



SAAMIS SEEKER

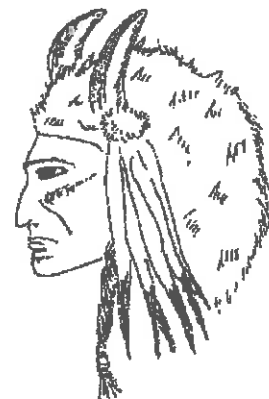
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1998 EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE HEADS

President:	Edith Pinder	548-3770	epinder@memlane.com
Past Pres.	Betty Padfield	526-8677	bpadfiel@memlane.com
Vice Pres.	Deb Phillips	526-0802	
Secretary	Brian Klein	527-2874	bklein@memlane.com
Treasurer	Fern Muirhead	527-5093	fmuirhea@memlane.com
Publicity	Ferdinand Schwab	527-5774	
Library	Betty Padfield	526-8677	bpadfiel@memlane.com
Membership	Kathy Gleisner	548-7505	khinds@memlane.com
Queries	Margaret Myles	526-3466	myles@telusplanet.net
Research	Deb Phillips	526-0802	
Editor	Eileen Stahl	527-3291	estahl@memlane.com



Address all correspondence to:
 Medicine Hat & District Branch AGS
 P.O. Box 971
 Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 7G8

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The purpose of the Saamis Seeker is to inform members of A.G.S. and Medicine Hat & District Branch affairs, to print material to further member's research, and to publish local resource and research materials.

Final authority regarding the acceptance of material rests with the editor. Neither the editor not the Branch accept any responsibility for the opinions or errors on the part of the contributors.

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DUNBRODY SCHOOL

Submitted by Ferdinand Schwab

"School days, school days, good old golden rule days. Reading and Riting and Rithmatic, All to the tune of the hickory stick"

Dunbrody school was located on the S.E. ¼ of S.34 - T16 - R28 - W. 3^d. This was exactly four miles south of Richmond Sask. I have many fond memories of attending this school. I got most of my education there. The school is no longer there. I believe it was about 1960 when the schools were centralized. Our children were bussed to Richmond. For several years the school was used as a Community centre. We had whist drives, dances and other social events. Eventually too many of the district farmers quit and moved to Medicine Hat. The school was given back to the government. It was moved away. The only part left is the school name and sign. Mike Kunz and his wife Barbara restored it. It now is displayed on top of a gas well which has replaced the school yard.

Whenever I drive by there, it brings back old memories. I can imagine the kids playing "anti-l-over" by throwing a rubber ball over the school. If it didn't go over we hollered "pigs tail". Another game was "pig in the pen". This was played in a near by pasture. Two gopher holes were the goals. This was played something like hockey. A pork and bean can was used for a puck. The plan was to get the can into the gopher hole at the other end. This was knocked about with any kind of a stick. This was great fun. However, we often went home with bruised shins.

I recently received a copy of the school record for July 1933 to June 1934. This was salvaged by a previous student, Benny Reinheller. The trustees that year were, Hans Mattson, John K. Kunz and Jacob Woelfle. John Kunz was the chairman and Mrs. Winnie Western was Secretary. The school teacher at that time was Clarence W. Cantrill. This teacher is still living in Raymore, Sask.

The students were:

- Grade 9 - Walter Mattson and Edward Sauter.
- Grade 8 - Lena Job and Alma Smeland.
- Grade 7 - Lillie Stock, Kasper Kunz, Annie Job, John Grunwald, Marvel Mattson, Ferdinand Schwab and Elmer Sauter.
- Grade 6 - May Mattson, Alvin Mattson, Alphonse Kunz, and Robert Stock.
- Grade 5 - Bertha Fode, Martha Maier, Mabel Smeland, Albert Schwab, Mary Stock and Harold Sauter.
- Grade 4 - Joseph Biko, Arthur Smeland, Paul Kunz, Donald Western, Vernon Mattson and Albert Bauer.
- Grade 3 - Leonard Maier and Theobald Kunz.
- Grade 2 - Edward Stock, Evelyn Schwab, Ruth Mattson and Elva Western.
- Grade 1 - Lloyd Schwab, Benny Reinheller, Julia Reinheller and Mike Kunz.

It is hard to believe that one teacher could teach so many children with all the subjects. The teacher's wage was not much over one thousand dollars per year! I believe the students education was even better than now. Some of these students went on to become teachers themselves. Mr. Cantrill later also taught grade 10. Grade 9 and 10 were mostly through correspondence. But the teacher was always able to help us. I have other records of Dunbrody School attendants. Anybody wishing more information of those students can contact me. I will be glad to help.

Unfortunately twelve of the above students have passed away. Edward Sauter, Lillie Stock, Kaspar Kunz, John Grunwald, May Mattson, Alphonse Kunz, Bertha Fode, Mabel Smeland, Albert Schwab, Vernon Mattson, Theobald Kunz and Lloyd Schwab.

May they rest in peace!



Dunbrody School

HISTORICAL MAP OF BOW ISLAND AREA

If you have ever wondered what the northern half of the County of Forty Mile looked like during the early years of this century. Then you would be interested in the map created by Clarence Thurston, a retired farmer from the Bow Island area. The map covers an area from the South Saskatchewan River in the north, to Forty mile coulee in the south, and from four miles east of Whitlea to four miles West of Burdett. It also includes a small area south of Forty mile Coulee in the County's west end.

Mr Thurston is a history buff and is interested in preserving some of the early activities. Upon reading the *Silver Sage* and seeing the map on the back of the book, thought it would be nice to expand on it and include Winnifred, Conquerville and Burdett.

The map indicates each quarter of land along with the names of most of the original homesteaders. An initial glance at it reveals how many more small family farms there were in those early days. The homesteads were all dryland operations. Homesteaders were initially restricted to a quarter of land, farm families were numerous compared to the few residing on today's huge dry land operations. Most got a quarter and were then eligible to file for another quarter as a pre-emption.

Mr Thurston's research was carried out over a 10 year period, and took him back to 1903, two years before Alberta became a province. The first homestead was located on the present day site of the town of Bow Island. It was homesteaded in 1903 by James Olquist, who was the first section foreman for the CPR. This was seven years before Bow Island became a village.

Mr. Thurston's research covers the period up to the outbreak of World War I. And as much as possible the records indicate the first people who homesteaded this area came between 1908 and 1914. It was during this time that Mr. Thurston's father, Fred, arrived from Saskatchewan to homestead south of Bow Island. He came in December of 1908 and went back to southeast Saskatchewan for the winter, but came back to develop it in 1909.

A farmer could survive on a quarter section back then. There was no expensive machinery and chemicals as there is today. There were horses.

But not everyone survived the life of a homesteader. While the Canadian Pacific Railway's advertising attracted many immigrants to take up homesteading in the west, not all were cut out for the pioneer life. The CPR offered glowing reports, but some couldn't stand the loneliness. They couldn't all do the work that was required. It was just too much for some of them.

For many of the pioneers, the turning point came during WWI. The 1915, 1916 and 1917 crop years were good but they gradually reduced until 1919 and then were very poor. In the very dry years between 1919 and 1926 there were a lot of people who moved out and left everything, even their possessions. They just couldn't make it.

Mr Thurston's father was no exception in finding it tough going. In 1927 he rented his farm and moved up to Killam because it was so dry down here. He had a bumper crop up there but it froze up, and he came back. Actually, there was a bumper crop right here in 1927, but he missed out on it, as he had his land rented out.

Mr. Thurston was born in 1923, and remembers the onslaught of the dirty thirties. There wasn't that much land broken in the 20's, but in the 30's there was a lot more land broken and there were heavy winds and little moisture.

Mr. Thurston began farming in 1945 after returning from the service in World War II. When his father died in 1950, he took over the family farm. He officially retired in 1994, and his son now operates the farm.

Thanks to The 40-Mile County Commentator for permission to use this story. It was written by John Stanley and originally appeared in Vol 27. No. 26 Tuesday February 24, 1998. Special thanks also Mr. Clarence Thurston for his permission to reproduce this portion of his map. The original map measures 38 x 40 inches and a copy can be obtained from Mr. Thurston for the cost of photocopying, which is \$10.00.



A section of the map showing area homesteaders.

NEW AT THE (MEDICINE HAT) FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Submitted by Deb Phillips

SUMMER HOURS

Closed June 30th.

July 9 - Aug 28 Tuesdays 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. (For those who have films to read etc., Arrangements can be made to open at other times.)

BOOKS

Following the Paper trail - A Multilingual Translation Guide

Concise Genealogy Dictionary

Searching on Location: Planning a Research Trip

COMPUTER

1997 Update of the IGI Addendum (expanding from 7 CD's to 17!)

Bessarabia Collection from the internet — including the Christian Heiss data that cross references to microfilms that are on permanent loan at our FHC.

COMING SOON!

From the LDS DISTRIBUTION CENTER for use on home computers, the following CD's are for purchase.

- 1) 1880 U.S. Census (50 million names, available later this year) - price not yet available.
- 2) Family History Source Guide — (Finding guide to where genealogical records can be found for various countries, how to use the records, maps, letter-writing guides, translations of words for several non-English speaking countries, explanations of definitions and terms, blank forms). A collection of knowledge and experience of hundreds of genealogy experts. (Includes 151 guides) Requirements - Windows 95, pentium, 30mg hard drive space, minimum 8mg RAM (preferably 16mg), VGA 256 color monitor, CD-Rom drive. — \$20.00 US
- 3) Vital Records Index — Compilation of civil and ecclesiastical records, 25 million records. It will be released in segments by geographical areas, such as British Isles (5 million records), North America (4.5 million records). Available later this year. - \$10.00 US per set
- 4) 1851 Census for England - Devon, Warwick, Norfolk. Requirements 486DX86, windows 3.1 or better, min. 4mg RAM (preferably 8mg), VGA monitor, min. 2x CD-Rom. - \$5.00 US

For information on how to order, contact Deb Phillips, or the editor of this publication.

LIBRARY HOLDINGS OF OUR MEMBERS

In this and following issues, we will be listing books owned by our members. Some of the owners of these books will be offering to do look-ups in the books they own. If you see a listing here that would be of interest to you, please contact the owner of the book directly.

HOLDINGS OF FERN MUIRHEAD

phone (403) 527-5093 or E Mail
fmuirhea@memlane.com

I will do "look-ups" in the following cemetery transcripts which I have.

Manitoba: Brandon, Brandon Hills, Carberry, Chater, Elm Creek, Gladstone, Madford, Milford, Moore Park,

Pierson, Sparing, St. Andrew's (near Selkirk), St. Clement's (near Selkirk)

Ontario - Huron County: Brandon-Belgrave Cemetery, Clifford Cemetery, Wingham Cemetery

Bruce County: Teeswater-Culross

Simcoe County: St. Peter's Anglican Church Churchill,

Also: Index to Probate & Surrogate Court Records --
Simcoe County 1828 - 1929

Parish Registers:

England - Lancashire, Ashton in Makerfield
Baptisms 1756 - 1828, Burials 1746 - 1844.
Hale 1741 - 1842, Lancaster 1749 - 1786.

Scotland - East Stirlingshire, West Stirlingshire
Sutherland Burial Grounds pre 1855.
Kirkcudbright Burial Grounds pre 1855.
Scottish Genealogists Society Members' Interests List
1997.

Local History Books:

"Sipiweske" Wawanesa, Manitoba & District, 100
years.
"Echoes of a Century" Douglas, Manitoba 1882 - 1982.
"Homesteaders & Homemakers" Elton Municipality,
Manitoba.

HOLDINGS OF BRIAN KLEIN

527-2874, E-mail bklein@memlane.com

"Sodbusting to Subdivision", DeWinton & District,
Alberta.
"All Hell for a Basement" — Medicine Hat, Alberta.
"MacPhee Clan of Alberta 1888-1983."
"Piapot Prairie Trails", Piapot, Saskatchewan.
"Our Pioneers", Maple Creek, Saskatchewan.
"The town of Maple Creek", Maple Creek, Sask.

HOLDINGS OF MEMORY & SKIP MYERS

"Dundurn Memories", Dundurn Saskatchewan history.
Dundurn is located 20 miles south of Saskatoon, on
Hwy # 11.
"Ripples and Reflections", Hanley Saskatchewan
history. Hanley is located 40 miles south of Saskatoon,
on Hwy # 11.
"Echoes of our Past", Bradwell & Clavet, 100 years of
history. Located about 30 miles southeast of
Saskatoon on Hwy # 397.

HOLDINGS OF FAYE HOOD

527-8314

"Autumn Leaves, Gilded Sheaves", Carievale & District
History - Saskatchewan.

"A Stake in the West", Camduff & District History
Saskatchewan.

"Furrow to the Future", Oxbow - Glen Ewen District
History - Saskatchewan.

"East Reserve Village History 1874 - 1910"*,

"Bergthal Gemeinde Buch" *,

"Historical Sketches of the East Reserve" *.

These three * are a set published by the Hanover
Steinbach Historical Society Inc.

"History and Events",

"The Golden Years",

"Profile 1874",

"Pioneers and Pilgrims".

These books by Plett are on Mennonites.

History of Kliene

Gemeinde

Ontario:

Cemeteries:OxfordCounty

North Norwich.

Norwich Gore.

North Norwich township.

North Norwich Pioneer.

HOLDINGS OF ROSINA BRAUN

Pioneers of the Duchess District of Minnie & Owen
Lake.

Schuler History.

Hilda History one and two.

Our Golden Heritage, Clearwater District.

Rosemary Land of Promise.

Richmond Saskatchewan History.

Duchess and District Memories.

Mennonite Bretheran Church 1929-1979, Gem, AB.

Ashley Diamond Jubilee, Ashley, North Dakota, USA.

Long Lake Golden Jubilee, Ashley, North Dakota, USA.

Lutherans on the Plain.

Duchess Lutheran Church.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Schuler, AB.

Settlers Along the Bow.

Down the Years, Elkwater, AB.

River Crossings, Historical Society of Medicine Hat.

Dreams and Ditchbanks, Gem, AB.

Grass Roots of Dorothy, Dorothy, AB.

Saamis.

Tapping the Bow.

The Weather Factory, Medicine Hat.
 My Life on the Range, by C. J. Christison.
 Memories of an Old Prairie Rancher, by Thomas Wood.
 Seventy-Five Years Along the Red Deer River.
 Saamis Review.
 Gaslight Reflections.
 Early History of the Medicine Hat Country, by J.W. Morrow.
 Glueckstal Colonies, Births and Marriages 1883-1900.
 Glueckstal Marriages 1883-1900.
 Gem Golden Jubilee, Gem, AB.
 Irvine Then and Now, In honor of Alberta's 75th Anniversary.
 A New Beginning, Irvine, AB.
 Bassano Cemetery Records.
 Protestant Church Records on Microfilm for the Former Congress of Poland and Volhynia.
 Mutschler History.
 John Hausauer & Elizabeth Patzer from Irvine, AB.
 The Bieber & Hausauer Family Tree, Eureka, South Dakota, USA.
 Huber & Klein Family Tree.
 Lust Family Book.
 Bessarabian Index of Heads of Household, by Dale Lee Wahl.
 Low German Mennonite Immigration.

HOLDINGS OF BARBARA JANECKE

Historical Atlas of Middlesex County, Ontario 1878.
 The Darlingford Sags 1870-1970 (Manitoba).
 The County Maps of Old England.
 Journey to Yesteryear (Bateman, Saskatchewan).
 First Mennonite Villages in Russia, Khortitsa, Rosental, by H.J. Kroeker.
 The Bergthal Colony (Manitoba), by Wm. Schroder.
 British Emigration to British North America, by Helen L. Cowan.
 Richmond Heritage (Saskatchewan).
 Furrows in the Valley (Morris, Manitoba).
 Hoepfner Scrolls.

HOLDINGS OF LEAH JOYS

527-6353

"In the Lights of the Flares", History of Turner Valley Oilfields, 1979
 "The Golden Years", Publ. Barrhead History Book Committee, 1978
 "Mellowdale Memories", Publ. Mellowdale Book Committee, 1981
 "Early History of the Medicine Hat Country, J W Morrow, 1923, revised 1974
 "Trails Northwest - A History of the District of Barrhead, Alberta, 1967
 "A History of Alberta", by James G MacGregor, 1972
 "Community Names of Alberta", by Ernest G Mardon, 1973
 "From Buffalo Grass to Wheat", History of Long Lake District, (Saskatchewan), by Leonard A Shiels, Craven Saskatchewan, 1980
 "Links With the Past", Publ. Northwest Historical Society, 1989 (Barrhead area)

HOLDINGS OF EILEEN STAHL

527-3291 or E-mail: estahl@memlane.com

"Saga of Schuler Stalwarts", Schuler, Alberta
 1907 Telephone Directory for Medicine Hat
 Medicine Hat and area Farm & Ranch Directory, 1963/64
 "The Hessians of Upper Canada", by Johannes H Merz
 "Innisfil Historical Review, A Record of 100 years of Progress", Simcoe Co., Ont., 1951
 "Supplementary Edition to Innisfil Historical Review" 1967
 "Innisfil Historical Review", Ontario Bicentennial edition 1984"
 "Abstracts of Bucks County Pennsylvania Wills 1685-1785"
 "Bucks Co. PA Church records of the 17th & 18th Centuries" Vol. 3, by Anna Miller Watring
 "Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks", by Clarence V Roberts
 "Tears Toil and Triumph, Story of Kelvington & District", (Saskatchewan)
 "Kendal Then and Now, Memories that Linger", (Saskatchewan)
 "Prairie Echoes of Hatton", (Saskatchewan)

WHAT'S ON THE WEB

Leah Joys AGS #3561, has a great interest in ships, she has collected some web sites that deal with passenger ships, ship passenger lists and descriptions of the ships, and here she shares them with us.

1] Listing of Ships to America (alphabetical)
<www.primenet.com/~langford/ships/shipnameb.htm>

2] Irish Passenger Lists arranged according to ship name.
<freespace.virgin.net/alan.tupman/sites/Irish/thm>

3] Immigrant ship information (1426 entries)
<www.fortunecity.com/littleitaly/amalfi/13/ships.htm>
or at the following mirror site
<www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/3649/ships.htm>

4] More information on emigrant ships to the US
<www.cimorelli.com/pie/emigrate/emigmenu.htm>
or
<www.oz.net/~cyndihow/ships.htm>

If you want to subscribe to "The Ships List" newsgroup. An excellent newsgroup with many helpful and informative people who know a lot about ships, passenger lists, various ports of entry and departure, ship descriptions and pictures, etc. To Subscribe to it: e-mail to: TheShipsList-D-request@rootsweb.com leave "subject" line blank
message: SUBSCRIBE
type only the word "subscribe", don't put anything else, and if you have a signature, turn it off for this message.

A couple more sites that Leah is sharing with us are as follows.

5] People who do look-ups (mainly free) for others. Mainly U.S., but some in Canada (mainly Quebec and Ontario) and in Australia.
<www.citynet.net/mostwanted/ra/lookups.htm>

6] Ancestor Search
<<http://members.tripod.com/~sumames>> over 900 links to online surname searchable databases for Germany, France (and 20 other European countries), UK, Ireland, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

From Rosina Braun AGS # 868. The following sites are from the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection.

Germans from Russia Gluckstal Colonies Deaths 1833 - 1900.

<www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/gerrus/books/ehrman2.html>
This site tells about the book and how to order it and you can access other info from there.

From the above URL, you can link up to a variety of sites about Germans from Russia.

Germans from Russia Heritage Collection "The Computer Corner".

<www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/genus/stabler.html>

Margaret Myles AGS # 3560, brings these sites for beginners, from Archives Society of Alberta newsletter

Genealogy SF <www.genealogysf.com> has many "how-to" articles and basic genealogy information. Files must be downloaded to your own system and then de-archived.

Getting Started in Genealogy and Family History
<<http://micus.ac.uk/genuki/gs>> Read the essay by this title, then cruise the news groups. Evaluations of software, discussion groups, methods for tracing surnames.

Francetres: Sources in Quebec
<www.cam.org/~beaur/gen/qc-src-e.html> 1608 to present day. Vital records, census, family dictionaries, notarized acts and many more valuable historical resources for Quebec.

If you have ancestors who homesteaded in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, or Wisconsin, then you may be able to download a genealogical copy of their "Homestead Certificate".

<www.glorerecords.blm.gov>

This is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern States, General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site. This site provides live database and image access to more than two million federal land title records for the Eastern Public Land States, dating back to 1820.

Submitted by Eileen Stahl AGS # 3226

PROGRAM REVIEW

By Ruby Engler

Family for Windows This is the program I'm using to record my families. Picture space is available, which I like. Scan 1 picture at a time to get proper tones, which does need some practice. This program is interesting. You can list a family and the names go on the family database in alphabetical order. Also names show up in the member database. The names and dates go into long boxes and can be recalled to delete information or add more data. There is a family tree chart, a section on Ancestor Family Portraits, also writing a biography along with the picture and more. It's a good idea to back-up your information on the disk, although pictures do take up a lot of space. The database monitor tells you how many members you have recorded. Birthdays and Anniversaries section is a good idea

[from the editor: Ruby submitted this review for the last issue, but I seem to have lost some of it, so I am reprinting it in it's entirety. My apology to Ruby- ES]

LONG TERM MEMBERSHIP

Ruby Engler # 631, 1978 -1998

I've been with the Medicine Hat Genealogy Branch for 20 years since it's inception on May 12/78, and as the last founding member still attending meetings.

With the group, I've been librarian, publicity, temporarily filling in as secretary, and presently on the phoning committee and recording for our History Book.

Over the years, I've done a lot of work on my ancestors - Dickson surname, and on the grandparents lines - Green, Johnston and Gilder. Also my husband's immediate relatives and ancestors as historian at Engler reunions. I met a relative, once-removed on my grandmother's side - Lambe, living in Medicine Hat. She was 90 years old at the time. Not too long ago, I phoned a lady and asked if she was connected to my gr. gr. grandmother Armstrong, and she said her gr. gr. grandmother was a sister. Lately I've been in touch with newly found relatives, that I needed to fill in the gaps in my Dickson book, which was finished 10 years ago.

Over the years, it's been interesting and rewarding working with groups, with Bake Sales, Seminars or Workshops, assisting in our Library which has grown enormously in the last 20 years.

"ANNOUNCEMENT"



The Medicine Hat and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogy Society, will be celebrating it's 20th Anniversary on June 20th 1998. We will have an Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with presentations at 2:00 p.m., with cake to be served after the presentations. There will be displays by the LDS Family History Center, Public Library, Museum and by our members.

All members and guests welcome!