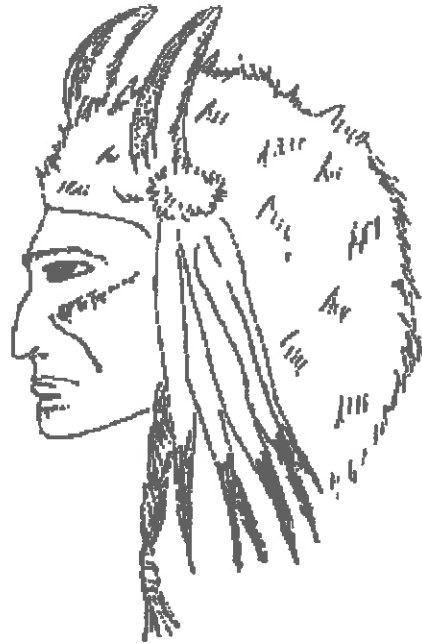


Medicine Hat and District Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society



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Final authority regarding the acceptance of material rests with the editor. Neither the editor nor the Branch accept any responsibility for the opinions or errors on the part of the contributors.

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THRESHING IN DENNEWITZ BESSARABIA

Submitted by Ferdinand Schwab

I got this information out of a book called, Heimatbuch der Bessarabia Deutschen. Some of this information is similar to almost any of the Bessarabian settlements.

The settlers founded Dennewitz in 1834. There were only fifteen families at the beginning. These families came from older settlements. Some came from Alt Postal, Wittenberg, Germany or Poland.

As was the case in so many other names, the state named Dennewitz in honour of a victory against Napoleon. This particular war took place in Dennewitz, Preussen. The French lost 15,000 men in that war.

It was a country wide curiosity when word got out that Dennewitz had a threshing machine. Karl Gutsche invented this machine. Mr. Gutsche made this machine from a special soft stone found in this area. One end was a few inches thicker than the other. This made it easier to turn in circles. The stone had several chiselled edges like cogs on a gear. Fastened to each end was a steel axle. He attached a hardwood frame to these axles. To this frame he attached two (schwengel) eveners. They hitched two horses to the thesh machine. The threshing place was an area hard packed with clay. Most of the settlers had a place like that on their property. They hauled this clay from a clay pit and packed it hard. This made a hard clean surface.

They spread the grain on this hard surface. Then they rolled the thresh stone over the grain. They turned the grain two or three times with large wooden forks. They continued with this until all the grain separated from the straw. Next they raked off the long straw with iron rakes. They stacked the long straw for winter fuel. Now they dragged the grain and chaff on a pile. This was done by hitching two horses on a drag (schleppe). The drag was a plank standing on edge. I remember sitting on a drag like this. This put extra weight on the plank. This was great fun for the young children.

Next they separated the chaff and grain with a fanning mill. They fanned it twice, until all the chaff separated from the grain. The chaff blew out of one end of the fanning mill, while the clean grain came out of the other. The young men and women cranked the fanning mill. This work was usually done in the evening. There usually was not much wind then.

In those times, the settlers stored all their grain in bags. The bags of grain were usually stored in a loft. You can imagine how hard that was to carry these bags up the stairs. Even my mother had to help with this. The fanning mill also was a recent invention. Before that time, grain was winnowed. This was done when there was a strong breeze. The grain was tossed in the air with a shovel. The wind blew out the chaff. This was a slow and tedious job. The next morning early, another batch of grain was brought in from the field. The farmers had very little rest at harvest time.

This wonderful "Thresh Machine" replaced the flail, which was their tool before. A flail consisted of a wooden handle with a short, heavy stick fastened at one end by a leather thong. With this they pounded the grain out of the straw. With one thresh stone, one settler could thresh up to thirty zentner (three thousand pounds), in one day! Some of the farmers had two and larger farmers, four Thresh Stones. They could now thresh all the grain from one (Wirtschaft) 160 acres, in about four weeks. Of course, the Wirtschaft wasn't all seeded to grain.

The chaff mixed with a little bran or other grain made a good feed for the livestock during the winter. Hay wasn't always available. The long straw was stacked for fuel. They also used cow chips and cornstalks for heating and cooking. They build the heaters and cook stoves and ovens with mud and stones or clay bricks. Once these stoves were hot, they kept two or three rooms comfortable.

Extractions From "WAGON TRAILS AND PIONEER TALES"

Extracted and submitted by Edith Pinder

Areas included in "Wagon Trails and Pioneer Tales" are: Bowell, Bowmanton, Box Springs, Chappice Lake, Finn's Lake, Harvest Vale, Lake Valley, Pearsonville, Vale and "Other Neighbours". "Other Neighbours" is a section about the people in an area north and west of the South Saskatchewan River, surrounding the original town sites of Redcliff and Medicine Hat.

INTRODUCTION TO BOWELL

The Bowell district was once considered to be all lands north and west of Redcliff. Those who were mentioned in the early editions of the Medicine Hat News "Bowell Notes" were settlers who later resided in the school districts of Harvest Vale, Lake Valley and Box Springs. Farming and ranching business, the post office, groceries, homemaking needs, and entertainment all centred in the village of Bowell.

Bowell was a vital, flourishing village until the drought of the 1930's. Not even Russian Thistle grew. The depression years were very difficult, and many families decided to move on to other areas. People who grew up in this district fondly remember the community spirit, the hard work, and the good times they had as children and young adults.

Many of the settlers in the Bowell district were originally from Eastern Canada, particularly the Owen Sound and Orangeville areas. Other homesteaders were from Europe, namely England, Norway, Ireland and Lithuania, many by way of the United States. After 1941, when the land north of Bowell became the British Block to aid the war effort, many families moved into the Bowell District.

From 1904 to 1910 many homestead quarters changed hands frequently. There were approximately 75 names listed on the homestead quarters in the area, brave men, women and small children who came west for a promising future, but found the life too difficult. Most of these men and women had never seen the prairie before. Many of these settlers moved to the Tilley District or central Alberta and some returned to their previous homes. Those who remained and struggled to make a living through the hard times, they tell the story of Bowell.

HOW BOWELL GOT ITS NAME

During the construction of the C.P.R. railroad, Bowell was designated as Flag Stop #2. As the construction progressed, the numbered sidings were given names by Van Horne.

Flag Stop #2 became Bowell, named after Sir MacKenzie Bowell, Prime Minister of Canada from 1894 to 1896. Sir MacKenzie Bowell was originally from Rickingham, England, immigrated to Canada and settled in Belleville, Ontario. He was the editor and owner of the Belleville, "Intelligencer", and was first elected as a Conservative to the House of Commons in 1867. He was the Minister of Customs and led the opposition in the Senate from 1896 to 1906

TOWNSITE

The original Bowell townsite was officially registered at the Land Titles office in Calgary on June 25, 1906 under Plan 465M. The Bowell townsite was part of NE6-14-7-4, homesteaded by Walter Woollven in 1902.

Originally the townsite consisted of blocks 1 to 12, which did not sit squarely on the quarter section, but ran parallel to the south side of the C.P.R. tracks. It was comprised of Main Street, Second Street, Third Street, and First Avenue to Fourth Avenue.

In 1910, the south half of the lots 7,8, and 9 and the north half of lots 10,11 and 12 were subdivided from 50 foot lots into 25 foot lots, under Plan 465M. This plan also showed additional blocks 13 to 21, and Fourth and Fifth Street also were added. Across the tracks to the north, lots 22 to 27 were added along with Railway Street and Pratt Street.

Most of this property reverted back to quarter sections, with the exception of approximately 30 original lots still held under separate titles by the Pancoast family, and a few small pieces that were converted to acreages within the original townsite.

Veterans from the districts covered by "WAGON TRAILS AND PIONEER TALES"

BOER WAR VETERANS:

Robert McCourty and Jack Walker Sr.

WORLD WAR I VETERANS:

Dirk Balkenstein, Steve Bothwick, J. Boswell, Charles Chapman, Harry Chapman, Tom Chapman, Wilfrid Descoteau, Cyril Haye, Alfred Huseby, Robert Jack, Joe Lindsay, Robert McCourty, C.W. Rees, Robert Reeves, Thomas Reeves, Michael Robertson, Charles Robertson, Litton Wilde, Claude Woolven, Ted Young, Ralph Bennett, Otto Buterman, Bill Crews Sr, Joe Daze, Fred Hulmes, Gus Johnson, Shorty Langbien, Walter Larson, Herbert Love, Ole Olsen, Seely Olsen, Bill Middleton, Bill Skolico, George A. Smith, Wm. Vann and Jack Walker Sr.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS:

Edward Day, Ed File, Charolotte Harris, Fred Harris, George Hope, Alex Jack, Hank Jacobson, Bill Rae, Charles Richardson, Fred Richardson, Dick Rose, Joe Schwartz, Art Sheward, Fred Sheward, Phyllis Sheward, Graham West, Roy Woolven, Harold Congram, Bob Crews, Bill Crews, Tom Davies, May Daze, Laura Davison, Frank Dickson, Isabelle Dickson, Keith Ellis, Scotty Ford, Murray Gardiner, Thomas Gargett, Philip Weisbeck, Joe Wells, Ralph Weiss, John E. Schaeffer, Frank E. Schaeffer, Charles J. Schaeffer and Alfred A. Schaeffer.

DID YOU KNOW ?

That you can access the Shortgrass Library System Catalogue with your computer. All you need is a computer, modem and communications software (usually supplied with the purchase of your modem). Check at the Reference Desk for an information sheet.

No more forgetting to take the name of the author with you, to check and see if the library has a certain book. No more special trips to the library only to find they don't have what you want. Check from home, then if they have it, you can make the trip.

FARM AND RANCH DIRECTORY - Winter 1963 - 64

IMPROVED DISTRICT NO. 11

Cities: Medicine Hat. Towns: Irvine.
Hamlets: Hilda, Schuler, Walsh, Seven Persons,
Elkwater Lake, Dunmore, Veinerville - Porter's Hill.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FORTY MILE NO. 8

Towns: Bow Island. Villages: Foremost, Burdett.
Hamlets: Skiff, Legend, Nemsicam, Etzikom,
Manyberries, Orion, Winnifred, Whitla.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FOX VALLEY NO. 171

Villages: Fox Valley, SK. Hamlets: Linacre, SK.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MAPLE CREEK NO. 111

Towns: Maple Creek, SK.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF HAPPYLAND NO. 231

Towns: Leader, SK. Villages: Prelate, SK.

IMPROVED DISTRICT NO. 22

Towns: Redcliff. Villages: Jenner, Suffield.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIG STICK NO. 141

Villages: Golden Prairie, SK

IMPROVED DISTRICT NO. 929

Towns: Maple Creek, SK. Villages: Walsh, Hatton, SK.

COUNTY OF NEWELL NO. 4

Towns: Bassano, Brooks.

Villages: Duchess, Rosemary, Tilley

Hamlets: Gem, Millicent, Patricia, Rainier, Scanadia
Rolling Hills,.

These are the areas covered in this book. For each area the Farmers and Ranchers are listed. An example of a listing follows.

Name	Address	Acres	S	T	R
Bruins, Gunster	Medicine Hat	160	NE	30-	11- 7

Need a lookup from this directory? Send SASE, and area of lookup along with your query to: MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT BRANCH ALBERTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY P. O. Box 971, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8 or email your queries to me at estahl@mlc.awinc.com

QUERIES

DUNN, John married Amelia HUDSON; children Jane Garvin Dunn married (1902) John ROBINSON, Karen Barbara Dunn, Daniel Henry Dunn, Catherine Dunn, Amelia Marie Dunn, Agnes Dunn, and Mary Dunn. This family was from the Thunder Bay, Ontario area. Anyone with information on this family, contact Deb Phillips, 219 Fairchild Street S. W. Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7Z6.

Wice, Samuel b. c.1799 somewhere in Pennsylvania (where?). Came to Canada (when?) and married Elizabeth Quantz of Markham, Ontario in 1824. Was given power of Attorney for land in Innisfil twp. by Henry Phillips, 1832 (was Henry a relative?). Purchased land in Innisfil twp. where they settled and raised their family. Samuel died in 1869. I would like to correspond with anyone else researching the Wice family. Contact Eileen Stahl, Box 16, Dunmore, AB T0J 1A0 or email: estahl@mlc.awinc.com

BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Ruby Engler # 631

ORGANIZING THE MOUNTAINS OF PAPER

by Louise St. Denis

This is her book #7. This seems a very good idea to be an organized person. There are several forms at the back of the book. Start your filing system early. Louise explains the forms and how important they are. Have a set for each of your family binders. Also have your information duplicated in the chance of a disaster. Louise St. Denis talked to our genealogy group and local residents on April 23/96 at the Medicine Hat Public Library.



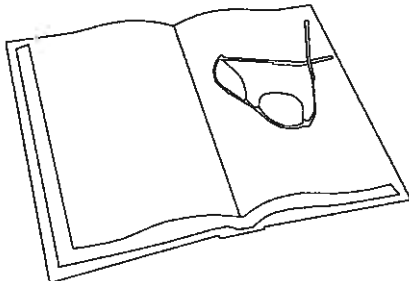
BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

by George Pelling

Book donated to our library by Joyce Deering, one of our members. Start a Pedigree chart. Always identify your sources and the date you made your search. Sometimes you may find your family tree has been researched but it bears checking facts. Making your results public such as making a book is of interest to readers, or deposit copies of pedigree charts with your local family history society.

LETTS ROADBOOK OF BRITAIN

In the front of the book there is a gazetteer of England, Wales and Scotland, also an index of place names of England and Scotland. Half the book is the Road Atlas. Many small towns and villages that are not on most maps can be found here. Good to check for places of your ancestors.



MEDICINE HAT POLICE - A HISTORY 1899 - 1989

by Inspector Larry Brink

Stories of the NWMP when they first came to Medicine Hat in 1873 to administer law and order for the Indians and citizens. Forts were set up at Fort Walsh and Fort McLeod. There are pictures throughout the book of the old city buildings and newer ones. Picture of the police force and the departments history.

NORWEGIAN NAMING PRACTICES

The traditional Norwegian naming practice is to use patronyms. If a man called Hans Anderson had a son called Anders, he would be called Anders Hansen. A daughter named Brita would be called Brita Hansdatter, often written Hansdtr. or Hansdt. or even Hansd. Very often a child would get her/his first name from one of the grandparents. But this is by far not a general rule.

From 1400 onwards the upper classes experienced an influx of people from abroad. They were using or adopting what could be called a modern naming practice. (The upper classes being civil servants, merchants, etc. Norway had scarcely no nobility.)

In Os parish in the year 1801 the priest was called Gerhard Sandberg, married to Inger Sandberg. They had several sons, one of them was called Johan Sandberg. They also had daughters, one was called Mette Sandberg. They have names and naming practices according to present day Norwegian rules.

Most Norwegian priest had a farm, in most cases with the same name as the parish, in this case Os. Their farm was farmed by a man called Ole Johannessen (Johannessen because his father was Johannes). His wife was Brithe Knudsdtr. (her father was Knut). They had several sons, one was Knut Olsen (first name the same as her father) the second Johannes Olsen (named after his father). One of their daughters was called Brithe Olsdtr. This is the traditional naming practice. Iceland is still using this practice. All of them may add **Os** to their name. But this is really not part of the name. It is added to their name because there may be others in the same parish with the same name. Ole Johannessen Os means that he was baptized Ole, was the son of Johannes and was living on Os farm in 1801. You can say that Os is the address. If he moved to Moberg he would be called Ole Johannessen Moberg. If he moved to Bergen city, he may still call himself Ole Johannessen Os, to keep him from other Ole Johannesen in the big city.

During the last decades of the 19th Century the patronym practice was abandoned. The grandson of Ole Johannessen may call himself Ole Johannessen in the first part of his life, because he was the son of Johannes Olsen. If he still lived at the Os farm he could then start calling himself Ole Os, abandoning the patronym and adopting the address as the name. The name of the farm became a family name. If he moved to Bergen he may start calling himself Ole Olsen, because his father had Olsen as his last name, or he could call himself not Olsen as the last name, but Johannessen as the patronym of his father. The patronym changed into a family name. The daughters would call themselves Johannessen, not Johannesdtr.. The Olsdtr. type of name is completely disappearing. Most of the Norwegians today have a family name of the 'farm'-type, like Os or Oldervoll (my name). A large minority has the 'patronym' type, like my wife, Astri Andresen. But her father is not Andre, his last name was Andresen as well. A small minority have 'imported' names, like the man who used to live in our house. His last name was Bolmann.

During the last decades we have seen some changes as well. Traditionally, marrying did not change a woman's name. Brithe Knudsdtr. in the 1801 census was called so all her life. She may have added a different farm's name after she married, but that was really not part of the name. In the upper class the wife often took the name of the husband, but even here it was not a general rule. At the end of the last century this changed. All wives started taking the name of the husband when marrying. This went on for almost a century. I was first married in 1966. My wife was called Jorun Kvernes and she took the name Jorun Oldervoll. Our two boys are called Frode Oldervoll and Thomas Oldervoll. This was the system until approximately 1980.

My present wife is Astri Andresen. We married in 1991 and she did not change her name. At the time we married we had two children, Johannes Andresen Oldervoll and Sigrid Andresen Oldervoll. But as you can see they are called Andresen not because their father is Andre but because their mother is called Andresen. This is a very common practice

today: the wife does not change her name and the children get both last names. Even two patronymic names may be combined. A friend of my son is called Simon Wilhelmsen Olsen. But this is rather unusual. But this is a system that is very difficult to take into the next generation. Except that the middle name is very often dropped in daily life. The children of Johannes and Sigrid may even get Oldervoll from them and something else from their mother. It should also be added that sometimes the children get the name of only one of the parents. Sometimes the siblings may even get different names. Chaos, in other words.

Bergen 13 April 1996
Jan Oldevoll

STRAYS

OBEAR, Christina b.7 May 1905 in Scotland d. 14 May 1991 in Medicine Hat at the age of 86 - wife of Horace. Leaves one son and one daughter.

TESSMAN, Edmund b. 27 Jan 1907 in Bogosin, Poland d. 2 July 1991 in Redcliff at the age of 84 - husband of Emma. Leaves 6 sons.

ROTH, Michael b. 24 Feb 1903 in Agnita, Romania d. 3 July 1991 in Medicine Hat - husband of Emily - leaves one son and one daughter.

KUYKENDALL, Marvin Donaldson son of Edwin Russel and Grace Kuydendall b. 1 Jan 1921 at Patterson Creek, West Virginia. m. Margaret (Peggy) Scott 21 Dec 1943 in Calgary. d. 8 Aug 1991 at Medicine Hat - leaves one son Jim of Richardson, Texas and one daughter Linda of Edson.

YORK, Mrs. Freda Inge Kristina b. 31 Jan 1095 in Sweden m. Keith York 1930 d. 23 July 1991 at Medicine Hat.

COOIL, Mary Etta b. 8 Apr 1903 at Peoria Illinois m. Oscar Gunderson 30 Nov 1921 at Maple Creek, Sask d. 4 Sept 1991 - wife of Thomas Harold Cooil.

KORNELUK, Thor born in the Ukraine - husband of Katherine d. 12 Sept 1991 Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

BOTTCHER, Frederick (Fritz) Wilhelm b. 12 Oct 1906 at Damme, Germany m. Meda Bohnet in 1938 d. 11 Sept 1991 at the Brooks Health Center.

POHL, Edward Francis b. 14 Jan 1909 at Anamoose, ND, USA son of Dan and Lena Pohl, d. 21 July 1991 age 82, leaves wife Lydia, one son Elmer, and one daughter Doreen.

STAUFFER, Ralph Ernest b. 11 Jan 1894 at Wilbur, Washington, USA , son of Samuel and Elizabeth Stauffer - m. Leilia Posey 1919 at Medicine Hat - d. 20 Jul 1991 age 97 - leaves one daughter Bessie

MEMBERS ANCESTRAL RESEARCH AREAS

Rosina Braun	129 Burns Crescent. NW, Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 6W2	AGS # 868
HAUSAUER, Peter, Caroline	Klein Neudorf, Russia		1932 - 1800
WANKE, Louise	Beresina, Bessarabia		1860 - 1800
FLEMMER, Christina	Klein Neudorf, Russia		1900 - 1800
Ruby Engler	145 Burns Crescent. NW, Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 6W2	AGS # 631
ARMSTRONG, John & Rosamond	Cookstown; Essa twp, ON		1850 +
SCHRADER/SHRADER, John & Rosmond;	Hazel	Cookstown; Essa twp, On to Toledo, OH	1897 +
Debra Phillips	219 Fairchild St. SW, Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 7Z6	AGS # 3022
LAFLEUR, Rosalie	Alumette Island, PQ		1915 -
LANGFORD, Sarah, Richard	Huntley twp, ON; Ireland		1937 -
McCALLUM, William, Alex	Ramsay twp, ON; Mich, USA		1870 -
MORROW/MOREAU, Rose, Joseph, Bruno	Chalk R.2er, Forester Falls, ON; Quebec		1927 - 1820
Adele M Johnson	218 Muir Crescent. NW, Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 6W5	AGS # 1819
COCKING, Matthew, Mary	Manitoba, Canada		1770 +
COOK, William Hemmings, Joseph, Caroline	Manitoba, Canada		1790 +
DENNIS, George, Sarah	Paul, Cornwall, England		1800 +
FALL, Joshua, William	Hunslet, West Riding, Yorkshire, Eng		1796 +
Eileen Stahl	Box 16, Dunmore, AB	T0J 1A0	AGS # 3226
WICE, Samuel, Francis	Innisfil twp, Simcoe Co. ON		1833 - 1910
BURLOG/BORLOUG, AndreaWs, Peter	Norway>Iowa>North Dakota		1810 - 1910
FELL, Edmond Fredrick Joshua	Middlesex Eng.> Toronto ON		1814 - 1903
SHRIGLEY/SRIGLEY, Emily, Mahlon,	Robert, Enoch	Bucks Co. PA > Ontario	1755 - 1910
OLSON, Lena	Norway> North Dakota		1879 - 1910
Ron Stahl	Box 16, Dunmore, AB	T0J 1A0	AGS # 3226
STAHL, Joachim, Christian	Gollnow, Prussia > MN, USA		1801 - 1899
SPRINGSTUBBE, Dorothea, Jacob	Prussia		1802 - ?
BARTELT, Mathilda, Gottlieb	Griesbach, Germany > Prussia		1845 - ?
ARENDDT, Henriette, C	Prussia > MN		born 1844
HARBIG/ HARBICH, Joseph	Poland > MN, USA		before 1876 - ?
Teresa Parasynchuk	145 Markwick Drive S.E.	Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 7V9
MASER, Christian	Alexandarfeld, S. Russia		1868 - 1890
QUINZER, Catherine	Alexandarfeld, S. Russia		1868 -1890
SEEFRIED, August	Yargara, Bessarabia		1897 - ?
WATERS, John Howard	Pembroke, Wales		1877
KRENWALD, Elizabeth	Yargara, Bessarabia		1897 - ?