



HERITAGE SEEKERS

Grande Prairie And District Branch of
the Alberta Genealogical Society

Celebrating Alberta's Centennial

Part B

(continued from Part A at "hs1205A.pdf")

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DNA Search for 'Father' Christmas

By Paul Rincon, BBC News science reporter

A team of scientists in Oxford is trying to prove whether families with the rare surname of "Christmas" all descend from a single male ancestor.

They want to compare the DNA of men from different Christmas clans to see if they are linked by a common genetic heritage as well as by their surnames. This will be done by looking at similarities and differences in the male, or Y, chromosomes of volunteers. The work is part of

wider research on the links between surnames and DNA.

DNA analysis company Oxford Ancestors is currently appealing for volunteers to participate in the study and is being assisted in the effort by Henry Christmas, a former telecommunications engineer who has spent 50 years researching the origins and history of his own family name.

Professor Bryan Sykes, who is leading the study at Oxford Ancestors, told the BBC News website:

"There are several interesting questions such as was there one original 'father' Christmas or were there several different ones?"

A bit of cheek

His team will be taking cheek swabs from those volunteers selected by Mr Christmas in order

to extract their DNA. Every male possesses a Y chromosome which can be inherited only from his father, so this package of genetic material represents a unique record of paternal inheritance.

"If it's a single family with one original founder, then most of them will have the same Y chromosome fingerprint. If there's more than one, we'll identify that," said Bryan Sykes.

"But generally this is the kind of name that, from experience, has one or very few founders." The work forms a small part of a wider project being conducted by Professor Sykes on the genetic history of Britain.

Surnames can be remarkably informative in reconstructing the genetic family tree of the British Isles, especially those of moderate frequency that can be tied closely to genealogical records.

"Generally speaking, the rarer the name, the more likely it is to have one founder. Most surnames are moderate frequency," he explained. "Many, even now, are clustered around the historical origin of the name.

"This gives you a way of measuring how much spreading and mixing and movement there has been over the last 800 years - because many English surnames started then."

'Norman origin'

Professor Sykes found about 70% of the men he studied with his own surname had near-identical Y chromosomes. The 70% were all descended from one man who lived in Yorkshire in the 13th Century.

The Christmas family name is established widely through the home counties, but there are two significant geographical clusters; one in Essex and one in Sussex. "We will select volunteers from those two branches," said Professor Sykes. "If you didn't have that genealogical information, you

wouldn't have the first idea about those two branches or where they come from."

Some genealogy books state that the origin of the surname derives from "one born at Christmas". But Henry Christmas believes this is "too easy". "The original spelling was 'Chrystmasse', which perhaps indicates Norman

Christmas Greetings From the Family History Center

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
11212-102 Street, Grande Prairie
(Use south entrance)
Telephone: 832-0067

*****Regular Hours*****

Tuesday: 10 am - 4 pm
6:30 pm - 9 pm
Wednesday: 1pm - 4 pm
6:30 pm - 9 pm
Saturday: 10am - 3 pm

Closed on Saturdays of Long Weekends
Or if -25 Degrees 1Hour Before Opening

11212-102 Street, Grande Prairie
(Use north entrance)
Telephone: 532-3609

Verna Hockey has been released from the position of Director of the Grande Prairie Family History Center after 19 years of service. All her genealogy friends wish her good health and happiness in her future.

We would like to thank you for your support through out the year and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**We will be closing for Christmas after
December 14, 2005 and opening again on
January 3, 2006.**

origin. There were also Huguenots who came over [from France] with that name," he told the BBC News website.

Professor Sykes said the study should also be able to show how people with the Christmas surname were linked by their genes to other lineages. And it should connect the common male founder - if indeed there was one - with one of the major population groups that have settled in the British Isles over the ages.

But the technique can also reveal signs of female infidelity, turning up errant Y chromosomes that do not fit in the overall genetic tree for a particular lineage.

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/4460832.stm>
Published: 2005/11/23 16:01:09 GMT
© BBC MMV

Archives Hints

Preserving precious family photographs and documents becomes the responsibility of the genealogist. These precious treasures will find their way into your home as other family members are "clearing out clutter" or "down-sizing". Be sure that as the family custodian you preserve them for the future amateur genealogist.

We have all heard of acid-free paper and acid-free sleeves that will hold many of these photographs and documents. These are excellent! But there are three items that are used widely that over the years will deteriorate and do damage to our precious items.

Paper Clips Metal paper clips will rust, and this rust will transfer to the pages. I have found

these paper clips with my own precious documents holding the pages of a will together, or holding a photograph to a piece of paper that describes the photograph.

Many researchers do use the plastic coated kind of paper clip, but use them with caution!

Staples Staples will also rust, and may also leave rust marks on your paper document. I have found staples sent to me from a library or archive when I have sent for some information about an ancestor. Sometimes, stapling seems to be the only way to keep certain papers together. Again, be cautious.

Elastic Bands We all have experience with elastic bands becoming brittle and breaking, but did you realize they can become gummy and that residue is sometimes left on precious documents? In my own collection, elastic bands were found on military records. They can also be found on letters bundled together, and papers or photographs that have been rolled and secured with an elastic band. Use with caution. (Precious documents should be stored flat – but that will be addressed in a future issue of HS)

There are many every day items that threaten the preservation of our precious documents. Think about just how long that a certain piece of documentation or photograph will be around. Use caution!

From The Stacks

Gail Schau AGS #3148

Following is a list of books donated to the Genealogy library recently:

From Grande Prairie Public Library--
Buckboard to Brotherhood- The Baptist Church in Calgary

Niagara Township Centennial History
The Final Word- the book of Canadian epitaphs

From one of our members, Gwen Turner, when she downsized her personal genealogical library--

Thank you, Gwen

Narrative of a Voyage to Quebec
Genealogical Gazetteer of Scotland
Domesday Book: Shropshire
Domesday Book: Cheshire
The Admaston Heritage Book
Tales of the Old Town(Calgary)
The Ancestor Trail in Ireland
A Pioneer History of the County of Lanark
Tracing Your Ancestry
Handbook for Genealogical Correspondence
Who's Where in Your Genealogical Records
The Surnames of Ireland
Village Records
Pauper's Passports
Trace Your Family Tree
Genealogical Research in England and Wales Vol 3
1 microfilm: Scottish Immigration Record Ms154-
Reel 1

Queries

By Paulette Hrychiw, AGS #534

Calling all members! Send in your queries to be published in Heritage Seekers, subject to space availability.

To make your query most effective you should focus on **one** family branch in each query. Be sure to include names, years, places, and religion where known. Please limit the query to 50 words maximum.

In your query, identify who you are researching including as much information as possible and include your contact information. You never know who will read the query! It could be a distant relative that could help you fill in the blanks. Remember, it is not members alone who read our publication! HS is available to many people in other society libraries and public libraries. Remember to put your address and or your phone number and or your email address.

See my sample query:

Wilson/Willson

*John R. WIL(L)SON b ca Nov 24 1810 in Vermont, USA. Moved to Glens Falls, New York where his children were born: John Henry ca 1834, Elizabeth ca 1836, Delia Ann ca Sept 24 1839, Harriet ca 1841, Francelia Matilda ca 1842. May have had additional children. Wife unknown, first name may have been Mariah. Probably married in New York State. Looking for birth and/or christening and marriage records. Contact: Judy Bradley, 8009-99A ST, Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 3V2 Canada.
jbrad@telusplanet.net*

Old Newspapers

Joan Bowman, AGS #1108

Births, marriages and deaths extracted from the "Grande Prairie Herald" newspaper. Continued from the September 2005 issue of "Heritage Seekers".

Sept. 9, 1927 Issue:

(For those of you wishing to read the Sept. 9, 1927 Issue of the Grande Prairie Herald newspaper on the web site of www.ourfutureourpast.ca you will find it listed under the date of Sept. 19, 1927!)

- "At the Manse in Grande Prairie, Sept. 7th, John **DENNIS** and Mrs. Maise Elizabeth **WEISE**, both of Branford, Ontario, were united in marriage by Rev. C.G. **MACKENZIE**. Mr. **DENNIS** is a brother of Mrs. Joseph R. **HOWELL** of Grande Prairie. Mr. and Mrs. **DENNIS** will reside here."
- "Wedding at St. Joseph's Parish Sept. 2, of Mary Erma, only daughter of Mrs. J. **CONNERS** of Grande Prairie became the bride of Own Lewis **BOUCHAR**, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles **BOUCHAR** of Portland, Oregon. Rev. Father **SEARON** officiated..... Dorothy **CRERAR** was bridesmaid, Mr. Lawrence **CONNORS**, brother of the groom, assisted the groom. Mr. and Mrs. **BOUCHAR** will reside in Grande Prairie."

Sept. 16, 1927 Issue:

- "Born Sept. 11th to Mr. and Mrs. F.E. **SPICER**, Grande Prairie, a son."
- "Died in Grande Prairie, the infant son (four months) of Mr. And Mrs. Percy **PARKS** of Spirit River. Burial took place at Spirit River on Tuesday last."

- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. R.D. **MOORE**, a son"
- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. R.A. **MACLEOD**, Sept. 8, a son".

Sept 23, 1927 Issue:

- "Mrs. I. **WATSON** of Wembley announces the engagement of her daughter Margaret, of Nursing Staff of the Pouce Coupe Hospital, to Mr. Andrew **CHALMERS**. The marriage to take place Oct. 22, 1927 at the United Church in Wembley."
- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. AL **HAYES**, of Buffalo Lakes, Sept. 9th, a son."
- "Died: Bert **POWELL**, on Sunday following an appendix operation..... Funeral at the United Church, Rev. C.G. **MACKENZIE** officiating..... New comer to the district.....in his 45th year. Born at Brownsville, Oregon. Came to Canada in 1918 and settled with his family at Glenbow, Alberta, then moved to Three Hills, and then Grande Prairie in March 1927.... Survived by his wife and one daughter, Helen, age 17, his father W.S. **POWELL** at Brownsville and a brother Arthur at San Pedro, California; three sisters: Mrs. R.V. **HENDERSON** and Mrs. T.J. **JORDAN** of Brownsville and Mr. George **HOWE** of Cornallis, Oregon....."
- "Mr. A.R. **HOBKIRK** and Miss Lillian **WARN** married at the United Church, Grande Prairie Sept. 21, 1927....will reside at Sexsmith, AB."
- "In the Matter of the Estate of James Tindall **MILLS**, late of Halcourt, in the Province of Alberta, farmer, deceased..... died 23 July 1927....."
- "On Sept. 21st, Arthur Ray **HOBKIRK** of the Provincial Police, and Lillian Lydia **WARN**,

both of Sexsmith, were joined in marriage at the Manse, Grande Prairie. Rev. C.G. **MACKENZIE** performed the ceremony.”

Rev. C.G. **MACKENZIE** preformed the Ceremony.”

Sept. 20, 1927 (Friday) Issue:

- “Mrs. J.S. **MURPHY**, age 36, died at Grande Prairie Sunday.....and was laid to rest at the Grande Prairie Cemetery Tues..... Newcomers.....arriving here from Farmington, Missouri..... Funeral at St. Paul’s United Church. Rev. C.G. **MACKENZIE** officiated. Survived by her husband J.S. **MURPHY**, three children: four year old daughter, two boys ages two and fourteen, her mother Mrs. Sarah **PRICE** of St. Louis, MO., four brothers: Sherman **PRICE** of St. Louis, William of Chicago, Alvin of Wisconsin, and Charles of Missouri.....”
- “Died: James **VANCE**, age 28 of Glen Leslie Sept 26th of wounds from the Great War, buried in the Grande Prairie Cemetery on Wednesday. Born in Ingersol, Ontario, enlisted at age sixteen in the 168th Battalion as a Piper, training in Cap Borden, to England with the Battalion.....came west to Glen Leslie eight years ago.....lived with his mother and sister. Leaves to Mourn: his mother and six sisters: Mrs. W.T. **BOYD** of Grande Prairie, Mrs. J. **DAY** of Embro, Ontario, Mrs. Phil **THORPE** of Windsor, Ontario, Mrs. F. **CLEAVER** of Toronto, and Isabelle residing with her mother at Glen Leslie; two brothers: David of Weston, Ontario and Neil in Australia.....”
- “At the Manse, Grande Prairie, on Sept 24th, Alfred Henry **MURRAY** and Alice **STEWART** of Brainard, AB, were married.

Oct. 7, 1927 (Friday) Issue:

- “Robert **HOVEDEBO**, age 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. **HOVEDEBO** died in the Grande Prairie Hospital Oct. 1st of injuries sustained while horseback riding. Buried in the Sexsmith Cemetery.....funeral conducted by Rev. C.E. **ROGERS** of the United Church.”
- Died in Grande Prairie Sept. 30th, two year old son of Mr. and Mrs. F. **SANDULOF** of Rycroft. Buried at the Rycroft Cemetery Sunday.” *(Editors note: Surname of Sandulof name may be spelled incorrectly in the newspaper, the currently local spelling is Sandul.)*
- “Mr. and Mrs. **WALDO** of Halcourt died Sept Sept. 22nd at his home. Funeral Sept. 28th, interment at the Halcourt Cemetery. Mr. **WALDO** was past his 80th year.....came from Washington about fourteen years ago and leaves his wife and one son.”
- Mr. James **BOOTH**, an early pioneer of this district, died at his home here Sept 28th.....funeral Sept. 30, 1927 conducted by Anglican Minister Rev. **LAW**....Came here from Ontario sixteen years ago. Leaves a wife, a grandson and a granddaughter.”
- “Born to Mr. and Mrs. **NELSON**, in Pouce coupe Hospital, a daughter Sept. 27th.”

2005 membership

Askew, Leita - Grande Prairie, AB
Bennet, Joy/Keith - Grande Prairie, AB
Bettenson, Kirsten - Brownvale, AB
Bowman, B. Joan - Grande Praire, AB
Braden, Lyle - Dawson Creek, BC
Bradley, Judith - Grande Prairie, AB
Burroughs, Morris - Grande Prairie, AB
Cunningham, Beverly - Grande Prairie, AB
Dawson, Leo/Martha - Grande Prairie, AB
Dubrule, Rollande/Paul - McLennan, AB
Greber, Patricia - Hythe, AB
Hassall, Nora - Grande Prairie, AB
Hockey, Verna - Grande Prairie, AB
Hyrchiw, Paulette A. - Grande Prairie, AB
Impey, Hugh - Grande Prairie, AB
Jenner, Valerie – Grande Prairie, AB
Kaut, Jurgen – Grande Prairie, AB
Kay, Margaret – Grande Prairie, AB
Kirouac, Tracey – Grande Prairie, AB
Kokosha, Sharon – Sexsmith, AB
Lappenbush, William – Sexsmith, AB
Ledger, Marion – Grande Prairie, AB
Leonard, David – Edmonton, AB
Lewis D., Ursula – Grande Prairie, AB
Littleton, Jane – Grande Prairie, AB
Maxwell/Bleile, Maxine/David – Wembly, AB
McDonald, Dorothy – Grande Prairie, AB
Melnyk, Bertha/Stephan – Grande Prairie, AB
Monlezun, Marjorie – Dawson Creek, BC
Moore, Fran – Debolt, AB
Nelson, Merna – Drayton Valley, AB
Nutting, Mary – Grande Prairie, AB
Ozmun, Wendy – Grande Prairie, AB
Parsons, George/Carol – Sexsmith, AB
Percy, Gordon/Irene – Grande Prairie, AB
Prette, V.Gail – Grande Prairie, AB
Readman, Bonnie – Dawson Creek, AB

Richards, Alfred/Gwen – Grande Prairie, AB
Rogers, Wendy – Grande Prairie, AB
Schau, Gail – Grande Prairie, AB
Shopka, Lynda – Grande Prairie, AB
Simonson, Leanne – Grande Prairie, AB
Stark, Evelyn – Grande Prairie, AB
Thomson, Carol – Grande Prairie, AB
Turnbull, Laura – Onoway, AB
Turner, Gwen – Grande Prairie, AB
Wales, Marilyn – Edmonton, AB
Was, Deborah – Edmonton, AB
Yates, Joan – Sexsmith, Alberta
Yeomans, Bill – Spirit River, AB
Young, Ken/Jeannie – Lethbridge, AB
Zumwalt, Sheila/Elmer – Beaverlodge, AB

Just a Reminder:

A new slate of officers is required for the up-coming year. I will be approaching members for nomination for varied positions.

If you have any inclinations, up to and including a burning desire toward serving the society on the executive, please let me know!

***Bill Lappenbush,
Past President***

Upcoming Events

Meetings

Of the
Grande Prairie & District Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society
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

All regular meetings have a program of genealogical interest to our members preceded by a short business meeting.

January 17

6:30 Executive Meeting
7:00 Regular Meeting
Program "Managing Your Digital Photos"
Speaker: Doug Wills

February 21

6:00 Annual Meeting Ethnic Pot Luck
Program: "Skeletons in the Closet" Please
bring your skeletons to share with the group.

March 21

6:30 Executive Meeting
7:00 Regular Meeting
Program: Tentatively, film on the Edson
Trail. Watch for e-mail announcements, phone
calls and other advertising.

Genies in the Library: Genies are now on
summer vacation ...They will be available by
request through the library staff.

Grande Prairie Public Library hours:
Monday to Thursday: 10am – 9pm
Friday and Saturday: 10am – 6pm
Sunday: 2pm – 5pm
Telephone: 532-3580

Executive

President: Maxine Maxwell

Vice President: Joy Bennett

Secretary: Bill Lappenbush

Treasurer: Margaret Kay

Past President: Bill Lappenbush

Committees

Cemeteries: Hugh Impey

Historian: Fran Moore

Library: Gail Schau

Membership: Lynda Shopka

Obituaries: Laura Turnbull

Leita Askew

Paulette Hrychiw

Gail Schau

Phoning: Joy Bennett

Publicity: Joy Bennett

Researchers: Paulette Hrychiw

Joan Bowman

Volunteer Hours Coordinator:

Gail Schau

Website: Laura Turnbull

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