 2024 in June and at Ingersoll Centre for Senior's Welcome Back Day in September.

October 1 – 31 was declared Family History Month in Oxford County and was considered to be a huge success bringing in about 50 researchers, many new to genealogy. Visitors to the resource centre were given a Family History Starter Kit and help to get started with researching their family trees. The branch received a \$1000 grant from the City of Woodstock for the project. Bookmarks were printed and distributed to local library branches and ads were placed in a community newspaper and local magazine as well as free media and community bulletin boards were used to promote the event.

The Branch Council and Volunteers are looking forward to the challenges a new year will bring.

The next two pages contain the Oxford Branch financial statements for the year ending December 31st 2024. If there are any questions or concerns please contact oxfordtreasurer@ogs.on.ca

Note: At the end of 2024 there was a purchase of computers to replace the three main computers in the resource centre, hence the negative balance in the financial report (general office supplies). The new computers were installed in January.

**Oxford County Branch - Ontario Ancestors
Income Statement 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024**

REVENUE

Revenue	
Membership Fees - Branc, Sig	1,965.00
Donations - Non-receipted	1,158.78
Donations - Tax Receipt Issue	270.00
Donate's - via Canada Helps	415.31
Education - Workshops	350.00
Queries & Rearch -Traditional	421.87
Queries and Research - Electro...	105.00
Sales - Publications etc.	12.00
Sales - Book	293.00
Sales - Photocopies	265.00
Sales - Electronic Download Ve...	74.00
Shipping & Handling Billed Out	17.80
City of Woodstock Community ...	1,000.00
Investment Income - GIC	997.80
Burgundy Fund Earnings	832.12
Invest- Fund Management Fees	-55.23
Total Revenue	<u>8,122.45</u>

TOTAL REVENUE 8,122.45

EXPENSE

Expense	
Event Speakers	375.00
Volunteer Appreciation	101.00
Advertising and Promotion	1,190.07
Conferences and Marketplaces	225.00
Rent	4,800.00
Other Rental	104.50
Telephone and internet	35.00
General Office Supplies	2,177.20
Ink and other computer supplies	69.95
Postage and Courier	34.85
Banking fees and charges	48.00
Banking Pay Pal	6.98
HST - 13%	918.81
Total Expenses	<u>10,086.36</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE 10,086.36

NET INCOME -1,963.91

**Oxford County Branch - Ontario Ancestors
Balance Sheet As at 12/31/2024**

ASSET

Assets	
Bank - RBC	6,199.67
Cash to be deposited	200.00
GIC's	22,500.00
Burgundy Asset Management	7,726.44
Inventory for Resale	1.00
Library Holdings - Nominal Value	1.00
Furniture and Fixtures	1.00
Total Assets	<u>36,629.11</u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u><u>36,629.11</u></u>

LIABILITY

Liabilities	
Accrued Expenses	21.63
I.T. Payable	0.00
Total Liabilities	<u>21.63</u>
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>21.63</u>

EQUITY

Equities	
Current Earnings	-1,963.91
Contributed Surplus	38,571.39
Total Equities	<u>36,607.48</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>36,607.48</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>36,629.11</u></u>

Thank You Markley

Oxford Branch Council and members thank Markley Bond for her four years of leadership. She was elected chair in 2020 just before the Covid Pandemic so had the difficult task of keeping the branch going during almost 24 months that the resource centre was closed. Council meetings were held online during that time and she led the committee revising the Policy & Procedure Manual, New Members package and the Volunteer Handbook on Teams. When the evening branch meetings resumed in fall 2021 on Zoom she welcomed the members and guests read the Land Acknowledgement before the speaker was introduced. Markley served two terms as Chair.



Recent Branch Meetings

Using Glimr Oxford County's Online Mapping Resource

Glimr - Oxford County's Geographic Land Information & Mapping Resource, is online mapping resource, accessible to the public via the Oxford County website. Liz Buchanan, an Oxford Branch volunteer, and former employee of the Oxford County Planning Department led us through the features of the mapping application at our January meeting.



Using Glimr may take a bit of practice but you will be able to locate a specific address, urban or rural lot and concession and look at an aerial view of the property as well as the GPS location and many other features.

<https://webmap.oxfordcounty.ca/Html5/?viewer=GLIMR>

Watch the Glimr webinar available in the Members Library to see the demonstration of the features of the website.

The Potter's Field Project at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery

Presented by Cody Groat, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and the Indigenous Studies program at Western University

In his presentation Cody told us how as a young boy he rode his bicycle through the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery and his later interest in the Potter's Field Project. Ingersoll Rural Cemetery holds about 12,000 burials and the Potter's Field section is an area with no visible head stones, hidden away at the back of the cemetery not visible from the entrance. The first burial was in 1864 and the last in 1976.

The Potter's Field Project has become a community wide endeavour with the involvement of the Mayor of Ingersoll, the Chair of the Cemetery Board, Zorra Township, Western University Summer Students, Rebecca Small and Emily Kirk, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Thames Memorials, and numerous interested citizens. Vicki Brenner of the Oxford County Library scanned the Register of Burials and the names of 400 people were extracted as being buried in the Potter's Field Section of the cemetery. There are two infants and one man whose names are not known. Drone photography and ground penetrating radar was used to show earth disturbances and identify the possible location of burials. Five surviving headstones were discovered.



The photo represents what the memorial will look like when it is unveiled in the summer of 2025

Historically, a potter's field would have been a piece of land used by potters to extract clay for their work. Such fields were often considered of little value for agriculture or habitation, making them suitable for use as burial grounds for those without family or means.

The Potter's Field holds symbolic meaning within the Christian tradition, representing the consequences of betrayal and the tragic end of Judas Iscariot, who, despite his remorse, could not undo his actions. The field, purchased with the thirty pieces of silver, became a burial place for strangers, symbolizing the far-reaching impact of sin and the need

Cody shared some stories about the community members buried there; former enslaved African Americans, British Home Children, people impacted by the Chinese Head Tax, and the unhoused, people who were differentiated based on their socio-economic status, sustained inter-generational poverty and possibly a sense of community among the Blacks.

In summer 2025 the monument (depicted in the photo above) will be unveiled and will include the names of each of the 400 persons buried in the Potter's Field section of the cemetery.

References

<https://history.ocl.net/ingersoll/ingersoll-cemeteries/>

https://biblehub.com/topical/t/the_potter's_field.htm

MISSING RELATIVES

This column is open to all readers of The Family Herald and Weekly Star. Enquiries are inserted FREE of charge.

Letters to be addressed to The Editor, Family Herald and Weekly Star, Montreal, Que., and the word "MISSING" written at left top corner of the envelope. Names of people and places should be written with special care.

Persons who think that they are the parties sought for must send their letters direct to the enquirer, and not the Editor. We insert the particulars of enquiry only, and on no account can we undertake to act for one party or another, or enter on any correspondence.

- ALLEN—J. H., went to Australia, 1921. Last heard of 1924. Mother inquires, Mrs. H. Allen, 85, Barnsdale-road, Maids Hill.
- ANDERSON—James, last heard of at Bootle, Liverpool, Eng., 1920. Father inquires, James Anderson, 8, Dundas-street, Broughty Ferry, Scotland.
- BARNICOAT—Humphrey Hicks, last heard of 1907, left Durban for Johannesburg, S.A. Sister inquires, Mary A. Reader, Minnie Collage, Falmouth, Cornwall.
- BARTHOLOMEW—Edward, last heard of 1910, Blacfruars-road, Lambeth. Sister inquires, Mrs. P. Smith, 2, Mary-place, Stoke Devonport, Plymouth, Eng.
- BENJAMIN—Last heard of in Manitoba, three years ago. Wife inquires, Mrs. Elizabeth Benjamin, Aberst Head, N.S.
- COLLYER—Robert, left Dulwich, England, about 1888 for New York, U.S.A., last heard of about 1892. Sister inquires, Mrs. W. A. Sleigh, 142 2nd St. West, North Vancouver, B.C.
- DURRANT—William Thomas, or sisters, Louisa and Lydia, last heard of in London, 1910. Daughter inquires, Mrs. Ethel Stebbens, King's Head Hotel, Lichfield, Staffordshire.
- HEDLUND—August William, last heard of in Byron, Wyoming, 4 years ago. Father inquires, August Hedlund, Malmö, Aha.
- HEERS—John and George, left Ash Vale, 1900, for Montreal in 1882. Sister inquires, E. A. Allday, 65 Norway street, Keelown, Wellington, New Zealand.
- MALLYON—Last heard of in Montreal, Mrs. W. T. Mallyon, (nee Emily Ellis). Brother enquires, Jack Ellis, 75 Main St., Burley-in-Wharfedale, Yorkshire, Eng.
- MOROZ—Left Sheho, Sask., 13 years ago. Brother enquires, Walter Moroz, Margo, Sask.
- MEREDITH—Elizabeth and Arthur, left Royal Cottage Home, Hardforth, England, in 1907. Mrs. Thomas Brown, Sandy Point Road, St. John, N.B., enquires.
- OAKLEY—W. H., last heard of in Edmonton in 1909, also C. Oakley, last heard of in Winnipeg in 1907. Mrs. H. G. Jackson, Whitecourt, Alta., enquires.
- PARKES—George, last heard of in Newport, South Wales. Aunt enquires, Mrs. J. V. Martise, Pelly, Sask.
- POLE—George, of Workop. Last heard of 1910. Believed to have gone to Canada. Daughter inquires, Violetta, 77, Annesley-street, Meadows, Nottingham, Eng.
- REEVE—Thomas Leopold, or Jenny, his wife, last heard of 1921, Broadway, Chicago. Mrs. Hyman, 130, Hanbury-street, London, E.
- SMITH—Emily and Tom, last heard of at Sydney, Australia, 1920. Son inquires, Jeremiah, Hill Top Bungalow, Lady Hill Estate, Newport, Mon., Eng.
- SMITH—William, last heard of at Goderich, 37 years ago. Sister enquires, Mrs. Thomas Fidler, Wainfleet, Ont., R.R. No. 1.
- WOODS—Rhoda Woods, last heard of in Los Angeles, Calif., about 13 years ago. Sister enquires, Mrs. Chas. Perant, Port Arthur, Ont.

The Family Herald and Weekly Star, Montreal Canada

The Family Herald (published c 1869 -1968) was a popular newspaper for most Canadian farm families. It was owned and published by The Montreal Star. There were all types of farming articles, stories, recipes, etc. Most interesting to me now is the fact that it contained birth, marriage, death, missing relatives and unclaimed money columns.

These included people from all across the country. The "Missing Relatives" is rather heart-breaking - many are families in the UK hoping to somehow connect with siblings, children, spouses that they had lost touch with many years ago.

Published Wednesday 24 June 1925 (page 60 column 2)

The unclaimed money columns (next page) - UK Solicitors were searching for next-of-kin in order to settle an estate.

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UNCLAIMED MONEY.

COLE—Annetta Susan, late of Station-road, Claydon, Suffolk, who died April 1, 1925. Next-of-kin apply Treasury Solicitor, Storey's Gate, London, Eng.

CLEAVER—Re estate of George Cleaver, late of Wyndcliff-road, Small Heath, Birmingham. Next-of-kin apply Treasury Solicitor, Storey's-gate, London, S.W. Eng.

FINKLE—Re estate of Samuel Finkle, late of Aldgate-avenue, London. Annie Finkle, his wife, and others interested apply Arthur Benjamin and Cohen, 23, College Hill, London, E.C.

NOTE—Annie Finkle was formerly Mrs. Annie Benjamin, and formerly Annie Cohen, spinster, and was married on 8th April, 1904, to the above-named deceased.

GILBERT—Re estate of John Gilbert, late of Phyllis-street, Barry, Glamorgan. Next-of-kin apply Treasury Solicitor, Storey's-gate, London, S.W., Eng.

HARVEY—Lucy Ethel, last heard of at St. Edmunds, Station-road, Newton Abbot. Apply R. Bell and Son, solicitors, West Hartlepool, Eng.

HOPKINS—Re estate of Harry Joseph Hopkins, late of Studdeston-road, Islington. Next-of-kin apply Treasury Solicitor, Storey's-gate, London, S.W.

HOYLES—Re Nancy Hoyles, deceased. Will Robert Hoyles, late of Fowler Hill, Cabon, Garsfarn, Lancs, and last heard of in Ripon Camp about 1914-15, apply to the undersigned, when he will hear of something to his advantage. Buck and Dickson's, solicitors, 17, Winckley-street, Preston.

JOHNSTONE — Next-of-kin of Miss Janet Johnstone, Langton-gate-street, Duns, daughter of late William Johnstone, tinsmith, Eastern-street, Duns. Apply Tweedie and Romanes, W.S., Duns, Scotland.

MILLS—Re estate of John William, late of Albert-road, North Woolwich, Kent. Next-of-kin apply Treasury Solicitor, Storey's-gate, London, S.W., Eng.

MILLS—Re Caroline Maude Mills, late of Belvedere-road, Scarborough, who died December 28, 1924. Heir-at-law apply Ware and Wilberforce, 1, New-street, York, Eng.

MRS—Elizabeth, born 95 years ago, emigrated to U.S.A., where she married McKinley. Next-of-kin apply Thomas J. MacGrath, 15, Kildare-street, Dublin, Ireland.

PAGE—Descendants of James, John, and Mary Page, children of George Page and Harriett Page (formerly Taylor). Apply G. E. B. Rogers, 9, Cross-street, Reading.

PLATT—Re Thomas Platt, deceased. Anyone claiming to be the heir-at-law or next-of-kin of the above deceased, late of 18, Fairford-street, Cadroxton, Barry, Glamorgan, timekeeper, who was a native of the County of Wilts, and an owner of property in that county, intestate, are requested to communicate with Messrs. Gardner and Herbert, solicitors, Newport, Mon.

POLHILL—Mark, late of Percy House, Sulgrave-road, Hammersmith, London, who died April 20, 1925. Next-of-kin apply Treasury Solicitor, Storey's Gate, London, Eng.

RHODES—Next-of-kin of Miss Sarah Elizabeth Rhodes, late of Crott-street, Morecambe, who died 20th February, 1925. Apply Solicitor, Duchy of Lancaster Office, London, Eng.

SLY—Mrs. Charlotte, last heard of at Willowdale, Gostlemans-avenue, South Croydon, London, or descendants. Apply J. H. Milner and Son, Albion Walk-chambers, Leeds, Eng.

TROTT—Frederick William, late of Whitecomb House, Whitecomb-street. Relatives apply Bartlett and Gluckstein, 190, Piccadilly, London, Eng.

WATTERS—John Henry, formerly of 41, North Ormesby-road, Middlesbrough, or the children of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Watters. Communicate, Jacksons and Monk, solicitors, 13, Queen's-square, Middlesbrough, Eng.

WHITEHEAD-BURTON — Melinda Jane Fox, deceased. Will Emma...

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WHITEHEAD-BURTON — Melinda Jane Fox, deceased. Will Emma...

Western Adventurers in My Family

Sharon Young

While many of our ancestors settled or were born in Ontario – Canada is a big country and the call of the West intrigued many new immigrants. In my early days of researching, I found several family members on the Memorable Manitobans website from the Manitobans Historical Society. As this site often provided additional information that I did not have, it seemed only cordial to repay the kindness. Around 2019, I wrote the website to advise them that several of the Youngs they had listed were in fact related and I provided them with the line information and connections.

John Young (1778-1855) was a woolen weaver in the town of Crawfordjohn, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Being a man with foresight, he knew that his sons would not be following the weaving tradition and sent two of his sons, including my great, great, grandfather James Young (1820-1888) to Trafalgar (today's Oakville, Ontario) to work as a clerk with their uncle in his General Store and Post Office. Robert Young was the first to travel in 1828 and then replaced in 1832 by his 12 year old brother, James.

Eventually all four of his sons and one of his four daughters immigrated to Canada. And here are the tales of three descendants who made an impact in Manitoba.

Although they all died at relatively young ages, these men all accomplished a great deal in their lives and managed to have adventures, careers, families and leave a lasting legacy.

Memorable Manitobans: Robert Evans Young (1861-1911) Surveyor

Robert Evans Young was born at Georgetown, Halton County, Canada West (now Ontario) in 1861, son of James Young (1820-1888) and grandson of John Young (1778-1855). He studied surveying with Evans and Bolger in Belleville, Ontario, and came west as a land surveyor in the late 1870s. He was responsible for the re-survey of Winnipeg under the Torrens system. He also surveyed and mapped the old trails of Manitoba. He served with the 90th Rifles in the North-West Rebellion. In 1902 he was appointed Superintendent of Railway Lands for the federal government and in 1910 became Chief Geographer of Canada. He was an amateur photographer and the author of several publications, including *Canada's Fertile Northland* (1909).

In 1887, he married Winnifred Frances Lawe of Dunnville, Ontario and they had four daughters. He died at Ottawa on 24 October 1911.

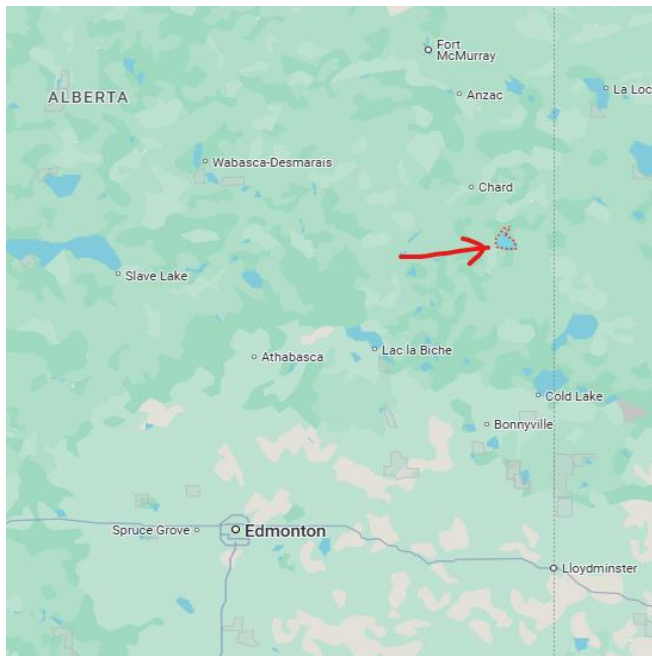
https://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/young_re.shtml

James Young sent his 12 year old son Robert to Quebec for a school year to learn French. Robert 's letter to his father expressing his unhappiness with the situation lead to a very important and treasured historic family letter from James, recounting to his son his own journey from Glasgow to Trafalgar in 1832. His point being that his trip at the age of 12 on his own was with the knowledge that he was unlikely to see his parents again. He also went on to detail some of his other adventures as he got older.

Robert got the message and stuck out his year in Quebec and went on to become a respected and sought after surveyor and geographer, representing Canada as it's Head Geographer in a 1909 meeting with Teddy Roosevelt.



**The Presidents Luncheon at the White House
North American Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources Feb 18/23 1909
Robert Evans Young – top left and Teddy Roosevelt seated, centre (LACno.3362754)**



Robert was also a bit of a romantic and named a lake in northern Alberta after his wife – **Winefred Lake**, located in a remote area between Cold Lake and Fort McMurray, and is part of the boreal forest and muskeg

Memorable Manitobans: David Young (1848-1887)

David Young, merchant, sportsman, born north of Glasgow, Scotland on 14 January 1848, son of Mary Young (1813-1852) and grandson of John Young (1778-1855), his parents died when he was very young and he was adopted by his uncle, John Coke. His uncle brought him to Canada when he was ten years of age. They arrived in Quebec and proceeded to Georgetown, some distance west of Toronto, where he was placed in charge of another uncle, Robert Young. He was sent to a private school but ran away from home when he was between thirteen and fourteen years of age, and worked as an errand boy in a grocery store on Church Street, Toronto. Next year he went to sea, sailing from Oakville, Canada West (now Ontario), in the ship *Coquette*, commanded by Captain G. B. Chisholm. Two years later he was shipwrecked, and then joined the American army as a private. Although very young, he remained in the service for nearly three years. When he obtained his discharge, he returned to Georgetown and became a dry goods clerk.

In 1870 he became a member of Company #3, Ontario Rifles, and came to Red River with the Expeditionary Force commanded by Sir Garnet Wolseley. In June 1871, he took his discharge and became a successful house painter, and in August he was engaged by John Higgins to take charge of his grocery and dry goods business. Higgins soon admitted him to partnership.

He was a member of the Winnipeg City Council for one year in 1880, and one of the original promoters and secretary of the Manitoba Southwestern Colonization Railway Company. He took an active part in politics and was chiefly instrumental in unseating Donald A. Smith in the Selkirk by-election of 1880. He was a Conservative, but disagreed with some of his party's policies. He was the founder, and for a number of years the President, of the Garry Lacrosse Club. He was one of the promoters and President of the Dufferin Park Association, which built Winnipeg's first stadium, and also the founder of

the Manitoba Turf Club and the Granite Curling Club. It was chiefly through his efforts in connection with the Manitoba Turf Club that horse racing in Winnipeg was put on a legitimate and respectable basis. He was President of the Turf Club until May 1887, when he resigned and was elected honorary president. He was an active promoter of baseball and cricket. He was associated with many cultural organizations such as the Winnipeg Dramatic and Literary Society. He was a prominent Mason. He was also active in politics, though never elected to office.

Ill health led him to Florida in 1881, and he left Manitoba permanently in 1885. Young died at Saratoga, New York on 6 August 1887 and was interred in the St. John's Cathedral Cemetery. His wife predeceased him in 1884.

https://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/young_d2.shtml

Memorable Manitobans: Norman Andrew Thomson Young (1901-1942)

Norman Andrew Thomson Young, educator, born at Montreal, Quebec in 1901, son of

David was born out of wedlock with the name David Doeg. Once he came to Canada he adopted the name Young out of love and respect for his Uncle Robert Young.

There is a more detailed biography of David Young's life in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography - https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/young_david_11E.html

Thomas Young (1863-1902) and grandson of Thomas Young (1827-1873), he was brought up by his aunt and uncle who moved to Winnipeg in 1907. He attended Gladstone School and graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1923 with a gold medal in history and a Rhodes Scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford. On 22 August 1925, he married Mary Grace Moody. Later that year, he went to Africa with the education branch of the British Colonial Service, serving at Achimota College in British West Africa until 1928, when he returned to Winnipeg.

In 1929 he became the first headmaster of Ravenscourt School, and it was his vision that shaped the school in its first decade. An officer in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders from 1937, he was mobilized in 1939 and went overseas as a Captain with the Sixth Infantry Brigade, Second Canadian Division, in November 1940. On 19 August 1942 he was killed leading "B" Company of the Camerons in the Dieppe raid. He was buried at Hauteville-sur-mer, France.

https://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/young_nat.shtml



A few facts that were not mentioned include that Norman and Grace had a double wedding with her sister Maryon and Lester B. Pearson in 1925. Norman and Grace are on the left with “Mike” and Maryon centre right. (NAC pa-68799)



CAPT. NORMAN YOUNG
Reported Killed

“Believed Killed”
Capt. Norman Young, founder of Ravenscourt private school for boys, is stated to be “believed killed” in a cable to relatives here.

Capt. Young founded Ravenscourt school in 1929 and was its headmaster for a decade before joining the Cameron Highlanders.

Capt. Young is a nephew of Lieut.-Col. R. M. Thompson who commanded the Camerons in the last war and was killed on the Somme in 1916.

A brother, Capt. Gordon Young is also with the Camerons and is stationed at the district depot Water st.

Born in Montreal, Capt. Norman Young came to Winnipeg in 1904 at four years of age. He attended Winnipeg high schools, and was a Rhodes scholar from the University of Manitoba in 1923. He returned from Oxford to take up school teaching and then to found the Ravenscourt school.

The boys' school was first located in the old home of Sir Charles Tupper on West Gate, now used as a school for girls. After several years the school was transferred to its present location on Fort Garry drive. Under Capt. Young's supervision the school expanded, new buildings were constructed and the attendance increased.

His wife, who was Grace Moody, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Moody, resides at 566 Wardlaw ave. They have four children, Christopher, Ellie, Sheila and Katherine.



In 1970, their youngest daughter Katherine (1935-2014) married James Graham (1935-), the then Marquess of Graham and currently the 8th Duke of Montrose.



Image from The Scotsman obituary for Catherine Graham

A New Word for Genealogists

Besaiel - Pronunciation: (bi-SAY-uhl) - Meaning: *noun*: A grandfather's father: great-grandfather.

From Old French besayel/besaiol, from Latin bis (twice) + avulus, diminutive of avus (grandfather). Earliest documented use: 1480.

A grandfather is an aiel, a great-grandfather a besaiel, a great-great-grandfather a tresaiel. Now that you know the pattern, feel free to coin words beyond your grandfather's grandfather. Also, now that you know what to call them, who's your besaiel?

e.g. "She is met by Rickhill for the defendant alleging an older fine made in the thirteenth year of Edward II, great-grandfather (besaiel) of King Richard now reigning." *Michigan Law Review*; University of Michigan (Ann Arbor); 1915.

<https://wordsmith.org/>

In Memoriam

The Oxford Branch has lost two former local members since our last issue of *The Tracer*.

Margaret (nee Kent) Senyck

<https://www.brockandvisser.com/obituaries/margaret-senyck>

Mary (nee Wiffen) Nicklas

<https://www.francisfh.ca>

We extend our deepest sympathy to their respective families.

Estate Planning – Planned Giving

Carol Bossenberry

I am always saddened when I hear of the passing of a member of the genealogical community. These people have spent years researching their families and it concerns me that some of their family members may not realize the genealogical gems that have been left behind. We have all heard of horror stories about years of research being sent to a dump.

Are you concerned that no one in your family is interested in taking over your family tree and continuing your research? To allay any concerns about what will happen to all your genealogical research and family histories when you die, it is never too soon to plan ahead. You may also be considering making a bequest in your will and leaving a legacy to an organization or charity. A gift could also be made in memoriam or in honour of a loved one.

You may consider donating some of your books and artifacts to an organization such as the local Branch of Ontario Ancestors, the historical society, local museum or an archive. Do your research and talk to someone to discuss what you are considering as a donation. Make a list of your books. This will make it easier for the organization to decide what would be suitable for their collection. Check if the organization will take a copy of your family history.

Oxford Branch has a large collection of family histories and will accept a donation of a printed or digital family history.

Even if your family tree is in a database or online the disposition of your many years of research should be in your final plans. Appoint a ‘genealogical’ executor – someone who will dispose of your genealogy files according to your wishes but you will have to be organized well in advance.

Set aside time to organize and plan. You may need to dedicate a few hours a day or a day week. Don’t try to do it all at once. Make a plan and stick to it. Standardize how you name and store your files – paper and digital. Will you file by family name, by couple, individual, type of record or by location? Consistent labelling of files is important for later retrieval. Decide what you need to keep and what can be deleted. Eliminate duplicates. What about backing up your files? One copy on your computer, one in an external storage device and one in cloud based storage. What about your photographs and photo albums?

Planned Giving

Through a bequest in your will you can plan to give a specific amount or percentage of cash, securities or other property to the endowment fund of an organization of your choice. There may be tax benefits associated with donating appreciated securities. An organization could be named as the beneficiary in a life insurance policy. You can also make your gift from the proceeds of your estate once all other legacies and obligations have been taken care of. This is called a residual bequest and is an ideal way of supporting the efforts of the organization as the relative value of your gift will be maintained and guarantee that your bequest makes a significant impact on the support of the organization or charity.

Ontario Ancestors, like many organizations has an Endowment Fund. Assisting financially is one way to give back to the genealogical community that has helped each of us and to assist future genealogists.

Scanning photographs or making certain that photographs are labelled and dated is another big project you shouldn't put off.

Review your paper files, notebooks and binders. Unless you have hand written letters or historical documents your research notes will be of little value to anyone else. Review your notes and discard what you have transcribed already. In fact you may find that you discover a clue to a brick wall or are able to fill in some blanks in your tree but save that project for another time.

You could gradually dispose of some of your binders by presenting each of your children and grandchildren with a pedigree chart and a summary of their place in the family tree. You will be able to present your 'genealogical' executor with your plan and filing system, a list of where you have stored your genealogy database, digital records and photographs and your hardware – computer, laptop, tablet, external hard drives and phone with passwords. Access to your digital files and passwords to websites and subscription sites such as Ancestry is important as accounts may have to be closed and subscriptions cancelled.

Since I wrote this article, I have been reorganizing my own genealogy, going through each of my binders and recycling some of the records that I photocopied or downloaded – especially the ones that are difficult to read. Each record has been transcribed with a proper citation in the notes section of my Legacy database and I have downloaded digital copies of all the records. Each document is saved under the individual's name, the type of record and a date. Then the record is stored in a folder under the main Family name. For large families each couple has their own folder. The much thinner binders now contain a family group record for each couple that includes everything I have transcribed. So now I have a paper copy as well as the digital records on my own computer.

My next step will be reviewing the timelines for each of the couples on my pedigree chart. As well I will prepare a binder for each of my first cousins with the relevant information for their respective branches of the family. Organizing is time consuming but the feeling of accomplishment is amazing.

Planning and organizing are key. Don't wait for spring – do it now!

A Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

A codicil to a last will and testament is an amendment or addition to the document, and like a will, a codicil should be witnessed by two disinterested parties. Having the document prepared by an attorney to ensure its validity so your last wishes are fulfilled as you intended. See one example below.

A Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

To my spouse, children or guardian

Upon my demise it is requested that you do not dispose of any of my Genealogical records, books, files, notebooks, binders, or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period please attempt to find one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing family histories. In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the genealogical organizations that I have listed below to determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials.

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel and money, therefore please do not ignore my requests.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Witness: _____ Date: _____
Witness: _____ Date: _____

List of potential custodians here

1. _____ phone/email: _____
2. _____ phone/email: _____
3. _____ phone/email: _____

List of organizations here

1. _____ phone/email: _____
2. _____ phone/email: _____
3. _____ phone/email: _____

Access information for my digital files is located _____

2025 Ontario Ancestors Seminar

Your Genealogical Legacy - Plan, Prepare and Share
May 31st at the Lamplighter Inn in London



<https://seminar2025.ogs.on.ca/>

Book Review

Deadly Swindle: An 1890 Murder in Backwoods Ontario That Gripped the World

by Ian Radforth

The author Ian Radforth, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, was a speaker at the Woodstock Public Library Author Series in January. His book is about the murder of Frederick Cornwallis Benwell by John Reginald Birchall, the murder case which became a sensation around the world. Benwell's body was discovered in the swamp on the 2nd concession of Blenheim Township, a few miles east of Woodstock in 1890. The story is well known to local historians and many books and articles have been written about the discovery of the body, the murderer, trial, conviction and hanging. There is a permanent exhibit at the Woodstock Museum. Birchall wrote his autobiography as did the government detective John Wilson Murray.

Two local woodcutters found the body which was taken to J. B. Swarts Funeral Home in Princeton. An autopsy showed the cause of death to be two gunshot wounds to the head. Convicted on circumstantial evidence, Birchall went to the scaffold without a confession. The last words that he uttered were addressed to the hangman. Just as he was putting the

black cap over the condemned man's head. Birchall said, "Have you any objections to shaking hands with me?" The hangman replied, "Certainly not," and they shook hands. He was hanged November 14, 1890 and is buried in the yard of the Woodstock Jail. Benwell is buried in Princeton Cemetery where there is a large historical plaque marking the location.

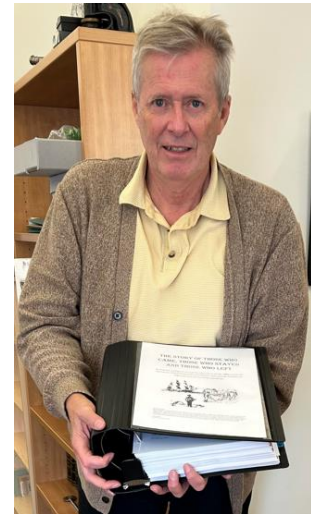
The book provides a detailed, vivid, and learned analysis of the operation of the criminal justice system of the period, using a close study of the murder case to show not just the operation of the criminal justice system but also the intricacies of how many aspects of society and politics affected how the law worked in practice.

Upcoming Branch Meetings

Monday, March 10th at 7pm

The Devon Elliotts: The Stories of Those Who Came, Those Who Stayed and Those Who Left With Glenn Elliott

Glenn was born and raised on a North Oxford farm two kilometers west of Beachville. He spent an idyllic childhood of chores, tractors, and farm activities. However he was one of those who left. A 40 year career in Broadcast Television in Vancouver was a far cry from the solitude of the farm and dairy herd. With retirement and Covid limiting activities he was looking for a project and started researching his family. His massive family history is still a document in progress. It was an eye opening road to discovery of the exciting, tragic, humbling, humouress stories of his extended family and those who preceded them. Along his journey he met family members he didn't know before and made many new friends.



Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlsfuutpzkJHNJRhIHG_IUH9MrwFuz18sdk

Monday, April 14th at 7pm



*“Preachers, Teachers,
Entrepreneurs and Rebels”*

A Virtual Field Trip of
historical plaques, following
Rural and Urban Pathways,
celebrating Oxford County’s
History from Embro to
Wolverton and multiple
places in between

With Deward Yates

Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldE-hqD0jGdBhIubqrB9KNmfl8v3313id>

Monday, May 12th at 7pm

The Cold Springs Farm Project

With Doris Weir

In Memory of Mr. William Harvey
Beatty 1916-1994, founder and
chairman of Cold Springs Farm Ltd.,
an enterprise that he started in 1949
in Thamesford on 100 acres of land.



Click on the link to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAfuyorjMjEtJgwSUV9yRYVmqDjTz5upJz>



Volunteer Christmas Party December 2024

