

Wishing all our members a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year



HERITAGE SEEKERS

Grande Prairie and District Branch of
the Alberta Genealogical Society



Lucy Ann Swift Lovett's gravesite in the Hathern Churchyard Cemetery, Leicester, England. Follow Tracy Kirouac's trail of discovery on page 3.



Message from the President

It is unbelievable that we are ending another year. I hope it has been enjoyable and successful for all of you in your research.

At this time I would like to express my appreciation to all members who make an effort

to attend our regular meetings. Having good attendance is essential to our branch's success. This is over and above my "Thank you" to all of you who do the volunteer work that keeps us a viable society.

This past year we had excellent presentations given by our members and by some of their family members. We hope for more of the same in the New Year. All ideas for future programs are welcome by our Program Chairman.

In closing, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and may 2007 be a year of good health and happiness for all and great successes in your research.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Joy Bennett
Branch President*

Mark your calendar!

FEBRUARY 20

Pot Luck Supper and Annual Meeting

If possible, please bring an ethnic dish along with short (index card) story telling something about the dish.

DINNER at 6:00 pm followed by short business meeting and the annual general meeting.

Please bring your pedigree chart to share.

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Lucy Ann Swift Lovett

By Tracey Kirouac

Like most of you, I have posted my share of family research queries to bulletin boards, newsletters and websites over the years. Always with the unflagging faith that somewhere out there, there must be at least one other person interested in the same ancestor that I am. Not unlike scientists holding fast their belief of contacting "life out there"!

Recently I received a reply to a query on RootsChat.com that I had pretty much given up on. The odds against finding this one individual, who had died young and with no issue, seemed insurmountable.

My husband's maternal Grandfather, Harry Edgar Lovett, was born in Shepshed, Leicester, England in 1889. Tracing his family in that area has not been difficult as they appeared to not have moved much in over three hundred years. The difficulty arose after we discovered one small word on Harry's marriage certificate from his union with Jessica Letham Graham on the 21 June 1923, in Toronto, Ontario. "Widower". With only my husband's generation left of that family, and none of them recalling knowing of this previous marriage, where to start?

We had Harry's discharge papers from the Canadian Expeditionary Forces of World War I, so accessing the National Archives of Canada website and finding the index for his military records was not difficult. Off went our application for a complete set of his records, and in less than a month the package arrived.



It was now confirmed, Harry had been married at the time of his enlistment in 1915 to Lucy Ann Lovett and they had been residing in Paris, Ontario. They also showed how his separation allowance had been sent to Lucy at a box number in Paris, up until September 1916, when it was changed to Clarence House, Loughborough, Leicester, England. Then the payments abruptly stopped on 27 February 1919 when Lucy died. But who was Lucy Ann?

With her death date in hand, I used www.1837online.com to access the British Death Indexes, which gave me a reference number to use contacting the PRO at www.nationalarchive.gov.uk, to order an official copy of Lucy Ann's death certificate. While waiting for this document to arrive, I poured over the 1911 Canadian census for Paris, Ontario on

www.automatedgenealogy.com in hopes of finding the young couple already living there. There was no sign of them, but I did find a large number of people giving their occupation as knitters which established a reason for Harry to have been there. He had been a framework knitter back in Shepshed, and the family remembered him working at the Macgregor Sock Factory in Toronto up until his death in 1965.

Finally the long awaited Death Certificate arrived. With high hopes of learning

her maiden name if nothing else, we were quite disappointed to find only her married name given. We did learn that she had died at 32 Clarence St., Loughborough, at the age of 26 years, and her "occupation" given at time of death was "wife of Harry Edgar Lovett, Sapper no. 772581, Canadian Railway Troops (Foreman Knitter in Hosiery Factory)". We had suspected a death from the great flu epidemic of that time, but learned she had actually died of pulmonary tuberculosis at such a young age.

Loughborough February 1919 32 Clarence Street Loughborough W.P.	Lucy Ann Lovett	26 years	Wife of Harry Edgar Lovett Sapper 772581 Canadian Railway Troops (Foreman Knitter in Hosiery Factory)	Pulmonary tuberculosis Certified by W.B. Blackham M.B.	H.E. Lovett Witness of deceased present at the death 32 Clarence Street Loughborough	Loughborough February 1919 Registrar
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Now stumped, I started checking through old messages archived on the www.RootsChat.com website for Leicester, finally posting a message myself enquiring about Clarence House and any information anyone might have on Harry Edgar and Lucy Ann Lovett. Not holding out much hope, I put this couple on the back burner and carried on with other research.

Then out of the blue a few weeks ago, an incredible reply was posted to my message:

"Dear traceyk
 What a coincidence. I am from near loughborough (leicestershire, England) and for some time my mum (now 92) has been asking me to find out about harry edgar lovett as he was married to lucy ann swift, of hathern (near loughborough) who was sister to my mothers mother dorothy (dolly). Lucy was 3rd child of 10

of which the youngest (Phyllis) has died not too long ago. Lucy's gravestone is in Hathern churchyard (I think 1919 but will check may be 1920). According to my mum she died of TB ("not looking after herself") and her sister Alice died within 2 months, both at this time living in Clarence Street Loughborough where my mum used to visit them (then aged 5). According to my mum, Lucy married Edgar a member of RCMP in 1910 and moved over to Canada (Ontario ?) before returning in 1913 after which she thinks Harry went to war but she has no idea what happened to Harry - she is keen to know . Also she has 2 pictures painted by Harry hanging up at home. To date the only record I have is the 1901 census when Lucy was 8 recorded as a scholar living in Hathern with parents John Alexander Swift, Hosiery manufacturer (factory still going run by his descendants) and Kate Swift (nee Hood) living

(I think) at Harriman House (still in Swift family) before they eventually moved to Clarence Street about 1918. It's a small world. I'd love to hear your side of the story and will endeavour to help your research.

Regards, Antony White. "

There were so many consistencies that we knew immediately that the right Lucy Ann had been found. Right down to the fact that Harry continued to paint right up until his death, and several family members still have his paintings hanging in their homes.

So now after a pleasant correspondence with our new acquaintance in Loughborough, we have happily added Lucy Ann Swift Lovett to the family tree. A mystery solved.

As a final footnote to this story, a few nights ago I overheard my husband talking to his brother on the phone, discussing their Grandfather's early life. Thom's brother made a remark about their Grandmother, Jessica

Graham Lovett, to the effect that, hadn't she been married before as well? "Oh God", replied my husband "Don't tell Tracey or I won't see her for another year."



A young Lucy taken from a school group photo from Loughborough.



A photo of Dolly Swift's wedding at Harriman House in 1914, sent to me by Antony White, with Lucy Ann identified at the bridesmaid in the middle row, far right.

Websites of Interest

Helpful websites that our members have come across.

From Paulette Hrychiw, the website with the link to La Survivance, the Alberta French newspaper <http://www.csj.ualberta.ca/ippf/default.htm>

The link is on the right hand side of the list in the center.

From Judy Bradley,

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/> Missouri has put their death certificates on line from 1910 to 1928 FREE . From 1929 to 1955 you have to order them for \$1.

http://mulberry.swarthmore.edu/~eevans1/hazar_d.html Quaker Records "...a name index to New York Yearly Meeting ... now on-line, and includes all of the monthly meeting minutes and vital records that were on deposit at Swarthmore..." as of 2005.

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/booty.weather/cliente/histclimat.htm> This amazing site, which details exceptional weather conditions in UK - almost year by year. Useful in determining reasons for family upheaval.

http://www.francegenweb.org/~archives/archive_sgenweb/?id=adfrance#78 This web page that leads to the archives of every Department/Province in France. Many of them are putting all their parish registers and civil registration on line FREE! From their earliest parish registers (some in 1500's -1792 when civil registration started) into the 1880's.

Some have the census (done every 5 years) from 1836-1902; old maps of each community in that department; histories, all kind of things. Many have an ongoing indexing project very similar to what is being done on "Automated Genealogy"

From the Stacks

Gail Schau

Just a reminder to watch the Canadian produced television show "Ancestors in the Attic". The program attempts to answer questions sent in by viewers and is full of timely tips and research strategies. There is a form on the website for anyone with a brick wall question to submit it to the show for consideration. The program airs here on the History Channel (26 on cable) Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and is repeated at least twice during the week.

Another reminder for any volunteer to get their hourly totals in to me so that our branch report can be somewhat accurate!

We have received from AGS the latest edition of the Edmonton branch library holdings and the AGS library holdings as well as the syllabus from the recent (April) Genfair in Wetaskiwin. Don't forget that any AGS member is entitled to borrow from the AGS library.

Thanks for a great year and I wish everyone great ancestor hunting in 2007!

Old Newspapers

Joan Bowman

Births, marriages and deaths extracted from the "Grande Prairie Herald" newspaper. Continued from the September 2006 issue of "Heritage Seekers".

Mar. 9, 1928 Issue:

"Born to Mr. and Mrs. **NORTH** of Edmonton, March 5th, a son."

"Halcourt News: Mrs. Bert **FUNNELL** died at Grande Prairie Feb. 25th, laid to rest Feb. 29th..... held at the Orangemen's Hall. Rev. **LAW** officiated. Interment at the Halcourt Cemetery..... Leaves to mourn: her husband and infant daughter Peggy, one brother George **BROWNRIGG**, Saskatoon and two sisters: Mrs. **LECKY** of Picardville and Mrs. A.H. **FUNNELL** of Halcourt....."

"The funeral of Miss Roselia **STILLWELL** of Glen Leslie, who passed away at Grande Prairie Mar 1st, took place March 5th. Interment in the Grande Prairie Cemetery."

"Notice to Creditors and Claimants in the Estate of Elijah West **MACDONALD**, late of the town of Grande Prairie, AB, Contractor, deceased.....on 12 day Nov 1927....."

March 16, 1928 Issue:

".....Son born to Mr. and Mrs. Herman **KLUKAS**....."

March 23, 1928 Issue:

"Pouce Coupe News: Roy **CUMM**, Ex-Hotel Keeper at Pouce Coupe.....died suddenly....."

"Richard Hudson **EDMONDS**, age 11 years, who lived with stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. George **HAY**.....died March 15th as a result
Heritage Seekers

of taking coyote pills..... survived by his father and mother and five sisters.....Burial in his Mother's Soldier's Quarter. Rev. Mr. **LAW** of Appleton officiated."

"Mr. and Mrs. Sam **WENER** are the proud parents of a son."

"Died: Infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. **RAYMOND**."

"Mr. and Mrs. Fred **THOMPSON**, a daughter born March 16th"

"In the Estate of George **KOWALUK**, (otherwise Georgi **KOWALUK**), late of Rycroft, AB, farmer, deceased, died 22 January 1928....."

March 30, 1928 Issue:

"Sexsmith News: Died on March 23, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew **ROLSTEAD** of La Glace. Funeral at Niobe Cemetery.

"Sexsmith News: Born to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew **ROLSTEAD**, a daughter born March 24th.

(Editors Note – there is an error in either the birth or death date of the little Rolstead girl).

"Born to Mr. and Mrs. Sid **WATSON**, March 27th, a son.

"Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. **SHIELDS**, March 27th, a daughter."

"In the Matter of the Estate of Susan **ELLART**, late of the Town of Grande Prairie, married woman, deceased, died 1 Jan. 1928....."

April 6, 1928 Issue:

"Baby Boy born at the **HOGARTH** home....."

"Died.....one of the **GEITNER** children of Silverdale....."

"Died: Ronald Ernest, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. E.A. **FORD**.....April 1..... Funeral at the home, Mr. **SINCLAIR** was the officiating

Minister..... burial at the Glen Leslie Cemetery.....”

“March 30th, at the Manse, Grande Prairie, Oscar **FLATEN** and Mary Elizabeth **ROSE** were united in marriage by Rev. C.G.

MACKENZIE.....”

“March 30th, Ottto Ferdinand **SKAAR** and Gunhild Abigael **BREKKE** married at the Manse in Grande Prairie. Rev. C.G. **MACKENZIE** officiated.....”

April 13, 1928 Issue:

“On April 10, 1928, Arthur Thomas **BRYENTON** of Glen Leslie and Ada Violet **DELANEY** of Kleskun Hill, were married at the Manse in Grande Prairie. Rev. C.G.

MCKENZIE officiated. Witnesses were: Gertrude **HAVELENA** of Clairmont and James **CLARKSON** of Crystal Creek.”.....” (*Editors*

Note: in the Sept. 26, 2006 Herald Tribune is the obituary of Ada Violet (Delaney) Bryenton).

“Dimsdale News: born to Mr. and Mrs.

MCINTOSCH Easter morning, a boy.....”

“In the Estate of Kenneth Rhodes **SINCLAIR**, late of Wembley, AB, Postmaster, deceased,who died 12 Feb. 1928.....”

Germans from Russia Research

By Laura Turnbull

I have expanded my notes and included the webpage addresses from the oral presentation I made to the June 2006 meeting of the Grande Prairie & District Branch.

Searching for your German Russian roots presents a number of challenges. Recent developments in the Internet world have been very helpful and make it much easier to locate the records that you need in your research.

There are four key elements in your research that you should always keep in mind:

1. Start with yourself and work from what you know to what you don't know.
2. Know the history of the area you are researching
3. Locate the area where your family was living on detailed maps. For German-Russian research, you need to remember there were many border changes in European countries.
4. Use research groups in your area of research and in your area of residence

History of Your Area of Research

A very useful website to help you with the history of the migration of German people to Russia, specifically to Bessarabia, has been done by Judy Remmick. It can be found at:

<<http://www.remmick.org/Borodino.Bess.History/PageBess3.html>>

Another very valuable resource for the history of the Germans from Russia people is a book by Karl Stumpp called "The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862", published 1982. You will find this book in the branch library and also in the Grande Prairie Public Library.

Basic to the history of emigration to Russia is the "Manifesto of the Empress Catherine II"

issued on July 22, 1763 which you find beginning on page 15 of Stumpp's book.

1. Emigration started with the invitation and incentives given by Catherine the Great of Russia to **'all European people'** to help settle large areas of Russia in 1763. Various freedoms were being promised to them in the manifesto.
2. Most German migration to south Russia (Bessarabia, Crimea, etc.) began in early 1800's (under Czar Alexander I)
3. The Germans who went to Russia were of various religions including Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Mennonites, and Anabaptists. A good article for background on the Mennonites is in the May 2006 issue of *Relatively Speaking* – see "Field Notes of a Mennonite Pilgrim" by Jim Lepp.

To understand the information in Karl Stumpp's book "The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862" you should know that Karl Stumpp was a Russian government worker. The majority of his book comes from the 'revision' lists that he compiled. Revision lists are census lists.

Also included in Stumpp's book is a series of eight maps showing various emigration paths.

Maps

One excellent source for maps of eastern European areas is the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS). Their website is located at <http://feefhs.org>.

When on this site, click on 'maps' and you will find many from which to choose.

Organizations in Your Area of Research

There are a number of societies and organizations that have made information available over the Internet relating to German from Russia research. Various organizations to consider are:

1. Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) – <http://feefhs.org>
2. Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) – <http://www.sggee.org>
3. American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) – <http://www.ahsgr.org>
4. Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) – <http://www.grhs.org>
5. East European Genealogical Society (EEGS) – <http://www.eegsociety.org/Home.aspx>
6. Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta (MHSA) – <http://mennonites.ca/mhsa>
7. North Dakota State University (NDSU) Libraries - Germans from Russia Heritage Collection – <http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/grhc/>

Make sure you also check the resources at your local organizations as they also have many resources to call upon:

1. Alberta Genealogical Society – <http://abgensoc.ca>

2. Grande Prairie & District Branch –
<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~abgpages>
>
3. Family History Centre (LDS) in Grande
Prairie

Many of these organizations also have available printed materials such as quarterly journals and other publications that are very useful

Major Resource on the Internet

A major resource for Germans from Russia research, **mostly** geared to south Russia and Lutheran records is a site called **Odessa – A German-Russian Genealogical Library** located at <<http://odessa3.org>>.

At this site, click on 'collections' and then 'full text search'. In this area (as of November 2006, you are able to search 1411 files, representing 352 Mb of data compiled from indexes and other documents. Data is being added all the

time so make sure you check back to this site frequently.

The collections have been separated into 16 categories so you need to select the appropriate category when inputting your search terms. The categories to choose from include:

Bessarbian Collection, Bibliography, Cemetery Records, Census Lists, Church Records, Family Histories, Gedlist Files, History Books, Land Records, Obituaries, Prussia – Poland, Reference Data, Ship and Emigration Records, St. Petersburg Archives, Village Compilations, and War Records.

This is just a quick look at some of the resources available to you depending on your specific research requirements.

Wishing you much success in your research.
Laura

Now Available Peace Land Settlement Project Searchable Database On disc

This project covers all land settled between townships 70 and 85, from Range 18 west of the 5th Meridian to Range 25 west of the 6th Meridian, or all the land which flowed into the Peace River and was settled up to 1915 by farmers. The project also includes the pre-survey squatters and the few homestead entries that were made at this time for land in the vicinity of Fort Vermilion. Database is searchable by name, gender, location, type of scrip, land of origin, previous residence, profession of applicant, and much more. Detailed information includes spouse, children, employment, work done on land, important actions of the individual while proving up (e.g. war service, illness, death), other information included in file, and file number at PAA.

Membership 2006

ASKEW, Leita - Grande Prairie, AB
BENNETT, Joy & Keith, Grande Prairie, AB
BOWMAN, B. Joan – Grande Prairie, AB
BRADEN, Lyle – Dawson Creek, BC
BRADLEY, Judith – Grande Prairie, AB
BURROUGHS, Morris – Grande Prairie, AB
CUNNINGHAM, Beverly – Grande Prairie, AB
DAWSON, Leo – Grande Prairie, AB
DUBRULE, Rollande & Paul – McLennan, AB
HASSALL, Nora – Grande Prairie, AB
HENDERSON, Gordon & Christine – Grande Prairie, AB
HOCKEY, Verna – Grande Prairie, AB
HRYCHIW, Paulette – Grande Prairie, AB
IMPEY, Hugh – Grande Prairie, AB
JENNER, Valerie – Grande Prairie, AB
JOHNSON, Shirley – Grande Prairie, AB
KAUT, Jorgen & Donna – Grande Prairie, AB
KAY, Margaret – Grande Prairie, AB
KIROUAC, Tracey – Grande Prairie, AB
KOKOSHA, Sharon – Sexsmith, AB
LAPPENBUSH, William – Sexsmith, AB
LEDGER, Marian – Grande Prairie, AB
LEONARD, David – Edmonton, AB
LEWIS, D. Ursula – Grande Prairie, AB
MARK, Sheila – Grande Prairie, AB
MAXWELL, Maxine – Wembley, AB
MCDONALD, Dorothy – Grande Prairie, AB
MELYNK, Bertha & Stephan – Grande Prairie, AB
MONLEZUN, Marjorie – Dawson Creek, BC
MOORE, Fran – Debolt, AB
NELSON, Merna – Drayton Valley, AB
NUTTING, Mary – Grande Prairie, AB
OZMUN, Wendy – Grande Prairie, AB
PARSONS, George & Carol – Sexsmith, AB
PEARCY, Gordon & Irene – Grande Prairie, AB
PRETTE, V. Gail – Grande Prairie, AB
RICHARDS, Alfred & Gwen – Grande Prairie, AB
ROGERS, Wendy – Grande Prairie, AB

SCHAU, Gail – Grande Prairie, AB
SHOPKA, Lynda – Grande Prairie, AB
STARK, Evelyn – Grande Prairie, AB
THOMSON, Carol – Grande Prairie, AB
TURNBULL, Laura – Onoway, AB
WALES, Marilyn – Edmonton, AB
WAS, Deborah – Edmonton, AB
YATES, Joan – Sexsmith, AB
YEOMANS, Bill – Spirit River, AB
YOUNG, Kenneth & Jeannie – Lethbridge, AB
ZUMWALT, Sheila & Elmer – Beaverlodge, AB

Miscellaneous Trivia

Ohlsdorf Cemetery in Hamburg, Germany is the largest cemetery in the world, covering an area of 400 ha (990 acres), with 982,117 burials and 413,589 cremations (figures ending 1996). It has been in continuous use since 1877.

Upcoming Events

Meetings

Of the
Grande Prairie & District Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society
are held at the
Grande Prairie Public Library
Meeting Room, 9910 - 99 Avenue,
Grande Prairie, Alberta
Third Tuesday of each month
Except for July, August, and December

All regular meetings have a program of genealogical interest to our members preceded by a short business meeting.

January 16

7:00 Business Meeting
Program: "Antiques Road Show" Bring a family treasure from the past and tell about it.

February 20

6:00 Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 General Meeting & Annual Meeting
Program: "What's Your Pedigree?" Bring your pedigree chart to show and share.

March 20

7:00 Business Meeting
Program: "Researching in Wales" with Judy Bradley

Genies in the Library: *Genies resume at the Library on Wednesday evenings early in October. If you would like to meet with a Genie for help before then, arrangements can be made by contacting the library staff.*

Executive

President: Joy Bennett

Vice President: Gail Prette

Secretary: Bill Lappenbush

Treasurer: Margaret Kay

Past President: Maxine Maxwell

Committees

Cemeteries: Hugh Impey

Historian: Fran Moore

Library: Gail Schau

Membership: Lynda Shopka

Obituaries: Laura Turnbull

Leita Askew

Paulette Hrychiw

Gail Schau

Phoning: Joy Bennett

Publicity: Joy Bennett

Researchers: Paulette Hrychiw

Joan Bowman

Volunteer Coordinator: Gail Schau

Website: Laura Turnbull

Newsletter "Heritage Seekers"

Editor: Judith Bradley

Layout & Copying: Mary Nutting

Distribution: Lynda Shopka

Grande Prairie Public Library hours:

Monday to Thursday: 10am – 9pm

Friday and Saturday: 10am – 6pm

Sunday: 2pm – 5pm

Telephone: 532-3580

Mailing Address: Box 1257, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 4Z1

Email Address: gp@abgensoc.ca

Branch Website address: <http://www.rootsworld.com/~abgpags/>

AGS Website address: <http://abgensoc.ca/>