

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: Monday, January 9, 2017 @ 1 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Bring and Brag

Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 @ 1 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Snow date if January meeting cancelled.

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

Highlights of Previous Meetings

August: Members and guests of the Bruce County Genealogical Society met in the Theatre Room of the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 8. Anne Marie Collins welcomed everyone.

The first presenter, Doug Archer of Southampton, spoke about his recent young adult novel "Ghouls Gold". It is set on Chantry Island and tells a tale of pirate intrigue. He hopes to write a sequel which

will include another local setting and details of local history.

Donna Jansen who lives near Meaford read from her book "The Bury Road Girls" and also showed family photos which made her story come to life. Her book features stories of her years growing up on a farm with her parents and six sisters. She has included a glossary for non farm readers.

Contents

	Page
Upcoming Meetings and Events/ Highlights of Previous Meetings. . .	1/2
Queries.....	2
Is there a Doctor in the Gillies Family	3
Bruce County Cemeteries.	4/5
Window and Village.	5/7
News from the Bruce County Archives.....	7/8
BCGS Information.....	8

After a brief refreshment break, Lillian Burgess of the Chesley area talked about her collection of stories published as 'Skyhill Stories". It is her hope that a reader might be inspired to reflect on the beauty of our local area and also their own family stories. Once again everyone was treated to three inspiring local authors who displayed a great variety in their chosen subjects. A big thank you to each one.

September: Sue Schlorff welcomed members of Bruce County Genealogical Society and guests to the Theatre Room in the Bruce County Museum & Archives. Highlights from the Minutes and Treasurer's report were reviewed.

President Doug Lennox gave an update of the planning done at the executive meeting for the upcoming year.

Mary MacKay, genealogist and author, was the first presenter of the evening. She reviewed details from wills that she has examined. A will that never was signed, nor registered was settled amicably among surviving family members. A controlling will which left a spouse and six children of ages spanning 3 to 16 years took forty years to execute. Mary noted the uneven distribution of a father's estate in many instances. Brothers often inherited varying amounts, daughters likewise.

Anne Goeden, who is an avid researcher, defined some of the legal terms pertaining to wills and estate files. A will is a legal document coming into effect upon a person's death. The Executor commences his or her duties by listing assets and identifying beneficiaries. The estate file will contain a copy of the will and all supporting documents. Researchers can check indices available on-line and in the Archives to determine microfilm numbers which then can be ordered from the Archives of Ontario through local branches of the public libraries. Some estate files can be found at Land Registry offices.

After a brief refreshment break Mary MacKay shared stories from other wills that

she has examined. Pertinent details such as lists of family members, location and disposition of property and personal effects can be provided in a will. She suggested that researchers do a fair bit of research prior to looking for wills. Try to determine names of family members and their location. Researchers are encouraged to visit the Archives and discuss their queries with the knowledgeable staff.

Jane Rigby will speak on Iconology on Tombstones at the AGM at 1:00 p.m. on November 21, 2016 at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre.

Queries

1. **BRYAN, Michael** (1833-1890) and his sister **THOMSON, Catherine/Kate** nee **BRYAN** (1835-1900) Both long-resident in Elderslie Township. I would like to know where in Ireland they came from. Possibly from Limerick but where in County Limerick? Can exchange information with anyone doing either BRYAN or THOMSON families. Thank you, Tom Bryan (Scotland) bryan414@btinternet.com
2. **KUNKEL.** I have in my KUNKEL family tree index about 15000 names and in my **SPIELMACHER/SPIELMAKER** index about 2900 names. I'm trying to update my family tree information from 2002 up to the present. If you have any family information on these surnames and would like to assist me in my research or want more information on a family tree book please contact Larry at my email address of larmar128@gmail.com

*Five Lessons I Learned About Doing
Genealogy*

Submitted by Mary MacKay

**Is There A Doctor In The Gillies
Family?**

There is now thanks to success with DNA !

Several years ago while I was researching the Gillies Family that settled at Gillies Hill in Elderslie Township, to write "Always A Hill To Climb" the hero of which was John Gillies, reeve, warden, MP and MPP, I couldn't find any information about the youngest member of the family, Niel Gillies. He disappeared after the 1871 census. There was no marriage record, no death registration, no burial in St Andrews Cemetery where the rest of the family was buried so I assumed he went west like his two older brothers and gave up looking.

That's lesson #1 Don't give up the search too soon.

Being a bachelor, John Gillies had no descendants but his brother, Dugald did and for some time now I have been in contact with one of Dugald's great-granddaughters, Karen Kanga, of Alberta. Karen just keeps on digging away for information and even made a trip to the Kintyre peninsula in Scotland where the Gillies Family originated.

That's lesson #2 if you can take a trip to where your ancestors came from .

Karen followed up on a Dr Niel Gillies who was a doctor in Chesley on the 1881 census. I, too, had noted that doctor but I discarded the possibility that it was the right Gillies for several reasons.

1. I had never heard that John Gillies had a brother who was a doctor and I grew up hearing a lot about the Gillies family because they immigrated with

my mother's Taylor family and intermarried with them.

2. The wife of the doctor was a Galbraith and I checked all my Galbraith families in Elderslie and found no Jean of the right age.
3. The children's names did not follow **THE** naming pattern.- no John or Hugh or Mary or Dugald or Donald. Not one single match and there were five children! So I decreed this Dr Niel Gillies did not belong to the John Gillies family and went ahead and wrote the book ignoring the youngest brother!

That's lesson #3 don't count too much on folk lore or the naming pattern (although it has never let me down before.)

Then quite by chance one day I came across this newspaper item in the Chesley paper

**Chesley Enterprise
Oct 25, 1900**

Dr Gillies a member of the first council of this village and until his dismissal by the McDonald government, Medical Supervisor of the Brandon Asylum, has left Manitoba for San Juan, Puerto Rico where he has gone for the benefit of his son's health.

So I was partly right, he did go west but very wrong about him not being the doctor in Chesley on the 1881 and 1891 census. But where did he go from Manitoba?

Lesson #4 Use the newspaper as much as you can and hope for some good leads.

Karen used this bit of information, went to Ancestry for more leads, and traced the family to Pueblo, Colorado. Then just a short time ago she had her DNA test done and lo and behold she "matched" with a descendant of Dr. Niel Gillies who lives in Virginia, USA. His father is still alive, too, at age 98 and both men are

very appropriately named John A Gillies! John, the younger, has been 'digging' away looking for his ancestors and has even made a trip to the Kintyre Peninsula and found the grave of Mary Blue Gillies, mother of the family who came to Elderslie way back in 1852.

Wow ! That's lesson #5 get your DNA done.

Of course that wouldn't help me because I'm not even related to this Gillies Family except through marriage. But I am looking forward to sharing information with him and hopefully meeting him because he surely will want to come to Ontario to see where his ancestors settled! Don't you think this would make a good "Who Do You Think You Are Episode?"

I thought I should contribute to the wealth of information Karen and her new-found 3rd cousin had by trying to find who Niel Gillies wife was. I'm saving that for the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

Bruce County Cemeteries

by Lolly Fullerton

A list of the cemeteries in Bruce County is [found on http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cancemet/ON/](http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cancemet/ON/) Look at the bottom of that site to find Bruce County and click on that.

We have put a number of headstones on the website but so have others. As an example last summer we put our photos on:

Walkerton Cemetery, Walkerton, Bruce County, ON. Once you click on the underlined Walkerton Cemetery, you will be taken to

<http://geneofun.on.ca/cems/ON/ONBRU15238>. There you can see all the names. When you click on a name, you will see the tombstone.

In the past few summers as well as Walkerton

Cemetery, we finished:

Baie De Dore Cemetery, Port Bruce, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Calvary/Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cemetery, Walkerton, Bruce County, ON

Dunks Bay Cemetery, Tobermory, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Ebenezer United Cemetery, Dobbinton, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

McDuff's Corner/Old Presbyterian Cemetery, Walkerton, Bruce County, ON

Orange/Arkwright Old Methodist Cemetery, Arkwright, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Paisley Cemetery, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Port Bruce Cemetery, Port Bruce, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Reform Lutheran Cemetery, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Rusk's Cemetery, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cemetery, Mildmay, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Salem Evangelical United Brethren Cemetery, Bruce County, ON

Salem Presbyterian Cemetery, Salem, Bruce County, ON

Sanctuary Park Cemetery, Port Elgin, Bruce County, ON

Southampton Old/Pioneer Cemetery, Southampton, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

St. Andrew's Cemetery, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery, Mildmay, Bruce County, ON

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Southampton, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Vesta United Church Cemetery, Bruce County, ON Not uploaded yet

Bill Stewart is also making his cemetery books.

There are other websites to check for your Bruce County gravestones.

Find A Grave <http://www.findagrave.com/>

B i l l i o n G r a v e s
<https://billiongraves.com/sitemap/index.php?c>

[country=Canada&state=Ontario](http://canadianheadstones.com/on/)

C a n a d i a n H e a d s t o n e s

<http://canadianheadstones.com/on/>

Ancestors at Rest :

[Allenford Cemetery](#), Allenford Bruce
County, Ontario

[Teeswater ~ Culross Cemetery](#),
Teeswater, Culross Twp, Bruce County,
Ontario, Canada

[Bervie Methodist Cemetery](#),
Kincardine Twp, Bruce County, Ontario
(THIS IS A

SURNAME LIST ONLY)

[Saugeen Cemetery](#), Bruce County,
Ontario



Sylvia photographing cemetery headstones.

Window and Village

by Joyce Osborne

Early this past July, I received an email message from Jane Von Bredow who had obtained my contact info from the Bruce County Historical Society website. Jane was requesting assistance from me or direction to someone who could help her with two matters.

The first matter concerned access to St. Andrew's United Church, Ripley. She explained that she is a great-grand-daughter of Rev. Adam MacQueen who was a Presbyterian minister in Ripley between 1874

and 1893. She was planning a visit to Ripley on Wednesday July 20th with her son, and they very much wanted to go inside the church so they could see and take a photo of the stained glass window there which was dedicated in memory of him.

The second concerned the possibility of seeing other places associated with her forebears. When her great-grandfather came to Ripley in 1874 the Huron Presbyterian Church was the large log church which was located about 1 ½ miles out of the main village of Ripley. She also indicated that she would be interested in establishing what became of that church and its manse and also what school her grandmother, Jessie and her siblings would have attended during the 12 years they lived outside of the main town.

Access to the church was easy to fulfill as I have a key to the church but I knew that none of the windows had dedications included in the stained glass and I was unaware of any records in the church which went back that far.

I knew the locations of the log church and manse but was uncertain initially of where the school had been located. So I turned to local resources including *St. Andrew's United Church, Ripley, Ontario 1886-1996*; *A History of Huron and its hub, Ripley - Commemorative Edition 1975*; *Families & Farms of Huron with its hub - Ripley, 1852-1984*; and *Ripley 1875-1992, Huron's Hub*. In the week leading up to Jane's visit to Ripley, I uncovered much information for her, some of which I communicated to her through email. The remainder of the information I used to create a tour of the village and area which I took Jane and her son on. Her son, an amateur photographer documented the tour.

The Window

In my research I discovered that the stained glass window dedicated to Rev. Adam MacQueen was located in Knox Presbyterian Church, Ripley. Jane and I do not understand, considering the facts we have found, why it would be located there but it must have been considered an act of reconciliation. When Rev. Adam MacQueen came to Huron

Presbyterian Church (log church with seating capacity of 400) on some occasions the attendance surpassed the capacity of the building. Rev. MacQueen was conservative and 80 families who were dissatisfied left Huron Presbyterian Church and built Knox Presbyterian in Ripley where they began worshipping in September of 1874. Feelings were so strong that Knox members asked to be placed in a different presbytery. Worship leadership was covered by personnel from Kincardine until the first minister, Rev. Adam MacKay came. Six months after his induction in November 1875, he died. In December 1876, Rev. Alexander Sutherland was inducted as pastor and he served for 21 years. In 1886, the congregation of Huron Presbyterian Church built a commodious brick building with a seating capacity of 500 in the village of Ripley. There was continued great rivalry between the two congregations resulting in presbytery stepping in and assigning a four part verdict in April of 1887.

The following Sunday each minister was to read the verdict from their pulpit and then the next Sunday exchange pulpits and read the verdict again. This must have worked as no evidence of further controversy has been found. Basis of union discussions between Huron and Knox were renewed in 1921 resulting in agreement and the formation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. With church union in 1925 those Presbyterians who were against church union purchased the Knox Presbyterian Church from St. Andrew's United Church and resumed worshipping there. The windows dedicated to Rev. MacQueen and Rev. Sutherland are located in the entry to Knox Presbyterian Church, Ripley.

The Village

I planned a tour which showed buildings or locations of former buildings associated with the MacQueen family. First stop was the location (L16, C6) of the school (S. S. #10) where Jane's grandmother, Jessie and some of her siblings attended. The attendance at this school outgrew the

building's capacity so some of the students were moved to a temporary location in Ripley until the construction of a new school for all students was completed in the village (1886). We then drove east to L14 C 6 - the former location of the log church and the manse where I shared some stories from my research and also from conversation with a former property owner. The next stop was on Sideroad 5 between Concession 6 and Bruce Rd 6 (L5 C6) where S. S. #8, the Maple Leaf School had been located. Daniel (D.K.) MacQueen, a brother of Jessie's had taught there for one year. He later studied to be a medical doctor.

We returned to Ripley where I showed them the building where the temporary school had been housed. The next stop was Knox Presbyterian Church where we located the stained glass window dedicated to Rev. MacQueen and talked about the construction of the church. We then drove to the west end of Jesse Street which leads to the driveway to "Bernhardt", a triple bricked house with office space included, which Dr. Daniel Fisher Smith had constructed for his home and medical practice. Dr. Smith's first wife was Jessie's sister Margaret Alexandrina (Nina) who had died in 1888 leaving three living children. The fact that Jane's grandmother, Jessie had a sister who had married, resided in Ripley and died here was new information. Jessie had married Dr. Alexander Murchison in 1892 and moved to Prince Edward Island so she would have been familiar with this house. Jane's knowledge was that with the exception of her grandmother, the remainder of the family had moved to Michigan. I also shared with them that "Bernhardt" had another connection to Prince Edward Island. A former resident, Annie Martyn had married William Prowse who was appointed as a Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.

Next door to the "Bernhardt" property was the public school constructed in 1886 where some of Jessie's younger siblings would have attended school. Our time together ended at St. Andrew's United Church where I gave them a tour of the building explaining the changes which had been made to the building from what it was when it her great grandfather had been in

ministry there and we reviewed some of the family genealogy which I had researched.

Jane and her son continued their visit to the area with a stop at the Kincardine Library where they found photos of Daniel Fisher Smith and Nina (MacQueen) Fisher. They drove to the Museum and Archives in Southampton where the archivist was unable to find any additional information.

In a message which Jane sent me following her arrival to her home, she commented: "But I wasn't disappointed. I had approached the trip with the interest in seeing the church and the town, and I did not have hopes or expectations for much more. Already when I left Ripley I felt it had been very worthwhile adventure."

Questions arising

I had two follow up questions after my research and my time with Jane. Where did the MacQueen family live in Ripley following the move to the new church in village as the Huron Presbyterian Church manse was not constructed until 1896? And how did Jane's grandparents meet - Alexander from Prince Edward Island and Jessie from Ripley? As I write this submission, I am still researching the answer to question one but it appears that the family continued to live in the manse beside the log church during Rev. MacQueen's complete time of ministry in the area. In comparing the 1891 census records to those of 188, they are living in the same division and have the same neighbours. The manse property on Concession 6 was sold in January 1896 and a lot was purchased in Ripley for the construction of the new manse.

Jane had the answer for question two: Jessie's brother D.K. and Alexander were in medical school together in Toronto. It was too much of a distance for Alexander to travel home for holidays so D.K. invited him home to Ripley.

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

Bruce County Women's Institute

BCM&CC Archival Assistant, Sue Schlorff, and WI Tweedsmuir Co-ordinator, Judy MacKinnon, have had a busy year organizing and inventorying the Bruce County District Women's Institute records.

These records consist of administrative and historical records reflecting the activities of the various branches of the Women's Institute across Bruce County. They include minutes, financial records, Tweedsmuir Community histories and current events scrapbooks.

There have been over 70 different WI branches in Bruce County through the years, including some "Junior" Institutes; 16 branches are still active. Many of these branches have submitted their records to the Bruce County Archives in Southampton for safe keeping. In a formal agreement with The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, these records are available for viewing and research.

Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada from 1935-1940, was an enthusiastic Women's Institute member in England. It was she who suggested that the ladies of the WI in Ontario record their community histories.

In the foreword to the Tweedsmuir volumes, Lady Tweedsmuir wrote:

"It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, ... The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future."



A search through these volumes can provide information on people, places, businesses, schools, churches, community events, farm histories, etc. This valuable historical collection is available for viewing at the Bruce County Archives (Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre). Details about the collection may be found on the museum's Online Collections website: collections.brucemuseum.ca.

Bruce Remembers Military Website
(bruceremembers.org)

There are now over 7,000 names on the Bruce Remembers website. If your ancestor is missing from the website, and was residing in Bruce County at some point during his/her life, please contact us to provide information to add to the site: archives@brucecounty.on.ca or 519-797-2080, ext. 129. We also welcome donations of letters, diaries, photographs and other military-related items. When donated, such items will be stored in a temperature and humidity controlled environment, and scanned for inclusion on the website.

Online Collections
(collections.brucemuseum.ca)

There are now over 4,500 records, many with images, to view on the Museum's Online Collections website. Some of the most recent photograph / postcard additions include images of Paisley and Port Elgin. Descriptions of more of our military images and documents have also recently been added.

Archives Hours

The Research Room is open Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until the end of March 2016. 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.

BCGS membership fees are now due for 2017. The cost is \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership. The Bruce County Genealogical Society is a registered Canadian charity and we will send out donation receipt for any amount that you are able to donate. Thank you to all of our members for your

Bruce County Genealogical Society-2016

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Newsletter

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