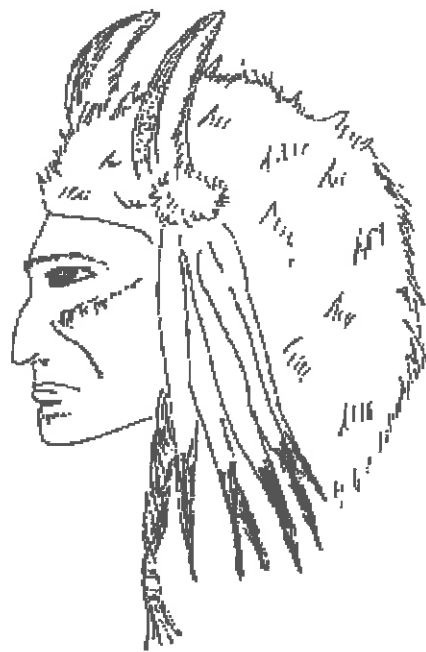


Medicine Hat and District Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society



SAAMIS SEEKER

MARCH 1997

ISSN 0229 7205

VOL. 18 NO. 1

1997 EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

President: Edie Pinder 548-3770
Past President: Betty Padfield 526-8677
First V.P.: Gordon Bruins 526-9570
Second V.P.: Myra Anderson 526-3937
Secretary: Memory Myers 544-3545
Treasurer: Fern Muirhead 527-5093
Publications: Ferdinand Schwab . . . 527-5774
Library: Betty Padfield 526-8677
Membership: Kathy Gleisner 548-7505
Queries: Margaret Myles 526-3466
Research: Teresa Parasynchuk . . 527-3678
Editor: Eileen Stahl 527-3291

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

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



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 nor the Branch accept any responsibility for the opinions or errors on the part of the contributors.

CONTENTS

MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1996 YEAR END REPORTS	3
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	3
LIBRARY REPORT	3
COMMITTEES	3
1996 MEMBERSHIP REPORT	4
1996 FINANCIAL STATEMENT	4
1996 QUERIES REPORT	5
RESEARCH RESOURCES	6
St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church 1890 - 1990	6
Empire of Dust	6
DID YOU KNOW?	6
KATZBACH BESSARABIA	7
BOOK REVIEWS	9
Cypress Hills Country	9
Ulster Emigration to Colonial America 1718 - 1775	9
MEMBERS ANCESTRAL RESEARCH AREAS	10

MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1996 YEAR END REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1996 was a busy year for our group. We had great turnouts and lots of guests, some of whom became members.

Some of our programming for the year included the internet, Scottish research, local archeology, funeral homes and monumental companies, indexing the obituaries and extracting "strays" from the local papers.

We had a report on Bill C-32 and encouraged our members to write to the government to voice their concerns, as well as our concerns over the release of future census films.

We were able to raise some money to help support our group by way of a bottle drive and selling supplies.

I enjoyed my term as President and wish to thank everyone who helped me during the past two years. I wish the incoming executive all the best and know they will do a good job for the membership.

Respectfully submitted
Betty Padfield.

LIBRARY REPORT

We received the usual newsletters from Ontario and Alberta, and also sent our newsletter in exchange.

Some new material in the Library included: A book for filling out forms, from Louise St.Denis. British Medical Records, the GRD, updated version of Searching in Ontario by Brenda D. Merriam. We also purchased a few supplies such as binders, magazine holders, labels, file cards and boxes.

We purchased the 1898, 1913, and 1923 Birth, Marriage, and Death indexes for Ontario.

Our Library continues to grow, giving our members lots of research material. I would like to thank everyone for their help this past year and look forward to working in the Library another year.

Respectively submitted
Betty Padfield

COMMITTEES

We would like to thank all who have so generously volunteered their time to the committees of our society. Taking over Membership and phoning from Edie Pinder is Kathy Gleisner. Teresa Parasynchuk remains for Cemeteries. Margaret Myles will take over queries from Adele Johnson. Jean Schattle will remain on Lunch. We are looking for a volunteer for Ancestor Index. Betty Padfield will remain for the Library, Eileen Stahl for the Saamis Seeker, Ferdinand Schwab for Publicity. We hope Gordon Bruins will remain on the Computer Corner, and we need a volunteer for Programming.

1996 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Edie Pinder AGS # 1824

In 1996 our branch memberships consisted of 35 individual, four family and four out of town memberships for a grand total of 43 memberships.

MEDICINE HAT & DISTRICT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S 1996 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance forward from 1996..... \$2, 348.37

REVENUE: Grant Money	\$ 500.00	
Membership	\$1,519.45	
Fund raising	\$ 375.14	
Interest	\$ 61.45	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 26.00</u>	
	\$2,482.04.....	\$2,482.04

TOTAL REVENUE:..... \$4,830.41

Expenditures: Rent	\$ 600.00
Office Expenses	\$ 158.86
Miscellaneous	\$ 128.60
Library Expenses	\$ 326.19
Saamis Seeker	\$ 245.33
Program Expenses	\$ 177.16
A. G. S.	<u>\$1,109.00</u>
	\$2,745.14

TOTAL ENPENDITURES:..... \$2,745.14

1996 YEAR END BALANCE..... \$2,085.27

Chegueing Account Balance \$ 967.10
Term Deposit \$ nil
Savings Account Balance \$1,118.17
Total Assets \$2,085.27

Medicine Hat & District Genealogical Society's Three Year Budget

	1997	1998	1999
INCOME:			
Grant Money	\$ 470.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 530.00
Membership	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Donations	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Bank Interest	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Fund raising	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
A.G.S. Rent	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$1,800.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Rent	\$ 600.00	\$ 620.00	\$ 640.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 70.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 74.00
Insurance	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Office Supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 156.00
Postage & Photo copies	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Library Expenses	\$ 320.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 270.00
Saamis Seeker	\$ 250.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 270.00
Programs & Educational	\$ 200.00	\$ 283.00	\$ 250.00
Computer/Micro Film	\$ 50.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 60.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$1,800.00	\$1,900.00	\$1,950.00

**

Please note that if A.G.S. doesn't pay for Medicine Hat's Rent or if there is no more grant money handed out. This branch will have to fold by 1998. There just isn't enough money to run it any longer.

Submitted by

Kathy Gleisner
Treasurer:
Medicine Hat
Branch

1996 QUERIES REPORT

Submitted by Adele Johnson

Received Nov. 15, 1996

From: Cathy PAULSON, Carrington, North Dakota, USA - Looking for Bill and Patricia (SANDERS) WYSE. - Found and sent address to Cathy.

Received Nov. 6, 1996

From: Mrs. K.W. SCOTT, Wetaskiwin, AB - Looking for Annie (SCOTT) BOYD who married John INGLIS BOYD. - Obituary found for Annie and John and sent to Mrs. SCOTT.

Received Sept. 4, 1996

From: Anthony V. PETTIT, Dundas, Ont. - Looking for Frank WILLEARD, born Sussex, England, 27 July 1888 - emigrated to Medicine Hat about 1900's. - Found Frank WILLARD - Henderson Directory 1917-1919

Received 6 Nov. 1996

From: Harold W. KASTELLE, Suncity West, Arizona, USA - Looking for Christian MADSEN LARSEN married to Mathilde "Tilla" KASTELLE MADSEN LARSEN from Seven Persons, AB area about 1900. - Nothing found.
Sent copy of cemetery listings for the area.

Received June 1996

From: Fern WATSON, Red Deer, AB - Looking for William SQUANCE and Mrs. Catherine (John) COURTNEY SQUANCE. - Found obituaries - Mrs. J. SQUANCE and info from the Henderson Directories.

Received 6 Mar. 1996

From: Mrs. Marie TRUEMAN, Penticton, BC - Looking for William Victor HADDOW - Nothing found

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Submitted by Adele Johnson

Saskatchewan Genealogy

St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church 1890 - 1990translations of the earliest church histories, and information on the early families of the Congregation, translated from the parish registers of the 1890-1927.../ edited and translated from the German by Richard Hordern; with translation assistance from . . Philip Engstrom . . [et al]. Balgonie, Saskatchewan.

The family history information is taken from the parish registers of St. John's and covers the following areas; [1] Alberta (Dunmore 1890, 1896; Josephsburg 1890, 1896; Seven Persons 1890); [2] Manitoba (Greta 1897; Winkler 1897; Winnipeg 1890, 1895); [3] Edenwald (or Edenwold) rural district and town and other places inn Saskatchewan served by the Edenwold pastors. Includes "records of the work of early pastors of the St. Johns' Congregation in the wider areas of the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan (North West Territories)1890 - 1905, and later in the Province of Saskatchewan; and family history information from the St. Johns' parish registers.

Empire of Dust settling and abandoning the prairie dry belt / David C. Jones - Edmonton, Alberta: University of Alberta Press (c) 1987.

Map on lining papers. Includes bibliographical references. Contains history of Carlstadt (Alderson), Southwestern Saskatchewan and especially Southeastern Alberta. Includes index. ISBN 0-88864-120-6 (pbk)

These books could likely be ordered on interlibrary loan through the Medicine Hat Public Library. - A.J.

DID YOU KNOW?

B.C. Archives has ON-LINE indexes. Marriage registration indexes, 1872 - 1921. Death registration indexes, 1872 - 1976. Birth registration indexes are expected to be available in the spring of 1997. Registration numbers and also microfilm numbers are also on the indexes. Visit the site at: <<http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca>>.

KATZBACH BESSARABIA

submitted by Ferdinand Schwab

Katzbach was founded in 1821. However, 34 families had settled there as early as 1816. Some of these families had settled in Poland. Some went directly from Germany to Katzbach. These families sent word to friends in Poland. Among the immigrants from Poland were my wife Lena's ancestors, the Beierbachs. As they went on their own, they also had to travel at their own expense. However, each family got 60 desjadine land (about 160 acres). The beginning was hard. There were no houses. Some dug a hole in the ground and made a makeshift roof on it. This was their home for the first year. After a few years of hardship and suffering, conditions changed dramatically. The new soil produced good crops.

Then came World War I. Many of the young men were called up to serve in the army. Sixteen men lost their lives. After the war in 1919, Bessarabia belonged to Rumania. The children had to take their education in Rumanian language.

The settlers in Katzbach had planned a big celebration for the 125 anniversary. However, the Second World War spoiled that idea. All the German people were taken out of Bessarabia and resettled in different parts of Germany. During this war, again many lost their lives and property.

I have recently found a relative of my wife, in Germany. His name is Emil Beierbach. He is third cousin to my father-in-law, the late Henry Beierbach. Emil's father was Gotthilf Beierbach and his mother Lydia Stock. Lydia was related to our Medicine Hat Stocks. Emil sent me some write-ups about Katzbach. They were in German. I will pass on some of these excerpts to you. I found them very interesting.

Several descendants of the Katzbach settlers decided to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Katzbach. Katzbach is now named Luschanka. Bessarabia is now part of the Ukraine. The main organizer of this project was Edwin Kelm. It took a lot of telephone calls and letters between Germany and Katzbach. The project was well advertised in the German newspapers. Sixty five people from Germany, signed up for the trip to Katzbach. Some of these people were born in Katzbach, others were descendants. Emil Beierbach was born there in 1936. Emil also became quite involved with the preparations for the trip. He wrote an article to be read at the celebration.

Donations were accepted for the trip for gifts. They bought a washing machine and a refrigerator for the kindergarten school in Katzbach. Another great helper in this project was Irma Lutz-Riedel. I have also received an article written by her.

On August 23rd and 24th, 1996, the travellers arranged for transportation from Akkermann (Bessarabia) Ukraine to Katzbach. This was before the actual celebration. They hired taxis or other private vehicles. With much suspense and mixed feelings, the group came from the east of the dorf (village) of Katzbach. The dirt road was muddy and full of potholes. When they stopped on the top of the hill overlooking the village, a deep silence set in. Sadly the thoughts went back to the happy days, when parents, grandparents and siblings were born there, lived there and died there. And now are resting in the cemetery. Many a tear was silently brushed away.

The vehicles moved on. Suddenly they could not go any further. There was no more road. They turned north and came to a crossroad. Here was the same condition. Rain had soaked the road. Every where was mud and potholes. The travellers were told that there had been a three month drought. A few days before a heavy thunder storm had gone through. Everything was flooded. The small stream Aliago had overflowed its banks. The whole town was

flooded. It even washed away part of a bridge. From there the visitors swarmed out on foot. Everybody went looking for their ancestral home. Those that had lived at the bottom end of the town were disappointed. There was absolutely nothing to be found. The houses and buildings had been levelled and the yards turned back to fields.

Emil Beierbach's home was also among these. All that was left was a broken down water trough and an old apricot tree, standing amid a field of thistles. Even in the main village, many houses were missing. This was a great disappointment to many. Those visitors that did find their ancestral homes, took the opportunity to contact the present residents. Small gifts not only opened the doors but also the hearts.

The visitors were invited in to clean and well organized homes. With a good drop of wine, the friendship was sealed. They were taken for a tour through the gardens. Here they had onions, cucumbers, beans, peppers, tomatoes and watermelons amongst other vegetables. They also had many grape plants. The visitors were allowed to taste the delicious grapes. With sad hearts they took their leave from their hosts.

August 25th, 1996 was to be the main celebration. They again headed for Katzbach with their tour bus. They passed fields of corn and sunflowers. During the night it had rained again. This had the effect that the celebration had to be held on higher ground.

The visitors were really surprised when they left the bus. They saw a large sign erected with a shield of the district and a flag of the Bessarabian Germans. On the sign was the founding year of Katzbach as well as the new name Luschanka. They were greeted by the Madam Mayor, the Madam Principal of the school and other dignitaries, as well as many of the residents. Traditionally they were greeted by two brightly dressed women, who welcomed them with bread and salt!

The Madam Mayor greeted them with a hearty welcome and invited them to a celebration feast in the school. Mr Kelm thanked them with a moving speech. He spoke about the founding of Katzbach and now its 175th anniversary. He also told them how he was so deeply moved by the hearty invitation with bread and salt at the entrance to the village. He also pointed out that on August 8th, 1996 was five years that the Ukraine had separated from Russia.

Next a history of the founding and the life of the people of Katzbach was presented by Irma Lutz-Riedel. Then a sermon of thanks and praise was given by Theologian Heinrich Stock. This was followed by several hymns. After the service they went back to their bus and drove up the cemetery hill. Because of the damaged bridge, they had to walk across the bridge to the school.

When they arrived at the school, they were greeted by the residents. Above the door there was a large Russian sign, "Hearty Welcome". In the basement of the school, two rooms had been set up for the feast. On a long table set up in U - form, was a massive buffet. There was fish, lamb chops, pork, chicken legs, meatballs etc. Besides so pleasing to the eye and to the palate, were sour peppers, pickles, watermelons, muskmelons, apples, pears, peaches, nectarines and best of all the grapes. Of course there was also a good drop of red wine. This was made and donated by Dimetria from Tschemelek. After the meal some old country songs were sung. Presents were handed out as well as clothing and shoes.

Finally they took a tour of the cemetery. Although many of the gravestones were deteriorated, still many found the graves of their relatives. Thanks to the sports teacher, many gravestones had been set up and the inscriptions restored. Finally wreaths were laid at a monument to those who gave up their lives in the war and to the founders of the village of KATZBACH.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Ruby Engler # 631

Cypress Hills Country - published by Cypress Hills (Alberta) Historical Society.

The Cypress Hills is a flat-topped plateau which rises 2000 feet above the plains of western Canada and covers 1000 square miles. One third lies in Alberta and two thirds in Saskatchewan. The first part of the book is very descriptive of the origin of the Hills, when the NWMP were involved, and the Indians of the area. Settlers arrived in the late 1800s. The Dominion Lands Act of 1872 provided homesteaders with 160 acres of land for \$10.00 fee. The railway was allowed to select the best lands. Homesteaders could get peremption on their adjoining quarter.

In 1905 Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces. The drought and depression in the dirty thirties drove many settlers from the land. Schools and churches are described. A map of the different districts is at the front of the book.

My husband and I have land in the Robinson district. We bought the Art Lust farm NE 13-9-3-W4 in 1975. We call it our hobby farm, as we live in Medicine Hat. Jean Schattle's daughter Marie is our neighbour about 1 mile north from our farm. Her husband Jim Mack is a minister at Irvine.

The residents in each district tell their stories. There is an index at the back of the book. This is the land that Palliser called a perfect oasis in the desert in 1859. This book is so interesting. If you have relatives in the Cypress Hills or Medicine Hat area, this book is a must read.

Ulster Emigration to Colonial America 1718 - 1775 - by R.J. Dickson - reprinted 1976.

The Ulster-Scot Historical Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the Ulster-Scots at home and abroad. This book explains the situation in Ireland before the massive emigration to America, especially from the northern parts of Ireland. There is a map on page 106 & 107.

The north of Ireland became more Scottish as the Scottish presbyterians were suffering in their native land, also land was cheap in northern Ireland. The religious control and government were at odds, and resulted in emigration. England enforced the Irish export only to them, with the exception of linen. Weaving and farming were the dominant trades.

Linen markets fluctuated and was responsible partly for the emigration to the American Colonies. Rising rents were another reason. Most of the Irish land was in English ownership, and the rent money was transferred to England.

Shipping advertisements and letters from emigrants encouraged people to leave for a better land. Ministers wanting a better life had to ask the synod of the Strobane presbyters for permission to leave in 1720, where they could worship in freedom, not in sufferance. Other religious groups like Quakers and Episcopal, besides Presbyterians, had legal tolerance of worship. The Roman Catholics believed the presbyterian marriages were illegal. Also there was resentment in paying tithes. Many years of famine forced the Irish to invest in the cost of passage to the land of hope.

MEMBERS ANCESTRAL RESEARCH AREAS

Debra Phillips	219 Fairchild St. SW, Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 7Z6	AGS # 3022
PHILLIPS, Joseph, Edward, William, John, Thomas		Almnte, ON; Bucks, England	1920 - 1790
REID, David, William		Almnte, ON; Cork, Ireland	1950 - before
SMITH, Susanah, John		Renfrew Co, ON; England: NY	1915 - before
SMITH, Sarah, Thomas		Bucks, England	1780 - before
Adele M Johnson	218 Muir Cres. NW, Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 6W5	AGS # 1819
FAVELL, John, Mary		Manitoba, Canada	1780 +
GUDMUNDSON, Gudmund, Solrun		Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland	1840 +
HARRISON, Elizabeth		Leeds, West Riding, York, England	1740 +
HEATON, Mary		Birstall, West Riding, York, England	1800 +
JOHNSON, George J		Bellville, Illinois, USA	1860 +
Eileen Stahl	Box 16, Dunmore, AB	T0J 1A0	AGS # 3226
WILLIS, John, Thomas		Michigan	before 1890
WILSON, Horace, Milo		Vienna twp, Michigan	before 1905
WEBSTER, Ida Belle, Charles, Waterman		Island Pond, Vermont > Michigan	1870s-1890s
COURTRIGHT, Flora, Alec		Michigan, USA	mid 1800s
Teresa Parasynchuk	145 Markwick Drive S.E. Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 7V9	AGS # 2293
WATERS, John Howard		Pembroke, Wales	1877
DORMER / DeORME, Robert		Mile End, Middlesex, London	1880
TREHUB, Fred		Austria	1889
BAKER, Elizabeth		Mile End, Middlesex, London	1880
Betty Padfield	Box 227, Dunmore, AB	T0J 1A0	AGS # 1542
BRENNAN, John		Nova Scotia, Nfld, England, Ireland	Pre 1909
PADFIELD, George Cox, James		Ontario, England, Ireland	Pre 1810
DINGWALL, James, George		Scotland, Manitoba	Pre 1905
METZLER, George, Christopher		Nova Scotia, Germany	c. 1749
Barbara Janecke	1298 McKenzie Cres. N.W. Medicine Hat, AB	T1A 6Y4	AGS # 1681
FRANK, Thomas Allan		Gravelbourg, Sask > Darlingford, Man.>	
		Westminster twp, Ont	1883 - 1907
BOSMAN, Eliza		Darlington, Man > London & Westminster	
		twps, Ontario	1885 - 1920
DUECK, Diedrick		Bergthal, Russia	1830 -
HOEPPNER, Heinrich		Chortitza, Russia	1861 -
Edith Pinder	Box 508, Redcliff, AB	T0J 2P0	AGS # 1824
FENDLEY, Edith, James Edward, Edith		Toronto, Ontario	1910 - 1940
PINDER, Dennis, Stanley, Henry		Nottingham, England	1870 - 1903