

BRUCE BULLETIN
THE BRUCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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Please visit our Bruce County Genealogical Society Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Bruce-County-Genealogical-Society-2009809595970720>

and our Bruce County Genealogical Society website:

<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently I had the pleasure of talking, at length, with a long-time member of the Chesley Legion. The reason for my visit to her home was to scan photos of World War 1 and 2 soldiers in order to create Veterans Memorial Banners for the town's main street.

As we sorted and I listened to stories of the men she knew, I was amazed at what she could recall about so many. But I soon learned why she talked about them as if it were yesterday. A teenager when the "boys" came back she, along with her community, were welcoming not just soldiers but sons, friends and neighbours home. Chesley was not a big town so, of course, she knew them!

I told her she needed to be videoed as she talked but because there wasn't time to organize that before I left for Florida, I pleaded with her to take time this winter to write down her stories. I can't wait for spring, when I can see her again, in the hopes that she put pen to paper.

It struck me later that there are fewer and fewer people, like her, still with us. People who can tell us what our parents and grandparents didn't think to say and what we didn't know to ask. Time is running out, so if you haven't already made it your mission to document your family history with someone who knows it, then what better time than now!

Wishing you all the best,

Glenys

Membership Matters – Feb 2023

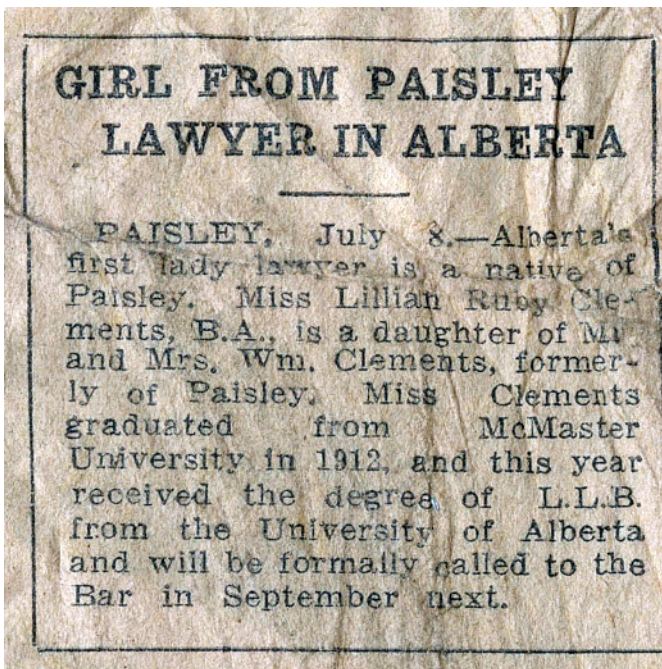
A reminder, if you haven't renewed your membership yet you can e-transfer, or use the form which was included in the last edition. We're looking forward to learning the Bruce County connections of our newest members: Ashley Gaumont, Don Greer, Allison Kirk-Montgomery, Kent Kraemer, Lezanne Montgomery-Seunik, Flo and Fraser Pringle, Cindy Regier, Barb Roy, Theresa Stade and The Owen Sound North Grey Union Library.

<https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/membership/>

INDEX

President's Message.....	Pg 1
Membership Matters.....	Pg 2
Paisley's Lillian Ruby Clements.....	Pg 3 - 6
- Archivist BCM&CC	
Is Donald A McLeod a son of my great grandparents.....	Pg 7 - 8
– Ann Savage	
February Webinar.....	Pg 8
March Webinar.....	Pg 9
April Webinar / Workshop.....	Pg 9
May In Person & Webinar.....	Pg 10
Military coffee chats.....	Pg 10
Promise & Tragedy - Glenys Johnson.....	Pg 11 - 13
A Joke to Brighten Your Day.....	Pg 13
“A WEE BIT OF HISTORY” - Sylvia Hasbury.....	Pg 14 - 16
Genealogy Disaster Plan from Bryan Mulcahy	Pg 16

**Paisley's Lillian Ruby Clements (1886-1956):
Pioneer for Women in Law in Alberta**
by Bruce County Archives
at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre



A small July 9, 1915 "London Advertiser" newspaper clipping with headline "Girl from Paisley Lawyer in Alberta" proclaims that former Paisley-area resident Lillian Ruby Clements had become the first "lady lawyer" in Alberta. The article indicates that she was the daughter of William Clements; she graduated from McMaster University in 1912; received her LLB degree from University of Alberta in 1915; and was to be called to the Alberta Bar in September 1915. This inspired curiosity about Lillian's life in Paisley, and led to some genealogical research. It's interesting to imagine what influences and support this young person may have experienced in Bruce County during her formative years, eventually leading her to become a trailblazer for women

in the legal field.

First, we discovered a five-year-old Lily Ruby Clements in the 1891 census, daughter of farmer William and Lucy Clements, residing in Elderslie Township in a 1.5 storey wood house with four rooms. She was the second-youngest of five siblings. Next, we confirmed her exact residence location. As no agricultural census was available for 1891 ([Library and Archives Canada](#) provides information about the various surviving schedules to each census), we consulted the 1895 Bruce County Directory, which listed a William Clements (receiving mail at Paisley Post Office) in Elderslie Township on Concession A, Lot 24. (You may view a list of some of the directories available to consult online on [BCM&CC's useful links page](#); and those available to view in the Research Room are described [here in Online Collections.](#))

We used Bruce County's [online interactive maps](#) to determine that the Con. A., Lot 24 property is on Bruce Road 3, just north of Paisley, Ontario.

To learn more about family life on the farm, we checked for details in the 1892 Elderslie Township tax assessment roll (available to view in the Research Room.) This confirmed that Lillian was growing up on a mixed farm, with her father owning both of lots 24 and 25 on Concession A. 80 acres had been cleared for farming on each of the two lots, which also housed 40 cattle, 22 sheep 1 hog and 6 horses. The family maintained three acres of orchard/garden, and 18 acres of fall wheat.

Wondering how long the family lived there, we used the “Historical Books” (Abstract Parcel Register books) on Onland.ca, to discover that William purchased the lots in 1879, and sold the property through a Deed signed in March 1901. Using the instrument number for the deed of sale on the Abstract, we located a copy of the deed here in the Archives; this document confirmed that the William who owned this property was married to a woman named Lucy, confirming that this is Lillian’s family. Further vital statistic searches confirmed that 1879 was the year in which William (of Elderslie Township) and Lucy Chisholm (of Culross Township) married in Teeswater at the ages of 21 and 24 respectively. Their daughter Lillian was born in 1886, so we know that she lived on this farm during her public school years.

In pursuing information about Lillian’s schooling, the Assessment Roll noted that the family was part of School Section 7 in Elderslie Township. The Elderslie and Saugeen Township history books confirmed that the school section later became known as Saugeen-Elderslie Township United School Section No. 7 & 8, located on Highway 3 (a.k.a. Elora Road), north of Paisley very close to the Clements farm. The School Board has deposited its historic school attendance registers at the BCM&CC; unfortunately, the register for this school during the 1890s time period is not among the collection. Nor do we currently have any class photographs from that time period. Lillian would have been 15 in 1901 when the farm property was sold, and would have been able to continue her education beyond public school at the Continuation School



This is a photograph of the schoolhouse
(from the Bruce County Genealogical Society’s “Schools” binders).

opened in 1897 in the public school building in Paisley, which likely provided classes up to Grade 10. Paisley made several requests to County Council for designation as a High School District in 1872, 1887, and 1891, but never received the necessary consent and/or would not agree to an increase in taxation to support the service. How could a young girl ever dream of entering the legal profession without access to a High School education?

When the Continuation School began in 1897, Principal W.I. Chisholm took charge without hiring an extra teacher, thereby saving the expense. (We have not yet determined whether he was a relative of Lillian's maternal family).

A look at Lillian's parents and maternal grandparents gives a glimpse of influences which may have supported Lillian in completing her education beyond the norms at that time. The names of her grandparents were confirmed by examining her parents' marriage registration on Ancestry.ca: farmer James and Mary Jane Chisholm of the Township of Culross on her maternal side and farmer William and Mary Ann Clements of Elderslie Township on her father's side. The 1871 census shows that Lillian's father was the third eldest of eight children, and only one sibling, eight-year-old James, was attending school at that time. 13-year old William, his two older and next youngest sisters were not listed as attending school, and were likely working hard on the farm. On her maternal side, Lillian's mother Lucy, who was 16 years old and the oldest of seven children, was attending school, along with her four siblings aged 6 to 14. We learn from "The History of the Elderslie of Township, 1851-1977" that she became a teacher, and the booklet "Some Sketches of School Section No. 9, Elderslie Township, Bruce County, Ontario" provides some insightful details about Lillian's mother: "He [teacher Mr. Harron] engaged Miss Lucy Chisholm of Paisley to finish out the year [when he was compelled to return home in September 1876 due to illness in the family]. ... This young woman was the kind of teacher who took her work seriously. She was a very competent business woman and organized her school work effectively. Her methods of discipline were different from those of her predecessor, and she could be firm without losing her temper. The effect on the school was good and the attendance increased, reaching what was, as far as I know, the high water mark for S.S. No. 9. ... an attendance of 88 which likely was the maximum. This was a heavy school but she carried it through with satisfaction to all."

Finally, we sought to determine when the family left the area. The 1901 census (which was taken in March of that year) revealed Lillian Ruby Clements, listed as "Rubbie", living in the village of Paisley with her mother and four siblings. (It seems that she was generally known as Ruby from that point on). Her mother was not listed as a widow, so we began further searches with a theory that her father may have already moved to establish a residence elsewhere. We searched the Paisley Advocate newspapers in our new Bruce County Historic Newspapers website - <https://newspapers.brucemuseum.ca/>. Using the "Additional Search Options" we narrowed our search for the keyword "Clement" to the year 1901 and the Paisley Advocate paper, and discovered one article right on point!

The August 15, 1901 issue contained a notice in the “Personal” column indicating that “Mrs. W.J. Clements and family left on Tuesday for Edmonton, where they will reside in future, and where Mr. Clements will join them shortly. The latter is still in the Klondike, but has decided to locate at Edmonton when he has had enough of the gold country. The people of Paisley are sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Clements and their interesting young family as fellow citizens.”

The adjective “interesting” caught our attention, as a young woman like Ruby who would eventually pursue a then male-dominated profession may have been considered interesting in her community, but further searches of the newspaper to date have not shed any more light on the children of the family. It may be possible to discover more about the family by reading additional issues of the Paisley newspaper, as the newspaper website search function is not 100% accurate due to the software limitations, font and condition of some of the digitized newspapers.

Our “Clement” search, however, did reveal a July 27, 1899 article about the father, mentioning that he and four other men “have arrived home from the Klondike. They have been away since Feb. 1898 and have done fairly well on the trip.” Another unexpected article was discovered in the September 1, 1929 Paisley Advocate, 28 years after the family left the area. “Golden Wedding in the West” begins “Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Clements, formerly of Paisley district, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding at their home in Vegreville Alta.” The article advised that they settled at Strathcona (which later became Edmonton, Alberta) in 1901, moving to Old Vegreville, later that year and opening the general store there. The article mentions that Ruby married Chester D. Gainer of Edmonton.

For more information and resources about Lillian Ruby Clements after her move from the area, see her [Online Collections biography page](#) (accessed through the People section on the Term Search page).

We are planning to add an article about Ruby to www.brucemuseum.ca/artefacts/ in the spring this year, and would welcome contact from anyone with additional information about the Bruce County experiences of her or her family – archives@brucecounty.on.ca or **Archivist Deb Sturdevant 226-909-2426**.



The Legal Archives Society of Alberta
2001-0100-LillianRubyClements
<https://legalarchives.ca/project/women> -

IS DONALD A MCLEOD A SON OF MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS?

By Ann (McLeod) Savage

My name is Ann (McLeod) Savage. I recently retired from fulltime work, leaving me with time to pursue a previously latent interest in my family tree. I was born a McLeod in Sault Ste. Marie Ontario but grew up with no contact with any McLeod relatives. All I knew was that my father's parents were named Alexander Charles McLeod and Annie Siddon and that my father had brothers named Bill and Bert. I knew that my grandfather was born in Kincardine, Ontario and that he was a stone mason and building contractor responsible for constructing some of the major stone buildings in Sault Ste. Marie.

I joined Ancestry and began to find out more about the family on my own and with invaluable help from owners of related family trees. I discovered many cousins, including some that were quite closely related. I reached out to one cousin who had a very small family tree showing that her father was Allan McLeod. This was a mystery to me because I had not come across an Allan McLeod anywhere in the family tree at that point and yet this cousin was quite closely connected to me. I reached out to her, as owner of her family tree, to ask if she had any more information. It turned out that she did not. She found out the name of her biological father only later in life, when her mother was elderly and the man she knew as her father had passed away.

After much searching and poking around on Ancestry and other genealogical sites, and after following many false leads, I found a Donald A McLeod who was married in Michigan in 1899 and died there in 1901. These records mentioned that he was born in Canada in 1874 and that his parents were Donald McLeod and Margaret McLeod, matching the names of my great grandparents, whose surnames were the same. His death record mentioned that his body was sent to Kincardine, Ontario for burial. I found that Donald A had a son named Allan Trudell McLeod, who had a son named Allan D McLeod, and that they ended up in California, which is where my mystery cousin was born. Donald A did not appear with the family in the 1881 census. In the 1891 census, by which time Margaret had died, there is a Daniel McLeod (Donald and Daniel can be used interchangeably) with father Donald and brother Archibald, both of whom matched our family. All of these clues seemed to indicate a connection but, in my mind, we did not yet have definitive proof.



I was browsing the website for the Bruce County Genealogical Society one day and noticed that, for a modest fee of \$25 to cover expenses of copying etc., they were willing to conduct further research on a genealogical question by referring to the paper records. I reached out to them and asked if there was any way to prove that Donald A was indeed the son of our Donald and Margaret. After quite a bit of searching and some dialogue back and forth, they discovered that, although there did not seem to be a headstone for him, Donald A was buried in the McLeod/McDonald (Margaret's mother was a McDonald) family plot, along with other family members. That provided the proof we had been missing and confirmed that Donald A/Daniel was indeed a missing piece from the puzzle of our family tree. It also solved the mystery of how our newly discovered cousin is connected to us and she can begin to learn about her roots.

The editor contacted Ann and did some research on ancestry and CanGen Cemetery Project. Then Erin Netzke, one of our members, phoned the Kincardine Municipal office and went to the cemetery. She found this:

According to our records, we have the following information on this McLeod family plot in the Kincardine Cemetery in Block F-L45-G01:

Donald McLeod: Inter 2/21/1901

Donald McLeod: Inter 2/12/1898

The original and still current owner is listed as: Donald McLeod (McDonald)

Thanks to **Jessica Catto**, Operations and Cemeteries Administrative Assistant, Municipality of Kincardine

If you know more about the McLeods, please email Ann at anncsavage@gmail.com

FEBRUARY WEBINAR- OnLand from a Genealogy Perspective - Ken McKinlay

As a follow-up from last year's "Finding Them on the Ground in Ontario" presentation Ken will be continuing on this theme with his talk "OnLand from a Genealogy Perspective". Once we know where our ancestors lived the next step is to see if we can find the land records such as deeds and even wills. In this presentation we will be taking a look at the Ontario Land Property Records Portal, AKA OnLand, to help us research where our ancestors lived. We look at the various historical books, try to find



a property in an urban area, and even walk through placing an order for an instrument.

Date and Time: Feb 13, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register by clicking on this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HPZhnAtjQmSpAxdAoLHf6A

Or email bcgswebinars@gmail.com and I'll sign you up. As members of Bruce County Genealogical Society you can view Ken's last year presentation on the Members Page under Webinars.

MARCH WEBINAR- Mary Kinder – her story from Ireland to Canada

March 13, 2023| 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Virtual (via Zoom)

Deb McAuslan, the chair of Huron Branch, OGS will share Mary's story from her birth in 1776 in Ireland to her death in 1878 in Ontario. She will provide a brief review of Irish history and share what resources she found helpful in finding information. Mary is her 3rd great Aunt.

Please email BCGSwebinars@gmail.com to attend.



Leap Castle - Mary and her husband lived on the grounds as he was a groundskeeper
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leap_Castle

OR register by clicking this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vCMU1cZQQbiXOwEsj5fNUQ

APRIL WEBINAR/ IN PERSON - BCGS Family History & Genealogy Workshop Tuesdays April 18, 2023 - May 30, 2023 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

During this seven week workshop the Bruce County Genealogy Society will cover the following topics: How to start your family history; Where to find records: at home, in Archives, at Family History Centres & Online; Organizing your materials; DNA Testing; How to find military and land records; Preserving family records and photos; Publishing your genealogy; and Organizing a family reunion.

Preregistration : \$75 (to be paid on the first night) Pre-registration is required 519-797-2080 or brucemuseum.ca

For more information about these workshops, join us for a

FREE introduction to family history on Tuesday, April 11, at 7:00PM.

Pre-registration is required 519-797-2080 or brucemuseum.ca for in person workshop or if you want to come to the Free Introduction to Family History please register for Zoom Virtual Meeting:

Please email bcswebinars@gmail.com to attend.

OR register by clicking this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r xvNv94MSfGON-55xxUQVQ

May Webinar: The Germans in Bruce County

We are delighted to welcome back Pat Kelly. His presentation will cover conditions in Germany that led to mass emigration, early German emigration to Canada, the trek from Waterloo County to The Bruce, persecution of German Canadians during and after World War 1, and effects of that up to the present.



Date: May 8 at 7pm ET

Location: BCM & CC 33 Victoria St N, Southampton, ON N0H 2L0

In-person: Space is limited; Pre-registration is required 519-797-2080 or brucemuseum.ca and go to events and register.

Virtual: For Zoom link, email the Bruce County Genealogical Society: BCGSwebinars@gmail.com

or click on the link below to register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ojdhdsHQTsWrvTtH8hIDbA

"Professor" Heinrich Borschmann, actually pictured in Dunkeld Hotel. He was a German national, expelled from Germany before WWI for making unflattering remarks about the Kaiser.



For Bruce County Genealogical Society members only

Military coffee chats

Jan Briggs-McGowan invites you to scheduled Zoom meetings. Come chat with other members of BCGS about anything military related. Talk about your military research, battlefields and burials, ask a question, share your passion for a military ancestor, anything at all. No agenda, just friends getting together for a coffee and a chat. They will be held the first Wednesday of every month.

Check out <https://brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca/>

Promise & Tragedy

Written by: Glenys Johnson

Five families of Currie's and four families of Shaw's called Lot 65, Prince Edward Island home in 1841. Many more families with ancestral connections to Colonsay, Scotland immigrated to Prince Edward Island in the early to mid 1800's. Common family names in addition to Currie and Shaw were Darrach, MacLean, MacNeil, Bell, MacPhee and MacEachern, just to name a few.

Neil Currie and his wife Ann McDonald Bell (1804-1892) were young and saw a future in staying behind close to Neil's sister Jean (1806-1890) and her husband Malcolm Shaw (1801-1890) at Balevurich. But as life on Colonsay held less and less promise, the two families, no doubt encouraged by family on PEI, made the decision to leave. Jean and Malcolm had three children before emigrating. My 2x great-grandmother, Sarah (Shaw) Hammond (1845-1912) was born on Colonsay.

Malcolm Bell Currie, Neil and Anne's third child, was born in 1847 on Colonsay. Its safe to say that the two families didn't immigrate to PEI until after 1847. Information I received from Mary MacKay suggested that it was 1848.

I have been unable to determine where on Lot 65 the families located but I do know that Neil took to the water as a deck hand aboard a boat ferrying between Canso Point, Nova Scotia and Charlottetown, PEI. Jean and Malcolm stayed a short time before relocating to Mariposa Twp., Victoria Co., where their daughter Margaret Ann (1850-1892) was born. Its hard to say why Jean and Malcolm left but perhaps the sudden, tragic death of her brother Neil was reason enough.

Royal Gazette, July 30, 1850:

FATAL ACCIDENT - The Ferry Boat plying between Canso Point and Charlottetown, was upset on Thursday, the 25th inst., in a squall of wind about midway between the two places, and immediately sank; on board of which were John Johnston, the Ferry - man, his lad Francis Murphy, Hugh Curry, of the West River, and Neil Curry, of Nine Mile creek; the latter of whom was drowned. The following particulars we have from Mr. Johnston, the Ferry - man, he states, that the Boat on leaving the Ferry Wharf at Rocky Point, made a tack for the purpose of laying her course for Charlottetown, she put about and was steering for her point with a reef in her sails. At the moment of the squall,



Glenys' ggg parents Malcolm Shaw and Jean Currie, (Neil's sister)

Hugh Curry, having the fore sheet in his hand, and Johnston the helm, and mainsheet; they both let go, but the squall having struck her on the main-sail, she heeled over and took in water over the lee-quarter, filled and immediately went down. Johnston at first caught the tiller and a piece of wood but afterwards succeeded in getting an oar. He saw the lad Murphy and Hugh Curry in possession of another oar, and Neil Curry the deceased laying on his back in the water. He saw the only chance of escape without help was to aim for Canso Point, for which he made an effort followed by Hugh Curry, and the lad Murphy, Neil Curry he saw no more. After being some time in the water, he observed a boat making out from the North Point towards the spot where the boat had been upset, and they were then inspired with the hope of a rescue, they hallowed but the boat being to the windward, and a mile distant, their cries were not heard, and she returned without affording them any assistance. They began to despair, and their energies to flag, from disappointment; by this time, they had passed Canso Point, and had been upwards of an hour in the water. They continued however to shout, and at length their cries were fortunately heard by Mr. Hugh McKinnon, who, with his father, immediately put out a boat, and saved them from their perilous situation. The fate of the boat having been observed from Town, great excitement and anxiety existed, as to the names and fate of those who were on board at the time of the accident, and Mr. Tremain very promptly, and kindly lent the Steam Boat Isla to a number of gentlemen, for the purpose of rendering assistance, but she did not reach the scene of the disaster in time to be of service. On the return to Town of the Isla, the wharfs were crowded with people, many of whom were intensely anxious to know whether any of their families or friends had been on board, and much relief was afforded, on the information that so few persons had left the opposite shore in the boat. Neil Curry, the deceased, is represented to have been a steady industrious man, and leaves a wife and seven children to mourn their loss.



Antique Map of Prince Edward Island - Lot 65, Queens County - 1880 Large Rare Handcol-

On the following day, Friday, the boat was got up, and a few yards distant from it, the body of Curry was found. The remains were brought to Town, and in the evening a coroner's Inquest was held, and a Verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

<https://www.islandregister.com/shippingnotes.html>

The Islander – Aug. 2, 1850

Fatal Accident – the Ferry Boat plying between Canso Point (Nova Scotia) and Charlottetown (PEI), was upset on Thursday, the 25th inst., in a squall of wind about midway between the two places, and immediately sank; on board of which were John Johnston, the Ferry man, his lad Francis Murphy, Hugh Curry, of the West River, and Neil Curry, of Nine Nile (sic Mile) Creek; the former three persons after being in the water for nearly an hour, having two oars of the boat to assist them, were picked up by a boat from Warren Farm, the latter person, Neil Curry, while swimming for the shore, unfortunately sank and was drowned. We understand that Curry was a very steady and industrious man, and leaves a wife and small family to mourn his loss. Immediately on the accident being known in Town, Mr. Tremain very promptly and kindly lent the Steam Boat Isla to a number of gentlemen for the purpose of rendering assistance, but the Boat did not reach the place of disaster in time to be of service.

www.islandregister.com/rjreiddeaths.html

As the newspaper articles indicate, Ann was left with seven children to mourn the loss of a husband and father. My research has only been able to find six children, the last, daughter Flora Jane was born on January 1851. Ann remarried around 1855. Her second husband was Malcom Shaw (1806-1892), very likely a cousin to my Malcolm Shaw. She and Malcolm had two sons.

Malcolm and Jean (Currie) Shaw moved to Elderslie Twp., as land became available and purchased Lot 31, Con. 5. Malcolm and Ann McDonald (Bell) (Currie) Shaw left PEI too. They were in Elderslie Twp. by 1871 but made a move to Stayner by 1881. In their later years Malcolm and Ann returned to Paisley to live with daughter Flora Jane.

Both couples are buried in St. Andrews Presbyterian Cemetery in Elderslie Township.



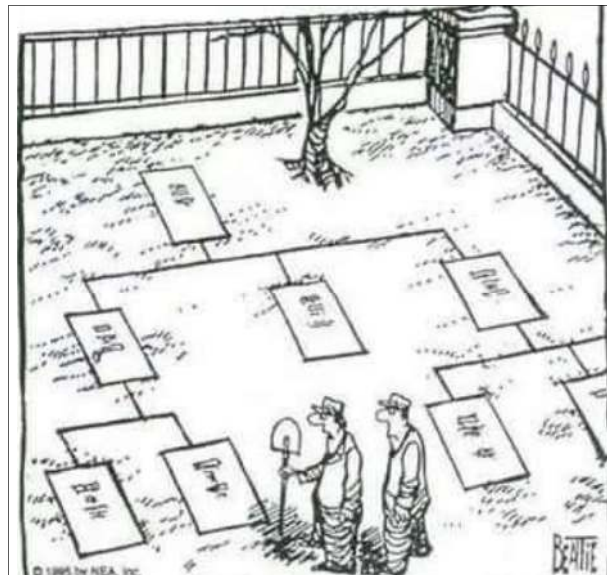
Malcolm (2nd husband) and Ann Bell, (Neil's wife)

A Joke to brighten your day

Mary Schwass, a member, sent me this

“Some family actually laid out their plots like this.”

This made me think!



“A WEE BIT OF HISTORY”

Strawberry Box Houses by Sylvia Hasbury

During and after World War Two the Canadian Federal government built homes for the scores of people who had relocated to cities to work in war-related industries such as munitions, ship and airplane building factories. Workers from across Canada and the world poured into cities, towns and villages offering war work expanding their work forces from 10 to 20 per cent. Known officially as “Victory Housing” these one and two storey houses were designed to be sturdy and economical. Many are still in existence in the twenty-first century,

The effects of the great depression of the 1930's carried into the early 1940's. Rental housing, if it existed was old and/or very run down. Jobs in rural areas were still very limited and hard to come by. So when ads appeared in local newspapers offering war work to men and women many people jumped at the chance.



Wartime House in Vancouver

Commonly referred to as an “Industrial Army” some found rental accommodation, some slept in their cars, some boarded with extended family or friends. Another problem arising out of this housing shortage was that employees were switching to war companies in other cities and towns trying to improve their living conditions. Though there were enough people eagerly seeking work, training a new employee takes time and costs money.

To solve the housing shortage the federal government created a crown corporation called Wartime Housing Limited. It was under the umbrella of the Veterans Land Act passed July 20th 1942 with the idea that returning soldiers and their families at the end of the war could use these houses as well. During the war they solved the housing shortage for war workers.

Between 1941 and 1947 this corporation built four different designs:

H1-with 4 rooms

H2 – with 4 rooms. This was basically the same H1 only reversed

H12 – 6 rooms, H12 – 6 rooms, 2 Storey

H-22- 6 rooms with larger living room and front porch.

The H12 design was nicknamed the Strawberry Box House because the shape of it reminded people of boxes used for strawberries. These houses were built by the assembly line method of mass production. A method perfected and promoted by Henry Ford. Most of the war time factories were using this method to construct ships, planes, personnel carriers at amazing rates. To accomplish the construction of this project, these houses were built with non essential (non war) materials. They were mass produced, had no basements and were generally built in groups of 200, 500 or 1000 houses at a time. Though smaller groups of houses also were also built. Some construction materials were prefabricated. Everything needed to complete a house was delivered to building site . On average it took 36 hours to construct a house.



Strawberry House

By 1947 38,000 houses had been built across Canada in cities, towns and villages. Many were built on open land within walking distance of a war related plants where people were employed. The lot sizes were usually large relative to the house size so renters could plant a Victory Garden.



Wartime House in Toronto

Many of these houses were prefabricated in factories and then shipped to building sites. In some locations, war time houses were slotted into groups of five or six on an existing street. In bigger towns and cities whole subdivisions were totally laid out with wartime houses.



Wartime Houses in Ajax, Ontario

In 1975 my husband and I bought our first house. Both from the Toronto area there was no way we could afford to buy a house even as far away as Milton. A friend who had bought an old house in Hespeler (now Cambridge) suggested we look around the area. In 1975 we bought a single story wartime house for \$29,000 on an existing street in the Preston part of Cambridge, Ontario.

In his blog Real Estate Salesman Tim Matthews at timmatthews.ca explains to new, young home buyers the history of war time houses and the current prices. "In Owen Sound, the most popular spots for wartime homes are along 5th and 6th Street East. Wartime homes have been some of the hottest properties on the market in 2021 and they have been selling firm on average in 6 days. The average price is \$358,863 (as of July 2021), but a lot of them have been selling quite a bit over the asking price."

Built first as temporary rental units costing in a range of \$22 to \$32, per month, by 1947 the government started to encourage tenants to buy their rental home.

Sources

1. Strawberry Box Houses, Wikipedia, Retrieved, September 3, 2021.
2. Veterans' Land Act 20/07/ 1942, The Canadian Encyclopedia, Retrieved September 3, 2021
3. War-Time Housing In Canada and Ontario, A Blog by Tim Matthews, Owen Sound, retrieved January 12, 2023.

Genealogy Disaster Plan from Bryan Mulcahy

Mary Schwass recommends this!

Disasters, whether they are computer viruses, hard drive crashes, or weather related, are a fact of life. The bottom line is having a plan in place before they happen.

Ancestry Agency. **Protect What's Priceless: 8 Tips for Disaster Proofing Your Family History.** 2020

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If you want to read Bryan's article go to our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1244653066363730> and to the post Nov 1 2022.

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