



As the year 2013 draws to a close, we look back on events that have not only affected us, but the future of our children and grandchildren.

Our ancestors cleared land in a new country, hoping for a bright future for their families and descendants. In those days of hard work and (mostly) lawful ways, they cleared the way for a better life for their families. Without the distractions of computers, phones, television and the fast-paced way of life as we know it, life seemed more meaningful.

We have those same wishes for our descendant's futures, but modern technology has blasted us with the realities of global conflicts, pollution, crime, violence and uncertain economic conditions.

Has our quality of life really improved? Certainly in areas of health, transportation, communication, education and housing we are much advanced. But do we feel secure, happy and confident in the future? Do we have any confidence at all in our leaders, once respected by their constituents, and now despised by many as scandal after scandal erupts?.

We have a duty as Canadian citizens to do our best to protect the rights and traditions that our ancestors strived and fought for and pass these values on to our children and grandchildren so that they may continue to enjoy these privileges.

2013 South West BRANCH EXECUTIVE

President - Laura Crookshanks (204) 728-2935 - crooks@wcgwave.ca

VP Administration - Wayne Blair (204) 834-2214 - wellair@mts.net

VP Operations - Grace Desjardins-Green (204) 834-2830 - gab@mts.net

Branch Secretary - Sylvia Nicholson (204) 728-4500 - bnich33mymts.net

Treasurer - Janice Cameron (204) 726-1230 - craftylady@wcgwave.ca

Past President - Eleanor Burch (204) 834-2653 - eburch@westman.wave.ca

COMMITTEES

Finance – Janice Cameron, Barb Andrew, Joyce Lidster

Meeting Advisor/Advertising - Sylvia Nicholson

Library Committee - Sheila Shearer (Chair), Barb Andrew, Vivian Privat

Education/Outreach Programs - Grace Desjardins-Green, Stacy Shackel, Paul Voorhis

Surname Index - Vivian Privat

Membership - Shirley Erskine

Research - Jack Dodds, Paul Voorhis

Branch Historian - Sylvia Nicholson

New Leaf Newsletter - Jack Dodds (Editor)

Cemetery Transcribing - Barb Andrew, Sheila Shearer

Webmasters - Barb Andrew, Sheila Shearer

Upcoming Programs

Fall activities are in full swing at the Southwest Branch. Information from cemetery transcribing is being finished, the Executive is reviewing some ideas for Branch development from the October workshop in Winnipeg and the Program Committee is busy with plans for upcoming sessions. A Committee has been formed to start planning the Heritage Dinner - watch for details,

As we get into winter, our thoughts turn to Christmas preparations. The December meeting will be a fun time of sharing memories, writing and enjoying Christmas treats. I wish each and very one of you a joyous holiday season!

Submitted by Laura Crookshanks

January - Barb Andrew will present on War Brides

February - It's not all online: Using Community History books and other sources right under our noses. (This will be presented with a case study and members are invited to bring their ideas as well).

March - Annual General Meeting. Program TBA.

April - Heritage Dinner with Marc George speaking on WW1 (He is calling it WW101)

Save the Date

The SWB is planning a Heritage Dinner for April 2nd, 2014. Speaker Marc George will present on WW1. Watch for details.

Leafing through the Branches is a brief look at articles in other genealogy newsletters compiled by Shirley Erskine. If you would like to read any of these newsletters, contact Shirley or Jack.

**LEAFING THROUGH THE BRANCHES
BY SHIRLEY ERSKINE**

LAMBTON LIFELINE (ON)

Vol.30 #3 Sep 2013

- * In Memoriam – Good Mrs. Jean (nee Frayne)
- * The Diary of Henry Jones – 1832
- * The Only Woman Hanged in Lambton County
- * Warwick Hero Posthumously Lauded in B.C.
- * Congratulations
- * The Bishop Comes Home with a Bride
- * Lambton Names Transcribed From the Reports of the Proceedings of the Annual Sessions of of the Grand Orange Lodge of Western Ontario – Part 2
- * Websites
- * Camlachie Centotaph Soldiers – Thomas Powell

BRUCE BULLETIN (ON)

Vol. 24 #3 Aug 2013

- * Highlights of June Meeting
- * Highlights of July Meeting
- * Queries
McLennan
Bell, McKinnon, Cameron and Richardson
- * Bruce County Strays (continued)
Dewar
McKay
Schroeder
Nobbs
Thomas
Rae
- * The Two Janet Cochranes
- * New Archival Acquisitions
- * General Stores in the Archives
- * In Memory of
Edna Laidlaw

LONDON LEAF (ON)

Vol.40 #4 Nov 2013

- * 1842 Canada West Census – London District Information
- * Military Museums of Interest
- * International London Old Boys Association

TORONTO TREE (ON)

Vol.44 #5 Sep/Oct 2013

- * Finding An 1896 Estate File In York County: A Step-By-Step Example
- * Total Names Indexed: 368,000
- * In Memoriam Jeanette Louise (Campbell) Tyson 15 February 1939 – 10 August 2013
OGS
#3812

AncesTree (Nanaimo, BC)

Vol.34 #3 Fall 2013

- * Identifying My Undated, Unnamed Photographs
- * My Uncle Leonard
- * 500,000 Photographs Up For Grabs from Barnardo's
- * Website Updates
- * Lost – Mary Anne Charlton, Northumberland, UK
- * Identifying John Wells (1782 – 1847) Can You Help?

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

Vol.44 #2 Aug 2013

- * Autobiography of J. Weir
- * City of Yorkton, Mayors Volunteer Recognition Reception
Grace Porter
- * Somewhere in Saskatchewan

* SGS North East Branch 25th Anniversary

* Are These Your Ancestors?

* Nova Scotia Records on Ancestry.ca

**Memorable Funeral service for old soldier who died alone-
Warm 2013 Remembrance Day story
(Excerpts from "The Guardian" Sept.11, 2013)**

It began with a tiny notice placed by undertakers in a Lancashire newspaper: "Harold died peacefully in Alistre Lodge Nursing Home on 25th October 2013, aged 99 years. A single man, he has no close family who can attend his funeral. Served in RAF Bomber Command as ground crew in world war two. Any service personnel who can attend his funeral service would be appreciated."

The notice was picked up last Friday by [Sgt Rick Clement](#), who lost both of his legs in Afghanistan in 2010. "Need a big favour from any [military](#) or ex serving members ..." began his tweet.

The appeal went viral. By the time the dead soldier's cremation took place on Monday, Roland L Whitehead and Daughter funeral directors had received calls and flowers from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and beyond from people sending their regards to an old man they had never met.

When the clock struck 11am, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, at least 300 strangers had turned up in the rain at Lytham crematorium to make sure that Harold Jellicoe Percival – aka Coe – was not laid to rest alone.

Eighty-year-old Bernard Worsfold could not quite believe his eyes. Chair of the local RAF veterans' association, a week ago he thought he might be one of the only mourners. He did not know Percival, but he had agreed to attend after being asked by the funeral home planning Percival's cremation, who feared his passing would go unmarked.

"I thought I'd be one of perhaps six people," said Worsfold. "I never expected this."

As the vicar put it: "We marvel at the power of the printed word, whether on paper or on screen."

The Rev Alan Clark then quoted John Donne: "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

Uniformed veterans, teenage air cadets and serving soldiers joined members of the public, including a lad in wellies from a nearby carwash. One man, his jacket heavy with medals, clutched his toddler tightly, thumbing away tears as Lytham Community Choir sang Jerusalem. Clement was there, too, [in his wheelchair](#).

So few people were expected that the pallbearers had been considering staying in the chapel to make up the numbers. But on the day, it was standing room only in the crematorium, with well over 200 mourners left outside.

As Percival was laid to rest on Armistice Day, mourners in Lytham joined millions across the country in two minutes silence before the service began. About 4,000 people stopped in Trafalgar Square in London for a service organised by the Royal British Legion.

Initially, no family members were expected to attend Percival's funeral. He never married or had children. He was, said the vicar, "a very private person – something of a nomad, carrying his possessions in a rucksack". But after the appeal hit the headlines, a handful of relatives made the trip.

Percival's nephew, Andrew Colyer-Worsell, said the family was overwhelmed by the turnout. "It was very emotional," he said. "It just shows how great the British public are."

He said his uncle might not have relished the attention during his life. "He would be hiding around the corner right now," said Colyer-Worsell, stressing that Percival was not the sort of person to dwell on his past in the war. "He was an old soldier, not a hero: just a veteran who did his duty."

Janet Wareing, the matron at his nursing home in Lytham, described Percival as "a lovely character, very feisty and independent ... [He] knew his own mind. He was very proud of what he achieved."

During the [second world war](#), Percival served with 617 squadron, which carried out the famous dambusters raid to destroy dams in the Ruhr valley in Nazi Germany. After the war, he worked in Australia and eventually retired to England.

Percival's coffin, draped in a union jack, was carried into the chapel to the title music from the Dambusters film. A bugler then played the Last Post.

Before the service, Sam Hodson, 21, an air trooper just back from Afghanistan, explained why he had decided to attend. "It's important to show respect for those who put their lives on the line for this country," he said.

Stefan Fish, formerly of the 14th/20th Kings Hussars and now a [Blackpool](#) palliative care team leader, said he had attended too many funerals with few or no mourners in his new line of work. "This is the opposite side of the coin," he said. "This isn't really about honouring one man. It's about honouring a whole generation. We owe them a massive debt of gratitude."

****On November 11 of each year, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month we stand silent in remembrance of those who fought for the freedoms that we often take for granted. Without soldiers like Harold Percival we may not be allowed to use imagery like the cover of this newsletter. This story may be current, but the historical impact of the "dambusters" and our military members, past and present, is far too great to be forgotten.*

"We will remember them"

Along this line, a request was sent out just prior to Remembrance Day from a lady who had come across an old medal in a coin box belonging to her father. My daughter thought I might be interested and sent me the story as follows....

A Manitoba woman is trying to track down the owner of a medal that dates back to the First World War.

Carolyn Henrick was going through a box of coins in her parents' attic when she came across a medal with the name J. C. Hooper etched on the side.

"Why my dad had it was the big question!" said Henrick. She said no one in her family has any idea how the medal got there, and since her father is now passed away, they'll likely never know.

Now, she's hoping to track down the owner.

"This is a memento of someone who really deserves to be remembered," she said. "It really belongs with the family."

Through a bit of research, Henrick was able to find out the medal was awarded to a Manitoban.

"His name was John Campbell Hooper," she said. Coincidentally, Gordon Goldsborough, a professor at the University of Manitoba with a passion for the province's history, was in the middle of researching the family at the time. He heard about the lost medal and got in touch with Henrick.

"John Campbell Hooper is the son or the fellow for which this medal was awarded," he said. "My first thought is, 'How did this medal end up where it did?' It was in the attic of a house of somebody that isn't related to the Hoopers, as far as we can tell."

Goldsborough said the medal was awarded to First World War veterans, and records show Private J. C. Hooper was with the 90th Battalion, otherwise known as the Little Black Devils.

Hooper joined the military in November 1915 and died at age 30.

So far, the pair don't know much more about the medal or how to find Hooper's family.

Now, Henrick is hoping someone who knows something will come forward.

"It's a very emotional piece that I feel I've been entrusted with," said Henrick. "It's in a safe spot, and it's coming to find you."

Anyone with information can contact CBC at 204-788-3205 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting 204-788-3205 FREE end_of_the_skype_highlighting .

Being of curious mind, I did a quick check and found the family...

The 1901 census shows the Hooper family as..

Archibald Hooper, 32, born October 7, 1868, Head, born in Ontario, Living in Selkirk. English Descent.

Ida C. Hooper, 30, born November 10, 1870, born in Ontario

****John C, Hooper, 3 , born June 23, 1897, born in Manitoba**

Mary K Hooper, 7 mos., born August 31, 1900, born in Manitoba

The 1921 census shows him living at 68 Niagara Street in Winnipeg at age 23 with sister Mary 20, and brother Richard 12 along with their parents. He is listed with Soldiers of the First World War as follows...

Name---	JOHN CAMPBELL HOOPER	Relationship	Father
	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Regiment	186589
Birthdate	23 June, 1897		
Birth Location	Selkirk, Manitoba		
Relative	A.W. Hooper		

I was also able to find his attestation papers online. <http://interactive.ancestry.ca/1086/gpc006-398563a/448828?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.ca%2fcgi->

[bin%2fsse.dll%3fdb%3dCanSoldierWWI%26h%3d448828%26indiv%3dtry%26o_vc%3dRecord%253aOtherRecord%26rhSource%3d8991&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnRecord](http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/organization/brandonschooldivision.shtml#schools)

At this point it would have been easy to trace family members through the Winnipeg Henderson Directories, which we don't have in Brandon, so I contacted Gordon Goldsborough with the information I had.

Gordon then replied. *"I had email last night from a local genealogist who managed to track down a relative of his, living in Ottawa, and also possibly one here in Winnipeg. I have passed along these new leads to Marcy Markusa at CBC who is following up on them this weekend. Hopefully, she will broadcast the results on Monday to coincide with Remembrance Day. Thanks for your help!"*

This goes to show that we, as Genealogists can often be of service as mysteries like this come up. Hopefully the family will be contacted and the medal delivered to the family of Mr. Hooper.

I remember Gordon Goldsborough from the time he spent teaching at Brandon University and am very much aware of the huge amount of work he has done for the Manitoba Historical Society. Our area of interests are very similar and it only makes sense that we develop a working relationship with the Manitoba Historical Society to further our knowledge and share information which will help us both in researching our various fields of historical subjects.

Gordon has notified me of a current project he is working on and I would appreciate it if any of our readers could help with this project. His email is as follows...

"One area where some closer communication would be helpful is a project I am doing right now to commemorate the Principals of schools around the province and, where possible, to write a short biographical sketch of them. I have made a web page for most of the older schools in Brandon, along with a list of Principals where I have been able to compile one. If any of your members would be able to fill in any of the gaps, I would be most grateful. Here are some links to the schools in Brandon:

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/organization/brandonschooldivision.shtml#schools>

And, of course, I am also interested in schools in other communities around southwestern Manitoba."

+++The Manitoba Historical Society has covered many of the churches and historical buildings in Manitoba complete with GPS coordinates, but there are a large number of old churches and school buildings that have been torn down or moved. If you know the location of these

original buildings and have a GPS, please contact Gordon with the coordinates and any other information that you can provide.

If you can be of assistance you may contact Gordon at

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough
Webmaster & Pageant Editor
Manitoba Historical Society
Winnipeg, MB, Canada
Tel: 204-782-8829

Email: webmaster@mhs.mb.ca
Web:
www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/goldsborouglg.shtml

Many years ago Sylvia Doran had an interest in family history and memoir writing. She began writing a regular column in the Birtle Eye Witness. Now, most communities have history books complete with family histories, but before all these, Sylvia's stories captured the lives of people in her community. The following story is copied with permission of her son Harold....



People Then and Now

BY — SYLVIA DORAN
WINONA BENN AND
FLORENCE BUNN

It isn't too unusual to have a mother and daughter in the same hospital room, but when the mother is 105 and the daughter is 81, it's a notable event. Winona Benn and Florence Bunn are sharing a room at the Birtle and District Health Centre.

We expect to find that everyone comes from somewhere else, or at least their parents emigrated — but in this case Winona's parents were always here. They were even among those who came north from the USA. She is a local Sioux Indian and was born right here, when no white settlers had yet arrived. Her name, Winona, means first born girl. Her husband was Alex Benn and the Benn's had 12 children. Three of them are living. They are Winona, Louisa Tanner & Florence Bunn.

The Benn's were hard working people. They had a few cows and chickens and hunted to supply the family needs. Florence says her mother was a very clever woman and one who raised her children to be strong and independent.

When asked if there was at least treaty money for her mother, Florence's answer was that the Sioux are not treaty Indians. She remembers every month by the Indian agent Birtle, and flour were handed out. Of course the old age pension and after the family allowance was introduced, the family also meant a cash income 20 years went by.

A six year old Florence was sent to the Indian Residential School in Birtle. Not long after Christmas would there be a chance to return home and when the wait would be long, she would be sent away from her parents. The girls at the school were taught sewing, cooking, laundry and house-keeping. Florence worked at these skills as well as academically. She graduated with two certificates of honour. One reads "This is to certify that Florence

Benn has completed her schooling with honours". But complete schooling was grade six. So Florence returned home and at age 18 married Gerry Bunn. The wedding service was in March 1907 at McArthur's home. The Presbyterian minister, Mr. McArthur, had to come by sleigh as the snow was still deep. She had been christened in the Presbyterian church and it has always been a part of her life. The Bunn's had 12 children and several of them died very young. No doctor was available and pneumonia was a real danger to young and old. Today, these young children live here. Lawrence, the eldest, is a veteran of World War II and survived that ordeal which included internment in a German Prisoner of War camp. She has a daughter Lorna and a son Donat.

Winona Benn now only speaks Sioux, English, her second language, but she has a good knowledge of English. She attributes this to much to her schooling as to listening to radio and TV. Her children and grandchildren are also fluent in Sioux and English. She says her second language is no problem for if she speaks and they learn.

The two ladies have lived together in Florence's comfortable three bedroom home on the Birdtail Reserve. The house has electric heat and the hope is that when Florence is well enough to return home, waterworks can be added. It is now being possible on the reserve. They are good and not so good things about life there today. It is to her, vastly better to have the children transported by bus to school every day as they return to their family at day's end. The system of a nurse regularly checking the children and always having needed vaccinations plus the services where transportation is available to hospital or for any sudden need mean a better chance. But it seems to her there are many more young than old people these days. The two ladies have seen vast changes in their time.

Our branch has many active members who are busy with various areas of family research.



This month we are featuring Carberry resident and busy SW Branch member **Eleanor Burch**. She has been an important part of our organization, volunteering on many committees over the years and serving on the branch executive.

Born in Toronto and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and Fort William, Ontario, Eleanor Burch moved to Carberry, Manitoba as a bride in 1963 where she became involved in her husband's farming and auction business. Now, with four daughters and ten grandchildren within a two-hour drive, there are lots of distractions to keep her from the less important things in life.

Eleanor inherited her interest in genealogy from her father, Hugh McVicar. His research took his side of the family back 12-14 generations and has been published as "McVicar Post Ancestry." If you have two or more of the following names in your family history, you might like to give Eleanor a call – McVicar, McGeachy, Grass, Conn, Cudney, Post, Munn, Yerex, Orser, Lazier. eburch@westman.wave.ca

Since her paternal side was "done" Eleanor is currently researching her mother's ancestry and hopes to have a small book ready within reasonable time. Her maternal grandfather, Joseph Eddie, was born and raised in Bracebridge, Ontario, the grandson of Joseph Eddie and Helen Middleton from Bervie, Scotland. Her maternal grandmother, Jane Eliza Clarke, was born and raised in Belfast, the daughter of Charles Clarke and Mary Burns, and came to Canada as a young woman, bringing her younger siblings over during the next few years. Eleanor has been successful at obtaining several Irish marriage and death registrations which have been a big help in confirming bits of the stories passed down and answering the unknowns. Other surnames involved on the maternal side are Walker, McAllister, Malone and Robinson.

Her husband's family is another work in progress – the ancestors of Samuel Edward Burch and Lovina Jane Campbell with connections to Ottawa, Ontario, Ireland and Scotland.

Eleanor is interested in Canadian military history and has published her father's "Private's Progress" – excerpts from his wartime letters home and stories of his own research into World War II situations.

Eleanor has been a member of the South West Branch since November 1991. She has served as president for six years and filled in for part of two other terms. She volunteers at the library once a month and has helped in other capacities.

**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**