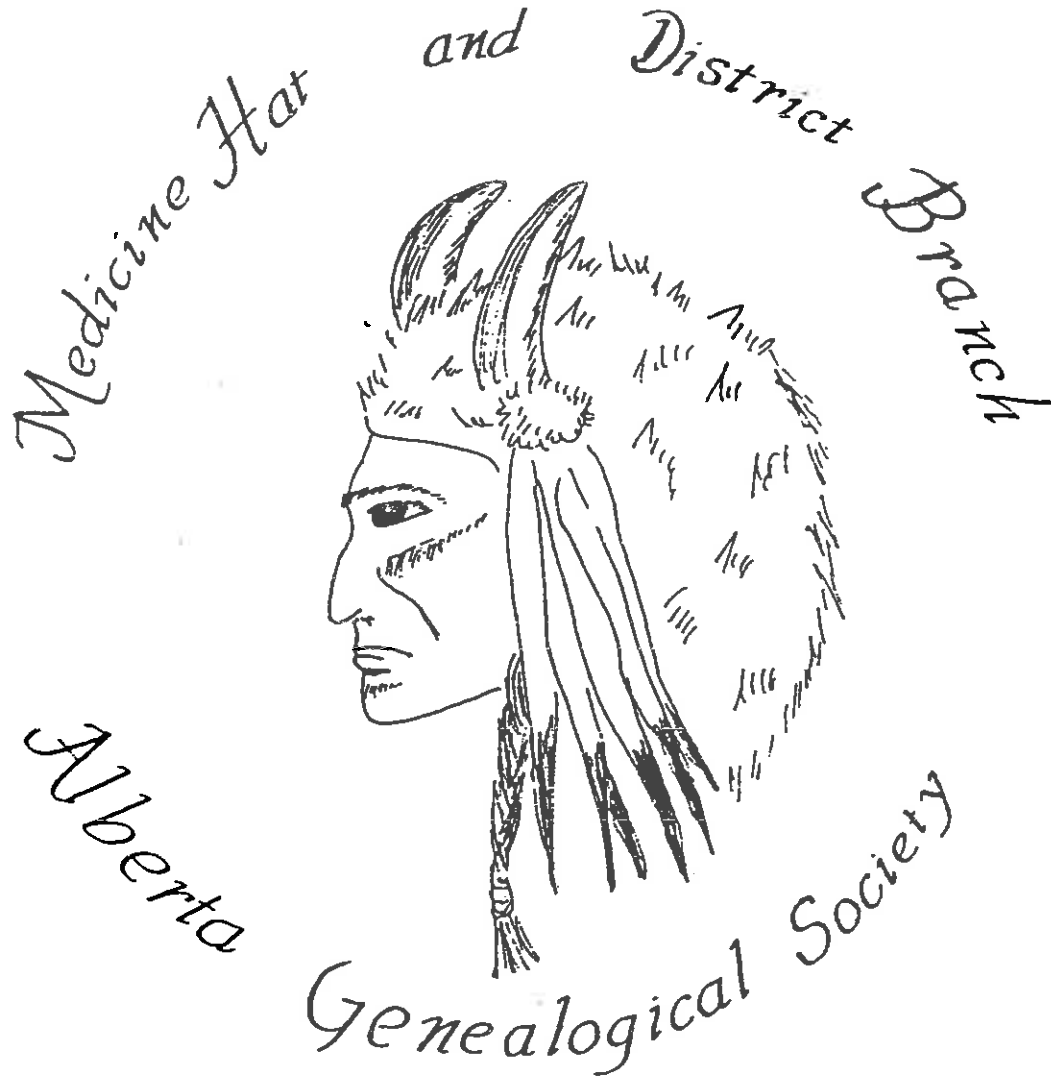


ISSN 0229 7205
VOL 14 NO 2



SAAMIS SEEKER

JUNE 1993

1993 EXECUTIVE

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

Publication dates are the first day of March, June, September and December. Submission deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November.

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 contributors.

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Sgt. Major John Henry Gresham BRAY - Early Medicine Hat Pioneer

J.H.G. Bray was born in Worcestershire, England, 24 Jan 1840. At age 18 he joined the British Army - The Prince of Wales Own 20th Royal Hussars. He Served 10 years with the Hussars, two years on the staff of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII). He emigrated to Canada in April 1872.

When the North West Mounted Police force was being formed, he joined on 6th October 1873 (Regimental #2). He came West with the original troops - and served in the Fort Macleod and Fort Walsh areas.

It was in the area that became known as Fort Walsh, that he met his wife, Jemima MCKAY, the daughter of Edward MCKAY - (1824-1884) and Caroline COOK - (1826-1904). The MCKAY's were living there and it was Edward MCKAY who wrote to the government for police assistance after the Massacre of Indians.

Edward and Carolines' parents and grandparents were with the Hudson's Bay Company. Edward also served the Hudson Bay Company before coming to Fort Walsh area.

Sgt. Major John Henry Gresham Bray retired from the N.W.M.P. on the 3rd of November 1882 and took up ranching in the Pincher Creek, Alberta area. J.H.G. and Jemima and their family moved from Pincher Creek to Medicine Hat - arriving on the first of July 1891. Their descendants held a family reunion at Elkwater, Alberta in August of 1992 - with over 300 attending.

With James Frances Sanderson, J.H.G. Bray formed the first Stock Grower's Association. J.F. Sanderson was president and J.H.G. Bray was secretary. J.H.G. was also a Brand Inspector, and Foreman of the Public Works for the town of Medicine Hat, Alberta.

James Frances Sanderson and his wife Maria (MCKAY) and Edward and Caroline (COOK) MCKAY were among the first pioneers in Medicine Hat area. Maria (MCKAY) SANDERSON and Jemima (MCKAY) were daughters of Edward and Caroline (COOK) MCKAY.

J.H.G. BRAY and Jemima were blessed with 13 children. May Flora (m) (1) Owen Toy SANDERSON (2) George James JOHNSON. Elizabeth (m) William Charles MCKAY. Helen (Nellie) (m) Michael J. CROCKFORD. Henry Edward (m) Helen LEDO. Reginald (m) Ida LEDO Caroline Clara (m) William CROCKFORD. Colin (m) Dora Farrel. William died age 15. Lillian Racheal (m) William FEENEY. Louis died age 5. Henrietta Gertrude (Etta) (m) (1) George HALSTEAD(2) _____ERICKSON and Twins Bertram Lewis died 1918 age 18 years and Bertha Louise died 1925 age 25 years.

J.H.G. and Jemima and sons William Louis, Bertram Louis and daughters Elizabeth (BRAY) MCKAY and Bertha Louise are buried in Kin Coulee Cemetery - Medicine Hat.

BRAY CRESCENT in Medicine Hat is named after J.H.G. BRAY.

Submitted by Adele M. Johnson A.G.S. # 1816

			16	32
		B:		33
		D:		34
8 John MCKAY-78	B: 1753			35
	P: Strathbrock Vall, S, Scotland	17		36
	M: 1791 --28			37
4 John RICHARDS MCKAY-80	P: ,Manitoba,Canada			38
	D: 5 Jul 1810			39
	P: Moose Factory, R., Canada	18 John Jr. FAVELL-12		40
	M: 21 Jan 1821 --29			41
	P: Brandon House, M, Canada	B: 1734		42
	D: 9 Dec 1877	D: 2 Nov 1784		43
				44
2 Edward MCKAY-28		19 TITAMS-124		45
	B: 11 May 1824			46
	P: Beaver Creek, Manitoba, Canada	B:		47
	M: --5	D:		48
	P:			49
	D: 1 Dec 1884	20		50
	P: Fort Walsh, D., Canada	B:		51
		D:		52
5 Harriet PALLENDEN-88		21		53
	B:	B:		54
	P:	D:		55
	D:			56
	P:	22		57
		B:		58
		D:		59
Jemima MCKAY-15		23		60
	B: 1 Jan 1858	B:		61
	P: Fort Ellice, Manitoba, Canada	D:		62
	M: 16 Nov 1876 --4			63
	P: Fort Walsh, D., Canada	24 John COOK-128		64
	D: 31 Mar 1926			65
	P: Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada	B:		66
	John Henry Gresham BRAY-14	D:		67
	Spouse			68
		25 Elizabeth-129		69
6 Joseph COOK-133				70
	B: 1786	B:		71
	P: Ruperts Land, Manitoba, Canada	D:		72
	M: 27 Oct 1827 --69	26 Mathew COCKING-248		73
	P: ,Manitoba,Canada			74
	D: 23 Feb 1848	B: 1743		75
	P: Red River, Manitoba, Canada	D: 17 Mar 1799		76
				77
3 Caroline COOK-29		27 Agathas-249		78
	B: 1824			79
	P: ,Manitoba,Canada	B:		80
	D: 1 Jun 1904	D:		81
	P: Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada	28 Alex SINCLAIR-308		82
		B:		83
		D:		84
7 Catherine SINCLAIR-216		29		85
	B: 1795	B:		86
	P: ,Canada	D:		87
	D:			88
	P:	30		89
		B:		90
		D:		91
		31		92
		B:		93
		D:		94
				95

Name and address of submitter:

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(Put in a drop sheet of these families)
or at the end of the article
MCKAY'S, SINCLAIR, COOK, COCKING, BALENDEN, FAVEL

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TOWN OF SEVEN PERSONS IS VERY BUSY CENTRE OF LARGE DISTRICT

(from The Lethbridge Daily Herald. August 31, 1909. - submitted by Gordon G. Bruins --- AGS #2324)

Farmers All Have Good Crops -- Tree Growing a Feature -- Have
Kick About the Mail Service Too

(From the Herald's Travelling
Correspondent)

Seven Persons, Aug. 28.- Yesterday's drive was most enjoyable even though a rain storm compelled us to seek shelter in a barn. Still there is the same old story of grain and breaking and fine gardens. The scenery of the valley of the Seven Persons Creek adds a pleasing variety not found in some other settlements where there is a straight skyline.

From Whitla the Herald representative drove south for about seven miles, then swinging eastwards turned north to Seven Persons. But the settlement extends far away to the south, yes even as far as the boundary. Today a settler from forty miles out was in town for a load of supplies, and this morning another started on his sixty mile walk south to his homestead. Many settlers take two days to come to Seven Persons to get their mail and supplies.

N. Caton, who lives six miles southwest of Seven Persons just settled here about April 15. He has 12 acres of crop on spring breaking. Oats were sown about June 1 and are a fine crop now in the stook. He never saw a nicer garden to be planted so late. He has a well thirty feet deep with four feet of soft water. Mr. Caton says he would not swap his half section here for the half he just sold for \$4,000, and the other for \$2,500. He has broken over 50 acres this year and wants to have 100 acres in crop next year. His two sons have a homestead each just across the road. He has a fine frame house 12x20 with a kitchen 12x14 and a frame stable.

J. A. Piper who lives seven miles west of Seven Person, has eight acres of oats a good crop and an average of three feet in length on spring breaking. He has broken 80 acres altogether this year, and he expects to have one hundred acres of crop next year. He has a well eighteen feet deep. He expects to have plenty of water as the last five feet were through quicksand. Mr. Piper lost his team of bay mares, one branded circle M and the other W bar. He is offering a reward of \$25 for information resulting in their recovery. Mr. Piper has a fine garden and extra fine on spring breaking. The corn is five feet high and cantaloupe five inches in diameter, and lots of beans, cucumbers, and not a bit of frost up to Aug. 27. He has forty acres of fall wheat and up about four or five inches.

C. Tonberg who lives about three miles south of Seven Persons, has been in the country for eighteen years. He always had a little bit broken and a garden. This year he has a fine crop and everything is good. He has about twenty-seven acres altogether and the grain is certainly good. He has about three thousand trees, cottonwood, elm, ash, and maple, planted last year, and some are nine feet tall having grown eight foot space planted, and he never put a drop of water on them, not even when he planted them. He has fifty head of horses and just sold 200 head of cattle. He has not seen Lethbridge for eight years and there were no houses then at Taber, there being only a water tank. He was not lucky enough to dream that the change would come

so quick or he could have been a rich man for land was only worth \$3.50 per acre in the vicinity of Lethbridge. Mrs. Tonberg has a reputation of being an expert butter maker.

T. O. Nesting, about three miles south of Seven Persons, has thirty-five acres of wheat and oats. Some of it was too heavy and rank to be cut with a binder. It is the best crop he ever saw and he is an experienced farmer who has travelled. He has 2,500 trees, cottonwood, ash and maple. Ninety-seven per cent of them lived. He never watered them since the day they were planted, but he prepared the ground according to Campbell's system. A few of them are nine feet three inches high, and only two years growth. Last year he cultivated between the trees and kept the weeds down right to late fall, thus keeping the trees growing too late. The trees were frozen back because there was too much sap in them when jack frost came. This year, however, there is a rank growth of trees and he has already stopped cultivation. He has been ranching here ten years and has been growing a little grain the last six years. Next year he will have about eighty acres in crop. He has been a subscriber to Campbell's Scientific Farmer, and he thinks that system is the only one for a successful crop every year in this country.

Three Ft. Alfalfa on Fresh Breaking.

Phillip Lousley, at Seven Persons, has North Dakota Flint corn six feet high raised from seed ripened in the same field last year. This year it was sown about June 10, which was a month late, yet it is fit to eat now, and will ripen. Potatoes planted at the same time are also a good crop. Last year he broke virgin prairie one day and the next sowed alfalfa on the breaking. It grew a good stand, some as high as three feet.

John Myers, who lives half a mile from Seven Persons, has a fine crop of wheat. He has been living here for eighteen years. There was then not even a water tank or a section house. The creek was named Seven Persons by the Indians who had been here before Mr. Myers came. There are about five times seven persons now resident within a quarter of a mile, right in the heart of the town. Next year the population may double, when the name will have to be changed to Seventy Persons. Mr. Myers has about 4,000 trees all doing well and never watered. He has about 125 head of cattle which never stable because he has no stable to put them in, and does not need any.

H. Bergman has a meat market and he sells about a beef and a half every week, and business is on the increase. He is also postmaster. The post office is only about one hundred yards from the mail catcher, so it would only cost a trifle more to have the mail carried to and from the east bound train. The item of expense anyway should not be considered in giving good mail service, which will soon mean more business and larger revenue.

M. L. Miller, who has sold his ranch seven miles south east of Seven Persons, has trees that were grown from seed which fell of itself in the banking of the house. They are ten or twelve feet high and they would have been higher but the roots are under the house where there's no rainfall. There are other young trees grown from seeds.

W. N. Adsit, who lives seven miles south east of Seven Persons, has about eighty acres of crop this year. It is fine and the oats are four feet six inches high, and it was all in the stook on Aug. 19.

Seven Persons is one of the busiest little towns along the Crow's Nest line. It is about ninety miles east of Lethbridge, and is the only

telegraph office between Bow Island and Coleridge. There is an operator here but no agent. Many passengers get on here and much freight is received and shipped, yet there is no freight agent and tickets can not be bought here. Still this is the station for many miles of settlement, especially to the south as far as the boundary. There is a water tank, section house, a siding and a passing track. There is a small shack for the operator and one a little larger for a freight shed. Freight is generally put in the freight shed, which is kept locked by the operator. There will be a few cars of grain shipped this year but there is no loading platform here yet, and no elevator. Both will be needed perhaps next year for there has been a lot of breaking already done this year by both the old time ranchers and the new settlers, and many will sow grain on new breaking next spring.

The New Church

The new Presbyterian church here will be dedicated on Sunday. Rev. Lindsay and his gang of willing workers are busy trying to finish up the church in time for the ice cream social on Friday evening, which was the first public gathering in the new church. The energetic preacher shared his ingenuity in designing and making a unique pulpit made from scraps of flooring and ornamented with shingles. About fifty people gathered and sat on the plank form as they ate ice cream and cake. The cooks had been over-generous so the extra supply of cakes was auctioned off to the highest bidder. Mr. Lindsay was auctioneer and did well. He is certainly a success in anything he undertakes. The cakes sold as high as two dollars each and the pies went for as high as seventy-five cents. There was considerable fun as the bachelors outbid each other for the coveted iced cake. The total receipts from the ice cream and cake sales amounted to \$16.

Farmers Organize

The Seven Persons Association own and operate the goods and lumber yard. It is a d organization separate and inde of any other similar organiza the province. Colin McAskile manager and about thirty farne shares in the association. Th goods and lumber at reasonable and the profits are returned shareholders as dividends. shareholders and others ar satisfied with the plan which h working successfully for over

J. J. Nicholson is running a class restaurant and stopping and good accommodation is fu travellers.

Carl Swartz is running a black shop and is kept busy.

Phillip Lousley handles sla posts.

The Seven Persons school is a mile and a half south east town. Miss Armstrong, of Venture, is teacher.

Settlement 60 Miles From R

Tp. 2 Range 6, about sixty south of Seven Persons and sixty east of Milk River, has about settlers who just filed in the s They are mostly Norwegians and G who will make their homestead home. A few have a fine crop of grown on spring breaking. The been much rain there this ye there is a good growth of gra: grain. Each settler has broke: ten to twenty acres. More wo: broken if the railway was near: store has been started but no office as yet.

The above information was se from one of the settlers who ha: to town and was starting out t: the sixty miles from Seven Pe south past the east end of Bad Lake down to his homestead nea banks of the Milk River. He say: there is much settlement for t

five miles south of Seven Persons and scattered settlement for the rest of the long walk. The distance is about the same but the road to Seven Persons is better than that to Milk River.

Land seekers have been driven out for over fifty miles to the south of Seven Persons by J. B. Murray who runs a livery, sale and feed barn here. He says there is fine land out there for sale at reasonable prices and there is also some land still open for homestead and pre-emption. He is agent for 6,200 acres of land about seven miles from Seven Persons.

A Long Trip

C. Hudson and R. Withers, of Oregon, are driving over Southern Alberta with a team and a democrat. They came in by Gateway and over the Crow's Nest Pass through Pincher Creek, up to Calgary. Then about 150 miles north east, then swung south by Crowfoot, crossed the Big Bow and back to Nanton. Then turning eastward through Blaney and Taber to Seven Persons. Now they will look over the country to the south around the Bad Water Lake and Milk River. If they find anything to suit them they will be in the scramble at the Lethbridge land office on Sept 20. They are delighted with all the country they have seen and have seen some mighty fine grain. They are surprised at the large area of settlement which is so well developed.

More Post Office Defects

Seven Persons post office is well patronized. As much as from three to five sacks of mail arrive every day. There is also a large number of letters sent out every night. The empty mail bags are supposed to be put back in the outgoing mail sack along with the outgoing mail. This makes the mail bag so full that it cannot be caught by the catcher on the train. So the empty mail sacks are now sent back on the day trains. Only one

train a day takes or gives mail at Seven Persons. That is the westbound night train. The people here have the same old kick, just as all the towns between Lethbridge and Coleridge. They all want the same privileges of getting mail off both eastbound and westbound trains. Taber and Grassy Lake are the only towns now having that privilege.

It is the same old story of letters taking several days to travel only a few miles.

The settlers for over sixty miles to the south of Seven Persons now get their mail here. George Anthony, who lives near the international boundary gets his mail at Seven Persons. The settlers in the district are doing their best to build up the province and are certainly deserving of consideration. There is surely enough mail at this post office for a better mail service. This might be granted sooner if the inspector would pay it a visit for they say "seeing is believing."

From here the Herald man will travel by train visiting the towns along the line as far east as Maple Creek before starting on his return drive, when other settlements will be visited on the way back to Lethbridge. Owing to the vast area of farming land actually broken and the large acreage to be cropped next year all around in every corner of the Lethbridge district there will surely be a big business for the business man in the fall of 1910.

After reading this poem let's make an effort to visit an oldster (male or female) as they have many interesting stories to tell and you both will benefit from the visit. **Make someone HAPPY.**

THE LONELY, THE OLD, AND THE FORGOTTEN

She sits there waiting patiently
And wipes away a tear
Wishing that a visitor
Would suddenly appear.

Someone to say, "How are You?"
And greet her with a smile
Someone to sit beside her
And chat a little while.

It's hard for her to understand
Just what she's doing there
What happened to her family
And friends who used to care?

How come she's been abandoned
Like some old worn out shoe?
What crime has she committed
What bad thing did she do?

True she has a bed to sleep in
And she's sheltered from the rain.
But there's precious little else
To ease her loneliness and pain

She's only one of many
In an oldster's home today
Who finds the price for long life
Is much too high to pay.

That picture could be quickly changed
If all of us would spend
Some extra time just visiting
A relative or friend

Who's shut away from all the things
That once were held so dear
And needs to be reminded
That at least someone is near.

To take her by the hand and say
"How are you?" with a smile
And then sit close beside her
And just love her for awhile!

By Alice E. Chase