

Bruce Bulletin

Bruce County
Genealogical Society
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Upcoming Meetings and Other Events

Date: May 29, 2012 at 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Place: Start at Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre

Topic: A historical bus trip with a focus on the War of 1812.

Date: June 11, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre. Lunch & Tour—Paddy Walker House

Topic: Forgotten Lives, Bus Tour with Museum and Bruce Count Historical Society. Lewis and Lurgen Cemeteries

Date: July 9, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Place: Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre. Wine and Cheese.

Topic: Author's Night: Rob Ritchie, Basil Johnston, and Don Leatham.

Highlights of Previous Meetings

February: The Show and Share program at the February 13th, 2012 Bruce County Genealogical Society meeting illustrated the many varied approaches to preserving and documenting family history/genealogy. A hand hooked rug will illustrate a rural scene showing a family barn with ancestors. The history of an Arran Township family is being updated in a creative scrapbook presentation. Several members discussed the value of oral histories.

Recording of conversations triggered by a photograph can provide many interesting details. A fragile copy of an 1895 Tara Leader newspaper containing a family obituary was displayed with suggestions made as to how to best preserve such a document. A collection of poems provided a original way to remember grandmothers and great grandmothers.

Everyone is reminded that meetings are held in the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre generally the second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the winter and 7:00 p.m. April through October. Admission is free.

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March: March 19 was a great day to be Irish when Joe O'Hagan and Pat Kelly were the guests of the Bruce County Genealogical Societ. Joe O'Hagan told how as a boy in grade 4 his interest was captured when his school teacher read stories from the Queen's Bush. Conversations with an older relative provided snippets of information which Joe wished to explore. This developed into a pursuit of his family history and inspiration for his travels to Ireland. The break through in his research was an obituary discovered in an early issue of the Paisley Advocate.

The large number in attendance heard of the effect that the four year potato famine had on Irish emigration. The O'Hagan ancestors crossed the Atlantic on the sailing vessel Jeanie Johnston. Pat Kelly told of their tour of the replica ship which is docked in Dublin.

On the occasion of a family reunion in 2010 a gravestone erected in the church cemetery of St. Mary Immaculate Church was dedicated in memory of their esteemed ancestor, Dr. Thomas O'Hagan. A group of fifty-eight made plans to tour Ireland by bus in the spring of 2011. A brief travelogue showed photos of their ancestral home and points of interest in Ireland.

President Doug Lennox spoke of the upcoming Introduction to Genealogy Workshop which is to be offered on Tuesday evenings, April 10 -May 22. Sue Schlorff, Assistant Archivist announced the opportunity for volunteer training which is to take place Monday May 7 in the Reading Room in the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre.

April: Bruce County Genealogical Society met April 3, 2012 in the Theatre Room of the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre. Doug Lennox welcomed everyone to the Introductory Session of the Genealogy/Family History Workshop which is to be held Tuesday evenings, April 10 - May 22.

Anne Goeden presented her power point overview of the workshops. Mary MacKay spoke of her recent success in researching the Oldrieve family of Arran

Township. Bill Stewart presented a review of early photographers in Bruce and Grey Counties. Everyone present shared a genealogy interest/story.

Everyone is welcome to join Anne Goeden of the Bruce County Genealogical Society when she presents tips and suggestions for internet surfing success . Bring your own laptop and your research request for a hands-on personalized experience or follow along on the projector and screen. Monday, May 14, 2012, 700 p.m. in the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre.

Queries

1. **BROXHOLM:** Seeking death & burial information about John BROXHOLM, who died March 1880 in Kincardine, Bruce County. I recently found his wife's obituary (Eliza Crowson Broxholm) that lists his death as March 1880 in Kincardine. He was a Wesleyan Methodist. Is it possible to obtain his death and burial information? Kim Pilarski 2310 Mount Olive Road, Knoxville, TN 37920 USA Email: kim.pilarski@gmail.com
2. **McNabb:** Seeking information on the family of Alexander McNabb, land agent for Bruce County for many years c. 1850s. I am particularly hoping to find a living descendant. I believe Alexander was a descendant of a brother of my 4g-grandfather. I have considerable information on these McNabbs and would love to exchange data. Please contact Loraine Smith, Victoria, Canada at: smithloraine@hotmail.com
3. **MacDougall:** Looking for a family history of the MacDougall line that includes Murdoch and Mary MacDougall or Allen and Flora MacDougall of Greenock/Elderslie around 1870. Ted Mills. Email: millsted@westelcom.com

A PRÉCIS of “THE TOBEYS OF TARA”, a project by Bruce Miller:

The story of the Tobey family of Tara is the sort of inspiration from which great novels often result. It is a story of hardship, overcome by great effort and ingenuity, interrupted by several episodes of tragedy, from all of which they recovered and finally succeeded marvellously in their chosen family business, as well as in their other endeavours, most of which were designed to help the community and people of Tara.

The story begins in their native country of Ireland. The family that ended up in Tara emigrated to the United States, suffering all the pain of abandoning their homeland, relatives, and friends. In the U. S., they would have quickly found out that the Irish were not welcome there. During their stay there, they would have endured the American Revolution when most immigrants from the British Isles were abused. About 25 years after the Revolution, John Tobey emigrated to Canada through Adolphustown. Most of John's family lived, died, and were buried close to Adolphustown. When the St Lawrence Seaway was constructed, the St Lawrence River became much wider and so all the graves, with the bodies, were moved further inland. One good thing was that the Tobey family became United Empire Loyalists, and were thus entitled to a large tract of land.

I was born in Tara and so have known every Tobey who has lived in Tara. Following is a list of interesting facts about the Tobey Family, culled from facts I have known most of my life, and from knowledge gained from recent research.

The Tobey family are related to the Vandusen and the Gerolamys. These three families are primarily responsible for Tara's Golden Years, when Tara was known as the most dynamic and prosperous village of its size north of London.

The first Tobey residence built in Tara was at what is now called 50 Yonge Street. The residence is practically unchanged since I visited there about 1940.

Jasper Dingman Tobey came to Tara about 1870. He was the Tobey who established the main business of the Tobey family, a general store, the largest in Tara, that was to become a Dynasty, lasting in the family for seventy nine years.

Two of my very good friends were Victor Tobey, a fantastic organist and a genius in other ways, and Irwin Tobey, who managed the Tobey Dynasty for 24 years, more than his share of the work in the dynasty.

I'll digress for a few lines here to talk about W.A. Gerolamy, a son of Millicent Tobey, and the genius who built the Fanning Mill Foundry that brought Tara so much fame and fortune. When the Tara public School burned to the ground in 1899, W. A. built a new school. Building began on May 8th, 1899, and was finished on January 9, 1900, at a cost of \$5,253.00. This was a fantastic accomplishment, to finish the job in only a year, and at such low cost, even for that time in history. The fact that both the school and the foundry are still in good shape, although used for reasons other than the original use, is a great tribute to the skill and hard work of W. A. Gerolamy.

May 2nd, 1914 was probably the worst day in the history of Tara. On that day, a terrible fire almost destroyed Tara, and did destroy the Tobey Dynasty, which, fortunately, was quickly rebuilt. On that same day, my grandmother died of erysipelas at the age of 34. Soon after, in 1914, W. A. Gerolamy died.

Two terrible tragedies occurred in the Tobey family near the end of the Dynasty, but it would take some time to discuss them. I am going to say Goodbye for now. After all, this was supposed to be a précis. If any of you would like to read the complete history, it is available from Bruce Miller or The Northern Flyer in TARA for \$5.00.

Bouquets

A recent letter from one of our Western members was much appreciated. Here is it in part:

For 20 years I co-edited the South West Branch, MGSInc. Newsletter, The Leaf of the Branch along with Margaret Goodman. During that time we often used tidbits from your newsletter giving credit to the Bruce Bulletin. Then I was given the task of writing a weekly column for the Brandon Sun (the daily newspaper here in Brandon) and I found some of your columns most helpful. One article that became popular was the occupations column, particularly the Scottish occupations. I had many compliments from my readers but I was always told them it was the staff at the Bruce Bulletin who made that column easy. It got to be I had people asking if there were any more occupations to come. Strangely enough my column ended with some occupations from your last column on Scottish occupations. I also directed several people to your genealogical society for information. Whether they followed up those suggestions, I have no idea as it was often someone on the street or in the local malls or library who stopped me and asked for suggestions as to where they could get information. I hope they did follow my suggestions because I am sure they were well looked after if they did.

My sincere thanks for all the help I received as I worked at that column weekly for 9 years. It covered something over 450 columns – not a simple task. It ended when my husband, Jim, who was the driving force behind me regularly getting the columns out as well as giving me suggestions for columns, passed away in April of 2011.

Now to the real reason for this letter. I read Mary MacKay's columns in the February issue and truly enjoyed them. However, I can tell her that the inscription on the gravestone in Scotland is not unusual. When we were visiting in Scotland in 2000 we were looking for my grandparents burial spot in the cemetery in Brechin on the east coast of

Scotland. I was looking for a gravestone that would have 3 names on it – my grandmother, my grandfather, and my one aunt. After several hours of hunting for the stone, I was about to give up as it was a very hot afternoon and the cemetery is down in a low spot which drew the heat right into it. As I came down one row for the final time, I noticed a beautiful rose bush which was blooming profusely. I bent over to smell the roses and found a gravestone with 6 names on it. The grandparents were there, the aunt who should be there was also there, but so was an uncle who was buried in Glasgow, an uncle who was buried in Canada and my mother who is buried in Winnipeg. That was the family – all of them. But it was when I got back to Canada that I got the answers.

At a meeting of our branch one evening, I mentioned the gravestone with the family all recorded on it. One of our members who had come from Scotland in recent years had the answer. According to her knowledge, it is not unusual to find the whole family named on the gravestone in Scotland. It is rather like a gravestone tree. The immediate family is there.

Anyway, this could very well explain why the strange inscription was on the gravestone that Mary found in Scotland and which tied her family together. My gravestone did not have the place of burial recorded on the stone, but it did have the dates of death. Just one more place to look for information when in Scotland.

I would appreciate it very much if you would pass the information on to Mary MacKay. The lady who passed the information on to me certainly helped me to understand a little better some of the things we have a had time figuring out when all the family are gone and you are in a different country all together.

Thank you again, Shirley, for what you do in editing the Bruce Bulletin. I can understand how difficult it sometimes is to get people to contribute to keeping interest up when preparing a regular newsletter/journal. You are very much appreciated, although sometimes we as members are slow to show our appreciation. Sincerely, Elizabeth (Beth) Wall

News from the Bruce County Archives

Archives' Events

Archives' staff were kept hopping on *Family Heritage Day*, February 20, 2012, as many new visitors to the Museum took the time to explore the Archives in addition to enjoying the many other activities that day. We were able to share information about the local genealogical societies with a number of inquiring genealogy "newbies".



To celebrate Archives Awareness Week 2012, Archivist, Ann-Marie Collins, visited six Bruce County Libraries to showcase the Stars of the Town videos. We were able to identify locations, activities and people within the videos and will be sharing the information with the local libraries and Western University Archives (where the original videos were donated).

Forgotten Lives Bus Tour, June 11, 2012

Join Archives staff on this year's Forgotten Lives Bus Tour, organized in partnership with the Bruce County Genealogical Society and sponsored by T.A. Brown Funeral Homes. The tour features Gaelic cemeteries in south-west Bruce County and includes a comfortable coach bus, insightful guest speakers, lunch, and a tour of the historic Paddy Walker House, Kincardine.

Tickets must be purchased by May 31. Members \$50.00, Public \$60.00. For more information, please contact the Bruce County Archives.

Homestead Hunting

We have recently assisted a number of researchers in their attempts to locate their ancestors' places of residence. Township history books and the Women's Institute

Tweedsmuir Scrapbooks are, of course, always a good place to start. Some of the other helpful resources available at the Bruce County Archives include:



Muma house, Amabel Twp.,
A991.010.003, Bruce County
Museum & Cultural Centre

Directories: Bruce County Farmers' and Business Directories for various years between 1867 and 1910 list the lot, concession, and sometimes acreage and profession, of rural residents. The names of residents of towns/villages are also listed, along with their profession and, in the case of the 1880 Directory, the street on which they lived or worked. The earliest telephone book in our collection is the 1912 Bell Canada Telephone Directory of Central Ontario, including Hanover, Mildmay, Owen Sound, Southampton, Tara, Walkerton and Wiarton.

Voters' Lists: The Bruce County Archives collection includes Voters' Lists as early as 1858 for some areas. These lists generally contain the address or post office and occupation of individuals who were registered to vote. In Ontario, widows and unmarried women were granted the right to vote in municipal elections in 1884 and their names also appear in voters' lists after that date. Women were granted the right to vote in provincial elections in 1917 and in federal elections in 1918.

Agricultural Censuses, Schedule 4: Agricultural returns provide information about rural residences, including lot and concession, acreage, and agricultural statistics, such as crops grown and livestock kept. Agricultural census information exists for 1851, 1861 and 1871. For 1871, the returns are linked to Schedule One (personal returns) by page and line, rather than by name. These schedules are available on microfilm at the Archives.

1901 Census, Schedule 2, Buildings and Lands, Churches and Schools: Column 2 in this schedule indicates "Place of habitation" and,

when completed correctly by the enumerator, includes the township, concession/lot and/or house number and street. This is available on microfilm at the Archives. The schedule 2 habitation information has also been included in the 1901 Census transcript prepared by the Bruce & Grey Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society.

Juror's Books: The Archives' collection of County of Bruce Jurors Books from 1867 to 1912 contain rolls of potential jurors, organized first by the type of jury and/or court and secondly by the potential juror's township of residence. Every year, a municipal committee examined the tax assessment rolls and created panels of eligible jurors for both the grand jury and the petty juries. Most householders were eligible to be called as jurors, although men over the age of 60 were exempt. Many of the jury lists include the lot/concession or town of residence, along with the profession of the potential jurors. For more information about these records, see Janice Nickerson's article "Jury Duty – An Opportunity for Genealogists" in the May 2011 issue of the OGS publication *Families*. Not all residents are listed in these rolls, and it can be a time consuming task to scan through the various lists; however, we have seen researchers celebrate the success of their efforts in locating proof of their ancestors' residence through these records.

Land Abstracts / Tax Assessment Rolls: Scanning through the pages of these records may also lead to an exciting discovery of an ancestor's place of residence, provided the general area of residence is known. This can also be a time consuming task as the land abstracts are organized by property, with each page generally devoted to a particular lot, listing a record of all documents registered against the property, such as deeds, mortgages and sometimes wills. Assessment rolls were prepared by the Municipality in preparation for the calculation of property taxes and are organized differently depending on the time period: sometimes by name, sometimes by location. Depending on the year, assessment

rolls may list landowners, tenants, numbers of other adults in the household, addresses, occupations, and ages.

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre Exhibits

Titanic: Unsinkable Passion – 100 Years of Memories, April 13 to September 3, 2012



It's been 100 years since the passenger liner struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage and sank, resulting in the deaths of more than 1500 people. Come and view this powerful exhibit in a brand new object theatre format.

HMS General Hunter opens to the public on June 19, 2012



This exhibit tells the story of the war of 1812, with a major focus on the British Warship HMS General Hunter, discovered on the Southampton beach. This exhibit features a replica of the battle ready working deck of the warship – including interactive cannon loading and firing, and sail raising experiences.

Archives and Reading Room Hours

Commencing April 2, 2012, we are pleased 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.

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
Sue Schlorff, Archival Assistant
Deb Sturdevant, Archival Assistant
www.brucemuseum.ca

BCGS 2011 Donor's List

The Bruce County Genealogical Society would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following individuals who donated to our society in 2011. With your help we were able to purchase more microfilms (Wills & Estate files for Bruce County, and early Marriages of Grey County) for the Bruce County Archives. We also used your contributions to fund the purchase of genealogical education materials for children (Apple Family Trees.)

Barbara Aitken	Elizabeth Reid
Myrna Austen	Audrey Reimer
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Lois Goeden	Irene Liddle
Joyce Howlett	Mary Lennox
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Douglas Johnson	Glenys Johnson
Linda R. MacNeill	

PIONEER MOTHER CALLED

Another of the old pioneer mothers of Saugeen Township has been called to her well-earned rest, in the person of Mary Fleming, widow of the late R.B. Fleming, who passed away at the home of her eldest son, Mr. John B Fleming, at Neepawa, Man, on Monday morning, Jan. 12th, in her 89th year. The deceased whose maiden name was Mary Pollock, was born in High

Blandls, Scotland, on August 10, 1842, and when an infant of nine months, came to Canada with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John Pollock, who settled in Alnwick Twp., Northumberland Co., Ontario, and about 12 years later the family came to Saugeen Twp. and settled on the Blind Line on the banks of the Saugeen River, which property is now owned and occupied by Reeve Robert McKechnie. Seventy years ago the subject of this sketch was married to Mr. R.B. Fleming, a young pioneer of the township and who later was Clerk of Saugeen for 27 years. They resided on Lot 29 Con.5 Saugeen until the death of Mr. Fleming in 1905, when Mrs. Fleming moved to Paisley where she resided for a number of years. Of late she had been making her home with different members of her family. The late Mrs. Fleming was a woman of sterling qualities, and in her passing another link has dropped from the chain that binds us to the pioneer days when men and women of splendid physique and courage gave their best in the upbuilding of their community. Of a warm, generous and loveable disposition she was held in the highest esteem by all who made her acquaintance and dearly loved by a large circle of friends. A family of five daughters and four sons are left to mourn, namely: (Mary) Mrs. McNabb of British Columbia, (Rebecca) Mrs. Robert McKechnie, Saugeen Twp., (Helen), Mrs. J. Mc Coombs, Yellowgrass, Sask., (Margaret), Mrs. W.B. Robertson, Neepawa, Man., (Raechel), Mrs. J bell of Saugeen Twp., John B. of Neepawa, Andrew of Priddis Alta., James of Toronto and Matthew of Victoria B.C. Another son Samuel Fleming who served in the South African War and also the more recent World war, passed away a few years ago. Following the service at the home of her son Mr. J.B. Fleming, on Wednesday last, the remains were forwarded to the Port Elgin, and arrived there on Friday afternoon, accompanied by her daughter Mrs. W.B. Robertson of Neepawa. The remains were then conveyed to the Presbyterian Church where an impressive funeral service, attended by a host of sympathetic friends, was conducted by the pastor, Rev. D.C. Hill. Interment was made in Sanctuary Park Cemetery, Port Elgin.

Van Gogh's Family Tree

His dizzy aunt -- Verti Gogh
 The brother who ate prunes -- Gotta Gogh
 The brother who worked at a convenience store
 -- Stop N. Gogh
 The grandfather from Yugoslavia -- U Gogh
 The cousin from Illinois -- Chica Gogh
 His magician uncle -- Where Diddy Gogh
 His Mexican cousin -- A. Mee Gogh
 The Mexican cousin's American half-brother --
 Gring Gogh
 The nephew who drove a stage coach -- Wells
 Far Gogh
 The constipated uncle -- Cant Gogh
 The ballroom dancing aunt -- Tang Gogh
 The bird lover uncle -- Flamin Gogh
 His nephew psychoanalyst -- E Gogh
 The fruit loving cousin -- Man Gogh
 An aunt who taught positive thinking -- Way
 To Gogh
 The little bouncy nephew -- Poe Gogh
 A sister who loved disco -- Go Gogh
 And his niece who travels the country in a van
 -- Winnie Bay Gogh
 ...And there ya Gogh!

**If you have a story or great old
 photographs that you would like
 to share feel free to email them to
 the editor: smoulton@bmts.com
 for publication in a future
 newsletter.**

Bruce County Genealogical Society-2012

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Newsletter

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