Bruce Bulletin

Upcoming Meetings and Other Events

Date: Monday, September 8, 2014 at 7 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre.
Topic: TBA Check the website for details.

Date: October 2014 No Meeting

Date: Monday, November 24, 2014 at 1 pm
Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre
Topic: German Settlers by Patrick Kelly and Anne Goeden. Annual General Meeting to follow.

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer

Cemetery of the unknown ancestor.

Contents

Bruce County Tombstone Challenge
submitted by Marie Charbonneau

The idea for an activity to stimulate members' interest as well as that of the public was accepted at the December 2012 meeting. A News Release was submitted to seven County newspapers and to the Society newsletter, *Bruce Bulletin*. Eight categories were set. Replies were received for each one, a total of nineteen submissions. As agreed at the October Executive Meeting, all winners will receive a $15 gift certificate redeemable for Society membership or towards purchase of any publication. The officers of the Society were the judges.

The results of the last four categories are:

5. An epitaph known to be chosen by the person before death: Grace Robertson discovered by _Diane Ferris._

In Memory of Grace, beloved wife of the late Andrew Robertson.
Died Dec 23, 1892, Aged 5(?) years 8 mos.

The epitaph is a quote from the King James Bible at 2 Corinthians chapter 13, verse 11.

Grace had the quote changed from the scripture which starts, "Finally brethren." changing it to her own ...

"Dearest children, fairwell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you."
2 Cor. 11

6. The stone or epitaph most detailed about the person's life: John Kadahgegwon, as chosen by Lolly Fullerton.

As part of the cemetery committee I had the privilege of photographing the headstones and crosses at the Saugeen Cemetery. I luckily came across this headstone which greatly excited me and Sylvia Hasbury. Bill Fitzgerald and Angela Gunn came to assist with the translation.

This is the translation of the stone:

In memory of John Kadahgegwon. An illustrious chief, Born at Saugeen in 1805, died here Nov 23 1888, aged 83 years. Was chief at 9 years of age. Received silver medal from George III for loyalty during the war 1812. In 1840 he married Negauch Keshegogua who survived him. In 1849 at the death of Mataywal (abow) he was elected chief in his stead. He received a medal from HRH on his visit here in 1860.

Angela did more research and found out the following:

Please find Port Elgin Times November 29 1888 on microfilm at the BCM for details regarding the funeral. According to it, the funeral was the 22nd, the day before the headstone says he died. His Ojibway name translates to Spotted Feather. Details of the funeral ceremony and who was present is contained within the article, as well as even what songs were plated and how the casket was adorned. It seems that headstone details were taken from the newspaper.

"Born 1805, on the reserve over which he was chief, at the early age of 9 years he received a large silver medal from George III, in token of his loyalty during the troubles of 1812-1814. So it seems he was not chief at 9- the punctuation on the stone is misleading. Or we saw punctuation which was not there. I did not find any details about him as an hereditary chief.
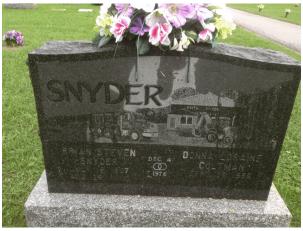
The newspaper also provides personal details- like the last 3 years of his life he was an invalid.

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He was married 50 years to Negauch (Nancy) and was elected chief in 1849. In 1885, David Root (young Levi's dad) was elected to replace him. His daughter had married John Elias, who was an interpreter.

"In all respects he was well-fitted to merit the esteem and reverence of his band. He was one of the last of his kind, connecting as he did, in his own person, the history of his race during four of the British throne, to which he was loyal in the highest measure, manifesting on all occasions a spirit of true devotion to his sovereign."

John Kadahgegwon, an industrious chief, born at Saugeen 1805, died here Nov. 23, 1888

7. The stone or epitaph most descriptive of the person's occupation: <u>Snyder</u> from *Marguerite Caldwell.*

The art work on this one portrayed the man's occupation as in construction.

8. The tombstone naming the most family members: <u>The Campbell Family</u> stone sent by *Denise & Dave Cheer.*

Tombstone naming 10 family members.

McLaughlin Story (a sequel to "Willie of the Hill" from the February Bruce Bulletin)
Submitted by Mary Mackay

On the last day of September, Margaret McLaughlin from Sudbury, Ontario came to spend the day with me looking for information about her McLaughlin ancestors. Her great-great grandfather was a brother of Sarah Jane McLaughlin who with her husband, William Rusk, were the first settlers to live on our farm (lot 7 Concession 10 Elderslie).

Margaret had a three-ring binder of well-documented information about her great-great grandfather, Charles McLaughlin, but knew very little about any of his siblings. She was surprised to learn that although Sarah Jane was thirteen years younger than Charles she had come to Elderslie Township two years before her brother, Charles, pioneered in Howick Township, Huron County.

I had several stories to share with her about Sarah Jane and William Rusk

William Rusk was twenty years old when his father, John Rusk and two brothers walked from "Muddy York" in Markham Township to Elderslie Township in the Queen's Bush and staked out a claim for 1000 acres, lots 3-7 on both sides of Concession 10. That was in 1852 before Elderslie was even opened for settlement.

The following June they returned and helped brush out the Tenth of Elderslie from the Elora Road to the Fifteen Sideroad. They built a shanty on Lot 6 and cleared a bit of land so the rest of the family could come the following spring. John Rusk and his wife Margaret Brown arrived in this bush country with seven children ranging in age from 20 to little Irwin who was not quite two A daughter Martha was born two years later.

William Rusk chose Lot 5 and built his log house at the top of a high hill on the southwest corner of the Five Sideroad and Concession 10. As soon as it was finished he scurried back to Bowmanville and married Sarah Jane McLaughlin in a double wedding with his sister Mary Ann Rusk who married William McLaughlin (Sarah Jane's cousin).

Fifty years and twenty-four children later the two couples celebrated their Golden Anniversary and the Paisley Advocate reported the celebration on October 12, 1904.

The two couples made their way to their new homes in the unbroken woods via Owen Sound. Their horses were the first to travel over the newly brushed out Elora Road from Burgoyne. There were only two shanties in Paisley (Orchard and Rowe) and one other shanty in Elderslie (Thomas Hembrough at Lockerby).

William and Sarah Jane faced pioneer life with pluck and indomitable spirit. William had about ten acres cleared by 1863 when he sold the 100-acre farm to Hector Cameron for $235. The next year Hector and his wife and five little children brought all their belongings from Edgely, York Township, near Toronto and William and Sarah Jane moved their young family of three boys and two girls to Lot 7 (two farms east). Here they built a "framed house" which 93 years later became my home when I married Jim MacKay and moved to the Tenth of Elderslie as a bride.

Not to be confused with a frame house, a framed house is a solidly built structure like the structure of a barn. The sills and framework are made of squared hardwood logs united by "tongue and grove" joints. Today, after 150 years and many renovations the house is the home of our son, Steve.

As well as clearing land and farming, William Rusk began a pump works business and in the field east of the lane we often uncovered bits and pieces of iron and metal.

In 1876 William and Sarah Jane sold the farm to John and Flora Lewis (my husband's great grandparents) and moved to Paisley with their family, which by now had grown to eleven. Another daughter was born after moving to Paisley.

William expanded his pump works, which became known as Paisley Pump Works and was very successful for many years.   He was a man of sound sense with strong convictions and a candid out-spoken temperament, practical in his ideas and independent in spirit. He served on the school

board, public library board and was on the village council for seven years from 1894 until 1900. He was an elder in Salem Church for ten years and Knox Presbyterian Church, Paisley for twenty-seven years. He also taught Sunday School.

Sarah Jane and William had twelve children. Two died young and the rest scattered to Hamilton and Millbrook in Ontario, and New York City, Philadelphia, North Dakota, Alaska and Louisiana in the US.

Sarah Jane died November 21, 1911 age 74 years 8 months, 27 days. William spent a year with his sons, George and Nelson in Fargo, N.D. before returning to Ontario to live with his oldest daughter, Abigail, Mrs. W. S. Given of Millbrook, where he died November 5, 1913 age 80 years and 8 months.

So my visitor was able to expand her info on her great grandfather's sister but Sarah Jane McLaughlin also had a brother known as "Willie of the Hill" that pioneered on the northeast corner of the Fifteen Sideroad and Concession 10 Elderslie.

What's in a Name? Did Our Ancestor Have a Chance to Make a Meaningful Choice? Libby Znaimer, VP of New on AM740 and Classical 96.3FM
Submitted by Marie Charbonneau

It's been a family joke for more than 30 years – ever since my brother Moses' Soviet-era visit to the small Czech border town that gave us our surname. Znojmo (Znoy-mo) – *Znaim* in German – is in Moravia, in a region famous for wine and pickles, and it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire when our ancestors purportedly lived there. After his 1976 visit, Moses came home with a kitschy bark plaque showing a view of the city and the heraldic coat of arms from the Znojmo Castle, which dates back to the 11th century. I describe the image on the crest as a crazed fire-breathing chicken. We christened it "The Znojmo Chicken," had it printed on stationary and used it as a logo for various family pursuits. The plaque hung in a place of pride in my parents' home, and it never failed to make us giggle, even though the circumstances of that first visit were anything but funny.

1. "It was the height of the post-Czech Spring repression and the locals were wary of us," Moses said. "We slept in our clothes because the hotel was without heat. The only source of warmth was mulled wine, the only food was schnitzel and pickled vegetables." I decided to go back this year, en route to Berlin, promising to pick up tacky souvenirs and pickles.

"My brothers are going to be very disappointed," I told my husband Doug as we got our first glimpse of the place, a postcard-pretty medieval town square. Our hotel was inside an old building up a hill – the Lahofer is a tasteful, ultramodern boutique with very good food and wine. "You are coming to Znojmo from Canada?'" asked the incredulous reception clerk.

This was my moment. I pulled out my passport, expecting hugs and high fives. "I am Znaimer!" I said excitedly, pointing to the picture page. She looked at me like I was an idiot. "That just means 'from Znojmo' in German," she told me. She wasn't the only one missing this point. I got the same response every time I tried to explain my connection to the place.

And I am starting to doubt there is much of a connection. The Jews were expelled from Znojmo in 1454 and not allowed back until 1848. Sure, there were exceptions. Wealthy businessmen could purchase the privilege of residency at great expense. I doubt our family fit that bill. And we wouldn't have used a last name until much later. The Habsburg Emperor Joseph II decreed that Jews had to adopt German surnames as of 1788. He gave them four months' notice. Back then, it must have taken much of that time for the news of the decree to reach towns like Znojmo. Did our ancestor have a chance to make a meaningful, well-thought-out choice or was it a last-minute lark, just to beat the deadline? Was this person, some 10 generations back, actually from Znaim, or did the moniker hark back to an even older family story about a distant past in this pleasant, prosperous hillside town?

There is a "new" Jewish cemetery in Znojmo that dates from the 1860s. But by then, the Znaimers were well-ensconced in Latvia, which is where my father came from. None of us have visited his hometown, Kuldiga, or my mother's, Dobienke, Poland. That's not surprising, given that they told us almost nothing about these places. My mother

worked in a Soviet munitions plant when the Germans attacked Poland in 1939. She was evacuated with the entire factory and so became the only one in her family who survived the war. When the Germans entered Latvia, my father stole a bicycle and took off. He and his sister, who had left before the war, were the only survivors in their family. My parents met when their escape routes converged in the USSR's Central Asian republics. We grew up keenly aware that the Holocaust was the central event in our family's life – both its destruction in Europe and renewal in Canada.

So what exactly is in our name? I was struck by a very different war-era name change that was on display in the Jewish Museum in Berlin. German-Jewish men who managed to escape and join the British armed forces were required to adopt English names. The display showed unceremoniously recorded, handwritten index cards. That's how, the exhibit explained, one such man named Wilhelm Oppenheimer became William Oakfield. If his story isn't passed down, future generations will hit a dead end when they research "Oakfield." It is surely the same for the Znaimers and so many of the rest of us in this nation of immigrants.

Bellamona Farm at the Top of Concession 12 Bruce Township

The first settlers on lot 35 Concession 13, Bruce Township were Charles Young Kissack and his bride "Betsy" Carmode from the Isle of Man, an island in the Irish Sea located almost equidistant from Scotland, England and Ireland. In Celtic times it was known as Mona. In faith, hope and pride this young couple named their bush-covered 160 acre farm in Bruce Township Bellamona which meant "Pretty Girl", a favourite place on the Isle of Man and bravely began a life-time of toil and hardship.

Charles Kissack was an infant in 1835 when his parents and two-year-old brother sailed for America. They arrived in New York City where a sister, Sarah, was born. When Charles was nine years old his mother died and his father moved his family to the Fergus area of Ontario where other immigrants from the Isle of Man had settled.

At the age of 12, Charles ran away to sea but by 1848 he and his father were teaming freight on the Garafraxa Road between Fergus and Owen Sound. Here he met and worked for Thomas Orchard of Orchardville and later Paisley. After several years of working for Thomas Orchard and other pioneer settlers to the Queen's Bush Charles was able to purchase his own farm.

On April 3, 1855 at 21 years of age Charles purchased lot 35, Con 13 Bruce Township from Thomas Orchard. It was three miles west of Paisley as the crow flies but much farther on land due to hills and hollows and bluffs of Willow Creek.

Charles built a shanty and began clearing enough land for his first crop. He was saving his money in a sock for a trip back to the Isle of Man to find a bride but thieves stole his savings and delayed his plans for two years. However by June 1857 he was on the island of his birth wooing a fisherman's daughter who was eager for adventure. After a short courtship he and Elizabeth "Betsy "Cormode were on their way to Canada. The trip in the hold of a dirty, louse-infected sailing ship with no cabins took three months. Fresh water became scarce and the food turned rancid before they finally arrived in New York City in September 1857.

From New York Charles and Betsy made their way up the Hudson River to Albany. They stopped for a while at Poughkeepsie where Charles worked with the Poughkeepsie Iron Works to make a bit of money. Their journey continued along the Erie Canal to Buffalo, then on to Dundas in Upper Canada (later Ontario). From Dundas they followed the Brock Road to Guelph and then Fergus. The Great North Road (Garafraxa) took them to Arthur and north through Orchardville to Durham. From there just a trail went west into the Queen's Bush.

Charles left Betsy in Orchardville (between Mount Forest and Durham) and went ahead to ready his shanty for their arrival. It was winter by the time he returned. Since they were proceeding from there by ox team and jumper, winter was the best time to travel so the

young couple ventured forth. Charles drove the oxen and Betsy guided the cow behind the jumper hauling all their precious belongings. In places the snow was very deep. To rest her weary feet sometimes Betsy rode the cow. Her apparel was not suitable for such an adventure. At times her hoop skirt froze and stuck straight out like a sail. After a short stop in Paisley they finally arrived at their shanty, happy and optimistic to be home. Like other pioneer settlers their spirits were buoyed up by the prospect of owning one-hundred-acres of virgin land for little more than the effort of clearing it. In the "Old Country" only wealthy people owned property. They were going to be wealthy!

The log shanty Charles built was 18'x20'. It had a fireplace for heat, cooking and light. What scanty furniture they had was homemade. A lean-to provided shelter for their cow. Water to drink and wash came from a small stream in the second field back west of the house. In the spring they began clearing more land and piled the logs for burning. Wild game and pigeons were plentiful and they planted potatoes for winter.

The summer of 1858 a great disaster hit. No rain fell from June 23 to August 11. The result was an utter crop failure for all the settlers. The potatoes and wheat that Charles and Betsy planted in the spring never grew. Betsy scoured the bush for cow cabbage to satisfy their hunger. When fall came they had no harvest and therefore no food to get them through the winter. They had to rely on deer, wild geese and pigeons. All over the county the settlers were facing starvation.

However this famine turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The combined County Council of Huron- Bruce issued debentures for eight thousand five hundred pounds The money was used to buy food and seed grain which in turn was given to the men as payment for road work. The result was food in the bellies of the people and over forty miles of roads were opened in Bruce Township alone. Charles Kissack walked all the way to Goderich, a distance of over sixty miles, returning with a bag of wheat scrapings on his back to be used for planting the next spring.

The greatest event in Charles and Betsy's life in the Starvation Year was the birth of their first child, Catherine. "Cassie" arrived on September 17, 1858. The following year brought bumper crops and Charles worked on the roads to supplement their income.

A second child, Susan Jane, was born on April 21, 1860, the year the Garafraxa Road which he teamed on as a young man, was gravelled.

November 20, 1861 Sarah Elizabeth Kissack was born. The population of Bruce County was 27,000. Industries were growing in Paisley. Their standard of living was improving because   Charles could buy products from the looms, foundry and sawmills of the village.

September 3, 1863 the first baby boy was born at Bellamona Farm. Charles William known as "Will" Kissack arrived. With four children it became necessary to add a lean-to on the house and a proper stairway to the attic to provide more sleeping area.

Frances Isabel Kissack was born December 29 1865, Earlier that year the combined County Council of Huron / Bruce County began gravelling roads.

Charles and Betsy's sixth child, Prudence Sophia, was born Nov. 5, 1867, the year of Confederation and the year Bruce County finally agreed where to establish the county town and were allowed to form their own County Council.

Mary Caroline Kissack who was born in 1868, sadly, died before she was four years old.

Sadie Elizabeth Kissack, born December 27, 1870, was the eighth child to be born at Bellamona Farm. Already there was talk of land for a railway being surveyed off the back of the farm. By the time Anne Rebecca was born in 1873 the wood-burning Iron Horse was making its daily run through the back of the farm hauling freight and passengers. The advent of the train changed the life of the farmer, bringing markets closer and establishing contact with the outside world.

On March 23, 1873 the last baby, John Thomas Mathias "Jack" Kissack, was born. With nine children in the family the house was bursting at the seams and it was necessary to build a new house.

In 1875 disaster descended on Bellamona Farm! While working on the new house the scaffolding collapsed and Charles fell from the roof and broke both hips leaving him a cripple for the rest of his long life. Will who was only twelve took over the operation of the farm.

In 1876 it was necessary to place a $1000 mortgage on Bellamona to pay off arrears before securing the Crown Deed. There was still a mortgage in 1900 when Charles and Betsy moved to Paisley. Their son Will and his wife Edith McClinton took over Bellamona Farm.

Charles Kissack died on April 14, 1916 at 82 years of age. His loving partner, Betsy, died five years later, on June 14, 1921. They were buried in Paisley Cemetery far from the place of their birth on the Isle of Man. Bellamona farm passed from their son to a grandson thus remaining in the Kissack family for over a century.

Information courtesy Mona MacLean a great-granddaughter of Charles Kissack and Betsy Carmode. Mona and her husband Kenneth Bruce MacLean live retired in Port Elgin.

Here is an email I received recently:

I really hope that you can help me out. I have been trying to locate a copy of this newsletter for a cousin in Scotland. I have exhausted any possibilities in Hamilton and when I was in Goderich this week checked with their genealogy center. Close - they had back to 2013 but nothing before that. Is there any place where I can get a reprint of this newsletter or, even better, an e-copy? I will be back in Huron and Bruce Counties in three weeks - any help would be appreciated. The resource needed is an article about James Bone-Christina Scott family "His career as a currier 1829 - 1903" Bruce Bulletin Vol 22 issue 3 August 2011.

Here is the reply I received. Nice to be acknowledged for the work we do...

Just got a note from my cousin in Scotland saying how much he appreciated getting the article. He said: "I had some information about James Bone and his family from a Bone descendant who had researched the family in the 1970s. This article fills in a lot of gaps that I did not know. James Bone was a brother of my 2x great grandfather David (1825 - 1898) who was also a currier and an apprentice in Beith." Thanks again - your efforts were appreciated.

The article was originally submitted by Mary MacKay.