

Bruce Bulletin

Bruce County
Genealogical Society
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Upcoming Meetings and Other Events

Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 @ 1 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Lolly Fullerton, Victorian London

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 @ 7 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Introduction to Genealogy during Archives Week.

Date: Monday, May 8, 2017 @ 7 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Internet Workshop with Anne Goeden

Highlights of Previous Meetings

November: Jane Rigby was the guest speaker of the Bruce County Genealogical Society at the AGM in November. She introduced her topic "Iconology on Tombstones" by giving an overview of the history of cemeteries and burial customs. She provided information about the pyramids in Egypt and early Christian catacombs. By the 18th and 19th century burials were on family property or in church yards.

By the 1840's tombstone carvers in Bruce County were able to access European pattern books. These designs were transferred to wood, slate or stone and in later years, limestone and granite.

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Tombstones can be placed flat on the ground or upright as a larger family headstone. Various presentations such as columns, urns, angled headstones or vaults were described. Icons could include religious symbols such as crown of thorns, grapes, palm leaves. People of Scottish descent might have an anchor, thistle or an oak leaf design.

Children's gravestones might show a dove or lamb representing innocence or purity.

Military emblems or club crests are frequently displayed. Plants such as roses or lilies, the weeping willow or ivy can be found on gravemarkers.

Anne-Marie Collins gave an update of the special events planned to celebrate Canada's 150th. Minutes and treasurer's reports were reviewed. Current membership is about 120. David MacRae reported on the ongoing work of the cemetery committee. Cecille Lockery reported that the clippers continue to add to the binder collection. Sylvia Hasbury responded to 7 queries through the year. Members of the executive will continue for the coming year.

Attacking Brick Walls.

It's Possible. Think Positive

Submitted by Mary MacKay

I hope you remember last newsletter story about success of finding a 3rd cousin by DNA testing.

I want to share with you how I knocked down a brick wall by using census records, Ancestry and PositiveThinking.

I wanted to find out what Galbraith family Jean, sometimes called Jeannie Galbraith, the wife of Niel Gillies belonged to.

I started with the 1871 census. She must have been in Elderslie in 1871 because she married Niel Gillies in about 1872 or 1873. There was no Galbraith family with a Jean about 18 years old but there was a Jane Galbraith living with Neil and Isabelle Stuart and their 6 little children. She was 18 so that's about the right age. I knew a bit about Neil Stewart from previous research. He came from Kintyre the same as the Gillies and was buried in St. Andrews Cemetery same as Gillies's were. So I ignored the spelling and asked these questions. Could Isabella Stuart have been married before? To a Galbraith? Could Jane be Jean?

Sure. It's possible. Think positive.

As I sat thinking about this I decided .***"If I could find a day to get to the Archives, I could find an obit for Neil and Isabelle because I have their death date from their tombstones. And Isabella's obit will be a long one and it will tell me she was married twice and she was survived by her daughter Mrs. Niel Gillies."***

Sure. It's possible. Think positive!

Thanks to Shirley McClure who did such a wonderful job of indexing the Chesley Enterprise several years ago, it was easy to find Isabella's obit and would you believe? There it was! With even more info than I had imagined. It said Isabella was born in Toronto, moved to Darlington, Durham County, as a mere child; married Alex Galbraith who died young leaving her with two children Mrs (Dr.) Gillies formerly of Chesley and Dr. Galbraith of California.

Serendipity! That's the power of positive thinking! But wait a minute. Two children. What was Jane's brother's name? It just called him Dr. Galbraith.

So I thought for awhile longer. This brother was not on the 1871 census with

Jane and the Stuart Family (whose name was spelled wrong) Let's see where they are on the 1861 census.

The Stewart family on the 1861 Elderslie census looks like a very normal family. All under the name of Stewart, (spelled right this time). There was a Jane 8, Archibald 6, Elizabeth 2 and William 1. Do you see anything unusual here? Look again. It always is a good idea to study a census record for any little differences in children's ages. Anything more than a two year span warrants a question.

Of course there's Jane (that went by Jean) age 8. Age is right. And there is her brother, Archibald, age 6, both called Stewart but really should be Galbraith. Is that a long shot?

Sure. But it's possible! Think positive.

I tried Google for Dr Archibald Galbraith, California. Two sites came up that matched perfectly. One was a Message Board. Someone was looking for Dr. Archibald Galbraith who knew exactly when he was born (Oct. 3, 1854) in Bowmanville (that's near Darlington in Durham County) It said he had a brother-in-law who was a doctor and that he had taken part of his training in Winnipeg. It said who he married, and that he had two children. The query was sent in 2000. I didn't try to contact them. That's quite a while ago. What's the chances the person would still be doing genealogy? Well I am so

Sure. It's possible. Think positive

The other site was stupendous! It was the *History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, and San Luis Counties 1903*. Inside was a great biography of Dr Archibald Galbraith. Can you beat that?

I didn't even need to think positive. It popped up before I had time.

While on Google I tried *Find A Grave*. I didn't find Dr. Galbraith but I found his sister Mrs. Dr. Niel Gillies, Niel Gillies, and four of their six children (two died young while the family still lived in Winnipeg). Niel and Jeannie and son Clarence and daughter Bella Rowena were buried in Pueblo, Colorado. Daughter May Luella married Jeff Ayrest and is buried in Floydada, Texas. Her family's Find A Grave memorial had pictures and complete obits.

Niel and Jean's youngest son, Colonel John Arrin Gillies died in an airplane crash in WWII. His Find A Grave memorial included his obituary from the Pueblo Paper and a name to click on for details of his wife, son and daughter.

And the brick wall came tumbling down.

Further research made me realize how lucky I was to find such a complete obit for Jean Gillies's mother because Jean died seven years before her mother and obituaries in those days did not include the names of deceased children or siblings!

But Anything is Possible (with a little luck). Think Positive.

**Local Bruce County WWI
newspapers searchable online**
submitted by Sue Schlorf

The Ontario Trillium Foundation and The Community Foundation Grey Bruce have generously provided grants to the Bruce County Genealogical Society to support a scanning project at the Bruce County Archives.

The focus of the project is four local newspapers of the First World War era - Paisley, Port Elgin, Walkerton and

Warton. Searchable PDFs of these newspapers will be available for viewing on Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre's Online Collections website (collections.brucemuseum.ca). Through this project, these local newspapers will be available to researchers, students, genealogists, historians - anyone with an interest in the people and events in Bruce County communities during this important period in history.

Audrey Lucille Webster Underwood

22 March 1929 – 23 January 2017



A keen historian, a gifted researcher, a committed family lady and a wonderful friend has been taken from our midst. We are sorry to report the death of our founding member, Audrey Underwood, in her eighty eighth year, at Port Elgin, Ontario on the 23rd of January, 2017. Audrey was born on the 22nd of March 1929 near Windsor, Ontario in Essex County. Her father was Joseph Howard Webster who was born 30 June 1899 in Amabel Township, Bruce County and her mother was Louie Reta Stanton who was born 12 March 1897 in Treherne, South Norfolk, Manitoba. Although born in

Manitoba, Audrey's mother Reta moved to Saugeen Township, Bruce County before she was four. When Reta and Howard Webster married in 1925 both of their families were living on the River Road in Saugeen Township, Bruce County. Howard and Reta Webster settled into life on Grand Marais Road, East Sandwich Township, Essex County (later Windsor) where Howard had secured work with Silverwood's Dairy. Their first child was Muriel Bernice born on 12 February 1927, and then Audrey was born on 22 March 1929. In 1932 the Webster's house was destroyed by fire and the family moved back to Saugeen Township where they purchased the Stanton farm, named Melrose Farm, on the River Road from Reta's parents.

One of Audrey's favourite activities was singing. Starting from the age of four, she was in many choirs including the Glee Club in High School, the Junior Farmer Choir, The Pape Street Normal School Choir, the Burgoyne Ladies' Quartet and in recent years as health permitted, the Port Elgin United Church Choir.

Audrey graduated from Saugeen District Secondary School in 1947. She was good at sports, and participated in basketball, softball and track and field. She started skating at age five and enjoyed skating on the frozen ponds on her farm, and the local rinks at Ebenezer and Burgoyne where her parents frequently took Audrey and Muriel in the horse and cutter.

In 1947, Audrey's teaching career began at S.S. #5, Saugeen Township. Being right after the war, there was a shortage of teachers, and many students like Audrey were urged to teach without formal training. The new teachers "observed" at

another school for a day or two and then went to work. Audrey took her formal training in summer school at the Toronto Normal School on Pape Street in Toronto.

After three years of teaching, wedding plans were underway, and on the 23rd of September, 1950 Audrey married Basil Underwood in the Port Elgin United Church. They lived on the Underwood "home" farm, in Arran Township for the next forty two years. Audrey and Basil were blessed with six children between 1953 and 1964: Thomas James, Kenneth Basil, John Raymond, Donald Howard, Jean Lenore and Lois Audrey.

One "adventure" in Audrey's life was establishing a stable of Arabian horses in partnership with her daughters, Lenore and Lois, called Arran Arabians. They raised pure and part bred Arabians. She fondly recalled those days of attending horse shows and competitions with her daughters as some of the happiest times in her life.

Audrey was an excellent sewer who enjoyed quilting, sewing and needlework. She was an avid gardener and she especially enjoyed tending her beautiful flowers at Melrose farm. She also loved to walk through the forest observing the wild flowers and the animals.

Audrey's love of genealogy and family history inspired her to organize the first meeting of the Bruce Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society at her home. Years later, in 1989, she became the founding member of this society, the Bruce County Genealogical Society. In 1996, the Bruce County Genealogical Society honoured Audrey by naming its library for her, the Audrey Webster

Underwood Library which is part of the Research Room at the Bruce County Archives.

Audrey was also a life member of the Bruce County Historical Society. At an age when most people would be retiring from offices she took over the reins as president thus breathing new life and enthusiasm into the Society. She was instrumental in the Bruce County Barn Project, which is an endeavour to have every existing barn in Bruce County photographed because they are disappearing at a staggering rate. Barns form an important part of the history of the county and Audrey wanted to preserve images and information for future generations.

Audrey was a member of the Municipal Heritage Committee of Saugeen Shores for many years. For several years recently she had been working on a book to document the families who settled in the Dunblane community in Saugeen Township and along County Road 3.

In 1996, Audrey moved to Victoria B.C. where she lived for three years. There, she continued to research her ancestors, sang in the choir of the Centennial United Church, became a member of the Victoria Quilters' Guild, and walked and hiked in the mountains and by the ocean. In 1999 she returned to Ontario and moved into her childhood home, Melrose Farm on the River Road. She moved to Port Elgin a few years ago, and quite recently to Paisley and then Elgin Lodge, in Port Elgin for a very brief time.

Audrey is survived by her six children, twenty one grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren. She is also survived by her

sister Muriel Stewart of Ottawa. Her funeral was held 28th of January, 2017 at the Port Elgin United Church. Memorial donations were requested by the family to the Bruce County Genealogical Society for the “Audrey Webster Underwood Library” and to the Dublane Presbyterian Church.

Donations to Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre

Submitted by Doug Lennox and Ann-Marie Collins

Bruce County Genealogical Society administrative and historical records from 1989-2012 including:

Minutes; Financial and other committee reports; Membership and Executive Officers lists; Correspondence; Agreements, contract and permits; Promotional material; Reference material and publications from other sources than the Society.

Within this collection of records is:

Documentation of the Request for Separation, 1989- from the Bruce & Grey Branch Ontario Genealogical Society) and the formation of the new group, the Bruce County Genealogical Society, 1990 (note: Contitution, Bylaws and Revised Bylaws)

Request to sit on the County Museum Committee (re the Bruce County Museum & Archives, now the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre)

Applications to Register a Charity Under the Income Tax Act

Trillium Grant Application 2003

Trillium Grant Application 2005

Financial Records to 1989-2004

Publications Consignment Sales Agreements

Attendance Register 1989-1999

Guest Book 1993-1996

Ancestral Research Registers Volumes 1 and 2

Bruce County Genealogical Society Newsletters, Branches of Bruce 1971-2012 (no issues from 1976-1989)

Scrapbooks:

Bruce Genealogical Society Scrap Book (BCGS #368)

Newspaper Clippings #1 (Scrap Book) (BCGS #603)

Newspaper Clippings #2 (Scrap Book) (BCGS #602)

Newspaper Clippings #3 (Scrap Book) (BCGS #531)

Newspaper Clippings #4 (Scrap Book) (BCGS #532)

Newspaper Clippings #5 (Scrap Book) (BCGS #533)

Newspaper Clippings #6 (Scrap Book) (BCGS #534)

Newspaper Clippings #7 (hard cover, tied Scrap Book) (BCGS #188)

Newspaper Clippings #8 (Scrap Book) (BCGS Newspaper Clipping #8)

Clippings and Photos #3 (Scrap Book) (BCGS #530)

Genealogy Scrap Book (BCGS #768)

Bruce County Genealogical Scrap Book #2 (BCGS #604)

Genealogy Scraps (BCGS #-)

Microfiche (Port Elgin Area Newspaper Clippings c. 1950+)

CD - Derek Wills - Southampton Cemetery Tour/ Bowman Vault, 2008

CD - German Settlers presentation by Patrick Kelly and Anne Goeden, November 2014

Newspaper Clipping Scrapbook by Barbara and Nettie Morton (BCGS \$428)

Daisy Pollock Scrapbook (BCGS #504)

Index of Scrapbook by Russell Teeple

(BCGS #447)
Obituary Collection - Kincardine Tiverton,
Huron Twp., etc. Newspaper extracts (no
number)

News from the Bruce County Archives

Ann-Marie Collins, Archivist
Sue Schlorff, Archival Assistant
Deb Sturdevant, Archival Assistant



New Additions to the Research Room & Archives

Over the past few months, the following items have been donated to the Bruce County Archives and are available for viewing in the Research Room. Further information about some of these items may be viewed in our Online Collections – collections.brucemuseum.ca:

1. Caskenette / Chartraw family history information
2. Cassidy family correspondence and information
3. Handwritten accounts of three Bruce County settlers' families, written by Violet Little, including the families of: Abram Rowan, Rowand family, and James Wallace.
4. Personal papers of Robert John Fenton, 1887-1974
5. Flying Officer Lincoln E. Doll military photographs and documents

6. "William G. Mercer: Recollections of World War II, 1943-1945" booklet
7. Vernon's Farmers and Business Directory for Bruce, Grey & Simcoe, 1914
8. Tara Hardware Store day book, 1884-1887

As the *Chesley Enterprise* newspapers on microfilm are difficult to read due to blurring, the Archives has accepted the original papers for the following years: 1889-1893, 1904, 1906-1908, 1910-1917, 1920-1921, 1923-1941, 1945, 1947, 1950-1978, 19801-1984, 1990-2003.

Events

Admission to the Research Room will be free from April 3 – 9, 2017 in recognition of Archives Awareness Week.

Celebrate Archives, History and Genealogy

Sunday, April 2, 1 – 4 p.m.

As part of Archives Awareness Week, this event will provide an update on the Bruce County Historical Society's Bruce County Heritage Documentary Project (a documentary video being created to celebrate the County's 150th anniversary). In addition, participants may chat with local genealogists for great tips on research projects and enjoy a guided tour of the Bruce County Museum's Research Room and rare behind-the-scenes tour of the Archival storage area.

Archives Hours

The Research Room is open Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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, ext. 129.

Alice Hoyle
Edith Smith
Ruth Bainbridge
Linda Huber

Donations made in 2016

The Bruce County Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our donors last year.

Pamela R. Aromola
Dorne C. Fitzsimmons
Florence Mackesy
Bonnie Foster Abel
Catherine M. Cluley
Heather M. Ibbotson
Linda MacNeill
Susan J. McKenzie
Anne Judd
Donna Coffey
Yvonne Inkster
Kristin E. Andersen
Walt Heathers
Gordon MacKay
Maxwell F. McDonald
Donald C. Meyer
Richard A. Brunton
Anne Goeden
Nora Farnsworth
James D. Struthers
Helen Wuerth (in memory of Yvonne Inkster)
Rita Greig
Donna Maine
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Bruce County Genealogical Society-2017

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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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