

# Bruce Bulletin

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



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## Upcoming Meetings and Other Events

**Date:** September 10, 2012 at 7 p.m.  
**Place:** Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre  
**Topic:** School Days at the Maple Grove School, Oral history by former one-room school teachers.

**Date:** October 20, 2012  
**Place:** Joint meeting with Bruce Grey OGS

**Date:** November 12, 2012 at 12 p.m.  
**Place:** Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre.

**Topic:** Annual Meeting and pot luck.

## Highlights of Previous Meetings

**July:** Bruce County Genealogical Society and the Bruce County Historical Society hosted a very successful Local Authors event recently. The featured guests Basil Johnston, Don Leatham and Rob Ritchie presented an interesting, lively and varied program of readings and reflections.

It was intriguing to learn how the themes of identity, self worth and fear of abandonment wove their way into each author's work.

Don Leatham's first book 'The Way We Were' takes a very personal look at life on a farm in the 40's and 50's. The second book 'Indomitable Spirit' tells the story of a feisty

pioneer his 'Granny', Susannah Askin.

Basil Johnston, author of twenty-four books informed the audience of how he started writing books for children to supplement the meagre information contained in textbooks of the day. His personal and powerful storytelling approach delighted everyone.

Rob Ritchie transitioned the skills which he mastered as a songwriter with the band Tanglefoot towards creative fiction in his two novels. 'Orphans of Winter' and 'In a Company of Fiddlers'. His books explore the authors passion for hockey and music as inspired by his parents.

## Contents

	Page
Upcoming Meetings and Events/ Highlights of Previous Meetings. . .	1/2
Queries.....	2
No Death Record to be Found. . .	2/4
Never Underestimate the Power of the Press. ....	4/6
News from Bruce County Archives.	7/8
BCGS Information.....	8

Authors and audience had an opportunity to mingle at the wine and cheese reception and book signing.

Monday August 13 at 7:00p.m. the BCGS will visit the Old and New Cemeteries in Walkerton. Located on Cemetery Road -East of Highway #9 at the corner of Mildmay and Kincardine Roads. Guest speakers and guides will conduct a tour to see unique grave markers and learn of the lives of personalities buried there. Everyone is welcome to meet at the cemetery entrance.

## Queries

1. **Kistner:** I have found that my great grandmother, Regina Kistner, appears in the 1861 census as a 14 year old girl in Carrick, Bruce, Ontario. She was a German Roman Catholic. She later lived in North Bay and had three children with her husband Henry Green Orton. I would like to find out more about Carrick and the German settlements there. Any clue or mention of Regina Kistner and her parents would be gratefully received. Many thanks, Lorna Brown. Email: [lornabrown1@mac.com](mailto:lornabrown1@mac.com)
2. FITZELL (or alt. spellings) - Gideon (b. 1816) and his wife Ann (b. 1820) were born in Ireland and moved to Bruce Co. in 1861. They are listed in the 1881 census (as FIEZELL) in Culross but don't appear in the 1891 census. Does anyone know details of their death and burial? Lukas Huisman. Email: [yms@albertacom.com](mailto:yms@albertacom.com)

*Adapted from book "First Families of Dobbinton" by Mary Mackay*

***No Death Record to be Found  
What do you do when you find out  
everything you need to know  
about a pioneer couple except when they  
died and where they're buried?***

**William Foster** was about twenty years old in the fall of 1854 when he travelled with a group of pioneers from Peterborough County to Elderslie Township, Bruce County. In the party with him was James Dobbin, 45 his 3<sup>rd</sup> son, John Dobbin 18, Charles Brock 70 and his son, James 28. They stopped at Hamilton's hotel in Tara for dinner and when they reached where Invermay is now they shouldered their packs and provisions and struck out into the woods. William's father, **Hugh Foster**, had been with this same group of men the previous July when each man made a claim on 200 acres. The Dobbins claimed 10 farms on the south side of Concession 12, Elderslie and the Fosters six on the north side. Hugh Foster paid 10 pounds each for lot 30 and 31 Con. 13. This gave him the right to

*.....occupy and cultivate with a view to purchasing in conformity with the notice issued from the crown lands Department and published in the official gazette under date July 1852...*

It was signed by Alexander McNabb.

I found Hugh Foster and his wife Elizabeth Blackstock, both born in Ireland, living in Harvey & Smith Township, Peterborough County on the 1851 census. In 1854 they arrived in Elderslie with their family of six; William 20( *mentioned above* ), James 15, Sarah Jane 13, Mary 8, Martha 5 and baby Elizabeth less than a year old. Their second son, Thomas, who would have been about 17, does not appear on any Elderslie records. He could have stayed in Peterborough, (*his name was not on future census of Peterborough*) or died. (*no death registration*) or went elsewhere (*records show many Thomas Fosters in various places in Ontario, but how do you prove their relationship?*).

Imagine making that trip all the way from Peterborough County to Dobbinton with a baby plus six other children in toe. The trip alone would have been a challenge but the home awaiting them was a rudely-built log shanty and for the last five miles the road was just *brushed* out.

The Hugh Foster family built a 1 ½ storey log house on lot 31 with the lane going in off

Sideroad 30 (now County Road 10) and began clearing the land. Three years after they arrived Hugh donated ½ acre at the corner of lot 31 for a school. The school was built of logs and used for 23 years. In 1880 it was covered with a board siding. On the 1861 census six children were still at home and the schoolteacher was living with them.

On Oct 5, 1861 Hugh Foster got the Crown Deed for lot 31 and built a bigger, more substantial house on it. He gave up lot 30. In 1876 Hugh's daughter, Martha, and her husband took over the farm.

**William Foster (1834 – 1916)**, the oldest child of Hugh Foster and Eliza Blackstock married Martha Austin about ten years after arriving in Elderslie. They lived on the next farm east of his father. William got the Crown Deed for the south half of lots 32 and 33 the year after his marriage and for the north half of both farms in 1881. William and Martha did not have children. After Martha's death in 1896 at 56 years of age William sold both farms. He remarried to a much younger woman, Melissa Hicks whose age on the marriage registration was 34. William's was 55 although he actually was 64. They went to Middlesex County where I found them on the 1901 census in Mosa Township, Middlesex County age 37 and 60. William died October 21, 1916 in the Mental Hospital in London.

On February 20, 1868, **Mary Foster (1847-)** Hugh and Eliza's second oldest daughter married Francis Hammell, They lived across the sideroad on lot 31, Con. 10, Elderslie. In 1887 they took their family of eight to the Huntsville area, later moving to Pierson, Manitoba.

James Foster (1840), was only 15 when the family came to Elderslie so his father, had to co-sign his claim on lots 28 and 29. On March 13, 1868 he married Lucy Ann Livingston, the daughter of James and Elizabeth Livingston of Arran. James was 25 and Lucy 23. They had eight children.

As the years went on lots were sold off of the front of his farm, which became the hamlet of Dobbinton. I think Dobbinton should have been called Fosterton instead of Dobbinton because James Foster was a first settler and he remained there for over fifty years ( much longer than any Dobbins).

When they were over seventy years old James and Lucy and a daughter and a son moved to Owen Sound. Six years later they packed up and moved to Saskatoon where their four youngest married children were living. *No death registration could be found for either James or Lucy.*

**Sarah Jane Foster (1841 - )** was about 13 when she came to Elderslie with her parents. When she was 36 she married Matthew Donaldson, a widower. He was already farming in Michigan and he and Sarah Jane returned there after their marriage.

**Elizabeth Foster, the youngest child** of the pioneer Hugh and Elizabeth, was less than a year old when the family came to Elderslie. She married William Jethro Smith and it was with this family that the widow, Elizabeth Blackstock Foster, made her home after her husband's death. Elizabeth and William Smith had five children. Two sons died as infants and their only daughter, Jane, died of appendicitis at age 11. In about 1894 William and Elizabeth took their two remaining sons and her mother to Hamiota, Marquette, Manitoba.

**Note: By 1891, Hamiota was open to feverish settlement by immigrants. During settlement, the town dramatically increased from a small village of 10 to over 200 people in one year.**

**Martha Foster (1849–1936)** was the only child of the pioneer Hugh and Elizabeth who remained in the area. She married Robert King - one of the five King brothers who also settled around the Dobbinton corner. Very shortly after her marriage, Martha and Robert King took over her parent's farm on the northeast corner of the 12<sup>th</sup> of Elderslie and County Road 10. Here they remained for the rest of their married lives. Robert and Martha had 10 children, two of whom died young; one went to Chicago, one to

Washington, one to Kansas City, one farmed in Arran and the oldest farmed the home farm all his life

I still have some unanswered questions about this Foster family. There are a lot of missing death registrations. None was found for either of the parents, Hugh and Elizabeth, and there is no tombstone for them in any of the local cemeteries. Martha and Robert King are the only descendants of this family buried in the area. Hugh Foster last appears on the 1881 census. Elizabeth, was living with her daughter in 1891, which tells us he probably died between the 1881 and 1891 census. We know Elizabeth went west with her youngest daughter's family and died in Hamiota, Sask. in about 1895..

My guess is when Hugh died his body was taken back to Peterborough to be buried. If so Elizabeth's body may also have been sent home. In the era of the train I have found this often happened.

We do know the oldest William died in Ontario but we don't know where he is buried. Likely in Tara with his first wife but there is no gravestone marker for him. Perhaps with his father, if we knew where his father is!

I guess I'll have to go to Peterborough County to search the cemetery records for Hugh and Elizabeth. I do hope someone put their names on a tombstone. Maybe I'll find the missing son, Thomas, there too. I have the feeling there may have been other children buried there because of the gaps in ages.

Maybe not! That's what makes Genealogy so fascinating!! *Or is that word frustrating!*

*Adapted from article that has complete letter filed under The Family of Matilda King by Mary MacKay*

## **Never Underestimate the Power of the Press**

The phenomenal story of how I discovered my great-grandmother's King Family all started about two hundred years ago with a man named Kleber Duane King who was living in Saginaw Michigan.

Kleber Duane is a fascinating name don't you think? Kleber doesn't sound very Irish to me and my King family was Irish. Kleber's parents were both born in Canada West as Ontario was called back in 1833 when Joshua King married Louisa Allen. They made their home in Paisley, Ontario for a few years before moving to Michigan. Joshua was my ggrandmother Matilda King's oldest brother and their parents were from Ireland but Louisa's father was from Sweden and Louisa named all four of her sons after Swedish royalty. *So much for the Scottish/ Irish naming pattern we all rely on!*

Kleber's oldest brother was named Gustavus Adolphus King after the king of Sweden from 1611-1632 He was renown for being the founder of the Swedish Empire. No doubt Louisa had great ambitions for her oldest son!

Louisa named her second son Bernadotte Edward King after Jean-Baptist Bernadotte who after the French Revolution was chosen by Napoleon to be the ruler of Sweden. The House of Bernadotte reigned both in Norway and Sweden until 1905 when those two countries separated. Burnadotte is still the reigning house of Sweden today. This lady knew her history!

Louisa named her youngest son, who was born in 1872, Oscar Lincoln King after King Oscar II who was king of Sweden from 1872 until his death and king of Norway from 1872- 1903. Her naming pattern was right up- to-date!

It's a bit frustrating that Google hasn't found out who Louisa's third son, Kleber Duane King, was named after but we can be sure it was after someone of importance in Swedish history.

Kleber D. King pursued a career in newspaper business with the Saginaw News and also developed a curiosity about his King roots when he was in his early 40's. His father had died quite a young man at age 62. His oldest brother Gustavus had died three years after their father at only 33. His brother Burnadotte was married and had moved to Idaho and brother Oscar had gone to Medicine Hat, Alberta taking their mother with him. So Kleber and his wife were the only ones left in Saginaw Michigan in 1812.

When beginning Genealogy we are told to start with what we know, look for pictures, bibles and to make inquiries from older living relatives. Kleber did this and even went to visit a cousin in Chicago. Among the cousin's papers were some letters written before and up to 1844 between King families in Australia and Kleber's grandparents Moses and Matilda King in Ontario before they moved to Michigan..

"Australia? I have relatives in Australia , " Kleber marvelled, "I wonder how I can find them?"

Being a newspaper man he knew the power of the press so he copied the letters and sent them to the the postmaster at Sydney, Australia with a request that he "*make enquiries after the descendants of Moses King Sr., if they could be found in Sydney.*"

In due time, much to Kleber's delight, a reply came from a Richard King and his sister, Agnes King Dunster. A correspondence began and several letters were exchanged between 1913-1914 which gave details of the success of King family in Australia, plus details of how the family had got separated with the parents Moses Alexander King and Mary Wade (Wedd)

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going to Australia along with three sons and a daughter, but the other son Moses Jr. and his wife Matilda Ashton had gone to Ontario. Wouldn't we all love to fall heir to such revealing letters about our ancestors?

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Kleber printed the content of these letters in his paper, The Sagina News *Again the power of the press!* He added a bit of history about the family in Michigan, including the names of the children of Moses King and Matilda Ashton and mailed a copy of the paper it appeared in to his correspondent in Australia. She filed it away with other family papers and it was not found for seventy-five years! *The printed word can last a long time.*

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Fast forward to about 1995 when Margaret Edler, a descendant of one of the branches of the King family in Australia was visiting her aunt who was the family historian and unearthed the newspaper clipping. Following is the title and opening paragraphs:

#### **K. D. King Traces Relatives on Two Continents -- Extends Over Century**

**Family Home in Ireland; One Branch Settled in British North America and Other in Australia; Letter Received Reunites the Branches.**

**Kleber D. King, 1906 Janes Avenue, in pursuing the interesting and self imposed task of learning something about the history of his ancestors found trace of correspondence existing between one branch of the family in far away Australia and another on this continent. He has secured this correspondence which passed between Moses King Sr. and his wife Mary and Moses King Jr and his wife Matilda in the early part of the nineteenth and which is quite interesting.**

**The junior Moses King, his wife and family emigrated from Northern Ireland in 1831 to British North America, settling in the Province of Ontario. Subsequently the senior branch of the family went from Ireland to Australia, settling near Sydney, New South Wales. Up to the year 1844 the two branches of the family corresponded with each other casually but for some reason the correspondence was allowed to lapse**

At the end of Kleber's newspaper article he listed all of his grandparents children that he knew about.

**The following are the living children of Moses King Jr who died in Saginaw in 1872 and his wife Matilda who died here in 1884:**

**William King Palmerston, Ontario who is 80 years of age;**

**Mrs John Lynn, Gowanstown, Ontario;**

**Mrs Wm Maher, Chesley, Ontario;**

**Samuel A. King, Elgin, Ill lived in Ontario until 1896;**

**Mrs Mina Stockford, 715 Bundy Street, Saginaw and George W. King, 615 North Jefferson Avenue, Saginaw**

**Joshua E. King the oldest son died some 20 years ago**

**and Mrs Jane Boles a daughter died a few years since.**

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This newspaper clipping was known among several family historians but it was not until about 2002 that, with the benefit of the internet, Margaret Edler ggg granddaughter of the original Moses KING (1758-1844), was able to utilise the information in the article to advantage and piece together the King Family history

*So how did I find out all this ?*

*Again never underestimate the power of the printed word. Only in the year 2012 I say "Never underestimate the power of what's printed on the Internet."*

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Determined to find my great-grandmother, Matilda King-Maher's King relatives I researched five King families at Dobbinton because that's where Mom said Grandma Maher's King relatives lived. I found no trace of a Matilda King among the families at Dobbinton. So I took another approach. Her tombstone said she died January 23, 1916. This led me to her death registration. It stated her father was Moses King. There was definitely no Moses among the Dobbinton Kings! *So much for family folk lore!*

So I Googled "*Moses King Family*". Three sites came up that looked promising. One thread was from a lady in Australia who was researching Kings and listed all the last names in the families connected in Ontario. Eureka ! One of the families was MAHER. That was ggrandmas's married name. I sent an email off to Margaret Edler and she sent me 32 pages of King history she had been working on for the last ten years. A further inquiry brought the story that I have just told you of how Kleber Duane King connected the two continents. Some days you just get lucky!!

Other web sites on the Internet have put me in touch with a descendant of ggrandmother's sister. And two other threads have connected me with living descendants of my great grandmother's children that I never knew existed right here in Ontario.

Now I have lots of leads to work on putting together the story of Matilda King and William Maher and getting it ready to print.

Never underestimate the power of the printed word!

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## News from the Bruce

### County Archives

#### New Acquisitions

Over the past few months, a number of resources have been added to the Reading Room for use by genealogists and other researchers. In particular, we now have microfilm of General Registers created by the *Walkerton Jail* from 1867-1904, in which the following information was recorded about each inmate: name, offence, age, sex, country of birth, race, marital status, level of education, drinking habits, committal authority, date of committal, date of discharge or transfer, number of days spent in jail, and general remarks. The recorded offences range from murder to non-payment of fines.

We have also purchased microfilm of:

- *Brant Township Assessment Rolls from 1866-1899, 1902 and 1907*
- *Greenock Township Assessment Rolls 1881-1899*
- *Greenock Township Minutes 1859-1899*
- *Elderslie Township Minutes 1856, 1868-1899*

The Bruce Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has donated additional *Owen Sound newspapers indexes* up to 1910, which are now available for perusal in the Reading Room. They have also provided an update to the *Bayview Cemeteries transcript*, with interments up to 2011.

Courtesy of the Bruce County Historical Society, we have received 8 microfilm reels of *Die Ontario Glocke* from 1883-1891. *Die Glocke*, published in the German language in Walkerton, was first issued by John Klein in

February 1870. The paper was sold by him to A. Eby and J. A. Rittinger. Subsequently, it passed into the hands of J. A. Rittinger solely, who continued to publish it until sometime around 1903, when the plant was moved to Berlin and the paper amalgamated with the *Berliner Journal*, though an edition of the *Journal* continued to be published with the *Ontario Glocke* masthead.

Some of the books added to the Reading Room inventory include:

*A Time to Speak: A Plough Boy Remembers, 1942-1960* by Ernest Kuhl, [2004?]

*Colpoy's Bay Village Then and Now, compiled and edited by Sheila Gatis, 2012*

*Great Lakes Lighthouses Encyclopedia*, by Larry and Patricia Wright, 2006

*The Illustrated History of the Chippewas of Nawash*, by Polly Keeshig-Tobias, 1996

*In Grateful Remembrance: Honouring the Men from Knox, Owen Sound, Who Paid the Supreme Sacrifice* by Janet Isles, 2011

*Northern Lights: Lighthouses of Canada*, written and photographed by David Baird, 1999

*Renewing Our Spirit: The Elders of Neyaashiinigiing*, 2008

#### Archives Events

We enjoyed our Gaelic Cemeteries bus trip in June and are looking forward to next year's cemetery bus tour. If you have any suggestions on what area we might focus on for 2012, or speakers who enjoy sharing their cemetery knowledge, please let us know.

Come and visit Archives staff at the Bruce County Heritage Steam and Antique Tractor Show, near Paisley, August 17-19, 2012.



## Archives Staff and Hours

The busy summer season is upon us, and Archives staff and volunteers (many of whom are members of the Bruce County Genealogical Society) have been very busy assisting researchers visiting from across North America. The museum's new exhibits, Titanic and H.M.S. General Hunter / War of 1812, have also attracted new visitors to the Museum, many of whom have visited the Archives & Reading Room for the first time. Young families enjoy receiving colourful Family Tree forms, courtesy of the Bruce County Genealogical Society, and browsing through the Society's surname clipping binders to discover themselves, parents, grandparents, and/or great-grandparents, some of whom the children may never have met! This year, families are also taking advantage of the Bruce County newspapers on microfilm to browse local 1912 articles reporting on the Titanic.

Ann-Marie Collins, Archivist, is currently on maternity leave with her daughter, Clara May Collins, born on July 1, 2012. We are pleased to welcome Lisa Luscombe as Reading Room Attendant to assist in staffing the Reading Room and Archives during the first part of Ann-Marie's absence. We continue to be open Monday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please check our website for holiday hours. If you may need to access primary archival documents, such as tax rolls, deeds, and ledgers, on the weekends, please call during the week to make arrangements to have the appropriate materials pulled from the storage area for the weekend.

Feel free to call if you have any questions, comments or suggestions (519) 797-2080 or 1-866-318-8889, ext. 129.

Ann-Marie Collins, Archivist (on maternity leave)

Sue Schlorff, Archival Assistant

Deb Sturdevant, Archival Assistant

Lisa Luscombe, Reading Room Attendant

[www.brucemuseum.ca](http://www.brucemuseum.ca)

## Bruce County Genealogical Society-2012

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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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