

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Volume 37 Number 1 – February 2009

Summary of Feature Articles

“Lost An Ancestor? Have you considered divorce records” by Lynn Fogwill

After struggling for years to try to ‘find’ her husband’s great-grandmother using all the usual sources Lynn encountered the collection of divorce records available in The National Archives in London. This proved to be a goldmine of information and, in this article, she describes the history of divorce proceedings, the available records and their content.

“H.O.L.L.A.N.D. Love letters from the past” by Debby Was

What a fitting article for February and valentines! Debby shares with us excerpts of love letters stored in her mom’s old cedar chest. These were letters to her mother from her father dated 1948 to 1951.

“A Box of Photos – Kent to Canada” by Gloria Cathcart

Gloria was given a box of photos acquired by The Calgary Photographic Historical Society. They contain many family pictures and family descendant charts bearing the names Hayward and Hammond. She plans to send them to the Kent Family history Centre but first hoped to find someone into whose family they might fit.

“Global One-Name Studies” by Dick Chandler

Dick has been conducting a one-name study for his Chandler name for many years and is the representative of the Guild of One-Name Studies for Western Canada. In his article he explains the benefits of joining, or starting, a one-name study group and the function of the guild he represents.

“The Effect of the Nonconformists Churches on Research in Wales” by Miriam Roberts

Miriam has done extensive research in Wales and in this article she elaborates on the evolution of various Welsh church records through the years and how this affected her own personal research.

“John L. Stauffer, Traction Engineer” by Don Kauffman

Don knew his grandfather had ‘steamer papers’ and believed there must be government documents available listing his name and trade. His search uncovered many interesting facets of the evolution of steam powered farm machinery in Alberta and why only men were permitted to have a licence to operate them.

“An RCAF Website” by Lynn Fogwill

Was your ancestor in the RCAF during WWII? Lynn was able to find a website containing stories and photographs by family members of airmen who flew missions with her uncle’s squadron. It is a private site with the stated goal to “*promote the history of Canada’s air force*” with a focus on the history of the RCAF, it’s squadrons, aircraft and stations making it a wonderful resource for family historians.

“The Story of a Homestead, Part 3 – Bad Weather and a Questionable Neighbour” by Frank Easton

The letters Frank copied from the Alberta Homestead records reveal more of the tribulations of the indomitable Kate Easton as she continues to struggle with the authorities.

“8870 and All That” by Keith Smillie

In this article Professor Smillie provides a straightforward explanation of the birth date calculation provided in a previous issue of *Relatively Speaking*.

Book Review

Never Marry an Englishman - by Peter Staveley

Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors – Relatively Speaking

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Volume 37 Number 2 – May 2009

Summary of Feature Articles

“UK Cemeteries – Effective Searches” by Peter Williams

Peter advises readers of safety issues that have contributed to closure of, or restricted access to, UK churches and their holdings. He also cautions those who plan travel abroad with the expectation of exploring churchyards to beware public safety issues.

“The Search for George Salter” by Helen Atkinson

Helen chronicles the search by David Salter for his great uncle George who was, as he discovered, a British Home Child. Helen assisted with the Canadian portion of this research.

“Identifying My Tintypes” by Marilyn M. Astle

When she found some tintypes after her grandmother’s death, Marilyn decided to try to identify the people depicted. In this piece she provides some general background on tintypes and the content of hers. The images presented are of impressive quality.

“My English Bastards” by Ivy Trumpour

Ivy recently found that her hitherto upstanding legitimate family did in fact contain illegitimate members. She shows the information that can be gleaned from bastardy records and tells of the respect she now has for the strength of character of these ancestors.

“Scottish? Irish? Canadian? What a Muddle!” by Hal O’Neil

Recently, Hal learned that ancestors he had presumed to be Scottish were in fact of Irish descent. He loves them no less, nor more, but with greater understanding of their lives, the significant migration from Ireland in the 1600s, and his heritage because of this event.

2009 AGS Conference

As always, we have devoted the centrespread to some conference highlights for your enjoyment.

“Goodbye Stanley” by Lorna Astle-Fox

Lorna tells the story her father-in-law Stanley (nee Sergei) narrated to her just a few years before his death of his family’s emigration from Russia and his many endeavours in Canada. It is an inspiring tale that will resonate with anyone of immigrant ancestry.

“The Story of a Homestead, Part 4 – The Final Resolution” by Frank Easton

As well as telling the outcome of Kate Easton’s epic battle to retain ownership of her homestead, this final instalment shows a letter from her nemesis to The Dominion Lands Commissioner and one from Kate to her MP, Frank Oliver. What a tenacious woman!

“The Search for Samuel Finch” by Grant Nicol

Grant tells us how a serendipitous encounter not only enhanced a friend’s research but resulted in meeting and becoming friends with new relatives.

Book Review

A Son of the Fur Trade – The Memoirs of Johnny Grant - by Hal O'Neil

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Volume 37 Number 3 – August 2009

Summary of Feature Articles

“Robert Vaughn, The Antiquary” by Miriam Roberts

In this article Miriam provides a fascinating tale of this man who, prior to her recent research, was not known to be her ancestor. As she delves into his life she discovers he was an avid genealogist, a historian, author and transcriber of ancient manuscripts. She also discovered he was her 8X great grandfather.

“Interesting Follow Up” by Miriam Roberts

Another story from Miriam, this time on her Jones ancestors, where she tells of a family photo she received in 1985 and how an address on the back led her to ongoing correspondence with cousins in New Zealand. She talks of the information they shared and their ultimate meeting during a trip she took sailing around their country.

“A Wealth of Photographs in Archives” by Mary Nutting

This article was featured in the Grande Prairie & District Branch publication and was the recipient of the Ken Young Newsletter Award for the best article. Providing many examples Mary illustrates of the importance of using photos found in local archives as a valuable research resource.

“Family Reunions” by Heather Jaremko

Heather owns and operates her business The Reunion Planners and in this article she gives insight into the many tools invaluable in planning a successful reunion.

“A Centennial Tale” by Denise Daubert

Denise first submitted her story, *From Green to Gold*, for the Alberta Centennial in 2005. It describes the early days of her Irish maternal great-grandparents when they leave Ireland to start a new life in Alberta.

“McNamara Shield and Bulyea Trophy A photo provided” by Liane Maitland

Liane’s photo depicts the First Presbyterian Church Choir in 1923 as they receive this prestigious award. The names of those present are clearly readable.

AGS Awards

A collage of photos of awards presentations during the AGS Conference in Edmonton

“Was Your Ancestor a Member of this Band?”

Val is seeking information about her father who is in this old photo of a makeshift band in the country setting.

“The Move West” by Ken Millions

Ken shares with us the hardships of John and Jane Millions from their purchase of a farm in 1850 in Upper Canada, their travels west over a 30-year period, to their ultimate destination in Alberta.

“Belmont Days – We Never Knew Boredom” by Wilma Stevenson

Wilma remembers her childhood growing up in the living quarters of her parent’s

general store, The Evergreen Supply, located in Belmont on the old fort Road, Edmonton.

“What Was News in March 1914” by Marilyn Astle

Never overlook the unique stories to be found in newspapers in the archives. Discover how your ancestors lived in Edmonton as Marilyn provides snippets of news and advertisements on that particular date.

“The Vulcan Advocate – A Unique Wedding”

Another fascinating newspaper story – read about a loving couple whose dreams finally became a reality in their mid-seventies

**Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors – Relatively Speaking**

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Volume 37 Number 4 – November 2009

Summary of Feature Articles

“Writing Your Family History” by Dave Obee

Dave, a professional journalist and genealogist, provides tried and true guidelines to successfully write your family history. This informative article will be of use to anyone writing, or contemplating writing about their family.

“The Grandfather I Never Knew” by Haydn Cracknell

Haydn’s maternal grandfather died in WWI. Despite Haydn’s interest in the government issued citation commemorating his service, no one in his family would speak of him. Haydn has recently researched the life of this man back to his birth in Middlesex, England, the main focus of this piece being on his military service – a fitting tribute for this November issue.

“Solving Mysteries with Local Resources” by Lynn Fogwill with Paulette Hrychiw

Lynn explains how she was able to break through a brick wall in her research by following up on an obscure detail, showing that not all roadblocks can be solved via the Internet. Her success and other leads that were subsequently uncovered proved informative and satisfying.

“In Search of the Life History of Thomas Harrison” by Peter Williams

When Peter was researching his Harrison forbears he came across a most interesting obituary of another distant ancestor. Peter shows how he set about to prove this obituary, giving us insight into the life of a Waterloo veteran.

“In The Vale of The White Horse” by Terry Gregory

After many years of research, Terry has recently published his family history in a book of the same name at this article. Here, in part one, Terry gives us his beginning process and his struggle to whittle down his data to manageable scope. Part two, showing his next steps, will appear in the February 2010 issue.

Salt Lake City 2009

We have, once again, devoted a page to some highlights of this bi-annual trip. This will be followed up in the next issue by a first timer’s perspective.

“Finding and Refining One Family’s History” by Caterina Edwards

A professional fiction writer, Caterina tells the story of her first effort into a research project - that of discovering her maternal roots. Because her mother suffered from Alzheimer’s when Caterina’s interest was piqued, she had several somewhat accurate-somewhat inaccurate leads to follow and sort out. The result was ultimately a very satisfying experience and shows us all that oral tradition, while valuable, is not necessarily entirely correct.

Book Reviews

- *Finding Rosa, A Mother with Alzheimer’s, A Daughter in Search of the Past* - by Margaret Bendickson
- *Tracing Your Irish/Scottish Family History* – by Hal O’Neil

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