



BRUCE BULLETIN

THE BRUCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Please visit our Bruce County Genealogical Society Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Bruce-County-Genealogical-Society-2009809595970720>

and our Bruce County Genealogical Society page:

<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is a special month for me as it is my birthday month. I share the month with my father, a niece and the actual date of my birthday with a grandson.

I also get to share the month with the all of the mothers of the world. How special is that! For many of us, our own mothers are no longer with us but the memories of them working a full-time job and still managing to put a balanced meal on the table three times a day are precious. Memories of bedtime stories, of the sewing machine humming away late into the night on Christmas Eve, fashioning clothes for the new doll Santa was leaving under the tree and of my mom throwing the best neighbourhood Birthday Parties ever will never leave us! Fellow genealogists, we are blessed.

I hope you enjoy the May edition of our newsletter as we focus attention on mothers and if you are one yourself...**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!**

Glenys

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May WEBINAR

DNA AS A TOOL TO ACCELERATE YOUR FAMILY RESEARCH

Join us at **7 pm E.D.T. on May 9th** as we discuss how DNA testing can assist with family research. Anne Goeden, Erin Netzke and Lolly Fullerton will share their research strategies.

DNA, although often hyped as an ethnicity analysis, is a powerful tool for genealogists. Our presenters will be using examples to show how DNA can help with filling in gaps in your trees by finding cousins in the present day. DNA can get your tree back further in time by suggesting probable ancestors. DNA is a great tool to confirm hypotheses about the parentage of certain ancestors.

Please visit www.brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca to sign up for this Zoom presentation.

Or click the link below:


https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkd-mrqTguGdJqFlrGHISUALm_hjzA_qgV

Zoom will confirm your registration.



June WEBINAR

A GENEALOGICAL JOURNEY – Ron LaPlante

 It all started when Ron inherited a 20-gallon Tupperware container of snapshots from his parents. Luckily, some had names and dates written on them. Thus began his journey of researching and documenting two branches of his Paternal Family Tree - drawing him back to 1600.

Besides building the family tree, he also documented key findings in a 300-page family history book - distributing 85 copies of both to his immediate family. At present, he is writing a novel based on the exploits of his great (X7) grandmother...

Join in the dialogue with Ron as we discuss the ins and outs, ups and downs of Family Tree research.

Date: Monday, June 13 at 7:00 pm E.D.T.

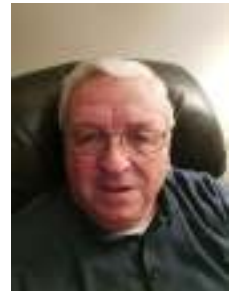
Please visit www.brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca to sign up for this Zoom presentation.

Email BCGSWebinars@gmail.com

OR

Register on Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcOqtrDsvG9Z-9CKLNcbBkkmebLlzQ9-Q>

Zoom will confirm your registration.



July Walk and Talk

This year we will meet at Port Elgin's main cemetery Sanctuary Park on July 11 at 7pm EDT. We are hoping it will be an actual walk and talk.

Liz Gowanlock will be joining us and talking about her involvement with FindAGrave.

We will be recording this walk and talk and will be shown on our YouTube Channel a few days later

Date and Time: July 11 at 7pm

If you want more information, please

Email BCGSWebinars@gmail.com

We will meet at the entrance near 835 Market St. Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C4



The Herstories of Bruce County Through Letters and Diaries

By Krista Keller, Archival Assistant, Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

We repeatedly learn about the big events that happened throughout history, but it is usually the little everyday occurrences that truly depict how people lived and spent their days. Historians and genealogists alike can gain a glimpse of the daily activities of their ancestors through records that document those everyday activities, including diaries, journals, letters, and postcards.

At the archives at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre we are lucky to have several of these records written by women. Not only do they capture what life was like several generations earlier, but they shed light on what life was like for women living in both towns and rural communities. Records written by the women of Bruce County add a refreshing perspective to the histories we have heard time and time again.

We have learned much about the life of Kate Halliday Mickle through records donated to the archives in 2021. She was born in Chesley in 1871 to Jane Graham and D. M. Halliday and was a natural wordsmith, playwright, and historian, who documented much of her life in countless letters and diaries.

The earliest diary we have from Kate Mickle is dated from 1893. It begins with a description of her wedding day, and it documents her many adventures whilst on her extended honeymoon in Bermuda with her new husband, Chesley lawyer C.J. Mickle. The journal continues to document her day-to-day activities throughout the rest of the year, as well as her experiences navigating her new life as a married woman. The archives hold seven more diaries written by Mickle which detail her experiences throughout the 1920s and 1930s living in Chesley.

Throughout her life Mickle was an avid letter writer and receiver. The first pieces of correspondence date back to 1890 when she was courting her future husband. The letters discuss her travels throughout Ontario from 1890 to 1892 and read with the excitement and naivety of young love. The archives also hold 70 letters sent to and from Kate, C.J., and their daughter Dorothy dating from January to May, 1913, when Kate spent several months at the Homewood Sanitarium recovering from tuberculosis. These letters document her medical treatment, health progression, and updates from home.



Kate (Halliday) Mickle

During the First World War she sent letters to soldiers serving abroad. Mickle received and kept in her possession, several return letters from Bruce County soldiers including, Wilfred M. Davison, Walter A. Krug, Benjamin Biebighauser, and Herbert Whittmann. Other letters Kate Mickle held on to document some of the low moments in her life, including when her husband C.J. Mickle died on October 19, 1929. From that day until early 1930 she received dozens of letters of condolences from friends and acquaintances locally, nationally, and internationally, shedding light on her first few months of grief.

Comparably, letters written by Elizabeth Hillmer of Southampton provide a wonderful description of her experiences with familial responsibilities, political changes, education, employment, and love in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Though much of her correspondence to her beloved, Carl Heilig, could be considered love letters, Elizabeth did not shy away from expressing her opinion about some of the prominent topics of the day including the introduction of hydro, women's rights, drinking, and smoking. In a letter dated February 28, 1929, she mentions that in Southampton, "the women are becoming joint property owners in many cases so they can vote."

Elizabeth was well educated and was employed as a teacher, first teaching at a schoolhouse near Southampton and later in Niagara Falls. At the time married women were not allowed to teach, so she kept her March 1932 marriage to Carl a secret, presumably to keep at her job for the remainder of the school year. To maintain the ruse, her new husband continued to send letters addressed to Miss Hillmer rather than her married name Mrs. Heilig. In a letter dated March 16, 1932 she expresses her frustration with the limitations put on married women by stating, "I wish I was doing something else but teaching- for I'd like to have your letters come addressed 'properly' and also to wear the ring all the time."

Researchers can learn more about the female perspective from a rural community researching the journals written by Elizabeth (Inglis) Arkell and Elizabeth "Olive" Burgess.

Elizabeth Arkell grew up in Carrick Township and later worked as a schoolteacher. After her marriage to William Henry Arkell in 1904, she moved to Culross Township residing on Lot 7, Concession 8, and Lot 7, Concession 9. The archives hold four of her diaries, dating from the 1930s.

Elizabeth Arkell's diaries document her day-to-day experiences and activities that came with living on a farm, including planting crops, harvesting, animals, weather, and travel. They also allude to her many domestic responsibilities and chores, and as well, include several mentions about the activities of her family, including her two children, Herbert and Helen. It is apparent that religion and education remained important to Elizabeth, as she always noted when she attended church services and seemed to take a keen interest in her children's studies. Her children Helen and Herbert Arkell also wrote daily journals, presumably by the influence of their mother.

Similarly, Elizabeth "Olive" Burgess who first lived in Port Elgin and later moved to a farm on Lot 13, Concession A, Arran Township with her brothers in 1915. Her dairies start the year she moved to the farm and capture her daily activities during the first few years there in the late 1910s. Elizabeth Burgess documented the tasks needed to run the homestead including baking, mending, cleaning stove pipes, churning, and washing. She also references the additions of the new technologies available to Bruce County



Elizabeth Arkell



Elizabeth "Olive" Burgess' diaries

residents at the time, including the installation of Bell Telephones, washing machines, and cream separators. In addition to her farm life, she also wrote a lot about her social life and activities including fundraising for Canada's First World War effort, literary society meetings, skating, concerts, and church activities.

These records are invaluable to anyone interested in history because they reveal more than just the lives of Kate Mickle, Elizabeth Hillmer, Elizabeth Arkell, and Elizabeth Burgess. They also document the lives and the activities of the many people that surrounded them including their family members, friends, and other members of their communities. These letters, diaries, and journals also capture a more personal and emotional side of history. They document how the women felt, reacted, and overcame the events that shaped their

lives. Reading these archival documents provide a wonderful and dynamic glimpse to the past.

Sources: A2011.039 Robert Benjamin Hillmer family fonds; A2021.054; A2007.066 Henry Arkell family fonds; A2012.087 James and Elizabeth Burgess family fonds <https://brucemuseum.pastperfectonline.com/> Put the source number in the search bar.

How I created a book about my mother

By Robin Hilborn

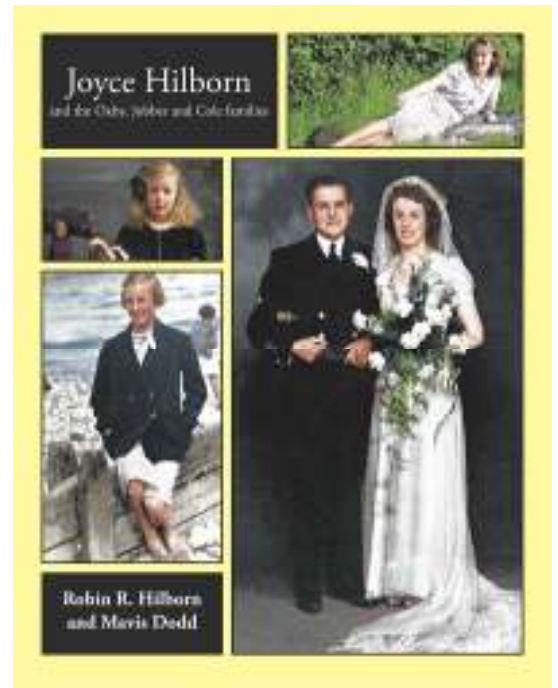
With Mother's Day falling on May 8, I thought it was a good time to tell you about how I published a biography of my mother. Titled *Joyce Hilborn and the Oxby, Jobber and Cole families*, it focusses on Joyce (Jobber) Hilborn (1922-) of Niagara Falls, Ont. and her immediate ancestors in England.

Back in March 2021 Joyce's younger sister Mavis Dodd, in Australia, sent me her "Childhood Memories". I was astonished by the detail—38,000 words in 54 pages—all about their daily life , in the 1920s and 1930s. (It's pronounced "Wencefield".)

The next major find was the photograph album started by Lilian Oxby, Joyce's and Mavis' mother. It is 41 pages and holds 289 photos, from a turn-of-the-century church outing, through Lilian's years in college, teaching near Oxford and meeting Thomas Jobber, up to a post-war holiday in Wales.

That album explains how Mavis was able to learn the story of her family. She wrote, "I absorbed all this family history from Grandma [Amelia Oxby], when we turned over the photographs in her shoe box, and from asking many questions of Mother [Lilian Oxby], when I became the keeper of the photograph album she had started at the back of her college specimen needlework book. The needlework book had many sheets of black paper in it, so it was ideal for the purpose. The needlework specimens, of seams, hems, darns, corners, and mitreings, were so fragile and cobwebby, that I couldn't believe that she had done them."

Finally I located the Oxby history compiled by Clare Oxby of Oxford in 2019. To research her great grandfather Henry Oxby (1859-1936), Clare used U.K. census and Salvation Army records. She also had the family tree of Henry and his son Edward Rome Oxby.



It occurred to me that, with nothing else to do during the pandemic, I could plan a book. I had the Dodd memoirs and the Oxby photos and research ... not to mention a series of articles from *Hilborn Family Journal*, the newsletter I published in Montreal from 1978 to 1986. I had interviewed my grandmother, Winifred Annie Cole about life in Saskatchewan, and my mother and father (Roy Hilborn), about their experiences in England in WWII, especially how they met at the Naval Headquarters in Plymouth.

And the whole project made sense because Mum was celebrating her 100th birthday on March 13, 2022. (She's doing well at Willoughby Manor, a retirement home in Chippawa, Ont.)

So, in April I was off to the races and by November *Joyce Hilborn* was printed. The birthday party at the Manor was a great success and I was able to display her book alongside the Prime Minister's best wishes (the Queen didn't come through).

As to the nuts and bolts of putting the book together, it involved transcribing handwritten documents, scanning and OCR'g printed documents and backing up to Google Drive regularly.

To turn old family photos from black-and-white to colour I used the colourize feature at *MyHeritage.com*. To illustrate where my relatives lived, Google StreetView provided house photographs. You can go back in time to find the best views.

I applied to Library and Archives Canada for an ISBN ([978-1-988166-01-8](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9781988166018)) and for “Cataloguing in Publication” data.

As a self-publisher, I designed and laid out the book (using InDesign), yielding 46,000 words in 120 pages. Printing is by Reliance Printing in Kincardine, Ontario.

A number of appendices contain a chronology, a list of residences, genealogies of the four families and a list of sources. At the end, an index. Finally, a page at my web site, www.familyhelper.net/joyce.

To see how my mother’s 100th birthday party turned out, see the video on YouTube, youtu.be/Mdj7RU9RGe0.



**Robin’s Mother
on her 100th birthday**

NAMING MOTHERS IN MY ANCESTRY

By Jan Briggs-McGowan

So often our grandmothers and great grandmothers are only recorded as Mrs John So-and-so, or Stanley and wife, so tracking them can be a challenge. When I started my search for these female ancestors in Canada (or what would become Canada), two of them had no first name and one still has no last name. My 4x great grandfather Peter Musselman came from Pennsylvania to Markham Twp with “and wife” about 1802 or 1803, in a Conestoga (covered) wagon via Niagara and the Waterloo area. Because the Pennsylvania Mennonites are well-documented, I can’t claim “and wife” as my brick wall. Their son Peter Musselman Jr was born 30 Nov 1803 on Lot 12 Conc 3 Vaughn Twp, York Countyⁱ, and his mother was identified as Frances Euphemia [Mumma].

Another 4x great grandmother, Ester/Esther/Easter arrived on Lot 34 Conc 4 Markham Twp the following year, also from Pennsylvania and following a similar route. She and her husband Casper Shirk/ Sherk/ Schoerg/ Sherick travelled with 5 children, at least three of them under 4 and the oldest being 12. Thanks to thorough research by others,ⁱⁱ “Esther Sherick” buried in Heise Hill Cemetery near Gormley, was actually born Esther [Reiff].

Another 4x great grandmother from Ireland ‘AndWife’, her husband Stanley Briggs and their adult son Thomas arrived at Montreal on the ship *The Columbia* docking 15 July 1819 and destined for the Perth Military Settlement in Eastern Ontario. Two days later, many of its passengers including Sandy Briggs & wife & son transferred to the *Malsham* for the journey up the St Lawrence toward Brockville. By 1835 Stanley had died in Bathurst Twp, and these two manifests are the only record I have found for his widow: ‘AndWife’. No death record, nothing on Land records nor any documents associated with son Thomas or his older brother Stanley Jr. However, by tracking descendants through three generations, it’s clear they followed the Irish naming pattern. I am confident ‘AndWife’s name was actually Catherine and her oldest sister was named Margaret. Not proof, but better than what I had when I started searching in 1989.

Incidentally, if I looked at the 1851 South Sherbrooke census out of context, I would think that Catherine’s daughter-in-law (married to Thomas Briggs) was W. Brigs. That is the correct person, but her maiden name was Jane Gunness, and the W stood for Widow. Jane and her family arrived on that same ship in 1819. All other married women in the 1851 South Sherbrooke census are enumerated as “Mrs”, with their husband’s name.



1851 Census from the Public Archives of Canada

¹ <http://automatedgenealogy.com/census52/SplitView.jsp?id=25152> “Muscleman”

² Ruth Burkholder, 28 Nov 2006

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTION

By Brenda Montieth

The dictionary defines connection as: a relationship in which a person, thing, or idea is linked or associated with something else.

I feel it is very important to develop our family connections by joining genealogical societies where our families settled. I hold memberships with the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (Saskatoon Branch); Gatineau Valley Historical Society (Quebec); Ontario Ancestors (OGS); and the Bruce County Genealogical Society (BCGS). Belonging to genealogical societies in areas where our families settled allows us to potentially connect with one person (or multiple people) who can assist us in our research. For the past 20 months, members have been able to connect on Zoom for chapter meetings. We have been able to put a face to a name on the membership list and listen to a variety of topics that would not be available to us otherwise.

That is what happened when I 'met' Lolly (BCGS). Upon joining BCGS, I inquired about the possibility of writing a small article on my Thompson/Bryce family who settled around Paisley, ON. I was hopeful perhaps a member of BCGS, upon reading the article and seeing a photo of my ancestors, would know of this family and their homestead or even better - what if a relative stepped forward?!

A short time after the article was printed, Lolly reached out to see if I had received a response. To which I replied I had not, but I knew it was a long shot. She told me she was going to contact some people she knew to see if she could get a response. What a wonderful random act of genealogical kindness!

Shortly thereafter, I was contacted by Glen Thompson. He is not a member of a genealogical society and lives in London, ON, but had grown up around Paisley. We quickly determined where we each fit in the family tree and confirmed we were related. Not only that, he was willing to provide and share information on the research of the family he had been doing for over 50 years. In fact, he broke down my biggest brick wall.



There could not have been one other person I would have wanted to talk to other than Glen. This was serendipity. Years ago, I came across Glen's name in a Roots Web post. I knew we were related through his Great Grandfather, Robert Thompson, who is buried in the Paisley Cemetery. Robert has two headstones, one of which says: Born County Leitrim, Ireland. Years ago, when I started the research on this family line, this was the first definitive 'proof' I had of the county of origin in Ireland for my family. However, without knowing the townland, further research in Ireland is very difficult. The following is an excerpt from our correspondence where Glen was able to share with me the townland our Thompson family originated from:

"I have been in contact with a few other Thompson relations but mostly I have been doing the research on my own. It is good to find someone else interested in the same family. My Great Grandfather, Robert Thompson, moved from Masham, Quebec in 1870 to a farm at Gillies Hill in Elderslie township. I have had contact with the Genealogy Centre in Leitrim and got part of the 1821 census. George was a poor farmer working on the Earl of Leitrim's estate. I am sure he was happy to flee to Canada just at the start of the potato famine."

Not only was Glen able to share where in Ireland our family originated, he took my research back one generation. We continue to correspond and share with each other the part of the family story we each hold.

This is how connection and memberships have played such a significant role in my own family research. I encourage you to think about not only volunteering and supporting your local chapter; but also joining and supporting other societies where an individual could potentially assist in breaking down your brick wall, or where you might find someone you can help.

Brenda Montieth
heymontieth@sasktel.net
Saskatoon, SK



BCGS does not chalk gravestones anymore.

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.

Email articles to: newsletterbcgs@gmail.com

QUERIES

Please do your very best and do some sleuthing!

- 1) **Archibald L. McMillan** The Guelph Police and the Brandon, Manitoba Police, both, are searching for a picture of Archibald L. McMillan who served as police chief in Guelph from Dec 2, 1878 to Feb 1881. He relocated to Brandon, Manitoba and became chief of police there, but sadly died Dec 16, 1885 after accidentally shooting himself in the abdomen while placing a loaded rifle in a case.

The Bruce County connection is **Archibald's wife, Margaret Stewart, died 19 Jun 1890, and their son Stanley Stewart McMillan now age 14, in 1891 was living with his aunt, Jane Stewart, and uncle, R. D. Northgrave in Port Elgin.** Stanley was still living with the Northgraves in 1901. Stanley became an American citizen 21 Mar 1918 Illinois, USA and died 1960, age 83. His wife, Teresa Luedtke 1883 - Oct 1955, age 78 predeceased him in Illinois, USA. I understand that several generations of Northgraves have lived in Port Elgin.

If you have any information about Archibald and/or could connect Bill McKinnie with someone who does, he would be thankful. His email is mckinnie@sympatico.ca

- 2) **MACPHERSON.** My great-uncle Donald MACDONALD was the Drum-Major in the Lucknow pipe band in 1915. Further research led to his Aunt Janet MACPHERSON (MURCHISON) in Kinloss and I now think his uncle John MACPHERSON was also there.

Looking for information on John MACPHERSON (1816-1873) married to Ann KEITH in Kinloss Township.

Martin MacDonald martinandjackie@hotmail.co.uk

- 3) **Do you have historical information about the Wiarton Pipe Band from the period before 1915?** Specifically, I am researching "**John James FISHER (1879-1939)**" who was the grandfather of my late half-sister. He was a member of the Wiarton Pipe Band, and I am trying to find out if he was a piper or drummer. Perhaps someone has an archived list of band members or even an old photo of the band? I am a piper myself, so it was a real surprise when I read his obituary and saw this fact mentioned. The band must have been an important part of his life to be mentioned in his obituary some 24 years after leaving Wiarton.

Thank-you, **David Slobod (Toronto, ON) david.slobod@gmail.com**

4) BY ANY CHANCE CAN YOU NAME THESE CARGILL BOYS?

The 160th Bruce Battalion had over 1,350 enlist to support forces already overseas. By May 1916 over 1200 men were sent to Walkerton for a month of training together. On June 4, 1916, they marched from Walkerton to Chesley to receive their colours from Tara native Premier William Howard Hearst. They then moved to London, Ontario for training and picture taking in the summer of 1916.

The first day in Camp, June 22 the units were drawn up on the parade square and official pictures were taken by L. O'Keefe of Guelph, ON.

Four companies were mobilized:

A company included Walkerton, Cargill, Paisley, Port Elgin and Southampton.

B company included Chesley, Tara, Hepworth and Teeswater.

C company included Wiarton, Lion's Head, Tobermory, Cape Chin and the First Nations.

D company included Kincardine, Lucknow, Ripley and Tiverton

The four men holding flags are in the Signal Corps.



Back Row: George A. Hughes, Frederick Kirvan, Chester A. Cunningham, Horace Parker, John Joseph Clancy, W. C. Kent, Robert (Bob) Evans

Front Row: Wendell Russell, Harold Willoughby Dodsworth, Not Identified, William Clark Ostic

1. **George A. Hughes** – The “A” in his name is for Alexander. His rank when he was killed in action he was Acting Lance Corporal in the 5th field Company, Canadian Engineers. He died at 9:30 am on July 28, 1917 when an enemy high explosive shell burst in the trench near him. The trench was located 4 1/2 miles west northwest of Lens, France and he was buried in Bully- Grenay Cemetery Extension.
2. **Frederick Kirvan** was a Private, in the 87th Battalion killed in action on September 2, 1918 southwest of Dury, France (Arras). He is buried in the Dury Mill British Cemetery. He enlisted in Cargill, Ontario at age 18 years. He was a bank clerk in the Royal Bank in Cargill and was just short of his 21st birthday when he died.
3. **Chester A. Cunningham** was a Private in the Canadian Light Trench Mortar Battery. He was killed in action on the 14th of February 1918 about 2 3/4 miles west of Souchez, France and buried in Villers Station Cemetery, France

-
4. **Horace Parker** was a Lieutenant in 44th Battalion who died of his wounds while leading his platoon on an attack on Fouquescourt, France. He is buried in Boves East Com communal Cemetery. Though his men were able to get him to a field hospital he had lost too much blood and died. The Paisley Advocate newspaper tells us "Lt. Parker's early military service included 7 years with the 32nd Bruce Regiment. The Paisley contingent of the 160 Battalion have started training at the armoury here, under the direction of Lieutenant Horace Parker, a former Paisleyite. He has been given a commission in the machine gun section of his home battalion."
 5. **John Joseph Clancy** – I have no history on this soldier.
 6. **W. C. Kent** - William Cornelius Kent Jr. was born in Burford, Ont. His family ran the west end flour mill in Walkerton before moving to Outlook, Sask. After completing his education, he was employed as a bank clerk at the Bank of Montreal in Walkerton. He enlisted in Dec 1915 when he was only 17 years old. He died April 9, 1917, at the battle for Vimy Ridge, France.
 7. **Robert (Bob) Evans** - An English Home Boy who was raised by Mr. & Mrs. Sid Parker of Brant Township near Cargill. He enlisted in Virden, Manitoba on 18 July 1915. The Canadians were particularly involved in the Battle of Courcellette September 15, 1916 which saw the first use of the tank and rolling barrage. Evans was reported missing on the 26/27 of September after the Battle of Thiepval Ridge, France. His pay was going to his sister in England, because there were no reports of him being taken prisoner or being admitted to a field hospital. However, he was named as one of the men attending a welcome home party in Cargill after the war.
 8. **Wendell Russell** was killed in action during the Battle of Courcellette on November 11, 1916. He was from Greenock Township, born September 1896.
 9. **Harold Willoughby Dodsworth** was born on 23 of April in Elmwood, Brant Township. He was a farmer who won the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.
 10. **Unable to identify this soldier.**
 11. **William Clark Ostic** – A article in a Walkerton newspaper tells us that Lt. Ostic was the only son of Mr. & Mrs W.D. Ostic of Toronto formerly of Walkerton. He fell mortally wounded while leading his men in the big drive on the western front.

IF you have any information or if there are errors,
PLEASE CONTACT SYLVIA HASBURY - sylviahas@bmts.com

A Little Bit of History

By Sylvia Hasbury

The Honourable Sir Clifford Sifton PC, KCMG, KC Like many well-known westerners, Sir Clifford Sifton was born in Ontario in the village of St Johns now known as Arva, in Middlesex County, Ontario about March 10, 1861. His father, John Wright Sifton, was a grandson of Charles Sifton and Rebecca Wright who were an early Ontario pioneering couple from Tipperary, Ireland arriving in 1819. Their family consisted of five sons and two daughters.

John W. was a farmer and an oil producer in Lambton County. After Clifford's birth John W. became a contractor in Brant County and later a businessman in the City of London. He was a devout Wesleyan Methodist, a prohibitionist and politically a Liberal. As a supporter of Toronto publisher George Brown and Prime Minister Alexander Mackenzie, it is believed John was rewarded in 1874 by winning contracts to build telegraph lines northwest of Winnipeg to Fort Pelly, The other contracts awarded were to build two sections of the Canadian Pacific Railroad: one east of Selkirk, Manitoba and the other west of Port Arthur (now part of Thunder Bay, Ont.). John W. moved his family to Manitoba when his son Clifford was a ten years old.

The Arthur L. Sifton., who later became the Premier of Alberta, was John W.'s eldest son. He went on to lead western Liberals into Sir Robert Borden's Conservative Cabinet in 1917 creating a Union Government that imposed conscription on the nation for World War One. In addition to this, Arthur helped to maintain Canada's war effort. The consternation and rage over this Conscription legislation split the country wide open for the ensuing thirty years.

Clifford Sifton returned to Ontario to attend various Ontario schools, starting with a private boy's school in Dundas, Ontario. For High School he attended schools in Winnipeg, Manitoba and London, Ontario. An attack of Scarlet Fever during his youth damaged his hearing. As he aged, his hearing continued to deteriorate throughout his life eventually forcing him to retire as a politician in 1911. Upon completing High School Clifford attended Victoria University, now one of the oldest colleges of the University of Toronto, to begin his training as a lawyer. During his time at U of T he was also a founding manager of Canada's oldest Literary Journal *Acta Victoriana*. In 1882 Clifford Sifton was called to the Manitoba Bar after apprenticing for two years with the Winnipeg firm of Samuel Carl Biggs.

After completing his training, he met and married Elizabeth Armanella Burrows who was born in Ottawa and completed her education at The Ottawa Ladies College. Their wedding took place on August 18, 1884 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Together they raised five sons while Sifton worked on his father's political campaigns before being elected himself to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in 1888 as Attorney General and Provincial Lands Commissioner. The following is a list of their five sons with their details:

	Name of Son	Birth Date & Place	Death Date & Place	Cemetery & Place
1.	John Wright	7 Nov 1886 Brandon, Man.	15 Nov 1932. Toronto, Ont.	Mount Pleasant Cemetery ---
2.	Henry Arthur	1891	25 June 1934	Edmonton, Alberta
3.	John Hugh	7 Nov 1886 Brandon, Man	no date found ---	---
4.	Winfield Burrough	1890 Brandon. Man.	13 June 1928 Leeds, Ont.	Not Available Saskatoon, Sask.
5.	Wilfred Victor	7 March 1897 Carleton, Ont.	Not Available	Not Available

With four of their five sons in the Canadian Military during the first World War, Clifford and his wife "Arma" spent much of the war in Britain to be close to their sons.

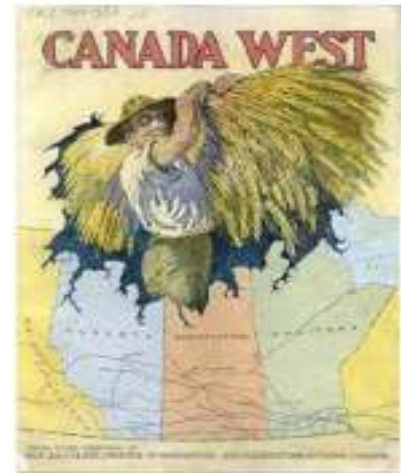
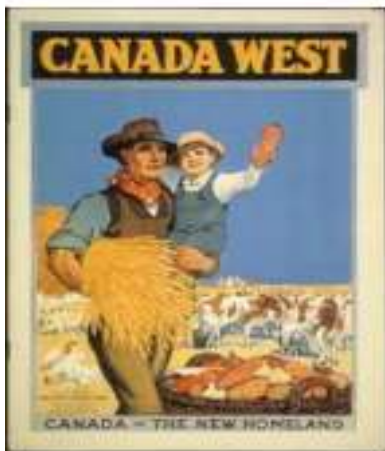
The Clifford Sifton family in 1910 (Courtesy WikiTree) <https://www.wikitree.com/photo/jpg/Sifton-5-1>
The sons are not identified individually.



Clifford Sifton was elected by acclamation in Brandon, Manitoba as a Member of Parliament in Ottawa. He served as Minister of the Interior as a member of the Liberal Party under Wilfred Laurier and was re-elected in 1904 and 1908.

Blair Fraser reporter for Maclean's Magazine quotes Lady Sifton in his October 1959 article titled "The many, mighty Siftons" recalling these early years in Brandon, Manitoba which she refers to as "those early days of comparative poverty in Brandon. She had to go without a new coat, she would say because Clifford had to spend all his money paying taxes on his worthless, wilderness land. But even before they left Brandon the speculation had become an investment and was beginning to pay returns." In her spare time Elizabeth founded and presided over the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Brandon, Manitoba. Her brother Theodore Arthur Burrows also served in Laurier's Liberal government and he later was appointed the 10th Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. Clifford Sifton is particularly known for suggesting and implementing an immigration policy targeting people other than those coming from Britain and the United States to settle and farm Western Canada. He established colonial offices in Europe, Britain and the United States. Government employees staffed these offices, touring their countries "selling western Canada". They spoke in church halls, town halls, wherever there was a crowd to listen.

Posters courtesy of <https://thediscoverblog.com/tag/immigrations-posters/>



Clifford Sifton was in charge of immigration from 1896 to 1905. To attract immigrants to western Canada, posters were printed in twelve different languages. These are three of many, many posters online. Between 1891 and 1914 the response to this campaign was overwhelming. More than three million people came to Canada. A number of people were caught up in the gold rushes of the Klondike and the Canadian shield but most rode the newly constructed transcontinental railway to their western lots. Some of the nationalities included were Ukrainians, Scandinavians, Doukhobors and other groups from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Sifton defended the "stalwart peasants in sheep-skin productive farms." "As a family the Siftons have probably done more to shape the history of Canada than any other set of blood relations" according to Blair Fraser in his December 19th, 1959, article appearing in Maclean's Magazine.

SOURCES

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4. Dictionary of Canadian Biographies - SIFTON, Sir Clifford an article written by David J. Hall, Family portrait, 1910. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/sir-clifford-sifton>
5. Mclean's Magazine - *The many, mighty Siftons*, by Blair Fraser, Dec,19, 1959, <https://archive.macleans.ca/article/1959/12/19/the-many-mighty-siftons>

As the editor of the Bruce County Genealogical Society's Bulletin, I can't thank all the folks who send in articles. Please consider sending something in today. Would you like to find another person who is researching one of your ancestors? Do you have an old letter or diary from an ancestor? Please share. We'd love to hear from you.

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES and QUERIES TO NEWSLETTERBCGS@GMAIL.COM

Military coffee chats

Wed May 4th 10am, and **Wed June 1 at 10am**, join Jan, Glenys and other BCGS members for our next **Military coffee chat**. Bring your coffee, there's no agenda, just friends talking about their military ancestors, sharing tips or the latest discovery

To register please click on this link for May 4th:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvcemgrj0uGNCZspvQeqAp1Y4d-UC3Z-MU>

For June 1st:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqde6rqToiG9Nuj5ClaHR_OjLJyfYj5zyJ

Or Email Jan and ask her to register you: jansgenes@gmail.com

Mary Schwass sent me this joke which I think we will all appreciate as genealogists! Thanks to her Genealogical Society of Sarasota.



"Ask my g-g-great-grandmother her maiden name."

The Alexander McWilliams Family

By Mary MacKay

Alexander McWilliams (born about 1821) and his wife, Mary, (born about 1831) were the very first settlers on the Elderslie side of the Ellengowan corner. They are mentioned in Alexander McLean's story as being his nearest neighbour to the north in 1854.

When the Queens Bush was opening up, Alexander came to Walkerton with some other men. They made a raft and floated down the Saugeen River. Near to where the Saugeen and Deer Creek meet he struck west inland until he met the blazed trail which later became the Elora Road. Here he claimed land on both sides of the Elora Road and built a shanty. Two families (Orchard and Rowe) had previously located to the north at a place later called Paisley. Southampton was a port to the north and Walkerton, (many years later the county seat) was to the south. Between lay almost 30 miles of wilderness irregularly dotted with the shanties of other pioneers.

The following spring with only 75 cents in his pocket, Alexander returned on a jumper pulled by two oxen. With him came his wife, his son, John, aged two and a baby born in 1855. So tedious was the journey that it took one whole day to come from the hotel at Dunkeld where they had taken lodging. They set to work to make their shanty warmer by chinking the outer walls with moss and split sticks driven firmly into the crevices between the logs. The dried wood, which was stored in the carefully dug but small cellar, was imbedded in ice when they moved in.

Mary had very few utensils with which to prepare meals. She had to mix meal in the mouth of the open flour bag and bake the cakes in a bake kettle buried in coals in the open fireplace. Wild game served to replenish the diminishing store of food. Beech leaves and cow cabbage helped with the summer menu. Alexander set to work to cut down trees to make fields. Great logs were burned to make room for wheat. Similar to the McLeans, the McWilliams also lost their first crop of wheat to a late frost. Each year as patches of ground were cleared, they planted potatoes, turnip and wheat.



Alexander McWilliams and Mary Looney

Tools and supplies that they could not make were rafted down the Saugeen River from Walkerton. Working with Alexander McLean the two men constructed a raft of trees above the dam, securely driving a stake for the men to hold on to as the raft plunged over the dam. Sometimes if night overtook them before they reached their marked tree, (denoting the landing place most convenient to home) they were forced to spend the night by the river. They always built a fire as a protection against wild animals. Once while sleeping beside the fire an ember burned through Alexander's clothing and wakened him from a dream of a bear tearing his shoulder. A two-mile- trudge from their landing place through a swampy, hilly terrain brought their supplies home.

The McWilliams learned from the Indians how to tap maple trees. Sap dripped through wooden spiles into hewed out ash troughs and later was collected and boiled. Cakes of maple sugar were stored in piles high on shelves in the shanty. This was their sole supply of sugar for the year. The flame of the fireplace gave sufficient light until sewing and knitting demanded tallow candles.

Hard work prevailed and on June 12, 1866, Alexander met the requirements and got the crown deed for lot 1, concession B and lot 1 Concession 1, Elderslie. Alexander and his family continued to farm there until January 10th, 1876, when he sold it to his oldest son. John made payments in form of yearly rent charges until 1880 when he sold

the land to Joseph Hall and went to Ardoch, North Dakota. Alexander had three sisters and a cousin who followed him to Ellengowan. His cousin, Mary Jane McWilliams married John Hopper in Quebec. They came to the farm across the corner from the McWilliams in Brant, the same year that the McWilliams came to Ellengowan. His sister, Mary McWilliams, who married James Fraser in Aberdeen, Scotland and two maiden sisters Hellen and Jane came to Ellengowan in about 1872.

Alexander and Mary McWilliams had 8 children, John, James, Maggie (married J W Blyth.) Matilda Ann, Alexander, Mary, Annie, and William Albert (died age 2, buried in Douglas Hill Cemetery) No record was found of their death, so it is assumed the whole family went west because no further record of marriages or deaths has been found.

NOTE from Editor: Now being able to do further research on the computer and with an ancestry account, I was able to find not only Alexander's death but also a photo of Alexander McWilliams and Mary Loney. Alexander died 23 Jan 1919 in Stalwart, Chippewa County, Michigan, United States of America.

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/73840734/alexander-mcwilliams>)

Macadamizing Roads by Dave McDougall

My great, great, great uncle, John Leeming, kept a diary as he travelled throughout Upper Canada in the autumn of 1840. Since the trip combined business, personal and general interest, he recorded a great variety of observations. One of these concerned the conditions of the roads.

Q

“But bad roads are a real evil in summer, for when rain has fallen the roads are next to impossible. Government have spent a deal of money on macadamizing and great good is the consequence,”

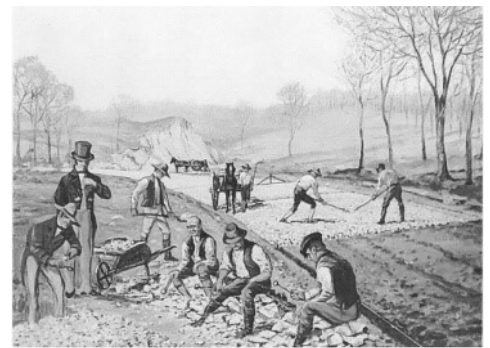


Would you please explain the term, “macadamizing”? Robert Leeming St. George, Ontario

A

Macadamized roads were constructed first of a base of large, crushed stone. Then progressively smaller and smaller layers of crushed stone would be placed on top of that base.

The final layer was the powdery material left over from the crushing of the stones. Once the powder was exposed to rainwater; it would dry to a oncrete-like surface. The road was constructed so that it was slightly higher in the middle, forcing rain to run off into the ditches.



The corduroy sections of the more primitive roads were such a danger to horses that farmer were forced to use plodding oxen to pull their wagons. Now, on the macadamized road they could use horses and cut their travel time in half.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SENT IN ARTICLES THIS QUARTER AND TO THOSE WHO SENT IN QUERIES.

The Bruce County Genealogical Society appreciates and acknowledges the generosity of donors to our Society in 2021.

Their donations enable us to provide genealogical programs throughout the year as well as contribute toward equipment purchases that benefit staff at, and researchers who use, the Bruce County Archives.

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Email articles to: newsletterbcgs@gmail.com