

# THE NEW LEAF

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH WEST BRANCH OF THE  
MANITOBA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
PUBLISHED IN BRANDON MANITOBA ISBN # 0-921-622-08-02



## THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Best wishes to all for a merry Christmas Season with family and friends and a happy, healthy, safe 2015.

### 2014 South West Branch Executive

**President-** Laura Crookshanks (204) 728-2935 - [crooks@wcgwave.ca](mailto:crooks@wcgwave.ca)  
**VP Administration-** Linda Wakefield (204) 728-6546 [mrswakes@mymts.net](mailto:mrswakes@mymts.net)  
**VP Operations-** Grace Desjardins-Green (204) 834-2830 [gab@mymts.net](mailto:gab@mymts.net)  
**Branch Secretary -** Sylvia Nicholson (204) 728-4500 [bnich33@mymts.net](mailto:bnich33@mymts.net)  
**Treasurer-** George MacKay (204) 725-0096 [mackayg@mymts.net](mailto:mackayg@mymts.net)  
**Past President -** Eleanor Burch (204) 834-2653 - [eburch@westman.wave.ca](mailto:eburch@westman.wave.ca)

### COMMITTEES

**Finance-** George MacKay (Chair), Barb Andrew, Ron de la Hey  
**Surname Index** – Vivian Privat

**Meeting Advisor/Advertising** - Sylvia Nicholson

**Library Committee** – Sheila Shearer, Barb Andrew

**Education/Outreach Programs** – Grace Desjardins-Green, Stacey Shackel

**Membership** – Shirley Erskine

**Research** - Jack Dodds, Paul Voorhis

**New Leaf Newsletter** - Jack Dodds (Editor)

**Cemetery Transcribing** – Sheila Shearer, Barb Andrew

**Cemetery Transcribing-** Eleanor Birch, Denise Bromley

**Branch Website** – Sheila Shearer, Barb Andrew

**Library Volunteers-** Denise Bromley, Eleanor Birch, Laura Crookshanks, Jack Dodds, Sheila Shearer, Vivian Privat, George MacKay

### Visit to Camp Hughes

October 5 was Camp Hughes Day - an annual Open House, organized by the Friends of Camp Hughes and the Military Society of Manitoba. Grace & Laura happened to be in the same tour group and would like to share the following reflections.

Camp Hughes was one of four training sites for Canadian Militia between 1910 and 1933. During 1916, more than 30,000 soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Force from Manitoba and Saskatchewan were trained there, prior to departing overseas for active service in the First World War. Camp Hughes is the only one of four remaining. Many of the soldiers trained

here later distinguished themselves at the battle of Vimy Ridge in April, 1917.

While the day was very windy, it was a great experience to take the guided tour and walk in the same trenches as thousands of young men who trained there almost 100 years ago.

Tour guides dressed in period costume were at several different sites throughout the complex. Each portrayed a person who would have been at Camp Hughes at the time. Each was very knowledgeable about their particular area, providing details about the person they were portraying as well as the operation of the Camp and features of the trench system.

There was also quite an extensive display of memorabilia, including pictures of the Camp, the

It was nice to see young people taking part as volunteers in the organization of the tours as well as participants on the tours.

Camp Hughes holds an Open House each year on the first Sunday in October. It is worth noting that the Open House in 2016 will be in the summer and will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the year they started to train soldiers to go overseas. At that time a plaque will be unveiled

men who were in training there, postcards, as well as artifacts.

to mark the Camp receiving the designation of a National Historic Site of Canada.

If you haven't visited Camp Hughes, we would highly recommend it as an historic site well worth a visit. And it's right in our own backyard!

**Laura Crookshanks & Grace Desjardins-Green**

### Member Profile - CHRIS IRWIN

Chris Irwin's family have lived in the Belmont area since the early 1800s.

Chris was born in Killarney and lived with his parents in the early years. He received his education at Pelican Lake, Belmont, Brandon, Selkirk and Winnipeg. He attended Brandon University in the early 1970s, then went west entering into a management training program with Kmart, working in Medicine Hat, Calgary, Dawson Creek, Port Coquitlam, Port Alberni and finally Prince George crossing over to the Kresge Division. He then went to work for SAAN Stores, a division of Gendis Inc., working in Quesnel and Prince George, managing in High Prairie and Fort Frances and was promoted to the Human Resources Dept. for the final 9 years. This included implementing programs at national and store levels which involved travel by land and air, visiting

some 350 stores from Ottawa to Victoria and north.

Chris has worked with many organizations. He became involved with the People Discovery Committee at the suggestion of the late MP Walter Dinsdale. He took on a role in Public Relations in this federal study of drugs on the street. It saw the forming of a teen center, introducing a place to meet and get involved working with leather. Also from this committee came a Crisis Centre and coordination with the Brandon Hospital. Much of what was learned here from this committee was expanded upon and can be found in today's EAP Programs. While attending university he became an Arts Senator, chairing the senate committees of extension (off campus education courses in various communities), counselling and the University Act and was President of McMaster Hall Residence.

After Brandon and while in the workforce Chris joined the Kinsmen Club and became president of the Fort Frances Club. While in northern Alberta he was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and served a time as president. He was appointed through the local town council to chair the High Prairie and District Police Commission.

As the job market required a move back to Manitoba, Chris became involved with the Manitoba Genealogical Society serving as VP Communications, VP Administration and later as President. During a nine year period the society became involved in seeking the release of Vital Stats in Manitoba. In 2002 legislation was passed to free them up in a timely manner. Canadian Census was later released by the Paul Martin government in a timely manner.

It was during this period that Chris was inspired to write and compile. In 1999 he released a book titled "Strathcona Municipality Revisited Genealogically, 2010". Chris is a member of the South West Branch of the MGS and his books can be found at the branch library. (Chris was recently elected as councillor of Ward 5 (Belmont) RM Prairie Lakes.)

Strathcona Municipality A Snapshot in Time", and starting in 2011, a series entitled "A Stone Marks the Spot-RM of...(10 can be noted through the Library of

Canada as well as the Manitoba Archives with 4 more to come shortly.

Grant Hamilton from the Brandon Sun spoke to our group at the November meeting. His talk was mainly about the First World War. He also talked about special editions that have been published by The Brandon Sun such as The Prince Edward Hotel editions which were very well received. Surprisingly The Brandon Sun does not have very much digitalized information and the old microfilms are extensively used for researching old newspapers.

Recently there have been a number of historical articles in The Brandon Sun relating to The First World War. Grant's talk was very well received and we look forward to seeing more of his interesting writing.

### Online Resources

Grant shared some of his favourite sites that he uses to research WW I and WW II.

\*\*Scanned historical newspapers \* manitobia.ca

\*Google newspapers: <http://news.google.com/newspapers>

\*Newspaper Archive: <http://brandonsun.newspaperarchive.com>

\*Christian Cassidy's Blog

<http://westenddumplings.blogspot.ca/2014/08/100-manitobans-who-died-in-ww1.html>

\*\*McKee Archives <http://www.brandonu.ca/archives>

\*\*Manitoba Provincial Archives; <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/ww1blog/index.html>

\*\*Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/>

\*\*Internet Archive

\* Scanned battalion rolls Eg. [https://archive.org/details/CEF\\_8thBattalion\\_1915](https://archive.org/details/CEF_8thBattalion_1915)

\*\*Library and Archives Canada

- <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx>

- Canadian Virtual War Memorial

- <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>

\*\*Canadian Census Records <http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>

\*\**Winnipeg Tribune Archives* <http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/tribune/>

\*\*Manitoba Historical Society <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/>

(ex. Some of the publications)

- [http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/mb\\_history/56/aliendetention.shtml](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/mb_history/56/aliendetention.shtml)

- <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/features/warmemorials/>

## Ancestry DNA Testing

I recently decided to register my DNA with Ancestry and see how that would further my research efforts. (Some years ago many of us gave DNA samples at an annual meeting and I, for one didn't follow up) When I tried to register, I realized that there was no option for people outside the U.S.

I emailed about this and commented on a lack of Irish information on the web. The reply is as follows...

Hello Jack,

Thank you for contacting Ancestry in regard to your DNA questions.

We apologize for your frustration with the issues you are having registering the DNA test you purchased. If you purchased the DNA kit through us, you should be able to register your DNA test by logging into the U.S. Ancestry site. **Unfortunately, the Ancestry DNA analysis on the Ancestry website has not yet released for the market outside of the United States and we currently cannot give an exact date for when this will happen.** The service is planned but there is still no specific timetable and information. The exclusion of countries outside of the United States is regulated by each

country and out of our control. Once we receive information we will share the details in our newsletter, on the Facebook page and on the Ancestry website.

We are constantly adding more and more records for Ireland. There was a fire in 1922 which burned records that were stored in Dublin. This caused several years of records to be lost.

There are several ways to narrow the search down to just Ireland. One would be to select Ireland in the Collection Priority at the bottom of the Search Box. Below is a link that explains more about how to search for Irish Records.

Answer Link: [How to search the UK and Ireland records](#)

If you need additional assistance, please feel free to reply to this message or call us at 1-800-ANCESTRY (1-800-262-3787) between the hours of 9am to 11pm Eastern, seven days a week.

Sincerely,

Yvonne

Customer Solutions Associate Ancestry

For more information regarding our products, please follow the links listed below. [Online Help](#) | [Support Community](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [DNA](#)

## HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

School spanking may be standardized now

(From The Plaindealer, Youngstown, Alberta, January 16, 1936)

Nothing like system and standardization. This is now to be carried into the school rooms of the province. Insofar as the "canings" of refractory youngsters are concerned, if suggestions by the school board management committee at Edmonton, is to be put into effect.

Under this suggestion there will be standardized sizes of straps for different grade pupils. In grade VI and higher grades, the pupils who are marked for punishment will receive the taste of a strap 16 to 19 inches long, 2 to 2 ½ inches wide and from 1/8 to ¼ inches thick. Under grade VI the strap to be used will be 15 inches in length, 1 ½ inches wide and 1/8 inch thick. The number of straps allowed in each school is also included in the recommendations, and in larger schools 4 straps (2 of each kind) will be kept and in

smaller schools, 1 of each kind. In high schools only the one size will be available. All straps will be kept in the principal's room and no teacher should buy or keep his own particular strap.

*Perhaps if we had a little of this leather, less day trips and standardized testing, Manitoba schools wouldn't have (academically) the lowest ratings in the country. Just saying.... (See pg. 8)*

\*A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

## LEAFING THROUGH THE BRANCHES BY SHIRLEY ERSKINE

LAMBTON LIFELINE (ON)

Vol.31 #3 Sept 2014

\* In Memoriam

Phyllis Frances (Lostel) Eagleson

Majorea Katharine (Gordon) Roblin

\* Letters From the Front

\* A Momentous Occasion

\* Putting the Spotlight on World War II Soldiers

\*\*\*\*\*

I have a quantity of issues of "The Connecticut Nutmegger" and "The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record" dating from the 1980s that I want to clear from my shelves. Each issue has one or more well-researched articles about a

Eleanor Burch, 204-834-2653 [eburch@westman.wave.ca](mailto:eburch@westman.wave.ca)

\* Two Who Survived

\* Plympton Puzzle

\* History of SS No. 3 Moore

\* Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records

\* Facebook Sites with Lambton Country

Content

\* Website

family that lived in the area in the early years of settlement. It is a real "find" if one of your ancestors is written up. Anyone wishing one or more copies should contact me before they hit the recycle bin!

\*\*\*INSANITY\*\*\*

Does not run in my family. Rather, it strolls through, taking it's time, getting to know everyone personally.

### Ernest Jerrett

The Underhill family tree states that Ernest Jerrett was born June 18, 1885 in Islington, London, England. His wife Kathleen Mary Ayre was born May 8, 1902 in Devon, England and died December 31, 1975 in Brandon, Manitoba.

See Wpg. Free Press January 6, 1938...Ernest came to Canada from London, England in 1914. He enlisted the following year and sailed overseas.

Mrs. Ernest Jerrett, (Kathleen Mary) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.T. Ayre of Pilot Mound, came to

Canada from Devonshire England in 1910. She married Ernest in 1927 at Melfort, Saskatchewan and they moved to Brandon around 1931, opening his photography business the following year.

On January 5, 1938 Mrs. Jerrett gave birth to triplets, the first triplets known to be born in Brandon. They were three pounds each. One died that day and another died the following day. There was one other child in the family at the time, a boy aged eight. (Gerald?)

Mr. Jerrett was an expert and prolific photographer and exceedingly popular as a humorist and elocutionist at local entertainments and social gatherings.

His store and studio was located at 115 tenth Street in Brandon, with a similar store at Wasagaming at Clear Lake in Riding Mountain National Park where, during the summer he sold and developed film for the tourists. He took black and white photos of subjects in Clear Lake and Brandon which he published on postcards and sold in his stores.

In the 1820s Ernest began to use an 8mm camera to record the upbringing of his son Jerry. Jerry's daughter Shereen edited some of the footage into a 24 minute movie called "Taking a Walk with Dad". The film was a revealing insight of the life of her Dad and the relationship he had with his father Ernest. The filming, like all of Ernest's work was insightful and professional in capturing the moments in time throughout Jerry's life. In an interview with Jerry, Shereen

\*\*Why is it, when I push one for English, I still can't understand the person on the other end of the line?

coaxes the relationship between father and son, providing an intimate view into the lives of Ernest and son Jerry.

*Taking A Walk With Dad a film by Shereen Jerrett of the Winnipeg Film Group 1991*

According to the Underhill family tree, Ernest died in Brandon in December 1959 at age 74.

The Brandon Cemetery lists the babies as buried in Section 18, Block E, Plot 16. D.O.D. is 1938-01-05. Kathleen is buried in Section 22, Block D, Plot 65 and her D.O.D. is 1975, 12, 31.

For some reason Ernest is not listed. It is said that his body was shipped to Calgary to be cremated and the ashes returned to Brandon. It is possible that his ashes may have been scattered in Riding Mountain National Park.

Brandon photographer Jack Stothard apparently has many of Ernest Jerrett's postcards and is interested in collecting more.

### **South West Branch Database Project**

In June the Branch program took us to Strathclair to visit the museum and archive. We were there to visit their facility. We also learned that the museum and archive has been using the MusArch Software database program, to catalogue their archival collection and museum objects. David Gamey the curator of the museum and archive explained about this software program they are using and explained how it worked for their collections. David demonstrated how to find specific museum items and also how to locate archive records on individuals such as land records, tax rolls and funeral cards etc. It seemed to be a very workable program to use. We also learned that it was made specifically for small archive and museums and the price for the program was very reasonable.

After the visit several members of the SWB shared their interest in learning more about this program and how it would work for our branch library and archive collection. From those discussions a committee was formed and the MusArch software purchased. The committee asked David Gamey to come and share his expertise on the program and help our Branch understand how the program worked and some tips to think about as we entered our data. The volunteer committee is now working on the details of "how to" make this program work for our collection. It is the committee's plan to have the procedure ready in the new year and have volunteers imputing the SWB collection data on this searchable database.

Anyone interested learning more about this project or volunteering please contact: Database Committee at [swmbgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:swmbgenealogy@gmail.com) or Barb 204 727 3054 or Sheila 204 725 3095

### Schools Then and Now

As I get older I see a noticeable decline in our youths' ability to spell, use proper English composition, and do simple math without the use of a calculator. The lack of proper work ethic is also becoming more evident.

At some point some educators put their beans together and decided that changes needed to be made to the old system, and what followed was a descent into a mediocre, aimless, mix of school bus trips of questionable value, spare classes and lowered standards. Like the military claim of "No man left behind" it would seem that the only way to fail a class these days is to not show up at all.

Now that some forward thinkers are looking back and talking about "Standardized Testing" which was normal in my day, the wail from some teachers and administrators (whose own efforts may be in question) is getting louder.

Borax, Cream  
Etc.  
Phone 23

---

**GLASS**  
Glazing a specialty  
Can. Weatherstrip  
Elbows  
Dampner Pipes  
\$4.95  
\$5.95

---

**Lanterns**  
Lamp and get

---

Residence Phone 82  
Business Phone 30

---

**BATTERY**  
service requirement

---

Freeze  
PHONE 44

concert on Friday, for which occasion citizens are already offering their cars

The choir has new selections for rehearsals, including more of a secular nature. It is expected the society will be numerically stronger this season and applications for membership will be considered

Officers elected are:  
Hon. Pres— Mrs J. D. McLean  
President—Miss Burkholder  
Sec-Treas—Mrs Sigvaldason  
Conductor—Mr. Short  
Executive — Miss Lynch, Mrs. George. Mrs. Musgrove

#### SCHOOL REPORT

Grade 4	
Jackie George	90
Teenie Borody	90
Grace Chop	88
Teenie Atamanchuk	85
Dennis Shackleford	84
Margaret Suter	84
Evelyn Kanfman	84
Georgina Loney	83
Elsie Sobkow	83
Eleanor Chockman	82
Mervin Stimpson	73
Jack Nixon	72
Harrison Lavinaway	72
Jean Simpson	68
Doris Simpson	Ab
Grade 3 Sr	
Birks Wherrett	78
Bobby McDonald	78
Jack Sykes	77
Bobby Chambers	76
Clair Brown	76
Carol Cameron	76
Frank Pryzner	75
Jack Susinski	74
Murray Jenkins	73
Helen Fleming	71
Helen Pryzner	69
Malford Stebnicki	69
Bernice Brown	69
Henry Klywak	67
Rod Markle	60
John Atamanchuk	46
Leslie Edmunds	Ab
B. H. Pateman, Teacher	

the church being beautifully decorated for the occasion with fruits and vegetables, Rev. A. B Simpson preached an inspiring sermon

The high school held a successful Hallow'en masquerade Friday evening. Costume prizes were awarded to: best dressed lady, Mrs. J. Gardiner; best dressed gents, Ernest Wall; ladies comic Loraine Stacey; gents comic, W. Menzies; J Anderson, consolation. Dancing was enjoyed to music by Oakburn orchestra and refreshments were served at midnight by the high school students

#### To Plan Poultry Shipping

A meeting of the Poultry Pool will be held in the Town Hall on Saturday, November 23 for the purpose of organizing and making all necessary arrangements for the 1935 shipment of dressed poultry

Mrs. McComb, President

#### Coming Events

- Nov 7—Hockey dance
- Nov 14 Anglican church play 'The Antics of Andrew'
- Nov. 16 - W. I. novelty bazaar

of 1934-35 was held at the Town Hall, Monday, Nov. 12, 1934. Present: Rosell, Deputy Returning Officer

Pol No 2—containing, containing Range 21 W.P.M. in Manitoba, containing the Township of Rosell, Deputy Returning Officer

Pol No 4—containing, containing Range 21 W.P.M. in Manitoba, containing the Township of Rosell, Deputy Returning Officer

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Municipal Clerk of the said municipality of Rosell, Manitoba, on Friday, the 10th day of November, A.D. 1934, at the hour of twelve o'clock noon, in view of the number of votes given for and against said By-Law

AND TAKE NOTICE that the consideration of the said proposed Law after taking the said vote on Tuesday, the seventh day of January, 1935, at the hour of eleven o'clock in forenoon, at the Municipal Hall, Rosell, Manitoba

Dated this 5th day of October, 1935

J. D. COGLIN, Municipal Clerk

### SPECIALS

- CLEANSING TISSUES 10c
- SKIN FRESHNER 15c
- WAVE SET 15c
- SHAMPOO 15c
- NOURISHING MASSAGE and FOUNDATION CREAM 15c

Agents for Sheaffer Parker Pens & Cut Flowers We Deliver

**G. LASLETT, Druggist** Phone 2

Above is a 1935 school report in a rural newspaper. These reports were common for many years. These published results allowed comparisons between schools and also displayed the successes of the teachers. Although some marks were lower, it was widely known that many students missed many classes because of their responsibilities to the farm and family, and wasn't due necessarily to a lack of effort. Many teachers taught multiple grades in the same classroom under difficult conditions.

Instead of getting marks for assignments and tests these days, teachers are grading students as "meeting expectations", and other evasive terms which I am told protect a student from "embarrassment", should they not achieve the limited goals they are given.

Unfortunately for the students, the "real world" does not accept these low standards and the real embarrassment will come when they get fired for being incompetent, lazy or unmotivated.

If the education system was working to full capacity there would be no spares, field trips or other blank periods when students are not being taught. Teachers and administrators should be enthusiastic for their students to take standardized testing to show their abilities. Life is a competition for jobs, promotions, skills and success. Meeting someone's low "expectations" does not prepare anyone for the real world, which, by the way is nothing like the "reality shows" would indicate on television.

There are many good students and teachers who are being saddled by an education system that discourages responsibility, respect, motivation, consequences and a standardized level of achievement. To top it off, many parents will not back the teachers in their attempts to educate "little Johnny", and administration often doesn't have the backbone to support the teachers and expel the disruptive and undisciplined students.

Reading community and family histories, it is quite evident that technology demands changes in education. The basics, however, remain vitally important. It should be obvious that it should require more class time to stay current, rather than less which seems to be the trend.

**Membership Application - South West Branch MGS**

Renewal MGS # \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fees**

**NB A person must be a member of the MGS in order to be a South West Branch member.**

**INDIVIDUAL**

**Includes four issues of Generations, Four issues of New Leaf of the Branch and full MGS and South West Branch privileges.**

**MGS \$40.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**SWB \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$50.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**ASSOCIATE**

**Someone residing at the same address as an individual member. They receive full MGS and South West Branch privileges. They do not receive MGS and Branch publications.**

**MGS \$20.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**SWB \$8.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$28.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**All checks should be made payable to South West Branch MGS and forwarded to South West Branch MGS  
203 - 4 Crocus Gardens  
Brandon, MB R7A 7R9**