

Now & Then

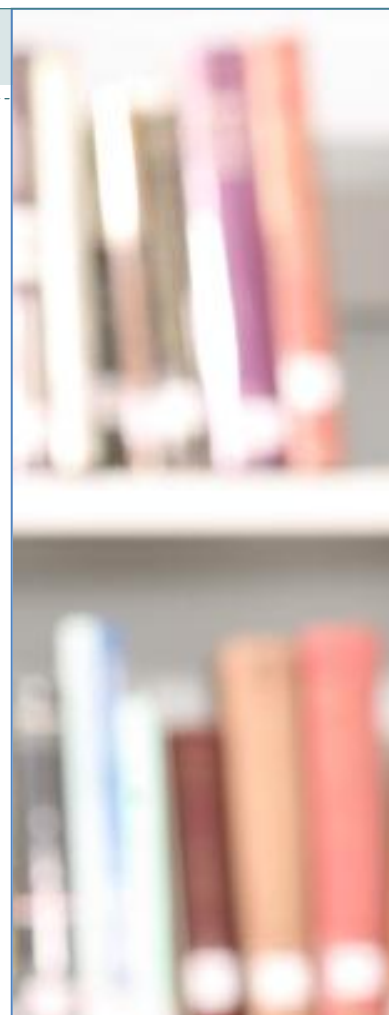
This issue is packed full of genealogy goodness! The *War & Military* theme proved very popular and we have fascinating stories on veterans and the war at home, as well as lots of resources to help you in your own research. Enjoy!

Reader Poll	2
Branch Events	2
Annual General Meeting	3
At SGS	3
Time to Renew!	3
Special Feature: War & Military	
Colin Thackeray: A Biography	4
Book Reviews	4
Murdo M. Simpson: A Biography	5
In Flanders Fields	5
The Poppy: Lest We Forget	5
Putting Together the Pieces of Cyril Grubb's Life	6
Home Front Contributes to the War Effort	10
How I Found My Uncle in Italy: WWII Canadian Service	11
Records	
The Last Post: Veteran Death Notices	12
Military Resources Found in Regina	13
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	15
The Canadian Letters and Images Project	16
British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards	17
19 th Century Poor Law Union and Workhouse Records	18
Branch Resources	20
Research Policy	21

The theme for our February issue will be *Love & Scandal*. Love seems an appropriate theme for around Valentine's Day so send in your stories about courtship and searches for marriage records. But us genealogists always seem to uncover a scandal or two. If you have stories of illegitimately, jilted lovers or bigamy (and who doesn't?) send them in. Other types of contributions are always welcome too.

This is my final issue as editor so please support our new editor by continuing to contribute. Thanks everyone! Its been fun.

Debbie Mills



Now & Then is published in February, May, September & November.

Coming in November:

Love & Scandal

Deadline: February 11

Please consider contributing. All submissions are welcome.

*Please send to:
sgsregina@gmail.com.*

Celebrating 40 Years, 1971-2011



READER POLL



As I was browsing through Amazon one day, I was struck by how many different ways we can “read” now. Print books are the oldest form of mass reading material. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg around 1440 dramatically increased the availability of the written word. Portable audio devices such as cassette/CD/mp3 players allow you to “read” while driving, exercising or otherwise occupied. Electronic devices such as the Kindle or Kobo reader allow you to carry your library with you and buy a new book within seconds. I was curious how much reading has changed so I am conducting this poll.

What is your preferred form of “reading” material:

- Print book
- Audio book
- Electronic book (Kindle, Kobo, etc.)

Send your answer and any comments to sgsregina@gmail.com with subject line “Reader Poll”.

Take nothing but ancestors. Leave nothing but records.

BRANCH MEETINGS

Branch meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from September through May.

Unless otherwise noted, we meet at the SGS library, 1514-11th Ave.

Doors open at 6:00 pm to allow members access to the library for research.

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm with member sharing of followed by a program.

If you have suggestions for future programs, please contact the program committee at sgsregina@gmail.com

BRANCH EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & POTLUCK SUPPER

Tuesday, November 22, 2011, doors open at 6:00, supper begins at 6:30
Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Hillside St.
Program: Renae Grubb, Researching Cyril Grubb

SCOTTISH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 7:00 pm
Location: *TBA*

BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 7:00 pm
SGS Library, 1514—11th Ave., Regina
Topic: *Show & Tell*

Bring an item of significance to your family research and share.

BRANCH MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 7:00 pm
SGS Library, 1514—11th Ave., Regina
Topic: *TBA*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Regina Branch Annual General Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 22 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3825 Hillsdale Street, Regina.

Doors open at 6:00 pm and the potluck supper begin at 6:30 pm.

Who doesn't love a potluck supper? No need to RSVP. Just bring one of your favorite yummy dishes and a serving spoon. Plates, cutlery, cups and beverages will be supplied.

The business meeting will follow the supper. This is your chance to see what's going on in the branch and contribute your ideas for the future.

The meeting will include the election of executive officers for 2012. There are two vacant Director positions. Please consider letting your name stand. The Director position is very flexible and allows you to learn more about the branch while arranging your contribution to your own interests and schedule.

Following the business meeting, Renae Grubb will share her military research journey on her husband's uncle Cyril Grubb. Check out her article in our special "War & Military" section for an introduction and then come to the meeting to find out more.

We hope to see you there.

TIME TO RENEW!

Its the time of year to start thinking about renewing your membership with Regina Branch and Saskatchewan Genealogy Society. Memberships run from January to December each year.

For your convenience, we will be accepting renewals at the Annual General Meeting.

To become a member of Regina Branch you must be a member of the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society. SGS membership can be renewed through Regina Branch. 2012 fees are:

- \$50 for regular membership (\$40 SGS membership + \$10 branch membership)
- \$60 for value-added membership (\$50 SGS membership + \$10 branch membership)

The Value-Added Membership provides access to SGS online databases such as Sask Residents Index and Obituary Index, as well as subscription databases such as Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com, World Vital Records and Godfrey Memorial Library. Get more details on SGS membership benefits at: <http://www.saskgenealogy.com/membership.html>

Membership in Regina Branch allows you to take part in our monthly programs, join the Scottish Special Interest Group, receive *Now and Then* quarterly, and get discounts on research services provided by the branch (see back page).

AT SGS

www.saskgenealogy.com

Saskatchewan Certified Instructor Course

This course will be held in Regina in two parts.

May 5, 2012 Part 1
Oct 20, 2012 Part 2

This course will prepare you to teach beginning genealogy from a Saskatchewan perspective.

Course Fee: \$225

Saskatchewan Cemetery Care and Maintenance Program (SCCMP)

The SCCMP will provide matching funds to applicants who want to restore and care for neglected cemeteries. This program is funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and administered through SGS.

Women Pioneers

Looking for a unique Christmas gift?

Women Pioneers of Saskatchewan, Volume 1

Price: \$44 + shipping

Holiday Closure

The SGS Library will be closed from December 23 to January 3, 2012

WAR & MILITARY

COLIN THACKERAY: A BIOGRAPHY

Pat Keen



Private Colin Thackeray of the 48th Highlanders of Canada was killed in action in WWII on 11 Dec 1944. He is buried at Ravenna war cemetery, Piangipane, Italy. Colin was the son of Joseph Henry (Harry) Thackeray and Grace (Kerr) Thackeray. Colin was farming at Goodwater, SK, when he enlisted at Brandon, MB, in 1941. Three of Colin's brothers also served: Wilson in the Navy, Donald in the Army and Joseph in the RCAF. Colin's brothers-in-law also served: Thomas Miller in the RCAF and Arthur Procure in the Army. Colin's father Joseph Henry (Harry) Thackeray was also in the military; he joined the Calvary Militia in 1910.

Over the course of WWII, 1.1 million Canadians served in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Of these more than 45,000 lost their lives, another 54,000 were wounded and more than 8,000 were taken prisoner of war. Family lives were altered forever, not only at war but also at home. My mother, Ruth (Thackeray) Procure, often said, "If I could choose one thing to leave out of my life, it would have been the war."

There have been many who fought and died so we would have freedom. Canadian Military Personnel killed in other wars include: First World War 66,665; Korea 516; Peacekeeping 121 and Afghanistan 158. Sacrifices made by those Canadians must never be forgotten.

Remembrance Day services have been a part of my life as long as I can remember. Colin Thackeray's name appears on the cenotaph at Oungre, Saskatchewan. Each year we make the trip to pay our respects and to lay the family wreath. As the years have passed, we have said goodbye to all the WWII veterans in South Saskatchewan Legion 308. We must always remember: FREEDOM DOES NOT COME WITHOUT A PRICE!

BOOK REVIEWS

Gale Shawcross

For All We Have: Regina & the Experience of the Great War by James Pitsula

Using newspaper archives, memoirs & letters the author offers an excellent social history of how Canada, & specifically Regina dealt with World War I. Issues of class, anti-immigration actions, local politics all play out against the background of war.

Military Photographs & How to Date Them by Neil Storey

Many branch members have family from the United Kingdom & this book covers the period from the 1870's-1940's. Some 230 black & white historical photos help us identify clues in military uniforms, badges, insignia, medals.

Both of these books are available in the Prairie History Room, Central Library.

MURDO M. SIMPSON: A BIOGRAPHY

Clarese Pickering

My father, Murdo M. Simpson, was born near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland in 1905. He emigrated to Canada in 1924 a year after his older brother. His brother stayed in Ontario, and Dad came west to Dummer, SK, to work on the Frank Howell farm. There he met his future wife, Caroline, Frank's daughter. They married in 1931 and by 1936 had 4 children!

Frank passed away in 1933, and his wife Elsie and children moved to Milestone where she became the secretary-treasurer of Caledonia Municipality. We moved to Weyburn where Dad or Scotty as he was now known, took the Psychiatric Nurses course, and worked at the Weyburn Mental Hospital. One day he came home and declared that he and a friend had joined the Army. We then moved to Milestone to be near our grandmother. Scotty trained at Dundurn and went overseas with the No 8 Canadian General Hospital unit. We didn't see our Dad again until January, 1946, when he came to Regina on a train at the Armouries. I will never forget that night, seeing him get off the train and our Mom running to greet him. I was 8 when he left and 13 when he came back. I think about that often now--how hard it must have been for our Mom.

The good thing for him being overseas, he was able to go and see his mother and sister when he had a leave. He never would have seen them otherwise, and he was always grateful for that. I can't imagine leaving at 18 and not seeing your mother for 20 years.

His Mother passed away in the spring of 1946 and his sister a year later. I remember the day the letter edged in black came. He read the letter and went upstairs without a word, came down and was wearing a black band on his arm. He sat down and stared into space quietly. I still have that letter. He also never talked about the war with us.

After the war, he was secretary-treasurer of the Milestone School Unit and in 1951 became postmaster here. Caroline died of cancer in 1967, and Scotty in 1987 of a heart attack.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

Lieutenant Colonel John McRae, May 3, 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

THE POPPY: LEST WE FORGET

The image of the poppy has become an international symbol of Remembrance due to the poem *In Flanders Fields* by Lieutenant Colonel John McRae.

John McRae was born in Guelph, Ontario on November 30, 1972. He served as a surgeon with the Canadian artillery during the First World War.

On May 2, 1915 LTC McRae saw his close friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer die. After presiding over the funeral, he wrote *In Flanders Field*, one of the most famous and recognizable poems about war. Brilliant red poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders, a symbol for the blood spilled in the war.



Today, poppies are worn or placed on graves/memorials at Remembrance Day ceremonies in many Commonwealth countries.

WAR & MILITARY

PUTTING TOGETHER THE PIECES OF CYRIL GRUBB'S LIFE

Renae Grubb

(This article was originally written February 3, 2007 followed by updated version November 8, 2011. Renae will share more of Cyril's story at the Annual General Meeting November 22.)



One of my most rewarding Grubb genealogy research projects began December 2004 with the research of my husband's uncle, Cyril Grubb. The only information I had was that Cyril Grubb, eldest child of Norman & Nora (Messner) Grubb of Balcarres, Saskatchewan, was born Feb. 9, 1922 and died overseas Oct. 2, 1944 shot by a sniper during World War II.

As long as I can remember from when I first met my husband, Jeff Grubb, each November I had heard about his Uncle Cyril. Every year in Balcarres, Saskatchewan a wreath was laid in Cyril's honour at Remembrance Day. In the past my father-in-law would lay the wreath and in the later years Jeff and our two sons would lay the wreath. During this time Cyril Grubb was only a name mentioned at Remembrance Day with the occasional mention of "these letters" Cyril had written while in the army to his sister, Gertrude.

December 2004 I received a phone call from my husband's cousin from British Columbia. I asked Mike about his Mom's (Gertrude) letters from her brother Cyril. I thought if he had a chance to copy the letters, I would sure like to add them to my genealogy research. I had been meaning to do this for years. About a week later we received a large envelope filled with the 33 handwritten letters by Cyril Grubb. What a treasure! Half of these letters were from Cyril when he was training in Swift Current, Saskatchewan and Shilo, Manitoba from January-June 1943. The remaining letters he wrote from overseas with small hand

writing on the thin blue folding stationery from July 1943, followed with his last letter written Sept. 1944, a month before he was killed. There was also the telegram mentioning Cyril's death sent to his family. I only had 3 days right before Christmas to copy these letters before sending them back! Meanwhile my husband, Jeff started reading some of these letters and decided he would like to speak at the 2005 Balcarres Remembrance Day service about Cyril.

My next mission was to find a relative who had a photo of Cyril. I made arrangements to borrow photos from one relative in Melville and another in Regina. The one photo had recently been sent to Doug Chisholm, pilot, photographer and author of the book "Their Names Live On" in honour of Saskatchewan's fallen soldiers. This also had a connection to an old magazine I found earlier that summer. "Saskatchewan – Naturally" magazine Fall 1999 was pulled out of the recycle pile for an article regarding the Big Muddy Badlands. As I was looking through the magazine I ran across an article called "The Poet and the Pilot" with regards to the geo-memorial of Saskatchewan's fallen soldiers. I couldn't believe it when I saw Cyril Grubb's name, along with the other Saskatchewan's World War II casualties in this article. Wow! I like it when treasures fall into my lap! I then purchased the book "Their Names Live On" by Doug Chisholm, www.woodlandaerialphoto.com where Cyril Grubb's name was included in the long list. At the end of September 2005 I attended the book signing of the new book "Age Shall Not Weary Them," by Bill Barry www.peopleplaces.ca and Doug Chisholm. I introduced myself to both gentlemen. There was a small paragraph on Cyril in this book, unfortunately Doug hadn't received Cyril's photo in time.

WAR & MILITARY

The next stage of my research, lead me to various websites suggested by various genealogy people. It pays to chat with others in regards to your research. My friend, June Bates suggested I look on the Veterans Affairs Canada website. www.vac-acc.gc.ca There was information with his service number, age, force and regiment, cemetery, along with additional information on war medals, etc. Cyril's name was also written in the Book of Remembrance in Ottawa's Parliament Building. I also went on June Bates' website www.mapleleaflegacy.ca a project in remembrance of Canada's War Dead.

On October 2, 2005 I attended the War Memorial Dedication held at the Legislature grounds in Regina, Saskatchewan. The names of 5000 Saskatchewan men and women who gave their lives in the cause of freedom are listed. Cyril Grubb's name was listed among them. www.peopleplaces.ca The most symbolic part of the day was that it had been exactly 61 years to the day that Cyril had been killed! I had goose bumps when I made the connection.

Afterwards I did some more checking on these websites:

www.forces.gc.ca National Defence Canada

www.genealogy.gc.ca Library and Archives Canada

- where I requested a "genealogy package" which included copies of selected documents from the file that highlight/summarize the individual's service.

www.cwgc.org Commonwealth War Graves Commission

www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet Library and Archives Canada

- where I found more details about the WWII including the regiment that Cyril belonged to, The South Saskatchewan Regiment <http://cap.estevan.sk.ca>
- which provided the list of engagements, a map, and cemetery information.

Google even provided information on Cyril!

Jeff's Aunt Verna from Regina had all of Cyril's medals. I phoned her to see if I'd be able to view these medals up close and to photograph them. After seeing Cyril's 6 medals: 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, C.V.S.M. & clasp and the Memorial Cross G.V.I.R medal or known as the Silver Cross given to mothers or widows; Verna offered to show me the prayer book that was on Cyril when he was shot and killed. I had also heard in the past of this prayer book. The prayer book was covered in Cyril's blood! Another goose-bump moment!

On November 11, 2005 my husband Jeff spoke to a large group of people at the Balcarres Remembrance Day service. He shared with everyone a personal side of a young man from Balcarres who went off to war never to return home. By using a power point presentation Jeff was able to show Cyril's photo, the last photos with his family before he left for war. The intimate look at some of the letters Cyril wrote to his sister, Gertrude proved to be humorous and touching.

Jeff and I received many thanks for the presentation about Cyril, some people had even been crying! So many people said "It was so personal." We felt it gave a face and a personal connection to this 22 year old young man from Balcarres. Cyril gave his life for his country. In doing all of this genealogy research it has allowed our family to finally get to know Uncle Cyril. It gives our family a greater appreciation for his ultimate sacrifice. This has also given us a window into to the pain and suffering his family went

LETTER FROM CYRIL GRUBB

Overseas, July 30, 1943 (not too long after arriving)

"Dearest Sister Gertrude,

... Well I suppose you know by now that I am over on this side of the water a long way from home. Now we had a good trip over there. A lot of the boys got sick but I was a tough fellow and did not get sick but we were sure glad when we reached land again. It was a fairly nice country over here but give me Canada any day. I have been over here long enough for me already.

...

(Cyril tells of meeting friends from Lebret, Saskatchewan and how surprised he was to see them so far from home)

WAR & MILITARY

LETTER FROM CYRIL GRUBB

September 1, 1944

“Dear Sister Gertrude,

I am writing you a few lines to let you know that I am fine and dandy. Hoping you are the same and I want to let you know that I received your most welcome letter yesterday that last day of August.

(the last letter from his sister included family photos and Cyril replies writing about each of his siblings, mentioning small things about them like how they have grown since he last saw them. This was rather symbolic since in one of Cyril’s earlier letters he explains how his wallet with all of the pictures he had of his family had been stolen and how upset he was about that and he asked his sister to send new pictures. One month prior to his death Cyril received a new picture of his family and this obviously made him happy.)

... Well I guess I should tell you a little about myself. Well there is not much to tell you about just that I am getting a long pretty good. I am taking good care of myself too. I make sure I don’t get in any place where I will get hurt. I have had a few close calls already but I seem to come out alright. I hope I can stay that way until this is all over. ... Are the people ever happy to when we take over a town where they live and are they ever good to us. They sure give us a lot of things such as eggs and things like that. I will close for now... with lots of love and good wishes. From your brother Cyril”

(This was Cyril’s last letter to his family before he was killed a month later.)

through when they learned of his death. While he was a hero to many, for his family he was a son and brother who had been taken away at a very young age. Cyril’s story is probably very similar to many other Canadians who went off to war never to return.

Later in November 2005, Doug Chisholm emailed me that he would be flying over “Grubb Lake” this summer to take an aerial photo. He also referred me to Art Marbach from the Saskatchewan Geographic Names Board at the Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan on Research Drive at the University of Regina. On December 8, 2005 I picked up the certificate honouring Cyril Grubb and a map showing Grubb Lake which was named Sept. 5, 1957 with its location being: Long 108°17.5’ Lat. 55°22.2’ located near Ile-a-la-Crosse and the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range.

March 24, 2006 the “Genealogy package” from the Library and Archives of Canada had arrived. The information sent included: the Attestation papers with the certificate of Medical examination and Record of Service, the Personnel Selection Record, the Occupational History Form, the Awards he received and the Canadian National Telegraph sent to his family 16 October, 1944.

Cyril enlisted with the Royal Saskatchewan Regiment Army on November 17, 1942 in Regina, Saskatchewan. Cyril Grubb was ranked a Private. His Attestation papers states Cyril was a farm labourer & truck driver and that he was single. He was killed in action Oct. 2, 1944 at Lochtenberg II, a small village in Belgium.

February 2007 I was able to share my research project with the Regina Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. It was my way of saying “thanks” to the members for sharing their research

knowledge and expertise; especially to our good friend and Regina Genealogy branch member, Brian Brodie with his historical war background.

On Aug. 4, 2006 I received a very special envelope filled with photos, a map and brochures from Holland. You see, my research on Cyril Grubb just kept getting more and more interesting. January 2006, my second cousin and wife brought along their friends Daryl and Lois P., from Williston, North Dakota. Daryl began looking through the two binders of research that I had done on Cyril Grubb and mentioned that he and Lois were going to Holland that summer. In June, I mailed to Daryl a small Canadian flag (written on it “Love the Grubb Family”) and a poppy from Remembrance Day, for him to place at Cyril’s gravesite. Then July 11, I received an email saying that Daryl and Lois were in the city, Bergen-Op-Zoom and on their way to the Canadian War Cemetery where Jeff’s Uncle Cyril Grubb was buried. I could hardly breathe. Wow! I quickly phoned Jeff’s Aunt Verna and I told her to be thinking of her brother on this day since his gravesite was to be visited by friends of mine who would

WAR & MILITARY

place a Canadian flag and red poppy for us. It was a strange feeling that came over me that day. I'm not sure how to describe it. I felt very honoured to have worked so hard on the research so that the rest of the family could really know who Cyril Grubb was. Now he was more than just a name we heard at Remembrance Day in Balcarres. Many thanks to Daryl and Lois for they helped add another piece to Cyril Grubb's puzzle. And thanks to Verna, Cyril's sister for sharing her stories and artifacts belonging to Cyril. Verna passed away October 2006. Some day Jeff and I would like to travel to Holland to visit Cyril's gravesite.

December 8, 2008 Doug Chisholm www.woodlandairphoto.com phoned me saying he had flown over Grubb Lake that past summer & he wanted to know if we were interested in a framed Grubb Lake tribute. Yes, I replied & ordered two just in time for Christmas! Our next goal is to someday fly over Grubb Lake. What a feeling that will be!

December 17, 2008 I received from the House of Commons in Ottawa, Ontario; a letter and a copy of page 323 listing Cyril's name from the Book of Remembrance of the Second World War www.parl.gc.ca/memorial-souvenir Every year on July 14th this page is displayed for public viewing in the Memorial Chamber of the Parliament of Canada. Some day we should plan a trip to Ottawa on July 14th to view Cyril's name.

August 20, 2010 Cyril's youngest sister, Dianne showed me the two certificates in honour of Cyril that were sent to her parents, Norman and Nora Grubb. She recalls her parents saying that this was all they had left to show for their son. We both had tears in our eyes!

This has been such an interesting journey researching Cyril Grubb's life. I've gone from having two lines of information to now having two huge binders on Cyril! It's been very rewarding to have gathered all of these puzzle pieces from so many people and different connections and to have pieced together the life of Cyril Grubb. I feel that it has given the Grubb family a closer connection with a family member from the past. Now with Nov. 11, 2011 fast approaching it is time for our family to attend the Remembrance Day service in Balcarres and to once again honour and remember Cyril Grubb.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Regina Genealogy Branch AGM Tues. Nov. 22 where I will share more of Cyril's story.



*Cyril Grubb's Gravesite, Canadian War Cemetery, Holland.
The message on the Canadian flag is "Love the Grubb Family".*

WAR & MILITARY

HOME FRONT CONTRIBUTES TO WAR EFFORT

Gale Shawcross



The Canadian federal government created the Wartime Prices & Trade Board in 1939 to reflect the concern that World War I conditions of inflation and social unrest should not return. Food rationing began in Canada in January, 1942. It was important that a large enough food supply would be available to meet both military and civilian needs. Canadian households had to fill out an application form for a food ration book and one was individually issued to each adult and child. The first item to be rationed was sugar. Each person was allowed 12 oz per week and this was later reduced to 8 oz. Why sugar? It was a source in the manufacturing of shells and bombs making it vital to the war effort. Tea and coffee were quickly added as they were imported items. As the war continued more items were added, in particular meat and butter.

Having lived through the Depression years Canadian families already were experienced in how to make a little go a long way. Many households already had a backyard kitchen garden. "Victory Gardens" were encouraged to be grown, especially in the cities to assist Canadians in feeding themselves. The term "Housoldiers" came into use as companies selling food products encouraged housewives to fight the war from their kitchens by conserving, rationing, saving and not wasting. Waste fat & greases were gathered & went to rendering plants to be processed into explosives.

Gasoline was rationed in April, 1942 and some Canadians put their cars in storage for the duration of the war. Public transport and car pools grew and coupons were offered to allow car pool drivers extra gas rations. Tires were also rationed and old tires, garden hoses, & old rubber boots were encouraged to be recycled.

The photo of Violet Smythe, a supervisor of Coupon Audit in Regina shows her holding up a new, fibreboard plastic blue meat ration token with a hole in the centre. The intention of introducing the tokens was to conserve meat. A shopper could get "change" for any unused coupon value and needed to buy only the exact amount of meat. Eight of the blue discs would be equal in value to one coupon. Meat dealers would display a chart showing shoppers how many coupons or tokens would be required for any quantity of meat.

Source: undated Leader-Post article. Violet Smythe was branch member Gale Shawcross's mother-in-law.

HOW I FOUND MY UNCLE IN ITALY: WWII CANADIAN SERVICE RECORDS

Marian J. Powell

Everyone in my family has a yellowed clipping of a photograph from the Regina *Leader-Post*, the copy in my possession undated of course, showing my uncle and two of his friends joining up at the Regina Armouries.



PALS GO ACTIVE—One of these men got his call to report for a medical examination in preparation for his call to compulsory training and service in the Canadian army. He told his two pals with whom he went through school, graduating two years ago from Central collegiate, and they all decided to get into active service. They are shown above with their application forms speaking to Sgt. Major Roy Howe of the district recruiting staff, Regina armouries. They
—Canada Army Photo.

I decided to look into his war service. The only information I had was that newspaper clipping and family knowledge that he served in Italy.

The first step was to go to Library and Archives Canada website: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

Those who died while on active duty are indexed in a database: *Second World War Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead*. The index information itself is very useful listing full name, age date of birth, date of death, rank unit force, service number, reference and volume in the service files in the Department of National Defence Fonds (RG 24). Extra information may include parent's name and location. The files may be ordered from Library and Archives Canada. These files do not include indications of overseas postings or battles participated in.

WAR & MILITARY

A very useful Saskatchewan website for service men and women who died is the *Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial* www.svwm.ca. The Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial commemorates those who originated in Saskatchewan and who gave their lives in the service of their country in any war or peacekeeping effort. This site is an excellent companion to the Library and Archives Canadian Armed Forces War Dead Index for Saskatchewan service men and women, providing much additional biographical information..

For those who survived WW II service, like my uncle, Library and Archives Canada also holds relevant files. These records are listed under *Genealogy and Family History Topics: Military*. Service records after 1918 have some restrictions. Access to information for those still living requires their consent, and for deceased former service men, proof of death and proof of relationship must be provided. Since my uncle died more than 20 years ago, there were no further restrictions. I filled out the *Access for Military Service Information Form* and sent it off along with proof of death and credit card details to the ATIP and Personnel Records Division of Library and Archives Canada.

I received acknowledgement of my order right away. A few months later, photocopies of twenty documents from the file arrived in my mailbox, along with a page of common abbreviations used in the records. The documents included his Attestation Papers, detailed Service Record sheets, Army Tradesmen's Qualification Certificate, Service Interview summary, Particulars of Family, Occupational History, Awards Certificate and Discharge Certificate.

With great excitement I worked through each document. The Service Record in particular provided challenges—it seemed to be written almost entirely in code. Some of the abbreviations were explained in the Library and Archives Common Abbreviations sheet, but not all by any means.

A useful Internet site is www.mapleleafup.net. Maple Leaf Up (MLU) is a private Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the Canadian Army Overseas in World War II. The MLU Forum has posts concerning aspects of service. Here I was able to find a descendant like myself, who was seeking help in deciphering his Saskatchewan relative's military record. His request was answered in minute detail by a knowledgeable poster. Some information was also relevant to my uncle's service record! This responder was also able to comment on War Diaries and their location—some in Canada, some in the UK. War Diaries contain information on the day to day activities of units, providing location-specific information and military operations in which the units were involved. War Diaries will be my next stop.

At the end of the day, I gleaned a great deal of information, including my uncle's army unit and rank; when he enlisted; where and when he took his training in Saskatchewan, Ontario and England; when he was sent overseas and when discharged; and that he served in Italy for approximately two years and was never wounded. I also learned when his parents changed their address; what his educational attainment was prior to military service; where he was employed at enlistment, and what training he had in the army. And that *Leader-Post* clipping? It is no longer undated!

THE LAST POST: VETERAN DEATH NOTICES

<http://www.legionmagazine.com/en/lastpost/>

Since 1928 *Legion Magazine* has published death notices for war veterans and other Royal Canadian Legion members with military or police service. Their online database contains notices from January 1985 onward. Notices must be submitted so they are not a complete record of veteran deaths but there are currently close to 200,000 listings.

The records may include date of death and age, and service information such as rank, unit, and the period of service (WW1, WW2, Korea, Regular Force, or Canadian Force). The service number may be useful in contacting other agencies regarding records. In addition, information on legion branch membership may provide clues as to their city of residence at death.

MILITARY RESOURCES FOUND IN REGINA

Shelley Kloczko

SASKATCHEWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY, 110-1514 11TH AVENUE, REGINA, WWW.SASKGENEALOGY.COM.

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) Library has catalogued their military and RCMP resources and has posted them on line. They include many books Canadian military history, indexes to the service records, RCMP history and RCMP obituaries and honour rolls. They have other military books describing geo-memorial sites in Saskatchewan – naming of lakes, islands, and bays in northern Saskatchewan after service personnel.

CENOTAPH, VICTORIA PARK, REGINA.

The Cenotaph is a monument to Regina's citizens who were killed in WWI. It was erected in 1926. People gather at the Cenotaph on November 11 to lay wreaths and pay tribute to the Regina citizens who gave their lives during war.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION MEMORIAL HALL, 1820 CORNWALL STREET, (306) 522-2676

The Royal Canadian Legion has honour rolls and some memorabilia. They have the Books of Remembrance as presented by the Government of Canada for the Boer War and World War I.

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD, 3303 HILLSDALE STREET, REGINA HTTP://WWW.SASKARCHIVES.COM/WEB/INDEX.HTML

In the Recorded Sound Collection the SAB has recorded oral histories including interviews with soldiers. The oral histories are indexed in the card catalogue by name and by project name. Project summaries and lists of interviewees are found in guide GR 251.

The Sessional Papers of Canada include annual Civil Service Lists, which provide names of all civil servants, the Militia Lists and various reports. The SAB also has a large collection of photographs catalogued by name, place and subject.

The SAB has some records pertaining to Saskatchewan servicemen. The records of the Department of Public Works contain nominal rolls of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WW I, arranged by battalion only. They have an alphabetical listing of those from Saskatchewan who died in WW I and WW II. Collections of the Regina Rifles Regiment, the Royal Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League, and the Saskatchewan Provincial Command are kept at the SAB as well.



The Cenotaph in Victoria Park, Regina, SK

WAR & MILITARY

REGINA ARMOURY, 1600 ELPHINSTONE STREET, (306) 347-9349

The Regina Armoury was the headquarters for the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve from 1928 to 1939. The navy headquarters moved to their own building. The Regina Armoury is home to four army reserve, or militia, units of 38 Brigade Group: 10 Field Regiment RCA, the Royal Regina Rifles, 16 (Saskatchewan) Service Battalion and 16 (Regina) Medical Company. It also houses the Saskatchewan Military Museum.

SASKATCHEWAN MILITARY MUSEUM, 1600 ELPHINSTONE STREET, REGINA, SK

The museum is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 PM and Saturday from 2 – 5 PM or by appointment. The museum contains Saskatchewan military history from 1885; units, communities, and individual struggles; military uniforms, badges and accoutrements, medals; photos, archival material, vehicles, paintings and ammunition. The museum contains nominal rolls, Rolls of Honour and regimental files, particularly the Don Scott Calder Collection. Don Calder was a major in the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY ROOM 234 ; 2405 LEGISLATIVE DRIVE, (306) 787-2276

The Saskatchewan Legislative Library has full copies of the official books of remembrance as presented to the Province of Saskatchewan by the Government of Canada: Book of Remembrance 1939-1945, Book of Remembrance 1950-1953 (Korean War), and Book of Remembrance The Merchant Navy. The Legislative Library is another source for Saskatchewan newspapers and local history book.



*Soldier's Plot, Regina Cemetery
City of Regina Archives Photograph Collection*

MILITARY CEMETERIES

The City of Regina honors veterans at both Regina (4th Avenue and Broad Street) and Riverside Memorial Park (Assiniboia Avenue East) Cemeteries with a section dedicated to the interment of past or present Canadian Armed Forces, para-military forces (e.g., RCMP) or Allied Forces. An on-line burial index is available at <http://www.regina.ca/Page725.aspx> and the Regina Branch of the SGS can be contacted for research or photographs of grave markers. Contact the Regina Branch at sgsregina@gmail.com.

REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY, [HTTP://WWW.RPL.REGINA.SK.CA/INDEX.HTML](http://www.rpl.regina.sk.ca/index.html)

The Regina Public Library has over 2800 items related to military history. The Prairie History Collection has a newspaper index covering 1935 to 1981 for the Regina Leader Post, Moose Jaw Times Herald, Prince Albert Daily Herald, Saskatoon StarPhoenix and Western Producer. You can search the on-line catalogue. The Prairie History Collection also has a large collection of local history book which often contain military history.

WAR & MILITARY

ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTE, 1660 ELPHINSTONE STREET

The Institute in Regina has as its objects the study of military science and the fostering of understanding of Canadian Defense Policy, and participates in this work through the Conference of Defense Associations of Canada of which it is a member. The RUSI has a library that can be viewed by appointment only. Contact Neil Hill at 525-6342 or hdhill@accesscomm.ca. The library contains historical war events and items.

RCMP HERITAGE CENTRE, 5907 DEWDNEY AVENUE, WWW.RCMPHERITAGECENTRE.COM

Besides RCMP artifacts and exhibits, the RCMP Heritage Centre has an exhibit of the North-West Rebellion – an unsuccessful uprising of the Metis people of the District of Saskatchewan under Louis Riel against the Dominion of Canada. A list of those that received medals is on microfilm at the Saskatchewan Archives Board.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Debbie Mills

The Commonwealth War Graves Commissions(CWG) is a non-profit organization established in 1917 to pay tribute to the men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. They erect cemeteries and memorials for fallen service men and women. One of their principles is that each of the dead should be commemorated by name on a permanent headstone or memorial.

Their online database (www.cwgc.org) is a valuable resource when researching ancestors who died in these wars. The record for my grandfather's cousin, Samuel Roughsedge Mills (right), shows the information inscribed on his plaque. In addition to the information about his age, date of death and parents, his service number allowed me to search for him in other databases.

The additional information that CWGC provides about Loos Memorial tells me the area where Samuel died. It also tells me that he is one of 20,000 men who fell in that area and that have no known grave. This gives some perspective on the magnitude of the devastation and loss of life. Names are inscribed on tablets affixed to a 15 foot high wall at the back and sides of Dud Corner Cemetery (seen in foreground).

**In Memory of
Private SAMUEL ROUGHSEDGE MILLS
277644, 2nd/7th Bn., Manchester Regiment
who died age 24
on 14 May 1917
Son of John and Sarah Mills.
Remembered with honour
LOOS MEMORIAL**



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

WAR & MILITARY

BRITISH ARMY WWI MEDAL ROLLS INDEX CARDS

Debbie Mills

Most of the service records of British soldiers in the Great War were destroyed during the bombing of London in World War II. However, you may be able to find some information about your soldier in the Medal Rolls Index Card. Each soldier had an index card that recorded the medals they were entitled to and the units in which they served.

There is limited identifying information on these cards so it may be a challenge identifying your ancestor, especially if he had a common name. A search for my grandfather, Samuel Mills, brought up 63 matches on the National Archives website. Luckily I had his service medals and engraved on the back of one was "Cheshire Regiment" and his regimental number, which I could use to search with. If your ancestor died during the war, you can probably find this information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commissions (www.cwgc.org) or *the Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919* database accessible through Ancestry.com or findmypast.co.uk.

Name	Group	Rank	Regt. No.
MILLS	Ches R	SG	11032
Samuel	R. E.	SP4	WR 245086
	M.G.C.		62032
	R. E.		259012
Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks
Victory	RG/102	254	9004
British War	do do		
1914/15 Star	BS/23C	1102	
Theatre of War first served in	(2B)		
Date of entry Theatre	11-7-15		

Medal cards can be searched and downloaded from the UK National Archives for is £2 per image (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentonline/medals.asp>). You can also search Ancestry (UK or Worldwide).

My grandfather's record is shown to the left. The upper right section of the card shows the units he served in and his rank. He started as a Private in the Cheshire Regiment, then became a Sapper (equivalent to Private) in the Royal Engineers (R.E.), served in the Machine Gun Corps (MGC) and then went back to the Royal Engineers.

The medal entitlements are recorded in the middle of the left side. Samuel Mills was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal, and the 1914/15 Star. Description of these medals are given below. At the bottom of the card, we can see that the first theatre of war he served in was "2B". According to the abbreviations list at the National Archives site this refers to the Gallipoli (Dardanelles) in the Balkans. He first entered that theatre on July 11, 1915.



1914/15 Star

The 1914/15 Star was awarded to individuals who saw service either in France and Flanders from 23 November 1914 to 31 December 1915, or in any other operational theatre from 5 August 1914 to 31 December 1915.

WAR & MILITARY



British War Medal

The basic requirement was either entering a theatre of war, or rendering approved service overseas between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. Service in Russia in 1919 and 1920 also qualified.



Victory Medal

The Victory Medal 1914-1919 was awarded to all eligible personnel who served on the establishment of a unit in an operational theatre.

THE CANADIAN LETTERS AND IMAGES PROJECT

Diane Romphf

<http://www.canadianletters.ca/searchBasic.html>

The Project

The Canadian Letters and Images Project is an online archive of the Canadian war experience, from any war, as told through the letters and images of Canadians themselves. It began in August 2000, located in the Department of History at Vancouver Island University.

Objectives

The objective of the Canadian Letters and Images Project is to let Canadians tell their own story in their own words and images by creating a permanent online archive which preserves Canada's wartime correspondence, photographs, and other personal materials, from the battlefield and from the home front. Too often the story told of Canada at war has been one of great battles and great individuals, an approach that unfortunately misses the 'ordinary' Canadian and the richness of their wartime experience.

It is our hope that Canadians can share with one another the more personal side of a country at war. Such a collection allows us to better appreciate the struggles, anguish and joy, of Canada during wartime. It will also stand as a tribute to all Canadians, past and present, who have in any manner contributed to Canada's wartime efforts. We believe it is important to collect and recreate the personal side of the wartime experience as soon as possible, before such materials are forever lost or destroyed. Each and every piece of correspondence, every photograph, or any other item connected to Canadians during wartime, is a valuable artifact linking us to our past. While one letter or photograph may by itself seem insignificant, in combination with the multitude of other materials found in the Project those single items can help to tell a remarkable story of the unyielding spirit of a country at war.

Online Resource

The Canadian Letters and Images Project is an online educational resource of the Canadian war experience freely available to students, scholars, and the general public. We do not edit correspondence or select portions of collections, but include if at all possible all materials submitted to us. Our place is not to judge the historic merit of one person's experiences over those of another; we instead let those words and images from the past tell their own story.

19TH CENTURY POOR LAW UNION AND WORKHOUSE RECORDS

Dianne Romphf

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/workhouse.asp>

INTRODUCTION

You can [search](#) and download documents from a number of Poor Law Unions across England and Wales, from series reference MH 12.

We are fortunate to be able to provide **free** access to the records because this is a project by The National Archives with the aid of, and in partnership with, volunteers in several parts of the country.

The Poor Law Amendment Act was introduced in 1834, centralizing the poor relief administrative system. Previously, poor relief had been largely the responsibility of the parish. Expenditure had risen during the Napoleonic Wars and local rate payers and authorities decided that looking after paupers was too costly. When the Poor Law Amendment Act was passed, parishes were grouped into 'unions', managed by boards of guardians who were elected by their constituent parish ratepayers. The new poor law unions were to report to the Poor Law Commissioners, based in Somerset House in London. Assistant Commissioners (later known as Poor Law Inspectors) were allocated a geographical area in which they were to set up, supervise and inspect the unions within it. The new system was expected to reduce expenditure, using a harsh workhouse test. Claimants would be 'offered the house', but if they turned it down then the legal obligation to offer relief was considered to have been met.

SEARCHING THE RECORDS

You can [search](#) by entering any or all of the following into the 'content search' box:

- First name
- Last name
- Place name, which could be a village, town or county
- Occupation
- Any other words mentioned in the document, for example 'Chartism', 'Strike', 'neglect' or 'death'

You can also use the operators AND, OR and NOT to search. For example, if you wanted to find documents mentioning the name Thomas, but not mentioning Thomas Marriott, you would search for Thomas NOT Marriott. Please refer to our [search tips](#) for more information.

WHICH RECORDS CAN I DOWNLOAD?

You can download records of the Poor Law Unions listed below. All the records start at 1834, the year of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

- Axminster Poor Law Union, Devon and Dorset, 1834- 1848
- Basford Poor Law Union, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, 1834- 1845
- Berwick upon Tweed Poor Law Union, Northumberland, 1834- 1852
- Bishop's Stortford Poor Law, Union Hertfordshire and Essex, 1834- 1852
- Blything Poor Law Union, Suffolk, 1834-1840
- Bromsgrove Poor Law Union, Worcestershire, 1834-1842
- Cardiff Poor Law Union, Glamorganshire, 1834- 1853
- Clutton Poor Law Union, Somerset, 1834- 1853
- Keighley Poor Law Union, Yorkshire West Riding, 1834- 1855
- Kidderminster Poor Law Union, Worcestershire, 1834- 1849
- Liverpool Vestry (technically not a Poor Law Union, it retained vestry status throughout the 19th century), 1834- 1856

Llanfyllin Poor Law Union, Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire, 1834-1854
Mansfield Poor Law Union, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, 1834- 1849
Mitford and Launditch Poor Law Union, Norfolk, 1834- 1849
Newcastle under Lyme Poor Law Union, Staffordshire, 1834- 1856
Newport Pagnell Poor Law Union, Buckinghamshire, 1834- 1855
Reeth Poor Law Union, Yorkshire North Riding, 1834- 1871
Rye Poor Law Union, East Sussex and Kent, 1834- 1843
Southampton, Hampshire (technically not a Poor Law Union but an earlier incorporation), 1834- 1858
Southwell, Nottinghamshire, 1834- 1871
Truro Poor Law Union, Cornwall, 1834- 1849
Tynemouth Poor Law Union, Northumberland, 1834- 1855
Wolstanton and Burslem Poor Law Union, Staffordshire, 1834- 1851

WHAT COULD THEY HELP ME DISCOVER?

This online collection holds the correspondence between the union and the central authorities. You will find letters, memos, reports and accounts bound from the loose correspondence. You will see details of individual paupers, cases of neglect and cruelty, and workhouse staff as well as source material to study indoor and outdoor poor relief, education, building work, local politics and labour history, such as trade unions, Chartism and friendly societies. The material is very strong on public health and contains accounts of both physical and mental health matters.

SASKATCHEWAN'S OLDEST RESIDENT DIES

Pearl Lutzko passed away peacefully at the Ituna Pioneer Lodge on November 2, 2011 at the age of 112. Pearl was born on February 15, 1899 in Chortikiw, Ukraine. She came to Canada in 1907 and married John Lutzko in 1915. They farmed in the community of Goodeve, northwest of Melville, Sask. They raised seven children & after John's death in 1975 Pearl continued to live on her own. At the age of 104 she moved into a senior's residence.

Grandson Darryl Lutzko remarked that having five generations around to share meals & family traditions was the norm. He tallied the generations as 7 children, 29 grandchildren, 55 great grandchildren & at least 26 great great grandchildren.

Pearl was once thought to have been Canada's oldest person back in January 2011, but the title was claimed by a Vancouver woman Suey Kee who was born two weeks earlier than Pearl.

Source: Regina Leader-Post, November 4, page A3

*This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved.
In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.*

*-Ellen Goodman,
The Boston Globe*

BRANCH RESOURCES

1891 CENSUS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Regina Branch has the following volumes available for sale:

Saskatchewan	\$20
Assiniboia East	\$20
Assiniboia West	\$20
Alberta	\$25
Set of 4 volumes	\$80
To come:	Unorganized Territories



CEMETERIES RECORDED BY REGINA BRANCH

R.M. 128	Gray; Riceton
R.M. 129	Buck Lake; Wilcox
R.M. 130	Briercrest; Rouleau
R.M. 156	Indian Head; Sintaluta
R.M. 157	Avonhurst; Edgeley; McLean; Qu'Appelle
R.M. 158	Balgonie Community; 7 th Day Adventist, Edenwold; Winnetka, Edenwold; First German Baptist, Edenwold; Edenwold Community; St. John's, Frankslake; Arrat, Frankslake; St. Mary's, Kronau; St. Peter's Old/Kathrinthal, Kronau; Newton, Jameson; St. George's Community, Pilot Butte; Frankslake Lutheran
R.M. 159	Riverside
R.M. 160	All Saint's; Cottonwood; Stony Beach; Poplar Grove; Battrum
R.M. 189	Lumsden; Regina Beach
R.M. 190	Bethune; Findlater; Keddleston
R.M. 218	Bethlehem; Cupar; Wheatwyn; Christus Lutheran; Southey Community; Emmanuel Lutheran; St. James Catholic; St. Mark's; Markinch Community; St. Patrick's; Holy Trinity Hungarian Roman Catholic; St. Paul's Lutheran
R.M. 220	Silton



Since 2009, we have been taking a digital photograph of every headstone we read. These photos become part of the index.

EXECUTIVE

President:

Marian Powell 585-0390

Vice-President:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Shelley Kloczko 585-3449

Secretary:

Gale Shawcross 789-5949

Directors:

Renae Grubb

Shelley Kloczko

Debbie Mills

Colleen Slater-Smith

Newsletter Editor:

Debbie Mills 525-4770

Webmaster:

Dave Wessel 586-2301

Cemetery Coordinator:

Shelley Kloczko 585-3449

Program Committee:

Renae Grubb

Jean Ashcroft

Gale Shawcross

Dianne Romph

Colleen Slater-Smith

Census Project:

Marian Powell

Regina Branch
Saskatchewan Genealogical
Society
Box 1894
Regina, SK
S4P 3E1

sgsregina@gmail.com



RESEARCH POLICY

Regina Branch offers research services upon request. Branch members who are Certified Saskatchewan Researchers will complete the research.

TYPES OF RESEARCH:

Basic Search - \$41.00 CAD / \$41.00 USD / £22 UK

Includes Homestead Records, Maps, Local Histories, Cemetery Records, Obituaries, Newspaper Records & Saskatchewan Research Index

General Research - \$31.00 per hour

Estimates will be given based on the information being requested.

Database Search - a flat fee of \$10.00 for the researcher to use their own paid database subscriptions.

Cemetery Search (SGS Cemetery Index)

Search one cemetery: \$3.00 per name

Search all cemeteries within an R.M: \$10.00 per name

For Regina Branch Members: All cemeteries recorded by branch would be checked for no charge.

Saskatchewan Research Index - \$5.00 per surname

Includes printed list.

Cemetery/Historical Photos - Min. \$10.00

A branch member would take photos of a gravestone in the cemeteries located in Regina. Cost would vary if the cemetery is located outside of Regina.

For Regina Branch Members: \$5.00

For more information on research, contact the branch at sgsregina@gmail. We will forward your query to an available researcher who will contact you.