



Grande Prairie & District Branch Alberta Genealogical Society

**Heritage Seekers
September 2003, Vol. 26, No. 3**

Bill's Blurb

Bill Lappenbush
Branch President

The hazy lazy days of summer are drawing to a close and I look forward to the commencement of our branch's activities. I hope all had a good summer and look forward to the sharing of research from over the summer.

A job well done again on the quilt raffle . . . The proceeds will go a long way toward the purchase of more microfilm the 1871 census. A special thanks to Paulette Hrychiw for not only making the quilt this year, as she always does, but also coordinating and organizing the raffle it self. THANK YOU PAULETTE.

While on the subject of volunteers, a reminder of our need for a secretary, help with the Genies, and activities like the upcoming cemetery transcriptions and the 'display/awareness' table in the mall. Thanks to all participants.

We are a vibrant active branch because of our dedicated membership. Please remember to submit your volunteer hours. They do count.

From the Editor

Judy Bradley

Fall is always a busy time as we and our families become involved in our "winter" activities. I hope that each of you can grab a few minutes to spend with this issue of Heritage Seekers.

Mary Nutting shares parts of her genealogy with us, and we are reminded the value genealogical societies are to everyone of us in our research. Patricia Greber tells how we too can be looking to genetics for help with our genealogy. Joan Bowman gives us a glimpse into Grande Prairie's past with "Old Newspapers". These are just a few details of what you will find in this issue of Heritage Seekers.

We are always on the lookout for articles about YOUR research. If you have a roadblock, tell us about it and maybe we can help solve it. If you made a fabulous find, tell us about it. Be sure to share your source, maybe a fellow researcher will find an answer to a problem in their research. Heritage Seekers is your newsletter. Let it work for you.

Enjoy your family-past and present!

Looking for GEERLIGS and BELTMAN

Mary Nutting

I am a reluctant genealogist. As a new archivist, I began to attend genealogy meetings a few years ago because I wanted to clue in to the needs of genies from the archives aspect as well as tie into their collected knowledge and records on cemeteries and vital statistics.

But in listening to all the stories about families and interesting tidbits of exciting discoveries, I could not stay immune. I, too, began the search.

As a child of a 1950s immigrant, I grew up with just my immediate family - no cousins, no grandparents, no community who knew all the gossipy details about my family. I was born a few months after my family arrived from Holland. "She flew over the Atlantic upside down," my husband likes to say. I was 30 years old before I met my first relative, and 50 before I discovered the secret of my name.

But I am getting ahead of my story. My family came from the province of Overijssel in the Netherlands - my father was born near Holten and my mother near Rijssen. After they left, there was not a lot of contact between the family in Holland and the one in Canada. I really didn't feel any need to know more my ancestors until one year when I decided to do a family calendar to keep my aging mother entertained - something she could give everyone for Christmas.

"Tell me about what you did as a child in the month of January," I would start out, and she would tell me about being a child in rural Holland in the early part of the twentieth century. I was fascinated - rural Holland at that time was more like medieval Europe than I had ever imagined. She talked about beating the bush for the King's hunters, about gathering dead wood from the Crown Land for the winter's fuel and about the first person in the family who got a bicycle. I was hooked on the story.

I already had the basics of our family genealogy - in my family bible my father had entered all the names (or so I thought) of brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and grand and great-grandparents for two generations previous to my own.

The Genealogy Society introduced me to the next step: "Start by asking questions of any living relatives," I was told. By this time, my father (with his keen memory) had passed away, and my mother's memory was failing. "Where was the Geerligs family from?" I asked her. She frowned, "Well, they weren't from Holten," she said. "They were foreigners." "Ah ha!" I thought, "I knew it! It's a German name." For I had discovered the records for the Geerlich family from Germany starting in the 1600s, and the lineage ran Jan, Albert, Jan, Albert, etc. - my father's name was Jan Albert.

Classic mistake, as any genie will recognize - trying to go forwards instead of working backwards. It turns out being a "foreigner" in Holten meant my father's family had moved there from the next province (Gelderland) only two generations earlier!

As I became more knowledgeable about how to find records and which web sites were the best, I began to spend a little time on the web. It was frustrating at first because I didn't know my way around, but I talked to people who knew the system and started to make a bit of headway.

So, how is the search going? Well, I lucked on to a very good website called Digital Resources Netherlands and Belgium (<http://geneaknowhow.net/digi/resources.html>). A genealogy society in Holland is entering all the birth, marriage and death records as well as other interesting databases and making them available on the web.

It turned out that my family had lived in the same environs for many generations, and in one weekend I was able to go back eight generations, about to the time when legislation required people to have a first and last name. You could no longer be Jan, Albert's son or Jenneken, Albert's daughter. That is where I got stuck and am likely to be so for some time! I am now in the process of filling in all the details of children and spouses - a time consuming task indeed.

I am still searching in the two provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel for the families of GEERLIGS, KLEINBALTINK, BELTMAN and RIETMAN. Those are the four main lines. If anyone is working on the same families, please contact me. I would love to meet another genealogist in the family.

What I find so interesting about genealogy is the hidden details which are never spoken but still bind my life to the past. Details like my father's two small brothers, Marinus and Albert, who died in infancy but whom he never recorded in the family bible. "Oh yes," says my mother, "you were named after those two brothers - Maria Alberta - but when you were born they said we should give you a Canadian name, not a Dutch one, so we registered you as Mary Betty." Imagine going through your life as Mary Betty when you really were Maria Alberta!

There are many commonalities between genealogy and community history. Both of them deal with the past, both require a fair bit of detective work if you want to connect all the dots and unearth the interesting stories, and both enrich your life in the present. The more you know about your individual and collective past, the more you know about your self in the present.

Photos (in printed version) have the following captions:

1. Five generations of Rietmans c. 1930: my maternal great-grandfather Gerrit-Wilhem with his son Hendrikus, grandson Gerrit-Wilhem, and great-grandson Henk.
2. My paternal grandfather, Jan Geerligs, c. 1900.

Write An Article and Reach Millions

Debby Was

Recently, while I was surfing the 'net', I was in the Ancestry.com <<http://ancestry.com>> website checking some of my surnames against their databases. When I typed in the SPALLIN surname, I got 2 hits on the PERSI* database. You will never guess what those two hits were! In the September 1997 issue of Heritage Seekers, I had submitted an article called "Spallin & Related Families Reunion" (pg. 4). Both of these hits on the PERSI database referred me back to that issue of Heritage Seekers. What is my point?

Think about it.

By submitting my article to Heritage Seekers, it was first read by the Grande Prairie and District Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society's 60 members. It also reached 45-50 Canadian societies that we exchange newsletters with and their members.

Plus it was sent to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This is one of the largest genealogy libraries in North America. When newsletters reach this library they are indexed! This index is called PERSI* and it is available on the internet.

In addition, Heritage Seekers is placed on our branch website.

Therefore, your article is sitting on many bookshelves, plus all the computers in the world with internet hookup.

My point therefore is: "WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!" Write an article about your family and submit it to Heritage Seekers. You won't regret it.

* The Periodical Source Index, or PERSI, is the largest subject index to genealogical and historical periodical articles in the world. Created by the foundation and department staff of the Historical Genealogy Department of the library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, PERSI is widely recognized as being a vital source for genealogical researchers. PERSI is a comprehensive subject index covering genealogy and local history periodicals written in English and French (Canada) since 1800. The time period of the articles ranges from the 1700s to the present. More than 1.8 million index entries from nearly ten thousand titles are represented by this work. (description from Allen County Public Library web-site <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/persi.html>)

Editors Note:

Articles on your research success or roadblocks are welcome. Contact your editor, Judy Bradley, to let her know of your interest to do an article.

As well, all members are encouraged to send in their "names" to the 'interests' section of our branch webpage on the internet. To date, only eight members have done so. You do not need an email address or internet account to get your interests out there. Contact Laura Turnbull, our web master, and she will set it up for you.

Following is a sample of an entry on the Members Interests page:

Turnbull c1740 now CMA,ENG>AB,CAN Laura Turnbull

Debby Was' article first appeared in the March 1999 issue of Heritage Seekers. Laura Turnbull's article "Member's Interest on the Internet" appeared in the September 1998 issue of Heritage Seekers.

Note: Laura has moved to Onoway - she can be reached through the Grande Prairie Branch address or the Branch email.

Old Newspapers

B. Joan Bowman

Births, marriages and deaths as contained in the "Grande prairie Herald" newspaper. Continued from the June 2003 issue of "Heritage Seekers".

Nov. 16, 1925 Issue:

- "Born to Mr. And Mrs. J.E. SHIELDS at Grande Prairie Nov. 9th, a son."
- "Born at the Grande Prairie Hospital, a daughter to Mr. And Mrs. H. GRAHAM."
- "At Rio Grande on Nov 11, 1925, at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Campbell LECKI, their eldest daughter Hazel married Fred THOMPSON of Grande Prairie. Lucy LECKIE was bridesmaid and Laurie HAY was the groomsman. The ceremony was performed by Rev. R. SIMON of the United Church. Later in the evening, the bride and groom started on a sleight ride of fifty miles to their home at Bear Lake."

Nov. 23, 1925 Issue:

- "Born to Mr. And Mrs. William CARL of Sexsmith, Nov. 17, a son."
- "The death of Sir James LOUGHEED, Senator from Calgary, died at Ottawa this past week . . . was one of Alberta's pioneers, coming here in 1883. Has been a Senator since 1895."

Nov. 30, 1925 (Monday) Issue:

- "The body of John Brown BOYD, found Friday after being frozen in the ice at Crystal Lake . . . 72 years old . . . Survived by his widow and a large family of grown-up son's and daughter's."
- "QUEEN MOTHER, the Dowager Queen, Alexandra died at Sandringham, London on Nov. 20th."

- "Born to Mr. And Mrs. Ed MARTIN, Nov. 18, a daughter."
- "Born to Mr. And Mrs. Jess HARRIS, a son recently."

Dec. 7, 1925 Issue:

No births, marriages or deaths found.

Dec. 14, 1925 Issue:

- "Born to Mr. And Mrs. Chas STEWART, on Dec 3rd, a son."
- "Notice to Creditors and Claimants in the estate of Charles John HASTINGS, late of Sexsmith, AB., farmer, who died on 24 Jan. 1924."

Dec. 21, 1925 Issue:

No births, marriages or deaths found.

Dec. 28, 1925 Issue:

- "A double wedding . . . at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Carl DOLEMO, of Valhalla on Dec. 19, 1925. One couple: Anna E. the eldest daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Carl DELEMO, who married Mr. Arthur John MANTLE of Ottawa. Mr. And Mrs. BROWNE were the attendants. The other couple: Christine, second eldest daughter of Mr. And Mrs. DOLEMO, who married Mr. Francis SLIENKS, son of Mrs. H. ELLERT of Grande Prairie. Miss Jenny DOLEMO attended the bride and the groom by Mr. Vaughan KENNY. Mr. And Mrs. MANTLE will reside in Grande Prairie and Mr. And Mrs. SLIENKS will reside at Wembley."
- "Mrs. Louis THOMAS, widow of an Indian Trapper, of Lake Kiskissing, Quebec, died suddenly while hunting . . . 100 years of age. . . "

January 4, 1926 Issue:

- "Wedding Dec. 31, 1925 at the home of Mr. And Mrs. George BONSFIELD, Richmond Hill, (near Grande Prairie) when their young daughter Nellie became the bride of Ruggless Raymond COOKE, youngest son of Mr. And Mrs. COOKE of Arundel, Quebec . . . Bishop ROBINS performed the ceremony . . . Miss Norma COOKE was bridesmaid . . . Mr. Tom BONSFIELD was best man . . . The bride and groom will reside a few miles west of town."

January 11, 1926 (Monday) Issue:

- "On Saturday at the Grande Prairie hospital, the death of Mrs. Emma PETERSON, wife of Lawrence PETERSON of Niobe, age 48, born in Norway where her parents Mr. And Mrs. DAHL still reside. Came to Canada in 1905 and to the Grande Prairie District in 1914. Mrs. Thea MOE of Buffalo Lakes is a sister . . . Funeral at the family resident and interment at the Scenic Heights Cemetery." (More on Emma Peterson in the Jan. 25, 1926 issue of the Grande Prairie Herald.)

January 18, 1926 Issue:

- "In the Estate of John Brown BOYD, late of Grande Prairie, AB., farmer . . . who died on or about the 26 day of Nov. 1925 . . . "

January 25, 1926 Issue:

- "John Hector AXON, a Pioneer of the Peace, died, a resident in the district since 1911, born in Ontario 57 years ago . . . No relatives here, the body was shipped to Brantford, Ontario. A short funeral was held on the station platform by Bishop ROBINS . . . "
- "Born to Mr. And Mrs. SAMBROOKE, of McLennan, a son."
- "Born to Mr. And Mrs. Bert BROMLEY, of Wembley, at the Grande Prairie Hospital, January 11th, a son."

From the Stacks

Gail Schau

Summer is a slow time in the library - time to take stock. Our branch has finally completed the reading of the Herald-Tribune obits project and they will be on their way shortly to the typist and proofer. You may have noticed that the shelves are very full, and we are going to take advantage of the Library's offer to house older newsletters in

their basement storage. Anything older than 1995 will be housed there and I will provide a list in the holdings book to indicate what is in storage. To access any of these materials, you will need to ask at the desk for admittance to the basement.

I am also ordering a total of 28 microfilms in our ongoing census project. 27 of the rolls will be from the 1871 census and 1 is a 1901 roll to replace the one that went missing.

Speaking of census - what a segueway (sp) into the subject of volunteer hours. It is vitally important that you log your volunteer hours. Why? We are planning on applying for grants to complete the census acquisition project and logging our hours makes a good case for our application. Some of the grants are matching and we can use our hours, put a dollar value on them and use them as matching money. Please remember, if there are any books or publications that you would like to see in our library, just let me know.

Ninety Recruits Left For Edmonton Friday From Dawson Creek and G.P.

**The Herald-Tribune
Thursday, August 1, 1940
Pages 1 & 4.**

Sixty-three joined the colors at Dawson Creek and 27 at Grande Prairie Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The recruiting party included Lieut.-Col. Louis SCOTT, D.C.M. District Recruiting Officer M.D. No. 13; Lieut. DONALD, Medical Officer, Sergeant-Major OLDHAM; Corporal M.R. ARLIDGE; Corporal H.L. SELVAGE; Gunner A. BARKLEY.

The party proceeded to Dawson Creek by train on Tuesday, arriving at Grande Prairie Thursday morning by motorcars, and immediately went to work in the Legion Memorial Hall.

Dr. L.J. O'BRIEN and Dr. E. L. LITTLE of Grande Prairie assisted in the physical examinations.

The Grande Prairie recruits met at the Legion Memorial Hall on Friday and after several pictures were taken marched to the station in charge of Sergeant-Major OLDHAM, a former member of the Coldstream Guards regiment, and who lost a part of a leg in the last war, although one would hardly know it.

The local recruits were a fine lot of husky manhood. One young chap was never on a train before. But, he remarked, I understand a rifle, and I can shoot.

The boys from the west were also a healthy, happy lot.

There was a large crowd at the station to see the boys off and as the train pulled out they were heartily cheered. The boys from the west shouted: Good-bye, Grande Prairie. We'll be seeing you.

The recruiting party left right after dinner for Fairview, accompanied by Steve KEAY of Spirit River.

The recruits from here to Edmonton were in charge of Lieut. HANCOCK and Sergeant WOOD.

Enlisted Men

The following is a complete list of the men enlisted at Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie:

No. 13a Coy., Veterans Home Guard
MATTHEWS, J., Sweetwater, B.C.

R.C.A.M.C.

WILLIAMS, A.R., East Pine P.O., B.C.

R.C.C.S.

EVEREST, F.H., Dawson Creek, B.C.

FLATT, A.T., Fort St. John, B.C.

FIELD, J.A., Grande Prairie, Alta.

BRISON, R.M., Sexsmith, Alta.

10th Field Coy., R.C.E.

MacDONALD, R.M., Cecil Lake, B.C.

SMITH, P.C., Cecil Lake, B.C.

SMITH, L.B., Baldonnel, B.C.

MEYER, G.W., Dawson Creek, B.C.

CHAMBERLAIN, J.H.J., Dawson Creek, B.C.

GASDEWICH, A., Dawson Creek, B.C.

BEAULNE, J.E., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

MERRICK, K.W., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

CAMPBELL, M.C.S., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

MURPHY, J.F., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

STEVEN, R.J., Taylor Flats, B.C.

FLAVELL, E.W.A., Taylor Flats, B.C.

LALOGUE, J.D., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

HAMILTON, R.E., Dawson Creek, B.C.

RICE, D.K., Kilkerran, B.C.

MILLER, S.W., Rolla, B.C.

FAULKNER, T.W., Rolla, B.C.

IRELAND, R.A., Sunrise Valley, B.C.

WETMORE, H.H., Rolla, B.C.

MANNING, R.H., Rolla, B.C.

JOHNSON, H.G.A., Shearer Dale, B.C.

SLOANE, G.F., Sunset Prairie, B.C.

GOODRICH, M.E., Progress, B.C.

CUNNINGHAM, K.L., Dawson Creek, B.C.

REESOR, J.E., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

ROBERTSON, A.E., Bessborough, B.C.

LEFLER, W., Dawson Creek, B.C.

THORNHILL, A.E., Sunrise Valley, B.C.

LEFLER, A.C., Dawson Creek, B.C.

LEWIS, D.W., Sunrise Valley, B.C.

STEPHENSON, H., Kilkerran, B.C.

NORRIE, J.M., Sunset Valley, B.C.

ELLIOT, R., Dawson Creek, B.C.

BURBEE, B.C., Lymburn, Alta.

BOYD, G.F., Peace River, Alta.

HAUGLAND, N., Grande Prairie, Alta.

LAMBERT, H.J., Lymburn, Alta.

MEDCALFE, E.A., Watino, Alta.

NYHUS, I., Grande Prairie, Alta.

HANSEN, G.L., Glen Leslie, Alta.

4th Div. Petrol Coy., R.C.A.S.C.

TAYLOR, W.C., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

WILSON, A.E., Dawson Creek, B.C.

FOSTER, A.N., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

SELBEL, H., Pouce Coupe, B.C.

WILSON, J.S.,	Dawson Creek, B.C.
MINER, C.A.L.,	Dawson Creek, B.C.
HYNDMAN, J.,	Dawson Creek, B.C.
CADE, W.J.,	Pouce Coupe, B.C.
WENDT, C.,	Rolla, B.C.
SHAW, K.B.,	Sunset Prairie, B.C.
WALSH, W.,	Sunset Prairie, B.C.
BOWER, J.E.,	Edmonton, Alta.
STEPHENSON, J.K.,	Doe River, B.C.
STUDLEY, W.H.,	Sunrise Valley, B.C.
KINDERMAN, C.FF.,	Kilkerran, B.C.
MacDONALD, E.M.,	Rolla, B.C.
LEFLER, J.A.,	Dawson Creek, B.C.
FRASER, W.,	Sunrise Valley, B.C.
McDOUGALD, D.G.,	Tupper Creek, B.C.
BLACKSTOCK, W.J.,	Kilkerran, B.C.
DOW, F.B.,	Tupper Creek, B.C.
STAGGS, L.,	Tupper Creek, B.C.
GRUBERT, G.,	Grovedale, Alta.
BJARNE, H.H.,	Sexsmith, Alta.
POLLOCK, G.A.,	Lymburn, Alta.
WARDEN, H.R.,	Sexsmith, Alta.
TAME, D.H.,	Sexsmith, Alta.
CHAPMAN, C.H.,	Grande Prairie, Alta.
PEARSON, J.,	Grande Prairie, Alta.
WILBURN, D.J.,	DeBolt, Alta.
ROBERTSON, A.R.,	DeBolt, Alta.
ROBIDEAU, P.R.,	Bezanson, Alta.
ROLF, G.,	DeBolt, Alta.
LEEKs, N.K.,	Spirit River, Alta.
McEACHERN, C.P.,	Hinton Trail, Alta.
ROBIDEAU, A.I.,	Bezanson, Alta.
PRONOVOST, J.B.,	Sexsmith, Alta.
KRASKO, J.,	Sexsmith, Alta.
BURNS, A.B.,	Sexsmith, Alta.
HARROLD, M.,	Spirit River, Alta.
STEVENSON, H.B.,	Dawson Creek, B.C.
WALSH, O.W.,	Sunset House, B.C.
STANYER, F.,	Sunset Prairie, B.C.
SKETCHLEY, D.J.,	Sunset Prairie, B.C.

Genealogy & DNA

How to combine the two

Patricia Greber
Dever/Diver DNA project manager

The newest way to trace your family tree has taken hold of the genealogy community.

Tracing your family tree using DNA is in the starting phase. People who have spent many years on their research (not to mention many dollars) and seem to be facing a brick wall are turning to DNA to answer their questions.

What the test consists of is a swab that you rub on the inside of your cheek. After doing this you send it into the lab and wait for the results. Within a few weeks you get sent your DNA reading. You have an option to put the information into their database and they will tell you if you have a match or not.

There seem to be websites springing up all over the Internet where people are listing their DNA and their surname projects that they are starting. The surname projects are a place where you can post your DNA results and they will compare them with others they have and let you know if you match with anyone else with that surname.

Another way people are using the test is to determine connections with people they suspect are related. If this is something you are trying to determine, you can get male descendants of both lines to test their DNA. You would be able to tell if they are related or not.

Females hoping to use DNA for their research need to find a male of the surname they are researching. The reason for this is the DNA they are testing follows the Y chromosome; females inherit the XX chromosome while males have XY. For example, I am researching the Dever/Diver surname (my maiden name) in order to get the DNA on this line for my family I have to find a male relative with the Dever surname. My father or brother would be great candidates for the test.

Females can be tested, though, for their mitochondrial DNA which would be their maternal line. So I could get the test done and it would follow my mother, to her mother, to her mother and so on . . .

Patricia Greber (Dever) > Mary Dever (Stewart) > Wilma Stewart (Harrop) > Rachel Harrop (Hodgins) > Rachel Hodgins (Mordy) > Mary Mordy (Potter). That's as far as I have my maternal line back.

There is a wonderful book written by Brian Sykes about the Mitochondrial DNA called "The Seven Daughters of Eve". I found this book very easy to understand and a great read.

A few websites about DNA:

<http://www.oxfordancestors.com/> a testing lab in England,

<http://www.familytreedna.com/> a testing lab in the USA also has a search feature that you can look if there are any projects underway,

For your surname, <http://www.duerinck.com/surname.html> a website with more information on DNA testing and surname projects, also at the end there is a list of books about DNA.

So right now this is the cutting edge of genealogy. I do think that as more and more people turn to this in their research it will become a popular tool to genealogists.

Meetings

are held at the
Grande Prairie Public Library
Meeting Room, 9910 - 99 Avenue,
Grande Prairie, Alberta
Third Tuesday of each month
Except for July, August, and December

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