

Bruce Bulletin

Bruce County
Genealogical Society
Box 1083, Port Elgin, ON
N0H 2C0

<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>



Volume 30, Issue 2
May 2019
ISSN 1184-7387

Upcoming Meetings and Other Events

Date: June 10, 2019 @ 7 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Resources for Irish Research
Presenter: Donna Moughty via webinar

Date: July 8, 2019 @ 7 pm
Place: Saugeen Village Cemetery
Topic: Cemetery Walk & Talk
Presenter: Lolly Fullerton (meet at Band Office and cross together)

Date: August 12, 2019 @ 7 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: Author's Night
Presenters: Carol Helfenstein, Jenny Lee Learn and Sylvia Hasbury

moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. She wrote the novel, "Craigie" that was published in 1914. Please contact me at tmoore@hunton.com, if you have any information about the Bowes family.

QUERIES

Bowes/Hall. Agnes Bowes Hall, the daughter of William Bowes, "the Philosopher of Greenock Township," was my great grandmother. I am trying to find if there are any descendants of William Bowes, her father, still living in the Bruce County or Ontario area. She grew up on a farm near Pinkerton in the late 1880s and married a Virginian and

Contents

	Page
Upcoming Meetings and Events.	1
Queries.....	1/2
Yes I am Sam.....	3
Why DNA is like a Jigsaw Puzzle?... .	4
A DNA Tale.....	5/7
News from the Bruce County Archives.....	8
BCGS Information.....	8

Queries continued

Robarts: I am undertaking some research into the musical activities of the Robarts family of Potton, a small town in the English County of Bedfordshire, in the period 1850 to 1920. I have discovered a link between this family and a concert which took place in Teeswater Town Hall, South Bruce, Ontario in January 1876. As you can see from the attached poster and programme for this concert, a Mr. and Mrs. Robarts played leading roles in this event. Original copies of these documents are held in the archive of Potton's Local History Society but the specific link between the Robarts who appear in the concert materials and the family in Bedfordshire remains unclear. I wondered if you happen to be aware of any sources of information on the musical life of Teeswater around the time of this event, or how I might go about finding out more about this concert and the musicians who took part? Please email me at: r.purves@ucl.ac.uk

Smith, Norman: I am trying to find out the name of the "furniture"? company in Hepworth. Apparently my Grandfather, Norman Smith worked there and had the fingers on one of his hands cut off. He was then unable to work and moved to Owen Sound to open and run grocery stores. Any information you can provide would be appreciated. I am interested in what years the company was in Hepworth and hopefully will be able to determine the approximate year Grandpa lost his fingers and moved to Owen Sound. Peri Smith. Email: perrico@shaw.ca

**Bruce County Genealogy Society
Booklets for Sale**

Cemeteries

Albermarle:

Red Bay	\$4.00
Edgehill	\$16.00

Amabel:

St. Marys	\$4.00
Spring Creek	\$3.50
Loucks Family	\$2.50
Zion	\$15.00
Balsam Grove (Amabel)	\$8.00
Balsam Grove (Oliphant)	\$8.00

Arran:

Mount Hope	\$3.50
Mausette Family	\$2.50
Christ Church Anglican	\$3.50
Tara (sample copy)	\$34.50

Brant:

Pioneer Presbyterian	\$3.00
Old Presbyterian	\$2.50
Anglican Pioneer	\$2.50
Early German Baptist	\$2.50
Brocklebank Methodist	\$2.50
Walkerton	\$27.00

Bruce:

Port Bruce	\$8.00
McLean Family	\$2.50
Queen Hill	\$3.50
Goodman Family	\$1.50
Willow Creek	\$2.00

Culross:

Teeswater (Sacred Heart)	\$9.00
Smiths	\$5.50

Elderslie:

Elderslie	
Municipality of Brockton	
Calvary Roman Catholic	

Greenock:

St. Annes	\$10.00
Greenock Methodist	\$1.50
Campbell-Thomson	\$1.50
Greenwood	\$2.50
Jackson	\$1.50
Mary Immaculate	\$7.00
Greenock Baptist	\$10.50

Saugeen:

Southampton Pioneer	\$8.00
Southampton	\$20.00
St. Patrick	\$3.50
Brown Family	\$1.50
Rawn Family	\$1.50

St. Edmunds:

Dunk's Bay	\$8.00
------------	--------

Yes, I am Sam

submitted by Mary MacKay

Samuel Steele was the second generation of the Steele Family to have a business in Paisley. He was the second son of Hugh Steel and Betsy Reid who settled on lot 7 and 9 Greenock Township and brother of James Steele. According to his obit which appeared in the Paisley Advocate in February of 1924 he was born September 1, 1835 in Coleraine, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. When he was two years old his parents and older brother immigrated to Canada but he was forced to stay behind with grandparents because he had smallpox and was not allowed on the boat.

Four years later when Samuel was about six years old his grandparents died and he went to the country to live with an aunt and uncle named Reid. This family was linen weavers who when the webs were sold lived high and fared sumptuously, but at the end of the week were usually down to buttermilk and potatoes.

When Samuel was 18 he set out for Canada to find his parents. The sailing vessel which had over 1500 people on board took three months to get to New York. He then went to Rochester and crossed the lake to Toronto. From there he walked to Bradford, Simcoe County where his parents had settled some sixteen years before.

Upon reaching that village he enquired of the hotelkeeper if he knew Hugh Steele, his father. The hotelkeeper replied in the affirmative, and going to the door said "There he is in that wagon just going home with grist."

Accosting the older man and asking if he might ride out for a few miles, he was told to climb up, which he did. In reply to enquiries Samuel told where he was from and then the older man pointedly exclaimed "Are you Sam?"

"Yes," was the reply. "I am Sam." And thus he introduced himself to his father.

After his arrival at the 50-acre farm of pine stumps his older brother, James, and his seven siblings born since the family left Ireland looked upon him as a sort of usurper, and would say to him "How do we know you are Sam?"

He only stayed for a short visit and then became an apprentice in a wagon-making shop in Bradford. His parents shortly after moved to Greenock Township near Paisley and many times Samuel walked back and forth from Bradford to Greenock to visit them in the years before trains were running in Bruce.

In about 1862 Samuel also moved to Paisley. He framed and erected a building on Church Street (east side of Queen Street) which he used as a wagon making and blacksmith shop. Later he erected buildings on Queen St. opposite the Hanna House and engaged in the general store business until he sold out about 1904.

Samuel was twice married. His first wife, Ann Hanna, died age 22 leaving him with two little boys, James H. and Samuel John. Ann's family built the first dam in Paisley and owned the first saw mill and grist mill. Samuel's second wife Jane Mudie died age 64 leaving one daughter Nellie Isabell.

PAISLEY CEMETERY

Ann Hanna
Wife of Samuel Steele
1846 - 1868

STARKVALE CEMETERY

STEELE - MUDIE
Jane Mudie
1837 - 1901

Wife of Samuel Steele

In 1889 the grim reaper struck again. Samuel's second son, Samuel John, died at 22 years of age.

On the 1901 census, Samuel was living alone, a storekeeper in Paisley age 66. Three years later he sold his business to J. S. Nichol and shortly after went to Vancouver where his remaining son, James H., was 'dabbling' in Real Estate. When James H. came back to Paisley Samuel remained in Vancouver and made his home with his daughter, Nellie, who was married to Charles Edward Mahon.

Samuel died in Vancouver February 17, 1924, age 88. By his own request he was buried there.

Why DNA is Like a Jigsaw Puzzle

submitted by Lolly Fullerton

Taken from www.lostcousins.com with permission. They send out a free newsletter at least once a month. The cost if you want to support is only 10GBP. I highly recommend getting the newsletter and using this website to upload your tree.

Not many people understand DNA, but everyone knows about jigsaws. So, in this article I'm going to explain DNA testing using jigsaws!

Suppose your parents each owned two jigsaws which they had had since childhood - they inherited one from each of their parents (though sadly they can't remember which was which). At a glance all four of the pictures appear quite similar, but on close inspection it is obvious that there are lots of small differences. One day they each decide to make a new jigsaw by combining their two puzzles in such a way that the pieces still fit together - and they give the two jigsaws to you.

Now imagine that this process has been going on for many generations - in other words, the jigsaws your parents owned had come from their parents, who had inherited jigsaws from their parents, and so on. This means that in your two jigsaws you'd have pieces from each of your 4 grandparents, each of your 8 great-grandparents, each of your 16 great-great grandparents etc etc. (In fact you might at first imagine that you've got at least one piece from every ancestor - until you realise that you don't have to go back very many generations before the number of ancestors far exceeds the number of pieces in the puzzles.)

Nevertheless there's a lot of information about your ancestry encoded into the

jigsaws, and you're fascinated by the idea of tracing your ancestors..... if only you knew which ancestor each piece of the puzzle came from. But you don't - the pieces aren't labelled in any way, and there are no copies of the original jigsaws in existence. All you have to go on is your own jigsaws. But then you have a brainwave—why not compare your jigsaws with the jigsaws belonging to your cousins? After all, if one of your cousins has exactly the same piece in precisely the same place, there's a good chance that you both inherited that piece from one of the ancestors that you share (and if there are several pieces in a row that all match then it's even more likely). So you do this for all the cousins who are prepared to show you their jigsaws.

Then you have another brainwave - you realise that you've got many more cousins than the few dozen that you're in contact with, but you don't know who they are. So you join a website that offers to connect people who share the same jigsaw pieces, and now you've got thousands of cousins - the only problem is, almost all of them are so distantly related that you can't figure out what the connection is.

Fortunately you have yet another brainwave at this point - you realize that you can use the information you gleaned from your known cousins to figure out how you're connected to the unknown cousins (or at least, some of them). If one of the pieces in the jigsaw of cousin X, one of your unknown cousins, is a piece that you share with cousin A, one of the cousins you already know, it's a reasonable assumption that cousin X is connected

to you via the ancestors that you share with cousin A - and that might be the vital clue that enables you to figure out your precise connection to cousin X, turning them from an unknown cousin to a known cousin.

You can make these three-way connections even when there isn't a single piece of the jigsaw that you all share. If a piece of your jigsaw matches unknown cousin Y, and a different piece of cousin Y's jigsaw matches known cousin B, there's a fair chance that you all share a common ancestor. It could just be chance - after all, two jigsaws might well have blue sky in the same place - but the more pieces that match the less likely it is to be a coincidence. Since you already know how you're related to cousin B, you might now be able to figure out how you're both related to cousin Y.

During this process you're converting unknown cousin to known cousins, and this gives you further opportunities. For example, unknown cousin Z may not match with any of the cousins you knew at the beginning, but they might match with cousin X or cousin Y.

The closer your known cousins the more pieces you're likely to share with them, and similarly the more pieces you share with an unknown cousin, the closer the relationship is likely to be - though once you get beyond 3rd cousin the amount shared will be so low that distinguishing between (say) a 5th cousin and a 10th cousin in this way is impossible.

What are the key lessons to be learned from this jigsaw analogy?

- **Unless you can compare your matches with those of**

the cousins you already know it's going to be very difficult, and possibly impossible, to figure out how you're connected to the cousins you don't know

- **Converting 'unknown' cousins into 'known' cousins makes the process easier**
- **Some of your 'unknown' cousins will be so distantly-related that you'll never figure out what the connection is**

A DNA Tale

submitted by Anne Goden

About a year ago, I decided to see if I could figure out who was my daughter's closest DNA match on 23 and Me. His name was Dave Watts and he was listed as a 2nd to 3rd cousin. He had listed four family surnames and one of them was Gibbons. My paternal grandfather had first cousins named Gibbons and so I messaged Dave to find out if that might be the connection. It turns out that Dave had been born a Gibbons but his parents divorced when he was a small child. Both parents remarried and his stepfather adopted him and his sister and his surname was changed to Watts.

Although Dave had never met his grandfather, Arthur Gibbons, he did tell me that he had recently purchased his grandfather's book and had read it. I too had that book in my living room but hadn't read it. I decided that it was time to do so. *A Guest of the Kaiser* is the first person account of Arthur Gibbons' time in the

Canadian army and an account of his imprisonment in a German prisoner of war camp during World War I. The book was very well written and was an interesting insight into life in the trenches. When Arthur was wounded on April 24th, 1915, during the second battle of Ypres he lay for four days on the battlefield, before being transferred to stable beside a German army hospital in Belgium where he lay in the straw for twelve days until he received medical attention. After the operation his injured leg was 5 and a half inches shorter than the other and his foot and ankle had been wrenched and twisted so that the foot was completely turned around. "Doctors in England and in Canada contend that it was a deliberate attempt on the part of the Germans to cripple me permanently."

Arthur was treated nicely by some German soldiers. There was the one who lifted him up to look out the train window as they went over the Rhine on the way to the Giessen prison camp. One of the guards at the prison camp gave him an idea which was to save his life. A prisoner exchange was being planned and the guard told him that "even though a man was disabled, crippled and unable again to enter the fighting his repatriation was not sure. If the prisoner showed any sign of possessing intelligence so that the German officers thought he would be of service to his own country then he would not be exchanged." After this, whenever Arthur was interviewed he pretended to be insane. Arthur's plan worked and he was selected for the prisoner exchange. He got to England in September 1915 and was back in Toronto by the end of October 1915.

Arthur and his four siblings had been the children of David Edgar Gibbons and Gertrude Louise Poynter (sister of my great grandmother Sarah Poynter.) The children had been orphaned in Birmingham, England and according to my grandfather's notes; his mother Sarah Poynter "had been instrumental in helping the Gibbons children, not only mothering them all but also helping finance their entry into Canada."

I found an account of Arthur Gibbons on the internet, written by his great grandson, which told a different story about how the Gibbons children came to Canada. According to that account, Arthur fled the orphanage when he was eleven years old and stowed away on a ship headed to Canada. He worked hard on the docks of Halifax and was able to afford to bring over his brother and sister from England after one year.

So, naturally I was curious to see if I could find some facts to help get to the bottom of the story. Gertrude Poynter died in December of 1905. Her husband married his second wife Lavinia Lyons in May 1906. In September 1906, all five Gibbons children were placed in the orphanage in Birmingham: Arthur age 11, David age 9, Albert age 7, Gladys age 4 and Mona age 2. Their father died in June of 1909. We don't know the reason that the children were placed in the orphanage. Was the father David already sick and unable to support his family? Did the second wife not want to mother the children? We don't know the answer at this time.

Albert does seem to disappear between 1906 and 1914. When he enlisted in Toronto in September 1914 he was living

with his aunt (Sarah Poynter) and her two daughters and listed her as his next of kin. His brothers David and Albert arrived in Halifax as home children on 6 June 1910. (Although underage, they too enlisted in the CEF in New Brunswick, and David was killed in Lens on 4th July 1917.) Albert's sisters Mona and Gladys were living in the orphanage in Birmingham on the 1911 census. They arrived in Canada in August 1919.

After his return from England in 1915, Arthur Gibbons toured Canada and the United States lecturing for the war effort. On a visit to England he met and fell in love with his first cousin Ethel Poynter. They were married in May 1920 in Surrey England and settled in Toronto. In my grandfather's notes he mentioned that Ethel's father, Charles Poynter had also married a first cousin. Checking my research I found this was true. Because the DNA was doubled up in this line Dave Watts was showing up as 2nd-3rd cousin to my daughter when he would actually be a 3rd cousin once removed.

I was able to share with Dave photos that I had of his grandparents, and also one of our shared great great grandmother, Rebecca Emma Crine. I find DNA matches like this to be the most rewarding. I love being able to help my cousins connect with their past.



Gibbons Children taken c. 1919 probably at the farm of their uncle Hubert Poynter in Whitevale, Pickering Township, Ontario County.



This picture of Arthur Gibbons was addressed to his first cousin Violet Goeden.



News from the Bruce County Archives
Deb Sturdevant, Archivist
Sue Schlorff, Archival Assistant
Heather Callaghan, Archival Assistant

Online Collections Video Tutorial

To assist researchers in making the best use of the Online Collections site, we have created a video providing tips on searching for people, places and themes. You will find a link to the video on the collections.brucemuseum.on.ca home page.

Municipal Records at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

Last year, we advised that descriptions and lists of the minutes, by-laws and tax rolls had been placed online for the municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine, and Northern Bruce Peninsula. We are pleased to report that descriptions are now also available for South Bruce Peninsula, South Bruce and Saugeen Shores. To assist you in finding our online descriptions of municipal holdings, you may use the links on the Museum’s website “Search Our Archives” page: <http://www.brucemuseum.ca/collections-research/archives-and-research/search-our-archives/>

Open Doorways Exhibit, May 6 to June 2

This art exhibition at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre explores mental health through the art of storytelling and visual imagery.

Archives Hours

There has been a change to Research Room hours on Saturdays – it is closed from noon to 1 p.m. The Research Room is open Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Saturdays, we are open from 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.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.

**Bruce County Genealogical Society-
2019**

E-mail: brucecgs@yahoo.ca
<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>

Executive

President: Glenys Johnson
Vice President:
Secretary: David MacRae
Assistant: Sylvia Hasbury
Treasurer: Anne Goeden
Membership Secretary: Anne Goeden
Past President: Doug Lennox

Committees

Mail Secretary: Helen Wuerth
Cemetery Co-ordinator: Lolly Fullerton
Library Co-ordinator: Cecile Lockrey
Research Co-ordinator: Sylvia Hasbury
Newsletter Editor: Shirley Moulton
Newsletter Assistant: Mary MacKay
Webmaster: Louise Stewart
E-mail Correspondent: Anne Goeden
Publication sales: Helen Wuerth
Publication Co-ordinator: Bill Stewart
Publicity: David MacRae
Clipping Collection: Volunteers
Cards: Judy MacKinnon

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.

Newsletter Editor: Shirley Moulton
763 Brentwood Dr.
Port Elgin, ON
N0H 2C4
(519) 832-3206
E-mail: smoulton@bmts.com