

Bruce Bulletin

Bruce County
Genealogical Society
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<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onbcgs>



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Upcoming Meetings and Other Events

Date: November 19, 2018 @ 12 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Annual Meeting
Presenter: Diane Strickler

No meetings scheduled for December, January, or February

Date: March 11, 2019 @ 7 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: What is ALL the fuss about ... DNA
Presenter: Lolly Fullerton

Highlights of Previous Meetings

July: We had a splendid turnout for our walk and talk. **Eva Wilkens** told about her Cooper relatives; **Marilyn Johnson** spoke about Abe Wylds, the Gemmels, Don McLay, and Dr J.B. Tindal; **Sandra MacDonald** about her mother in law Hazel MacDonald; **Diane Simpson** about her relatives - Ken MacKay and Annie MacLeod, Henry Culbert & Margaret Wall, and George Swalwell, Elizabeth Grice and William Swalwell;

Glenys Johnston told a story about Thomas Yemen and Jane Jamieson Welsh; and **Lolly Fullerton** talked about William Roy Irwin and Israel Jeater. Fascinating history lesson about a few of the amazing people in the Ripley-Huron Cemetery. The sign at the entrance to Ripley Cemetery reads: "It is a history of the people of this township, a perpetual record of yesterday, and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering." We certainly found this to be true.

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A Name In A Window

submitted by Mary MacKay

Every Sunday I look up at the window over the choir loft in our church and I wonder who is Gladys Pearce? Or perhaps I should say who was Gladys Pearce? since this window was placed there in her memory. So I decided to find out.

Gladys May Pearce was the only child of Richard C. Pearce and his wife Euphemia Hunter. She died September 10, 1920 which is the last year for births, deaths and marriages to be indexed in the Paisley Advocate. That made her obit in the Paisley Advocate easy to find. She was 13 years 3 months old and her obituary tells us that she had not been in her usual health for some time and her family doctor decided it might be the appendix that was giving trouble and decided that it should be removed. The operation was performed in Walkerton hospital by Dr Campbell of Toronto and all went well. Gladys was cheery and bright the day after. In the eyes of the specialist and all the assisting physicians the surgery was a success.

However by midnight the next day Gladys' condition deteriorated. All local medical men were summoned but to no avail. Gladys passed away before morning.

I found the reason for death given in her obituary rather strange and I quote: "The affects of the anesthetic upon the system had been deadly poisonous, as sometimes but very, very rarely is the case." So I looked up the death registration and it gave the following reason: Acidosis following an operation.

Do you know what acidosis is? I didn't either so I Googled it. Acidosis is the abnormal increase in the acidity of body fluids, caused either by accumulation of acids or by depletion of bicarbonates.

Whatever the cause, Richard and Euphemia lost their daughter. The body was brought to Paisley by train (which is unusual by today's customs). The service was held from the home on Sunday afternoon. Burial was in Stark Vale Cemetery. The rest of the obit is almost what you would expect to be preached at the funeral but it was very common in obits one hundred years ago (which by the way was always written by the editor).

"The many friends of Mr and Mrs R. C. Pearce sincerely sympathize with them in the great loss they have sustained by the loss of their only and beloved daughter, Gladys May. The bereaved parents mourn not as those without hope for they have every reason to believe that when the shadows of this life have been dispelled by the revealing glory of the other world, then the cruel blasts of sorrow and of heart break shall have passed away in the supreme happiness of sweet reunion."

So that is Gladys' story. But what about her father, R. C. Pearce, who donated the window in the Presbyterian Church?

There were three Pearce families who had first settled in Sullivan Township near Chatsworth and later came to the Lockerby area of Elderslie Township the same time (if not before) Orchard and Rowe floated down the Saugeen and founded Paisley and they all had a son called Richard. So I had to research them all.

One of the brothers was John Pearce who settled at the top of the hill going north out of Paisley, Lot 19 Con A. John and his wife Mary Walker had 12 children. They had 2 sons called Richard because the first one died young so they named their 10th child Richard Johnson Pearce. Dead end! This was not Richard C.

Another brother was Edward Pearce who was the oldest brother I think. He first lived on Con 4 Lot 7 Elderslie. Edward and his wife, Ann

Bell Hembroff, had five children. The 3rd one was Richard. When Edward's family grew up most of them went to Dafter Michigan. Another dead end!

A third brother was Thomas Pearce who had worked with McPhillips, the surveyor, who surveyed Elderslie in 1851. Thomas chose several lots, two for his sisters who married Hembroffs, one lot for brother John and Lots 5 & 6 Con 6 for himself at Lockerby. Thomas and his wife Isabella McIntyre had one girl and two boys. The youngest was Richard C. Pearce, father of Gladys. Good. I found him!

Richard C. Pearce married Euphemia Hunter June 22, 1898.(marriage records) They lived on the home place at Lockerby. There are no signs of buildings there today because Richard moved to Paisley in 1919. (land records)

The History of Elderslie Township tells us the following about Richard :

“Unique among entertainers was Richard C. Pearce, Lockerby whose vocal gifts served his dual roll of auctioneer and ventriloquist.” He also served for 23 years as township clerk (1911-1933) and secretary of Paisley Hydro Commission for five years. He was an auctioneer for 25 years with noteworthy success.

In the church, too, he filled many offices. He was on the Board of Managers of Knox Presbyterian Church prior to union and secretary of Westminister Presbyterian Church after union. He was a strong Liberal in politics.

Richard died August 22, 1934. He was 72. His obituary tells us:

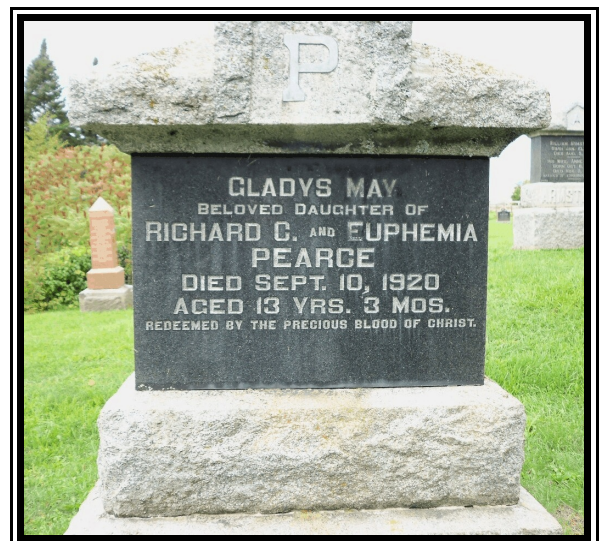
“The late Mr. Pearce was one of the best known citizens of the community and his removal by death was universally regretted. He had been blessed with a robust constitution and had enjoyed the best of health until about

two years ago when suddenly it became necessary to undergo an operation for removal of gallstones. This trouble undermined his health and during the past few months he became confined to his home.”

This cause of death also puzzled me. I doubted surgery for gallstones “Undermining his health” to such an extent to cause death so I looked up his death registration. It gave the cause of death as Nephritis also known as Bright's Disease. Nephritis is when the kidneys stop working properly. During the two years when his kidneys were not working properly he developed Diabetes and also gangrene so that explains why he had been confined to his home.

Now we know the story of Richard C. Pearce, the man who dedicated the window in memory of his daughter, Gladys. Both their names are on a tombstone in Stark Vale Cemetery but Euphemia Hunter's is not. This raises another question “Where is she or is she there and no one put her name on the stone?”

That's a story for another day!



A Poem by Eva Wilkens

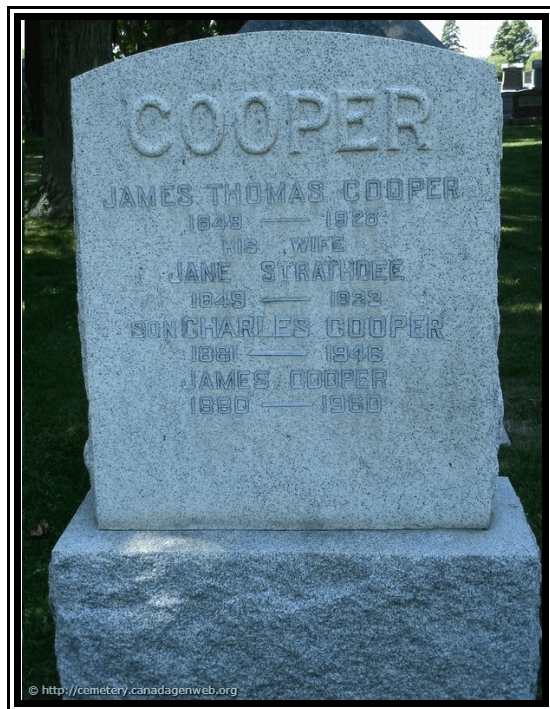
Did you ever have the feeling
That you've been here before?
How you can plan the days ahead?
Or what your future has in store?

Did you ever try to fathom
Your ancestors from the past?
The web that God's created
is a pattern made to last

Did you ever stop to ponder
Why we do the things we do?
How your brain controls your actions
Or what God has planned for you?

My mother had the questions
In her heart near all her life
She strove to find the answers
Since she became my father's wife

Eva Wilkens (Great Granddaughter of James and James Cooper (Strathdee) read her poem at the Walk and Talk at the Ripley Cemetery in July 2018. Her poem was warmly received.



Wallace Blakely

submitted by Lolly Fullerton

As a member of the Bruce County Genealogical Society Cemetery Committee, we meet several times a year to take photos and record headstones in Bruce County. This summer we were photographing every headstone in the Tiverton cemetery. Usually there are 4-6 of us. We always have lots of fun and then go for lunch together. Often we call each other over to see a stone that intrigues us.

We all gathered around a headstone where a gentleman appeared to have lived 108 years! His wife lived 96 years as did his daughter. I promised right then to do some research. Was the stone correct?



Wallace Anson Blakely 1880-1988

YES. Wallace Anson Blakely was born on April 22, 1880, in Tiverton, Ontario, Canada. He married Nellie M. Drummond on August 30, 1905, in Bruce, Ontario, Canada. They had three children during their marriage. He died in March 1988 at the age of 107 and 11 months and was buried in his hometown. Reading this you might assume that Wallace and Nellie stayed in Tiverton their whole lives but oh no, they moved to Saskatchewan shortly after they married but by 1911 they had returned. I then checked the death records of his ancestors and his descendants. Two of his children lived until their late 90's. His parents lived until their 80's. His paternal grandmother Janet E. Caldwell lived until she was nearly 93 (1825 – 1918). Good Bruce County heritage. We often think people died at an early age, but our tombstones are filled with many who lived long productive lives.

Wallace's grandparents, John Blakely and Janet Caldwell, arrived in Canada in 1846. Their religion in the 1852 census was United Secession Presbyterian. I knew nothing about this religion, Janet Blakely (Port Elgin's Sanctuary Park) so I did some research.

"The Disruption of 1843 was a bitter, nationwide division which split the established Church of Scotland. It was larger than the previous historical secessions of 1733 or 1761. The evangelical element had been demanding the purification of the Church, and it attacked the patronage system, which allowed rich landowners to select the local ministers. It became a political battle between evangelicals on one side and the "Moderates" and gentry on the other."

"This split in the Kirk caused bitter divisions, left ministers without homes and salaries and meant that whole congregations found themselves without churches to worship in" (Wikipedia and <https://www.scotland.org.uk/history/disruption>)

In summary, John was a young man, recently married with a child maybe just wanting a change but perhaps the Disruption was one reason they decided to come to Bruce County. As well, he was a Hand Loom Weaver in Scotland. The industrial revolution was changing livelihoods and weaving was being mechanized. Perhaps that is another reason. Anyway, we are glad he and his family came!

Great Uncle Johnston Curry
submitted by Glenys Johnson

As 2018 and the 100 Anniversary of the War to end all Wars draws to a close, I thought the following story about my Great Uncle Johnston Curry was worth publishing in our November newsletter. It reminds me of the sacrifice that so many have given in the name of peace. It reminds me also to never take our freedoms for granted.

Hotel d'Iena, Paris France

March 16, 1918

"Dear Father and Mother,

Yesterday I sent home some postcards and souvenirs of Paris & it's surroundings.

You won't be able to make much of them but I'll explain them all when I get back to Canada.

I have had a fine time. My pass is up today so I have to go back tonight. I hear that our Battalion is in the line so it will be quite a change going right into the front line from the luxuries of Paris.

Next week I'll be back among the shells & dirt, sleeping on a tile floor or the ground, feeling lucky if a shell doesn't come any nearer than 60 yards and looking forward to my next pass in 7 or 8 months' time. I hope the war will be over before another pass is coming to me.

*Your loving son,
Johnston"*

(Excerpts from a letter home to his parents)

My heart aches every time I read Johnston's letter because he never made it to his next pass. On December 11, 1918 a letter was typed and sent by the Minister of Militia and Defense for Canada to his father offering sincere sympathy on Johnston's passing in battle on September 27, 1918. **"The heavy loss which you and the Nation have sustained would indeed be depressing were it not redeemed by the knowledge that the brave comrade for whom we mourn performed his duties fearlessly and well as became a good soldier, and gave his life for the great cause of Human Liberty and Defense of the Empire."** (Excerpts from Minister Newburn's letter to Johnston Curry Sr.)

Johnston Curry Jr., Service Number: 865753, lost his life on the first day of the Cana-du-Nord and Cambrai battle that lasted from September 27 to October 11, 1918. **"The battle towards Cambrai dealt a mortal blow to a weakened, but resistant, enemy in the course of the last 100 days of the Great War. The operation began**

with a hair-raising rush across a dangerously narrow canal passage. It continued with harrowing counter attacks coming from enemy troops concealed in woods, firing from bridgeheads, and lurking around the corners of myriad small village roads. It ended triumphantly on October 11, when the Canadians, exhausted after days of unremitting fighting, finally drove the Germans out of their most important remaining distribution centre, Cambrai. Historians see this triumph as the highly professional execution of a daring and inventive strategy. For many of the soldiers, however, success was the result of a great esprit de corps, of great spirit." (excerpts from "Canada and the First World War" - Library and Archives Canada. @ www.collectionscanada.ca)

Johnston was laid to rest in the Quarry Wood Cemetery outside the village of Sains les Marquion, France. The village is approximately 12 kilometers north-west of Cambrai and 2 kilometres south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). The cemetery itself lies at the end of an access path to the left of the D15 road heading towards Havrincourt, about 2 kilometres from Sains les Marquion. His grave reference is I.A.7.

Who was this young man of 25 enlisting with the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, in Brandon Manitoba, on September 18, 1916? What made him this brave soldier who gave the ultimate sacrifice, his life, for his country? It certainly wasn't the monthly pay of \$15.00 that he received once assigned to Camp Hughes, Manitoba on September 21, 1916. The pay sent home to his mother was no doubt a welcome addition to his family's income.

Johnston, a handsome man, stood 5 feet 11 inches tall, with brown eyes and dark hair and complexion when he enlisted. I'm positive the ladies thought he was a looker. I know I think so. He served for 1 year with the 12th. Manitoba Dragoons before taking his oath to serve his Majesty King George the Fifth. Living in Brandon he had served as a Brakeman. I have no doubt that he did his job well having grown up in a hard-

working farming family first in Loring and then on Lot 10 Concession 7 (North Part), Amabel Township.

Upon his enlistment Johnston joined the 181st. Overseas Battalion as a Private. He was drafted to the 44th Battalion on June 16, 1917. He set sail from Halifax on April 16, 1917 destined for Liverpool, England aboard the H.M.T. Grampian. He was sent to join his unit on June 21, 1917 in France. Still a member of the 44th, Johnston was granted his leave of 14 days to Paris on March 2, 1918. From his description of Paris in his letter home, to his parents Johnston Sr. and Matilda Curry, I know he was in awe. He wrote to them saying, **"To give you an idea of what Paris is like I'll tell you that I've been into the largest opera in the world, have seen the highest tower in the world, The Eiffel Tower. Was around the largest Ferris wheel in the world, drove down one of the finest Avenues in the world, Avenue des Champs Elysees, have seen the largest moving picture palace in the world, have seen an obelisk which is erected in Place de la Concorde which is four thousand years old. It is covered on four sides with hieroglyphics (the writing of those days) and have seen (as the sale bills say) various other articles too numerous to mention. Yesterday I was in the palace in which Napoleon & Josephine lived before being crowned Emperor & Empress."** (excerpts from a letter home)

His leave over on March 17, 1918, it was back to his unit. Johnston remained in his duties as a private to his unit until his promotion to the rank of Sergeant on September 7, 1918. This must have been a proud day for him and his family. It was less than three weeks later that Johnston so bravely lost his life...he wouldn't be making that trip home to explain the postcards and souvenirs to his family and friends.

\$15.00 remained owing to Johnston which was sent home to Matilda along with his Military Medal awarded to him after his death...such a sad end.

For years a plaque displaying Johnston's picture and honouring his bravery hung in the old Zion

Church on the Sauble Beach Road. When the church closed, Aunt Etta Hammond made sure to have it moved to Zion Cemetery where today it stands beneath the pines at the entrance to the cemetery beside where Johnston, Matilda and his brother Russell are buried.

I ATTACHED THE ABOVE STORY TO JOHNSTON'S PROFILE ON MY FAMILY TREE IN 2008. NEVER DID I IMAGINE THAT I WOULD SOMEDAY PAY MY RESPECTS TO HIM AT HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE IN FRANCE, BUT THIS PAST MAY, I DID. I STOOD UNDER HIS EIFFEL TOWER TOO. IT WAS A VERY HUMBLING AND MOVING EXPERIENCE TO BE TOUCHING HIS GRAVESTONE, ALL THE WHILE REALIZING THAT NO ONE IN MY FAMILY HAD EVER VISITED JOHNSTON TO SAY THANK YOU FOR HIS SACRIFICE.



Johnston Curry



News from the Bruce County Archives

Deb Sturdevant, Archivist

Sue Schlorff, Archival Assistant

Heather Callaghan, Archival Assistant

2018 Additions to the Archives & Research Room

In 2018 to date, we have welcomed donations from over 55 individuals. The following is a list of some of the items that may be of interest to genealogists.

1. Family Histories:

- a. "The Homes in my Life" by Yvonne Carpenter Inkster, including experiences as a war bride, her work in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force as a radar operator in England (A2018.004).
 - b. "Morand Dietrich (1618) and His Descendants", volumes 1 and 2. The Dietrich family largely settled in Waterloo County, with some members moving to the Teeswater, Formosa and Mildmay areas of Bruce County (A2018.3007).
 - c. "Knight Family History" compiled by Jean Knight with a Red Bay connection (A2018.010).
 - d. "The Rourkes of Annaharvey - From Ireland to Canada 1760-2017" by Jerry Rourke (A2018.040)
 - e. "Canadian Ancestors: from Europe to Bruce County and Beyond" by Linda Perrot, including surnames Bickel, Bonnett, Helwig, Kettles, McVinnie, Perrott, Schell, and Shewfelt (A2018.043),
 - f. "Sunsets and Gentle Breezes - A Memoir of Life as I Found it" by Margaret Jean Taylor with references to Walkerton and Tiverton areas (A2018.048).
 - g. "The MacKay / McKay Family History" by Mary MacKay (A2018.050).
2. "Living Legacy: An Oral History Project" consisting of interviews conducted by Authentic Voices Productions with: Bea & Cyril Spitzig, Eugene Kuntz, Phil Englishman, Clarence Kieffer, and Bill Van Lith (A2018.009).

3. Family photographs of Hugh McLaren Jr. who operated the McLaren Hardware Store, Port Elgin (A2018.012).
4. Tranter family photograph album (Southampton), including photos around the family farm and home and military photographs, such as "Officers & N.C.O.s, "A" Co., 32nd Bruce Regt., 1908 (A2018.002).
5. Photographs, certificate, and clippings concerning Registered Nurse Maurine Maundrell (A2018.015).
6. Gilbert family (Southampton) photographs, including: Class of young women at S.S. No. 2 Arran (Burgoyne) ca. 1890s, photograph of Alice E. Gilbert, and a photograph of the interior of Gilbert's Gift Shop, High Street, Southampton (A2018.017).
7. 45 issues of the "Sauble Shores" publication, in print from 1988 to 1994 (A2018.018).
8. James Alexander Robinson family photos, post office /mail contracts, and school photos including S.S. No. 2 Kincardine, S.S. No. 5 Kincardine (1915), and S.S. No. 8 Kincardine (1915) (A2018.021).
9. Reginald and Lillian Lee family photographs, including their Gas Station on High Street, Southampton and "Lily Lee's" restaurant on High Street (A2018.027).
10. An article about the life of hockey player Duncan McMillan "Mickey" MacKay (A2018.031).
11. Collection of photographs discovered at a consignment shop, including: Henry family (taken in Chesley and Tara), Mary Down (taken in Chesley), Gordie Bryan (taken in Hanover), Jim & Gord Bryans (taken in Tara), Mr. & Mrs. Sinclair Legge (taken in Chesley), and Annie and Joseph McCurdy (taken in Chesley) (A2018.038).
12. Photograph of Dr. W.V. Johnston, physician who practiced in Lucknow between 1924 and 1954 (A2018.044).

New Saturday Archives Hours

On Saturdays, the Research Room is open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed from 12 – 1). The Research Room is also open Tuesday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

until the end of March 2019. Please check our website for holiday hours and call ahead if you are planning to view items stored in the archival storage area. The Bruce County Archives is part of the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, 33 Victoria Street, Southampton, Ontario, 519-797-2080.

Bruce County Genealogical Society- 2018

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Newsletter

The newsletter is published quarterly: February, May, August, November. Articles of interest may be submitted for inclusion and should give credit to the original source.

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