

Genealogy: Their Lives, Our History July

Happy Birthday Canada! It has been one hundred and forty eight years since the British North American Act (BNA) was passed in Parliament creating this country of ours we proudly call Canada.

Since 2012 the Govt. of Canada have highlighted what they call “Nation Building Anniversaries” with short video clips. These video clips show us events that helped to shape Canada, such as “the War of 1812, the Fathers of Confederation, and Sir John A MacDonalD” etc. This project is labeled the “Canada 150 Project,” and is meant to help unite, us as we celebrate the 150th year of Confederation, on July 1st 2017.

As we build towards the 150th year of Confederation, now is your chance to compile and record your own family history. I cannot help but think of the number of generations that have lived here in Medicine Hat and surrounding areas. Although there are many communities with history books that relate to years past, there are still numerous untold stories of families and events relating to these generations. How great it would be to have these stories and events recorded to pass on to further generations. If our family histories are to be preserved, then it is our generations responsibility to act and record these events.

So, how is your family story coming along? Oops! Haven't started yet! Well, there is no better time to start than now. Summer is finally here, it is a great opportunity for us to do research. If your vacation includes a road trip with the family, include some family history research like stopping to see gr. grandpa's homestead, or visit a battle site, etc. Your vacation/research trip could be a memorable history lesson to your children.

Some of you maybe be attending family gatherings or even reunions, what a wonderful time to talk with long lost relatives or the seniors in your group. Sound out the past, listen to their stories of yesteryear, it might be about a single event or a certain period of time that affected your family. Stories can come in all different kinds of events, great grandpa was a veteran of WW 11, recalls his astonishing luck in battle, far from home and a lifetime ago, maybe uncle Harry will tell you how he made it home in a blinding snow storm, or why aunt Bee's fried chicken was the talk of the town.

The stories may be humorous, serious, or just plain silly, but they will always give insight into the people it affected. As a genealogist one of the most treasured bits of information we can find is an autobiography of our ancestors, or a short newspaper clip about an event they were in. Sometimes we find a short story about an ancestor that gives us a treasured peek into their life, and how they coped with the time period they lived in.

My hope is that your family's history comes alive in your compilation of stories, pictures, BMD records, etc. And that you will have enjoyed “discovering, preserving, and celebrating” your family's history. Food for thought: in 150 years your family's story will be your descendants history!

There is a “private” site, of the Canada 150 project, it is titled “Canada's untold Stories”. On the web site <http://www.legacies.ca> you can view stories already posted there. This web site allows you to contribute your own personal, family and community stories and images as your gift to Canada's Confederation.

Remember on this web site, stories and photos will be public, search able and saved for everyone to see on the legacies.ca web site. One “precaution to note,” this web site is privately owned, so be sure to “note and read the terms of use.” You can also choose to use the site just as a guide line, and keep your stories “private” and in your “own records,” or publish them for family and friends. If you should do the latter be sure to donate a copy to your local library as well as the Archives.

I enjoy hearing from you, and if I or the members of the genealogy club can help you, please let us know.

So, until next time, have a great summer, and “Happy Trails and Happy Hunting” to you!

My contact info is timetraveller2011@gmail.com
next MHGS meeting is: September 02, 2015