

Newsletter of the South West Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society

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2014 marked the centennial of the beginning of WWI. More than 60,000 Canadians died in this war. Most towns in Canada will have cenotaphs like the one above, in remembrance of local people who lost their lives during this terrible conflict.

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Do you have anything you would like printed in the New Leaf?

Send it to Jack Dodds at jdodds@mts.net

WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS

There are many ways of writing memoirs. They can involve a time period in your life, a family history, school days, a single event, a local history or any combination. Many people are hesitant to write because they don't feel that their work will stand up to formal composition rules. The fact is that this kind of arbitrary writing often detracts from the story. The best memoirs that I have seen are written as the writer spoke, bad grammar, faulty English and all.

I spent a considerable amount of time with writer Fred McGuinness during the last years of his life discussing many topics and helping with memoir-writing workshops as well as reviewing memoirs of all kinds. Fred wrote much of his more interesting memoirs along the line of writer Samuel Clemens, who

was better known by his pen name Mark Twain. As you are aware, Mark Twain never let proper English composition to get in the way of a good yarn. Fred was a very accomplished writer but also knew when to bend the rules to tell a story.

What I am trying to say is that a good memoir is not so much the writing itself, but the information it provides in telling the story in a style that describes the writer, the people, times and areas that are included.

One of my uncles, Al Armitage from Miniota wrote his memoirs back in 1983. Anyone living in the area would be very pleasantly surprised at the amount of information that this 75 page document contains about local families and community history. Al was not a professional writer by any stretch, but had a great memory and a considerable amount of records to draw from. I will provide a sampling of this memoir as follows, to demonstrate what an extensive memoir might look like...

*I was born February 21, 1912, to **Herbert and Catherine Armitage** I was born on this farm and have lived here all my life. I am the third son, my brothers **Charles** and **William**, and my sister **Mary** being older than me.*

*I would like to go back now and give some further details of my parent's previous history. My father, **Herbert DeWinton Armitage**, was born at Newmarket, Ontario in 1879. He was a descendant of United Empire Loyalist stock, many of whom settled in that area after the American Revolution. His father, **Charlie Armitage**, was a part time farmer and also a butcher. His mother **was Mary Douglas**, and she was born in Osprey Township, Grey County, Ontario. They were married in 1876 and apparently continued to live in **Newmarket** for some time. They later moved to Toronto where they were to live until their deaths. Grandpa worked for Lever Brothers, a soap manufacturer, and proudly wore a gold watch he had received for 50 years of service. I had the honor to attend their 60th wedding anniversary in 1956. **Dad** grew up in the Toronto area as a machinist and, at one time worked for C.C.M. the bicycle manufacturer.*

*My mother, **Catherine Muirhead** was also born in Osprey Township in 1882, very close to where my Dad's mother was born. The Muirheads were Scots and the great grandmother spoke mostly Gaelic, and Mother knew some of the language. (Catherine's father died not long after their marriage, and Catherine was the only child of the marriage). Sometime later, Jane married George Scutt. Of this union there were six children, the third being Pickering, who is a half-brother to my mother, Catherine Muirhead. Mother grew up and went to school around McIntyre and Badjeros, two small communities that had been cleared of the hardwood forests not many years before. As a young woman, she went to Toronto to work for an uncle and it was while working here that she met my father, Herbert.*

*In the year **1900**, Dad came west on a harvest excursion. He came to Virden where he came in contact with farmers who were looking for men to help with the harvest. It happened he was picked up **by Fred Reeves**, and so came to a farm that is now in the community pasture, just across the road **from Jim Maxfield's**. After harvest, he returned to Toronto, but the west had got in his **blood** and he returned for the next couple of years.*

*In **1903** he spent the winter looking **after Jimmy Crump's** stock, and learned all he could about farming from these men who were very good farmers. This was known as the Two Creeks district and*

had been settled about 1862 by a group of English tenant farmers who were brought out to farm the way it was done in England. As soon as they saw that they could get all the land they needed on their own, they abandoned the scheme and each took his own homestead. The names of some of them **were Reeves, Crump, Webster, Maxfield, Cole and Morton.**

Dad worked **for Jim Crump** and I think it was probably he who was instrumental in locating the 3/4 of land in the Assiniboine valley. Dad bought this in 1905. He had previously farmed some rented land probably belonging to **William Elliott**. As I go over some of these old papers, I can't help but admire the spirit of a man who came from Toronto, with no money and no farming background, and started farming the virgin prairie.

On March 6, 1905, an agreement was made between Walker Willis Moody of Winnipeg, vendor, and Herbert Armitage, farmer, whereby he agreed to pay \$2,400.00 of lawful money of Canada for the east 1/2 and N.W. 1/4 of Section 10, Township 13, Range 26, payable in grain by delivery from the thresher of one half of each year's crop grown on said land, till all the money secured by this agreement are satisfied. Interest on the **unpaid** balance was 5% per annum. His contract also called for him to break at least 50 acres in the current year and twenty five per year thereafter, until all arable land was under cultivation, and furthermore, he will sow only clean seed, properly bluestoned and will keep the land free from all noxious weeds.

The land was situated on the north slope of the Assiniboine valley, with quite a bit of the N.E. 1/4 being side hill, partly covered with scrub oak and chokecherry, saskatoon and other shrubbery. **The Arrow River Creek** ran through it and emptied into the Assiniboine on the S.E. 1/4. There was quite a bit of bush along the river, and the creek was a great attraction, as it afforded a ready supply of water for any livestock operations. The river flats to the south and west were a good source of wild hay, and a source of a good supply of ducks and prairie chicken, which I am sure Dad considered as he remained an avid hunter and fisherman all his life. There was a nice slope of open ground where the building site was finally chosen. The one drawback, which eventually showed up was a shortage of water other than the creek.

This land had been **bought** by speculators previously, and had **passed** through **several** hands before Dad came into possession of it. There were a few acres broken on it but it was mostly prairie. He purchased a team of horses from **William Kyle** of Two Creeks. He was an American and a grandfather of **Frank and Harold Kyle**, who imported horses from the U.S.A. Their names were Jack and Pet. I remember a horse descended from the mare by the name of Uncle. He was a big, white Percheron. And I remember as a nine year old, hauling my first load of wheat to Miniota with him and his mate, Lady. But I am getting ahead of myself.

Dad built a shack on the property that spring and presumably also a stable, he proceeded to break the land using a walking plow. According to **Mother**, he broke and back set 125 acres. (See "Bridging the years"). On September 6, 1905 **Catherine Muirhead** arrived from Toronto and they were married that evening, by **Rev. William Hodnett** in the living room over the old **Hodnett store**. That winter, **Dad** wintered about twenty head of cattle for **Sam Hunter**, an implement dealer in Miniota. For payment, he received a Hereford heifer, which later produced a calf, and that was the start of a herd of cattle that is still in the family in 1982. When my parents set up housekeeping in 1905, they lived in a one roomed shack. It was located straight north of where the barn now stands, and the site can be identified

by a row of stones that marked the south wall or the foundation. I think another room must have been added shortly after. From their front window, they could look out, over the whole valley as the trees along the creek were very small at this time. I recall **Mother** telling of standing at the back door of the house and seeing the saw logs being driven down the river to Brandon. The stable was situated in the area just west of where the yard pole now stands, and a granary was situated between the house and the stable.

This part of the country had been settled long before my parents came. Their nearest neighbors were **the Luther Currie family** who lived 1/2 mile west. Further west up the valley were **the Robinsons, Warrens and Bissetts**. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were very good neighbors. They had no family of their own, but adopted a daughter, **named Edna Spencer**.

They had in their employ a Barnardo boy by the name **or Ed Fisher**. Later, they got another one by the name of **Alec McKean**. **Ed. Fisher** was with the Robinsons until Mrs. Robinson retired in 1936, when he returned to England and died shortly after.

Alex McKean joined the army in 1915 and served with distinction until 1918, when he returned. He made his home around Miniota until his passing in 1978.

The Warrens were a large family, who lived on the farm part time and the rest of the time in Miniota. He became Secretary Treasurer of the Municipality. Further west were **the Bissetts** who had homesteaded their land in 1882. A niece of theirs **married Charlie Goodwin**, who was living on the farm when I was a boy. On top of the hill were **the Gerrands and Elleringtons** and further north, **the Andrews, Boyces, Craigs and Lelonds**, and to the east were the **Mitchells**. South, across the valley were the **Crumps and Reeves**. These farms are now in the community pasture.

The **Maxfields, Coles and Willocks** farmed the land now farmed by **Luther Currie** who had homesteaded his farm in 1882, and in 1896 had built a fine, big, stone house on it and a few years later a barn. **Mr. Currie** operated a lime kiln, and burned all his own lime as well as selling some to others. His first wife died, leaving no family, and in **1898** he married **Henrietta Robinson**, one of a large family residing in the Crandall district. Of this marriage, there were five children, **Eva, Brodie, Roy, Ruby and Les**. This family was to be our closest neighbors and friends. **Roy** is the only one still living in **1982**. **Mrs. Currie** was a great friend of my mother and I am sure must have been a great support to her, a new bride a long way from home.

Nick Robinson, a brother of **Mrs. Currie**, and his wife **Zelphia**, who lived where **Ivan** now lives, were close neighbors. **Chris Ellerington**, better known as **Kit**, and his wife **Harriet**, came from England about **1900** and started farming. They had two sons, **Chris jr.** born in **1902**, and **Charlie**, born in **1904**, **Annie** in **1908**, and **Ruth**, a late arrival, in **1925**. They were close neighbors and, as of **1982**, **Charlie and Ruth** are the only ones still living.

David Gerrand, a Scotsman, had come from Scotland via Ontario, and homesteaded in **1882**. He built the stone house at the top of the Currie hill, claimed by the family to be the first stone house built in

this area. He was married twice, and his second wife was a sister to his first wife. There were five children in the first family, and four in the second, namely **Ernie, Arthur, Alice, Edith and Tommy; Aletha, Dorothy, Dave and Janet**. The last to leave the district was **Arthur**, who had remained on the farm. He and his family moved to Birtle in **1922**, and finally to Vancouver Island. In **1982** they had a reunion at Miniota and three of the second family were able to attend. The **Copelands** were an Irish couple who had homesteaded on what is now known as the **Gardham** farm, at the top of the Copeland hill. They had a son, **William**, who was about the same age as Dad, and they were very good friends.

I can remember as a small boy, when they used to spend days hunting deer in the hunting season. At that time deer were very scarce and I do not ever recall seeing one alive until I was 12 years old. **Bill** also owned a sawing and crushing outfit, and I recall him sawing all our wood. **Bill Copeland** had a cousin, **Bill Aylward**, who had come from Ireland to live with them. He later married the Copeland's daughter, **Beatrice**. The **Copelands** were a typical Irish family and very hospitable. The old gentleman **Tommy** was a great story teller, who was not bothered by stretching the truth to make a good story better. These people were always good friends of the family, and remained so until their passing in the mid 20's. Their oldest friends were the **Crumps, Reeves and Maxfields**. I can remember as a child visiting with these people on Sundays. **Jim Crump** had lost his wife, and about **1915** remarried and moved to the valley, where he built a home at the foot of the **Crump hill**. They had bad luck here, losing many horses with **swamp fever** and being flooded by the river. In **1924** they moved to Oakner and in **1927** moved to California.

The **Fred Reeves** family were not really neighbors, but very good friends. Their family were about the same age as ours. There were four children but **Ted and Susan** passed away when quite young, leaving **John and Henry**. John married **Ida Webster** in the mid-thirties, and **Fred and his wife** moved to Miniota, where they lived until the time of their deaths. The **William Maxfield** family lived where the **Les Bunns** now live.

Mrs. Maxfield was a sister of **Jim Crump**, and the **Crumps, Maxfields and Reeves** were all members of the party brought out by the **Rankin estate**. As a young man, **William** took out his homestead and started farming. He was a man of many talents, being a farmer, stockman and a steam operator, who used to run a steamer every fall. He even started out for the Yukon at the time of the gold rush, but never made it. Their family of five were **Ella, Charlie, Jim, Alice and Mary**. **Jim and Alice** were the only ones who remained in the area. **Mrs. Maxfield** was an invalid for many years, and **Alice married Jim Morton** in the late twenties. She took her mother with her and looked after her until the mother's death.

Jim married in **1929** and moved across the road, and started his own farm, which today is owned by **Ted Morton**, a nephew of his. **William** continued to farm with the help of hired men. He used to phone Dad quite regularly to keep up with the news and weather, and would become quite upset when the news or forecast was not to his liking. He later acquired a radio of his own. He had a great command of

*the English language, and used to intersperse his stories with a few cuss words, which anyone who knew him did not find offensive. In **1939** he sold out and moved to Two Creeks, where he became Mayor - an honorary appointment. In his last years, he moved to Virden, where he died in **1961**. In my later years we became good friends and carried on a correspondence.*

*The village of **Miniota** had come into being with the arrival of the **railway in 1900**. By **1905** it was a thriving community, serving a large area, as the Two Creeks and Beulah rail lines were not operational until much later. **Hodnett, Forsyth and Ross** had stores. There was a doctor, and he had the drugstore. There were two blacksmiths and with the coming of motor cars, two garages owned by **Charlie Watts** and **Dorward Brothers**. There were two hotels, a Massey, Cockshutt, John Deere and International Harvester machine agencies. There was a large hardware store that was built and operated by **David Gerrand**, later called Manitoba Hardware, and today is the Co-op. There were four elevators, a post office and a daily train, which made a daily trip to Brandon. There were three churches, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican. There was no school in the village until **1908**, when a new, four room school was built. This was a consolidation of several small schools.*

*Another family who were not neighbors at this time, but who were involved in our community for many years, were the **Cusack family**. The parents lived in Miniota and there was a large family of three girls and five boys. **Edith** taught school at Glenlochar and later married **Ken Duncan** of Austin, Manitoba. It was she who bought the land I will refer to as the **Duncan quarter**. She had bought this land for her brother **Jim** and it was he who broke it and farmed it until the floods of the early twenties. It was not farmed again until **Ken Duncan** came from Austin in **1950** and broke it and farmed it until **1935** when I rented it. **Jim** had two brothers. **Henry and Bill**. The three brothers lived in a shack on the Duncan quarter and worked out from there. **Henry**, better known as **Hank**, was quite well known as a thresherman and steam engine operator. He had lost half of one foot when he got it caught in the open gears of his tractor. He was a colorful character, and inclined to be fond of any form of alcohol, a habit that got him into some trouble when he undertook to distill his own. His stories, when under the influence, were entertaining, but sometimes far out. **Bill** was a part time helper to **Hank** and used to cut posts and trap along the river. He covered a lot of territory, and did us a service several times by finding some of our cattle stuck in the river.....*

This is a small sampling of his book. As you can see this memoir contains a large amount of information about other local families as well as his own, and describes the times they lived in. Most of the older families of the region were mentioned as well as many events, happy and sad. Several years ago I spent some time indexing this book as I really don't like to see a document like this unindexed, especially when it is used as a reference. (The index of names in three columns took up 6 ½ additional pages)

Another book that I bought some years ago demonstrates how copying a person's speaking style often gives a better idea of the life and times. We used this book in a number of workshops as an example. The book is called "**me n' Henry**" The author **Walter Swan** of Bizbee, Az. had told stories to his eight children for years and was finally persuaded to write stories for his wife who edited and compiled them for their children. He wrote the book as he had told the stories. An example of this is as follows...

That afternoon I was in Mrs. Blackwoods class and we were a studying Hygiene. Or I should have said the class was a studying Hygiene. I was a looking out the window at some horses that were eating grass some two hundred yards away. The teacher had told me to get to studying two or three times til I got tired of her a telling me the same thing so many times. Then I said I didn't need to study cause I was already smart. This made her so mad that her chin started a wiggling. She didn't have much of one anyhow.

Then she said, “All of you close your books and we are going to have a test.” Pointing her finger at me, she said “Walter, if you don’t make a passing grade you will have to stay in after school for a month.” I came back with the remark that that was fine with me and we started in with the test. About half the questions were true or false ones and the rest were the answer kind. Well, when it was all over, the papers were all gathered up and I was the only one that got a 100% correct. And all that Mrs. Blackwood did was to bury her face in her hands and have herself a good cry. She stayed mad at me the rest of the school year, but I didn’t care. I didn’t like her either, so we were even.

This book became quite popular and was mentioned in many U.S. newspapers.

While I was in Bizbee, Arizona one time I had bought the book at the “One Book Bookstore” in Bizbee. The store consisted of one room about the size of a small bedroom, fronting the street. The bookstore sold only this one book and had many shelves featuring “me n’ Henry.” The old gentleman Walter Swan was seated in a rocking chair and gladly chatted and signed copies of his book. Later he would have another book published and would rent another storefront room which he would call “The Other Book Bookstore”

For information on acquiring these books contact jdodds@mts.net

Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things.

We have just passed the anniversary of the beginning of WWI, “The War to end all wars,” There are many stories that can be told about this terrible conflict but I will just touch on a few that you may not be aware of.

In December of 2009 The New Leaf featured a story about **Tommy Prince**, an Aboriginal soldier who distinguished himself as a soldier in the 2nd World War. He was one of many Aboriginals who signed up to fight for their country. The 1st World War was no different. The **Canadian War Museum** has documented other Aboriginals who fought in the 1st World War. The following is an article copied from the website with permission as allowed in their (Rights) section, sourced through the **Canadian Museum of Civilization Collection**.

First Nations Soldiers

Close to 4,000 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were of aboriginal descent, an astonishing number given the limited civil rights accorded Canada's First Peoples in the early twentieth century.

Overcoming Cultural Barriers

First Peoples troops encountered a double cultural barrier in the military: the racial prejudice that marked the contemporary non-aboriginal world, and a military hierarchy that worked almost exclusively in English, a language many aboriginal recruits did not speak. Records and memoirs

suggest that most units eventually embraced First Peoples soldiers, even providing a more welcoming or progressive environment than other areas of contemporary society.

A Record of Accomplishment

First Peoples troops left a remarkable record of wartime accomplishment. Several were commissioned as officers, and many served as battle-hardened platoon leaders and combat instructors. At least 50 were decorated for bravery on the battlefield. Many acquired near-legendary status as scouts and snipers, drawing on pre-war hunting skills and wilderness experience. The most decorated, **Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow**, an Ojibwa from the Parry Island Band near Parry Sound, Ontario, received the Military Medal and two bars for his bravery and effectiveness as a sniper. Former rodeo performer **Henry Norwest**, a Metis, was credited with 115 kills before his death. **Alexander Smith, Jr. and his brother Charles**, the sons of Six Nations Cayuga chief Alexander G. Smith, were both awarded the Military Cross.

Problems of Re-establishment

Many First Peoples soldiers returned from the war hoping that their sacrifice and achievements on the battlefield would lead to greater recognition and improved living conditions at home. Federal policy extended many post-war benefits to aboriginal veterans, but not as many as those accorded non-aboriginals. Nor did the war herald a broader breakthrough in civil liberties for First Nations. Many aboriginal veterans, including Francis Pegahmagabow, became politically active in the protection of their communities and the advancement of First Nations rights.



Peghamagabow's Medal Set

Francis Pegahmagabow's medal set includes the Military Medal, with two bars, the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal 1914-1920, and the Victory Medal 1914-1919. Pegahmagabow was Canada's most decorated aboriginal soldier in the First World War. Peggy, as his fellow soldiers called him, enlisted in August 1914 and went overseas with the First Contingent. He served for most of the war as a scout and sniper with the 1st Battalion, acquiring a fearsome reputation as a marksman. At the Battle of Mount Sorrel in June 1916, Pegahmagabow captured a large number of German prisoners and was awarded the Military Medal. He was awarded a bar to his Military Medal during the Battle of Passchendaele in November 1917, and a second bar for actions during the Battle of Amiens in August 1918.

Medal Set

CWM 20040035-001

Tilston Memorial Collection of Canadian Military Medals

The Canada War Museum site can be found at

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/cwm-e.aspx>

Another story you might find interesting, was suggested by Laura, a documentary of Irish horses used during the war. This can be found at <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/documentary-podcast-horse-irish-world-war-one.html>

Question **Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them? **

Recently, I took a tour with a friend Bill Hammond, a man in his eighties with a great memory of Brandon where he spent his early years. Some time ago Bill was able to help a lady who had contacted me about researching her Grandfather who ran the Olympia Candy Company. Bill not only remembered the layout of the building, but knew the proprietors and had witnessed the Olympia Café fire that killed Fred Brown on the eve of his retirement. (He was the only Brandon firefighter to die in a Brandon fire)

On this occasion, I had asked Bill to take me to the Brandon Indian Residential School site. The school operated from 1895 to 1972. The school was torn down years ago and little remains except the old cemetery where children who died while attending school were buried. (Bill lived close to the school during his early years and was quite familiar with the school, grounds, staff and many students)

Because of the residual water from flooding in Grand Valley we took the high road and travelled slowly along a barely visible trail covered with grass and weeds two feet tall. Soon we came in sight of a fence which bordered a grown-in cemetery about the size of a city lot. Centred in this jungle of grass and weeds is a cairn with a plaque which contains the names of deceased students buried there. One white wooden cross still stands in defiance of the prairie that has engulfed this sad spot. As we walked through the cemetery we came across other crosses which had fallen down and were barely visible.





A single white wooden cross marks a grave of one of the students who died while attending the Brandon Indian Residential School



Bill Hammond poses beside the cairn with attached plaque, which contains the names of students buried in the Brandon Indian Residential School cemetery

It is obvious that this cemetery is badly in need of maintenance and we are making efforts to try to see who is responsible for the care of this sacred ground. The memory of these souls needs to be kept alive and someone needs to step up and take responsibility. This dishonour only serves to feed the notion that Aboriginals are not treated with the same respect as other citizens.



One of many crosses that have fallen and become overgrown with grass and weeds. Notice the willow weaving around the cross.

LEAFING THROUGH THE BRANCHES BY SHIRLEY ERSKINE

LAMBTON LIFELINE (ON) **Vol.31 #2 June 2014**

- * In Memoriam
George Brown CANN
j. Brian Gilchrist
- * Websites (given at a program presentation)
- * WW1 Medal Mystery –Gene Lusk
- * Putting the Spotlight on World War1 Soldiers – Part 2
- * Region One Report
- * Newspaper Website
- * Queries
Campbell/Wellington, James and Jones
- * Websites
- * From Lambton Branch's Webmaster

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society **Vol.45 #2 Aug 2014**

- * Researching Men & Women Who Served in World War 1
- * Somewhere in Saskatchewan
- * Family Search – Adds More Than 1.7 Million Indexed Records and Images to Canada, Croatia, Peru, Poland and the United States
- * In Memory of
Lindy Kasperski
Jocelyn McIntyre
- * Saskatchewan Archives Board
- * Irish Genealogical Research Society Launches 1901 Townland Database
- * Snipits
- * IGRS Launches New Online Irish Wills Resource

The main reason Santa is so jolly is, he knows where all the bad girls live.

GOOD NEWS FOR ADOPTEES SEEKING BIRTH PARENTS

The Manitoba Government is moving ahead with legislation that will open birth and adoption records and make new adoption records more open.

Anyone who has tried to find birth parents in Manitoba will understand the feelings of frustration and futility in trying to gain information from officious, unmotivated and seemingly uncaring government employees. I am sure many adoptees have died without knowing anything about their birth parents or what happened to the child they gave birth to years earlier. While most provinces have opened their files, Manitoba has stumbled stubbornly along, remaining a hostile province for genealogists and others who are denied or financially burdened in their efforts to access Vital Stats, adoption and Land Titles information.

A relative has tried for 20 years unsuccessfully, to find information on his birth parents. They are probably dead now, but the questions remain in his mind and the minds of thousands of others who are feeling his frustration.

Brandon East MLA Drew Caldwell has been extremely helpful in his attempts to prod his government into cooperating, but the minister responsible just seems to put it back in the hands of Child and Family Services, who answer with the same lame excuses, time and time again.

This new legislation, long overdue, is moving ahead slowly, and only when it is law will we see how effective it will be for people searching older records. This may still take a year to implement fully.

Basically the amendments to the Adoption Act and Vital Statistics Act would improve accessibility to these records for Manitoba born adoptees adopted inside or outside Manitoba, adult adoptees born outside of Manitoba but adopted here, and registered birth parents of adoptees born inside or outside Manitoba but adopted here.

The changes would specify that adult adoptees and birth parents would have a right to birth registrations and/or a written summary of available adoption information.

There is a catch however. The adult adoptee and birth parents, both have the right to file a disclosure veto or a contact veto of contact preference. This could block the information and render the legislation useless for many.

Once the legislation is adopted, however, disclosure vetoes would not be available for new adoptions but contact preferences could be an option and would include the option of “no contact”.

British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Yukon have open adoption records, while others have tighter controls on information.

The first adoption legislation was passed in Manitoba in 1925. All adoption records since that time have been sealed up to March 15, 1999. When and if this legislation passes there will be a year before proclamation to let families know about the changes, the minister said.

It's too bad they didn't put the same urgency on meaningful legislation like this as they do in trying to convince us we should vote for them.

The Canadian Adoption Registry can be found at <http://www.canadianadopteesregistry.org/>

President's Message

By Laura Crookshanks

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end! Soon we will be back into our fall activities. Our regular Southwest Branch meetings resume in September. As usual, we will meet the first Wednesday of each month at Crocus Plains High School, unless a special tour is planned. However, as school starts so early this year, **our September meeting will be held on the 10th**, not the 3rd at Crocus Plains High School.

Watch for details on our web-site and monthly emails from the Secretary outlining the plans for our meetings. The Program Committee has several interesting ideas for programs and is always open to suggestions from members. The line-up for the fall season is as follows:

- September: Laura Crookshanks, "Life in the Victorian Workhouse"
- October: Linda Wakefield, "Living in Stone: the Genealogy of my Home"
- November: Grant Hamilton of the Brandon Sun on World War I
- December: our Christmas meeting and story sharing

At upcoming meetings, we will be exploring with our membership the possibility of holding a workshop in the spring as well as some special interest group meetings. Bring your ideas to the meetings or talk to a member of the Executive.

Hope to see you at our meetings!

Laura Crookshanks,
President,

Notice

The Brandon General Museum and Archives will be holding a fundraising dinner on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Marc George of the RCA Museum will be guest speaker. The venue for the dinner is the Sokol Hall located at 33-11th Street North, Brandon. Tickets are \$60.00 each and a \$30.00 tax receipt will be issued with the purchase.

Tickets available at the Museum or by contacting jharwood@mymts.net or bjandrew@wcgwave.ca