

Toward the New Genealogy: Genealogical Research in Archives and the Saskatchewan  
Genealogical Society, 1969-2004

By Christie A. Wood

A Thesis  
Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies  
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Department of History (Archival Studies)

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## ABSTRACT

People have been pursuing their genealogy for generations. Much of early genealogical research was performed in pursuit of prominent ancestors, such as monarchs, members of nobility, or even biblical figures. Genealogical family 'trees' were written and published, many with flawed or incomplete information. Prior to the 1970s, organized genealogical research in North America tended to be a pastime for the white Euro-North American upper classes. Few minority groups participated in it or felt compelled to research their families in any systematic, formal way using archives. However, in the 1970s a new social phenomenon appeared. Spurred on by the popularity of American Alex Haley's book Roots and the television mini-series based on it, which chronicled the history of an African-American family, many individuals from various ethnic and socio-economic groups began to explore their own family histories through archival research. Along with this demographic and archival shift, other new trends in genealogical activity became apparent: genealogists began to show more interest in all family members, not just in the search for an elite ancestor; genealogical societies and publications grew significantly; new technologies and research techniques were adopted, such as use of the Internet; study of genealogy became the basis of academic and popular books as well as plays, not just used to fill out a family tree; and it became an increasingly important aspect of medical care. Some of these trends were noted in the 1980s by historian Samuel Hays, who coined the term the "new genealogy" to describe the phenomenon.

This thesis examines the new genealogy from an archival perspective. The characteristics of the new genealogy will be outlined in order to improve awareness

among archivists (and others who use and sponsor archives) of this key development in society and archival research. The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society will be discussed as a case study of the new genealogy. The Saskatchewan Archives Board (the provincial archives of Saskatchewan) is also examined to describe how it has embraced the new genealogy. This thesis will provide further understanding of the history of the Saskatchewan genealogical research community and its current needs, especially in regard to the Saskatchewan Archives Board.

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## Chapter One

### Genealogy- Past and Present

This chapter aims to provide a general introduction to the late-twentieth- and early-twenty-first century phenomenon of greatly increased public interest in genealogical research and knowledge, particularly in Canada. It will do so by providing a brief historical overview of the longstanding human interest in genealogy, the emergence in the mid-twentieth century of the modern genealogical movement, and in the mid 1980s and 1990s of the 'new genealogy'. The term 'new genealogy' was coined by Samuel P. Hays, professor emeritus of history at the University of Pittsburgh in a 1986 article, "History and Genealogy: Patterns of Change and Prospects for Cooperation." He recognized an explosion of genealogical organizations, publications, and a movement away from searching for a prominent ancestor, as more genealogists began searching instead to place themselves within a long line of kinship, regardless of class or distinction. These new genealogists have also started to trace their families for non-genealogical pursuits such as to determine medical conditions or to write novels. The new genealogy also sees a new respect given to genealogists from archivists and historians, much wider media attention, and growth in the popularity of genealogy in the membership of genealogical societies since the mid 1980s. The new genealogy has seen a surge in family history interest among ethnic minority groups, a movement which was given impetus in the 1970s by the Alex Haley's book Roots and popular television series on the family history of American slaves which was based on it. The new genealogy has also been characterized by use of new research techniques and technologies, as well as by an increased professionalism amongst genealogists. Also distinctive of the new

genealogy is the use of computers and the Internet to conduct genealogical research. The Internet has greatly contributed to the rise in interest of genealogy. Genealogy is the second most searched topic on the Internet and sites are constantly being added by individuals as well as genealogical organizations. The new genealogy goes beyond the traditional lineage research and has branched out into social history, arts and culture, bringing genealogical perspectives to a larger audience.

Human interest in genealogy stretches well back into ancient time. Much of the early interest in genealogy can be found among the elite of society, which employed it to enhance or maintain social standing or to prove connections with desirable political, social or religious groups. Rosalind Thomas, for example, describes the need for genealogy among the ancient Greeks in her book Oral Tradition and Written Record in Classical Athens (Cambridge, 1989). Thomas studies genealogy and family tradition in Classical Athens, in both the oral and the written accounts. Although Greek genealogy has not been well regarded in the modern world by genealogists or historians, Thomas stresses that legendary genealogy had a significant impact on the Greek world. It was thought that the legendary genealogy could provide proof or explanation for the present: "These beliefs have a fundamental bearing on oral tradition, since memory and, therefore, oral tradition are formed and re-formed by prevailing attitudes: it is the beliefs about legendary genealogy (for instance) which mould family tradition."<sup>1</sup> Genealogies were one of the most complex oral traditions, which "reflected a family's image of its own past and provides prestige and status."<sup>2</sup>

Genealogies in Greece often concentrated on the present family and its relation to the heroic past, ignoring the insignificant persons in the families. Full genealogies that

contained a continuous series of names from original ancestor to the present period were rarely seen.<sup>3</sup> Genealogies were not written by professional genealogists in the classical period, they were written by authors or historians of the period. Thomas says that genealogies were used as entertainment in the Greek world. The legendary genealogies were not long boring lists, but a narrative story or poem interspersed with heroic stories about some of the ancestors.<sup>4</sup> Thomas describes how genealogies in the oral tradition were manipulated to link to the heroic and prolific and how the development of written genealogies brought this situation to light.<sup>5</sup> The Greek use of genealogy set the course for how other groups would use genealogy throughout the years.

Russell Bidlack<sup>6</sup> also studied the history of genealogy from the time of the Old Testament through the Middle Ages and beyond. The Old Testament contains one example of ancient genealogy; it is filled with long passages of 'begats' that describe the main Jewish families and lineages in the ancient Middle East. Although the Gospels of Matthew and Luke do not agree on to the lineage of Jesus Christ, the New Testament also uses genealogy to introduce Jesus by providing the lineage of Joseph, husband of Mary. Royal families in ancient and modern countries were maintained through careful genealogical record keeping. Wars were fought over claims of royal succession, including the War of the Roses and the Hundred Years' War. In England during the sixteenth century, the College of Heralds toured the country to gather the lineages of the land owning population in order to ensure proper inheritance of land. In the absence of written records of lineages, often oral traditions kept these relationships alive.<sup>7</sup> As time passed, the use of written genealogies became more prevalent than oral tradition, and



became the main form of transmission when genealogical study moved to the United States.

Many of the first immigrants to the United States arrived from Great Britain, where genealogical research was popular for the aristocracy and landed gentry, but less so among the 'working class'. Although there was minor interest in genealogical research during the seventeenth century in the United States, there was little enticement to perform genealogical searches by the early British colonists in the colonial years. Few immigrants came from European aristocracy or landed gentry, and most wanted to make a name for themselves as self-made men, not on the basis of what their ancestors had done. Although little genealogical research was done in colonial America, colonial families were the subject of most genealogical searches for early American genealogists. There was not a lot of genealogical research until the nineteenth century, but there had been genealogical publications since 1698, with the publication of the pedigree of the Byrd family, a Virginia family which traced its descent from Charlemagne, the founder of the Holy Roman Empire. Other lineages followed, with publications from the Franklin and Washington families, two of many prominent families.<sup>8</sup> Even though there was some publishing of lineages, the American Revolution discouraged genealogical research. English "redcoats" were a reminder of the society and culture that the Americans had left behind, a society with heraldic titles, coats of arms and other traditions that did not have a place in post-revolution America.<sup>9</sup> Family records were also difficult to maintain due to the mobility of the American family in the early years. The American 'melting pot' ideal also discouraged reverence for past ancestors. Children of new immigrants were often embarrassed by the strong accents and customs of their family members. In their desire

to blend into the general population, they did not wish to embrace these cultural differences and explore their past.<sup>10</sup>

Robert M. Taylor and Ralph Crandall also discuss the evolution of genealogical research in the United States. Taylor and Crandall contend that consciousness of family history in early colonial America was limited to oral transmission of family history or the use of the family Bible to record birth, marriages and deaths. These authors also conclude that it took well over 40 years after the Revolutionary War for genealogical research to take hold in the United States. They suggest that the first main example of such interest is the New England Historic Genealogical Society established in 1845. The society helped promote genealogy by collecting, preserving and occasionally publishing genealogical and historical material pertaining to New England families.<sup>11</sup>

There were exceptions to the lack of interest in genealogy. The time between the Civil War and First World War was a boom time for genealogy. Some experts feel it was due to the emergence of greater opportunity for leisure to devote to this pastime, but by then Americans also had a long and proud national history and identity that they wanted to place themselves in.<sup>12</sup> The American centennial in 1876 prompted individuals, organizations and others to look back into their past, but these efforts were still focused on creating pedigrees and were confined for the most part to the American-born white upper social classes. Groups such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society, which were organized in 1890 and 1897 respectively, reflected this phenomenon. Although the centennial stimulated some general interest in the past in these organizations, they were more concerned about establishing and publicizing long pedigrees that linked their members with colonial patriarchs or Revolutionary patriots.<sup>13</sup>

This flurry of genealogical interest was limited to upper and middle class Americans, not to poor, immigrant families, blacks or Native Americans. As the popularity of written lineages grew, the oral tradition of family genealogies that had been longstanding for generations was dismissed as being unreliable and inaccurate.<sup>14</sup>

Both world wars prompted an interest in genealogy as soldiers traveled to the lands of their ancestors. In 1940 the American Society of Genealogists was founded in New York City. The demography of genealogical patrons started to change in postwar United States, moving from elderly retired individuals to college students researching their family history.<sup>15</sup> Americans also became more mobile in postwar United States. They became separated from their ethnic and ancestral homes, which helped dissolve immigrant 'old country' traditions. As well, as time passed, this process dispersed families and so weakened the means of transmitting family cultural traditions and history to family members. This was not a uniquely American phenomenon, having occurred in Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada.<sup>16</sup>

As genealogy grew in popularity, it began to find a distinctive place among types of historical research work. Prior to the Civil War, the genealogist, historian, and antiquarian were often the same person and so did not provoke much discussion of the nature of their distinctive identities. In the late-nineteenth century, the field of history splintered into three main categories: the local historians who chronicled the town and country; the professional historians who were teachers in colleges and universities; and the genealogists, who practised a pastime, not a profession.<sup>17</sup>

As interest in genealogy emerged as a pastime for amateur historical researchers, professional historians grew more critical of it. As Taylor and Crandall state,

More often than not the historian assumed that genealogy was an amateurish avocation coveted by enthusiasts too engrossed in chasing down a famous relative to be nonsubjective, and too unversed in rigorous proof methods to avoid sloppy work. The genealogist reproached the historian for holding only vague notions of what genealogists did; for not acknowledging genealogists' skills in records research; and for rejecting genealogy as a legitimate historical undertaking.<sup>18</sup>

Past and current use of genealogical information in the pursuit of social ambition or exclusion of one kind or another did not help its image. (One of the most insidious uses of genealogy in recent times was the Nazi use of genealogy to show power through pedigree.) Genealogy thus came to be seen as a narrow and even regressive social activity. The term genealogist evoked the "image of a pretentious provincial absorbed in an entertaining, but historically valueless, pursuit" among scholars and archivists at this time, who also saw themselves as professional historians like those in the education system.<sup>19</sup>

A 2001 discussion on the ARCAN-L listserv<sup>20</sup> offers an interesting source of information about the current feelings of Canadian (and other) archivists about genealogists. It shows that a much different attitude has emerged over the past twenty years. The discussion began when one archivist suggested that genealogy was still only a pastime. What started as a notice about an article on the 1906 census in the Globe and Mail by University of Saskatchewan history professor Bill Waiser in November 2001, became a full blown discussion of the new value of genealogical researchers (in this case as lobbyists in favour of greater access to the censuses) and of the uses of such statistical information. The gauntlet was thrown by Lennox and Addington County (Ontario) archivist Jennifer Bunting, who said: "It is good to hear another voice on the side of access to the census. However, I am amazed that the argument is still being based

primarily on the needs of genealogy. Nice as genealogy is, it is a pastime.”<sup>21</sup> A flurry of support for genealogy followed, voiced by many archivists who have experienced the benefits of having genealogists in their archives. This flurry of responses verifies that archivists have learned the value of genealogists. Many of them stated that genealogists are a knowledgeable research group which is active in preserving records and making them available to the public. As archivist Mark Hopkins noted, they were the first group to encounter privacy legislation roadblocks, and they have effectively argued to relax the restrictiveness of such legislation. However, they have not received the recognition that they should have for their untiring efforts. Hopkins contends that archives cannot afford to overlook the needs and contributions of any valuable customers. Businesses cannot discriminate against various customers, and neither should archives. Archivists must work with genealogists to ensure that genealogy is no less relevant than other “scholarly” research.<sup>22</sup> Other archivists echoed Mark Hopkins’s comments. Patrick Dunae and Jim Bowman showed their support for genealogists. Dunae supported his claim by stating that family history researchers advise archivists when there are spelling or transcription errors in indexes and primary sources, which is helpful because archivists simply do not have the time to find these errors. Most of these researchers are experts in their field and have contributed greatly to demographic and regional research in Canada.<sup>23</sup> Bowman concedes that not all genealogical researchers are researching for professional purposes, but this genealogical research has been used by medical, legal, biographical and First Nations researchers in the sphere of ‘serious’ research. He also cautions that not all research in archives has to be professional; amateur researchers should be just as welcome.<sup>24</sup>

Support for genealogical researchers is not confined to Canada. In the same listserv discussion, archivists in the United States and Australia also voiced their opinions on the value of genealogical research. Emma Toon, from the Public Record Office in Victoria, Australia, stated that many genealogical researchers, even though they may be in the senior age bracket, are still being paid for their research and consider their work as a business. She concludes by saying, "As reference archivists we may bemoan the 'genies' who terrorise our search rooms but I dont (sic) think we can pigeon hole all of them into a 'pastime'."<sup>25</sup> One must doubt that such praise would have been heaped upon genealogists by archivists twenty or thirty years ago. Even though this discussion indicates that stereotypes of genealogists still persist, it suggests that much has changed. How has that occurred?

The trend toward a revised view of genealogists can be traced back to the 1970s, when, for example, American historian and archivist David Kyvig<sup>26</sup> described how genealogists can be a help to archivists, not a hindrance. In the past, archivists primarily served historians, who tended to provide an elitist view of history. The fields remained intellectually detached until the emergence of a new 'social history' in the 1960s and 1970s. At that time, a call arose for history "from the bottom up," to explore a wider variety of the human experience<sup>27</sup>. As Kyvig explains, historians began looking at the lives of ordinary people, rather than emphasize political and military history. Since historians were now interested in records that had been neglected before, archivists began to focus on a new collections development policy, acquiring not only the papers of the political elite, but records of ordinary individuals, especially those who were part of the wave of immigration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>28</sup> Historians

encouraged archives to collect primary source material necessary for genealogical research and also urged students and researchers to create family biographies and donate them to archives to be used by professional scholars.<sup>29</sup> Family history has become a catalyst for looking at other aspects of history, such as the role of women or community history. Family history encourages archivists to look beyond the standard set of documents. They have to be aware of the value of alternative documents such as census records, small newspapers, diaries of those who were not prominent, city directories and other sources that may not have been of interest to the more traditional professional historians, but can be vital to genealogists.<sup>30</sup>

Although archivists began to develop new collections policies in the 1970s, they still felt that historians were more important users of archives than genealogists. Genealogists were criticized by archivists and historians for not knowing how to use archives or how to perform sophisticated historical research. Both groups felt that any untrained person could do genealogical research, which helped foster the discriminatory practices against genealogists. The growing volume of genealogical inquiries also placed a strain on archivists who were not used to dealing with a high volume of researchers.<sup>31</sup>

Although genealogists have been looked down upon by archivists and librarians for being uncritical in their interpretation of records and for a general ineptness in historical research, attitudes are changing. Historians who used genealogical pedigrees for statistical research on population and family structures, and in the study of family mobility and family reconstruction, helped change views of genealogical research<sup>32</sup>. This attitude continued to soften as local and regional genealogical societies were formed and

genealogists began to learn how to research and interpret historical records, which gave a greater sense of professionalism to the 'hobby'. Research guides and college and university courses on family history have also helped overcome the stigma attached to genealogy.<sup>33</sup> In order to combat carelessness or fraudulent intent, the Board of Certification of Genealogists was established in Washington, D.C. in 1964. Genealogical societies have also been influential lobbyists on issues such as legislation on the care and preservation of historical records, the indexing and publishing of primary source documents, and the communication of historical materials to individuals or groups through magazines or journals.<sup>34</sup> All of these steps taken by individual genealogists and genealogical societies have started to change the perception of genealogists as unskilled and uneducated researchers.

During the late 1970s and 1980s, some archives began to change their attitudes and policies from merely tolerating genealogists to accommodating them. They used methods such as enlarging research rooms, streamlining procedures for answering mail, and compiling research guides specifically for genealogists. Genealogists have had a significant impact on all facets of archival work, from appraisal and accessioning, arrangement and description, reference and outreach, and archival education. Archives have expanded their reading rooms, streamlined responses to reference inquiries, created guides and indexes for genealogical sources, provided orientation and introduction of the archives to genealogical researchers and utilized technology such as computers to assist researchers. The increased communication between the two groups has helped change the attitudes of archivists about genealogists.<sup>35</sup>



In the early 1990s, Gabrielle Blais and David Enns of the then National Archives of Canada examined a wider role that archivists must play when it comes to archival education and public programming. They contend that archivists have a responsibility to educate researchers of all types, genealogical, historical and legal, beyond a basic familiarity with archives. Researchers, including genealogists, should be introduced to the concepts of provenance and original order and to better means of analyzing the records they are studying.<sup>36</sup> Generally speaking, archives have been overwhelmed by the genealogical clientele and have been unprepared to provide educational services to these researchers. This education would contribute to fostering a positive relationship with genealogical users and would assist archivists to become active instead of reactive toward certain groups such as genealogists.<sup>37</sup> The Blais and Enns article is a milestone in the revision of thinking about genealogists in Canadian archives.

Crandall and Taylor identify a key factor that is helping genealogists and historians find common ground: the computer. Genealogists in the 1980s started to list, index and compile genealogical information with computers. Historians can now use that information, and, with the computer, compile it into a form usable to them. Crandall and Taylor state that "With both sides using the same tool, it's apparent that the computer is functioning as a third party joining mutual interests."<sup>38</sup> Archivists are also utilizing computers to provide access to finding aids and indexes, assisting both historians and genealogists.<sup>39</sup>

In the mid 1980s, Samuel P. Hays noted similar trends which enhance the prospect of fruitful cooperation between historians and genealogists. He also provided suggestions for further cooperation between the two groups. As a social historian and

genealogist, Hays understands the need to bring the two fields closer together. Historical research can help broaden genealogical searching, while genealogists can produce research material for social historians. The genealogists' need for individualized records has resulted in large indexing projects by individual genealogists and genealogical groups. Genealogists have been actively compiling information such as census records, marriage records, land deeds, wills, probate records and tombstone inscriptions. While this greatly aids genealogical researchers, it has also helped the social historian compile information that would have normally taken years to research.<sup>40</sup>

Archivists can also rethink their role in genealogy by examining their archival holdings from the "bottom up rather than from the top down."<sup>41</sup> They have to look beyond the records creators, to the content of the records and what they might hold for genealogists. Government records, for example, can hold a vast amount of genealogically significant records, especially records that can describe the course of daily human life. Archivists must work with genealogists to make records, especially government records, accessible and understandable to them so that they can be used to their full potential.<sup>42</sup>

Peter Bunce, a director with the American National Archives and Records Administration Great Lakes Regional Branch in Chicago, echoes the thoughts of Hays. He stated in 1990 that archivists and genealogists must meet in the middle when it comes to a harmonious relationship. Genealogists and archivists are both guilty of causing misconceptions, misunderstandings and then frustration between the two groups. He illustrates by saying, "To be effective providers, archivists need to be educated by genealogists; to be effective researchers, genealogists need to learn from archivists and

educate themselves.”<sup>43</sup> He states that although archivists should make records as accessible as possible to aid genealogists, they should not compromise the security and safety of the records. Archivists must educate genealogists in the use of the records, from careful handling procedures to understanding the records themselves through orientation sessions and reference materials. Archivists also must have a positive attitude toward genealogists. Bunce states strongly that they must not discriminate against them because they are not “professionals” or be rude to any individuals because they do not meet the archivists’ expectations of what a proper researcher should be.<sup>44</sup>

Genealogists also have to pull their weight to help archivists. They should become educated about the institutions they are to visit, and be patient and take the time to read and understand reading room regulations and use of records. They should also take care not to monopolize the time of the archivists and not ask for special privileges. They should learn how to conduct genealogical research before visiting the archives, and be well versed in proper letter (and now email) writing procedures. Bunce also suggests that both archivists and genealogists must have a sense of humor when tackling their respective jobs. Difficult challenges can be made much easier when the lighter side can be seen. With all of these tips, archivists and genealogists should be able to work together and enjoy working with each other.<sup>45</sup>

Hugh Taylor, formerly of the National Archives of Canada and the Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia, Alberta and New Brunswick, also suggests some options for archivists for the promotion of family history within archives. He suggests that partnerships should be made between museums, archives, genealogical societies and the tourism industry in order to effectively promote family history. With a focus on

outreach, archives could be proactive in promoting themselves and in acquiring records of the “middling folk”, by setting up workshops to help families collect material pertaining to their past.<sup>46</sup>

Hays feels that social historians, archivists and genealogists must work together in order to preserve local records, compile biographical information and make individualized data accessible for both genealogical and social research. The last suggestion, Hays feels, is to computerize information that before has only been available via microfilm or manuscript. For genealogists, the computer printout would eliminate the need to search metres of microfilm; historians could merge material easily with computer programs; and archivists would not have to expend hours doing research for individuals.<sup>47</sup>

Hays not only recognizes a new social history phenomenon, but a new genealogy. The increase in the number and membership of genealogical organizations and in genealogical publications marks the new genealogy, according to Hays. He maintains that these genealogical organizations are far more diversified in membership and purpose than the insular patriotic organizations. Membership in genealogical organizations boomed in the 1980s and 1990s. Canadian genealogical societies have also seen a considerable influx of new members. For example, the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society's membership only grew by approximately 200 members between 1969 and 1979. However, by 1989 it had grown to over 900 members and by the mid 1990s membership stood at over 1300 persons. In a 2002 Ipsos-Reid poll commissioned by the National Archives of Canada, half of those surveyed expressed interest in their family history and one quarter were willing to pay for services that could be used for genealogical

purposes.<sup>48</sup> In the United States, over 60 percent of Americans in 2000 were interested in tracing their family origins, up from 45 percent in 1995.<sup>49</sup> The interest is so great that many genealogy research courses are being offered in Canada, such as one offered through an Elderhostel program by Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland.<sup>50</sup>

The communication of information between individual genealogists and genealogical groups has grown as well. Patriotic organizations like the Daughters of the American Revolution were often the pivotal players in early genealogical research. Now the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints plays a central role for genealogical research, along with the numerous state (and provincial) organizations.<sup>51</sup> There has been a definite shift in the nature of genealogical research in this new genealogy. No longer are researchers researching a specific moment in time or about a significant ancestor; they are filling in the gaps of their family tree and searching for kinship ties with hundreds or thousands of individuals.<sup>52</sup>

The publication in 1976 of Alex Haley's book Roots: The Saga of an American Family about the history of an African-American family, and the 1977 television mini-series based on the book, were among the primary causes of the sharp increase in genealogical interest in the late 1970s and the 1980s. They helped create the 'new genealogy' as a mass social phenomenon. Roots chronicled the history of Haley's family from an eighteenth-century African ancestor named Kunta Kinte, through the family's passage from slavery to freedom in America. By his death in 1992, over 5 million copies of Haley's book had been sold and the mini-series attracted over 30 million viewers per episode and 80 million for the final episode, making it one of the most popular television mini-series ever broadcast.<sup>53</sup> The book and mini-series caused a great many people,

especially minority groups, to look into their past. By 1979, the National Archives in Washington D.C. had seen an increase of over 70 percent in genealogical research since the broadcast of the mini-series.<sup>54</sup>

The Carnegie Foundation, after hearing Alex Haley speak about his genealogical research for the book, funded many historical and genealogical programs, one being a "Family Heritage Program". This program was developed by inner city schools in New York City to combat racism in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods and give students an understanding of their heritage. It was a huge success as a wide range of students, parents and grandparents became interested in family history. The book also pushed researchers to search through archives for documentation about their family history and also bring to light the problems researching ethnic minorities, especially blacks, in the United States.<sup>55</sup> The influence of Roots on genealogy was so widespread that in 1980 Meredith B. Colket, Jr. stated, "The impact of Alex Haley's 'Roots' is so universally recognized that it will not be evaluated here. Suffice to say that 'Roots' more than any other single work stimulated the man in the street to inquire about the genetic, cultural, and other forces that contributed to making him the person that he is."<sup>56</sup> In Saskatchewan, Roots was not shown on Canadian television networks, but was shown on American cable channels. Both the Saskatoon StarPhoenix and the Regina Leader-Post ran Associated Press articles about the popularity of this mini series across the globe.<sup>57</sup> The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society recognized the impact of Roots, and in 1977, R. Bruce Shepard wrote an article about Haley's genealogical quest in the SGS Bulletin.<sup>58</sup>

The 'new' genealogy has spawned many different uses of genealogical sources. There are still individuals who trace their ancestors back to find the highly ranked

members of the family, such as Peter St. John, a University of Manitoba professor who had to prove his link to the ancient Earls of Orkney in order to obtain the hereditary title of Earl of Orkney, Lord of Dechmont and Viscount of Kirkwall.<sup>59</sup> The Sanders family of Montreal needed to trace its family back to a sixteenth-century painter and actor to attempt to authenticate a rare four-hundred-year-old painting of William Shakespeare.<sup>60</sup> However, other people have used their own family history to write plays or books, taking family history into a new sphere. Actor and playwright R.H. Thomson explained the positive response he has received for The Lost Boys, his play about his uncles who were killed in World War I: "not because I'm a great playwright or it's so well written, but because most people carry their families around with them in their suitcases, and all I'm doing is opening my suitcase."<sup>61</sup> A book narrating the lives of two slaves in Virginia, entitled A Long Way From Home, was based on significant family history and social history research by one of the slaves' great-great granddaughters. The author, Connie Briscoe, turned family myths into truths as she delved into archives and libraries and used her family history to illustrate some truths about slavery that are rarely brought to light: slaves who were able to read and write, slaves who lived in cities away from their masters, were able to earn their own money, and financially assisted other freed blacks in the south.<sup>62</sup> Another writer, Canadian Marilyn Cochran Baker, found a yellowed newspaper obituary of her grandmother, who died before Baker was born, and embarked on a journey to discover who this woman was, how she lived, and how she felt when she lost two children, one in infancy and one in war. Baker used both archival sources such as the 1901 Canadian census to locate evidence about her grandmother and family sources such as letters and telegrams to build on the obituary's clues and links to the

wider story of the life of her grandmother. Learning the small details about her grandmother led Baker to appreciate the value of leaving a legacy for future family.<sup>63</sup>

Inheritable diseases such as Parkinson's disease, breast cancer, and hemophilia have prompted patients to explore their family health history. Some individuals wish to know that they may be susceptible to certain diseases. They can trace death, burial and medical records of their ancestors to find patterns of disease or illness. As people and medical researchers find family links, new drug therapies are being tailored to assist individuals with hereditary diseases. Many physicians and researchers feel that this is a form of family history that can be a tool for future generations.<sup>64</sup> Children born from sperm or egg donors have the right in some countries, such as Britain, New Zealand and Sweden, to trace their biological families.<sup>65</sup>

Genealogical researchers are also traveling to the homelands of their ancestors, spawning a new form of tourism. They are traveling through Canada and the United States, finding old homesteads, churches and cemeteries. They are also venturing overseas to meet distant cousins, visit their communities and to ensure that their past is not forgotten. The largest proportion of 'roots travellers' are middle aged, between 45 and 54 years of age. Some of the travels can evoke painful memories, such as Jewish heritage tours, which take individuals to the ghettos of Warsaw and Krakow, and the Treblinka death camp – places in which their relatives lived and perished. As painful as these trips can be, the travelers find the trip to be meaningful and powerful.<sup>66</sup> Larry Oakes, a columnist with the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper, became interested in genealogy in the 1990s and described his difficulties (and ultimate success) in locating the homeland of his Scandinavian ancestors. He researched archival sources as well as



relied on family lore to pursue his genealogy.<sup>67</sup> Then in 2001, he documented his trip to his great-great grandparents' homeland of Sweden and his wife's ancestors' homeland of Finland. He describes meeting distant relatives, visiting churches and making a deep connection to the land where his family had lived over one hundred years earlier.<sup>68</sup> The genealogical traveler embraces the new genealogy by wishing to see ancestral homes surviving using archives and libraries and by relatives, many and distant.

Websites from archives, genealogical societies, national historic sites, such as the Pier 21 Society in Halifax, and even television networks such as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Public Broadcasting System (PBS), have contributed to genealogical interest on the web by placing searchable databases, digitized images or genealogical reference information online for researchers. Archival institutions such as the Library and Archives of Canada and National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) in England, have created interactive websites where researchers can search through databases to perform genealogical research. Archival institutions in Canada are slowly placing genealogical information online, either as guides or as searchable databases. These databases have been extremely well received by the general public. Indeed, when the Public Record Office website launched an online database of the 1901 British Census of England and Wales in 2003, the unexpected heavy demand by users caused the computer network at the archives to crash – a problem which took several weeks to remedy. Other non-archival institutions such as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), felt great strain on its website with over 40 million 'hits' when it launched searchable databases in 1999.<sup>69</sup> Many of these institutions have not only created websites specifically for family history, but have placed this family history

information within a larger historical context, which can introduce genealogists to the history of a time or place that they had not known about.

Genealogical interest has had a long and varied past. It has evolved from the creation of simple lineages to a 'new genealogy,' which embraces the completion of complex social and family histories through the growth of genealogical organizations and publications. This 'new genealogy' has been brought to the mainstream by becoming the basis for plays and books, to understand personal medical history, to authenticate artifacts, and to prove lineage for a hereditary peerage. Accompanying the 'new genealogy' is an evolution which has occurred in the attitudes of genealogists and archivists as well. Until the early 1970s, there often was animosity between the two groups. But as social history came to the fore, offering more intellectual respectability to genealogical research, and interest in genealogy became a widespread social phenomenon in the 1980s and 1990s, facilitated by the mass media and computer technologies, archives began to respond more warmly to genealogical researchers with new collections and reference services. The two groups began to work more closely together. The growth of genealogical societies helped educate genealogists to foster positive relationships with archives. These varied approaches to genealogy have breathed new life into an ancient skill.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Rosalind Thomas, Oral Tradition and Written Record in Classical Athens. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989): 173.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 156.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 157

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 174

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 195

<sup>6</sup> Former Dean of School of Information, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

<sup>7</sup> Russell Bidlack, "Genealogy Today." Library Trends 32 (Summer 1985): 8.

<sup>8</sup> Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, "Four Centuries of Genealogy: A Historical Overview." RQ (Winter 1983): 162.

<sup>9</sup> Bidlack, 9.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 9-10.

<sup>11</sup> Robert M. Taylor and Ralph Crandall, "Historians and Genealogists: An Emerging Community of Interest." in Generations and Change: Genealogical Perspectives in Social History. eds. Robert M. Taylor and Ralph Crandall, (Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1986): 4-6.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>13</sup> Gail R. Redmann, "Archivists and Genealogists: The Trend Toward Peaceful Coexistence." Archival Issues Vol. 18, No.2 (1993), 122

<sup>14</sup> Bidlack, 10-11.

<sup>15</sup> Bidlack., 10-11.

<sup>16</sup> Redmann, 122.

<sup>17</sup> Taylor and Crandall, 15.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 16.

<sup>19</sup> Redmann, 121.

<sup>20</sup> ARCAN-L listserv is an electronic mail discussion forum for archivists, focusing on Canadian archival issues. It is moderated by Bryan Corbett, University Archivist, University of Alberta.

<sup>21</sup> Jennifer Bunting, ARCAN-L listserv, November 20, 2001.

<sup>22</sup> Mark Hopkins, ARCAN-L Listserv, November 22, 2001.

<sup>23</sup> Patrick A. Duane, ARCAN-L Listserv, November 21, 2001

<sup>24</sup> Jim Bowman, ARCAN-L Listerv, November 20, 2001.

<sup>25</sup> Emma Toon, ARCAN-L Listserv, November 21, 2001.

<sup>26</sup> Member of the history faculty and director of the American History Research Centre, University of Akron (Ohio).

<sup>27</sup> David E. Kyvig, "Family History: New Opportunities for Archivists." The American Archivist (October 1975): 509.

<sup>28</sup> Redmann, 123.

<sup>29</sup> Kyvig, 513.

<sup>30</sup> Kyvig, 509-511.

<sup>31</sup> Redmann., 123-125.

<sup>32</sup> Taylor and Crandall, 17-19.

<sup>33</sup> Bidlack, 12-13.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 15-20.

<sup>35</sup> Redmann, 125-127.

<sup>36</sup> Gabrielle Blais and David Enns, "From Paper Archives to People Archives: Public Programming in the Management of Archives." Archivaria 31 (Winter 1990-91): 106.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Taylor and Crandall, 20.

<sup>39</sup> Redmann, 126.

<sup>40</sup> Samuel P. Hays "History and Genealogy: Patterns of Change and Prospects for Cooperation." In Generations and Change: Genealogical Perspectives in Social History. eds. Robert M. Taylor and Ralph Crandall, (Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1986): 31-36.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 43.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 43-45.

<sup>43</sup> Peter W. Bunce, "Towards a More Harmonious Relationship: A Challenge to Archivists and Genealogists." SAA Newsletter (May 1990):18.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 18-19

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 19.

<sup>46</sup> Hugh Taylor, "Family History: Some New Directions and Their Implications for the Archivist." Archivaria 11 (Winter 1980-81):229-231. Other librarians, archivists and genealogists have reiterated the need for cooperation and support between genealogists and archivists/librarians. In articles located in various library science journals Elizabeth Mills, Juliana Smith, Roy Turnbaugh, J. Carlyle Parker, Kirk Jeffrey and Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck have all voiced their support for each group to understand each other's needs. As seen in their articles, published in various archival and library science journals, they all believe that there is a place in archives and libraries for genealogists and that progress has been made in utilizing the skills and knowledge of this research group.

<sup>47</sup> Hays, 47-50.

<sup>48</sup> Jack Aubry, "Interest in genealogy is growing: survey." Ottawa Citizen, (January 6, 2003).

<sup>49</sup> Peter Kilborn, "Family tree sleuths spur 'big business'." National Post, (August 20, 2001).

<sup>50</sup> Dorothy Lipovenko, "Hooked on digging into family lore." Globe and Mail (11 June 1996): A8.

<sup>51</sup> Hays., 37-38.

<sup>52</sup> Hays, 39-42.

<sup>53</sup> Eric Pace, "Alex Haley, 70, Author of 'Roots,' Dies." New York Times (February 11, 1992): B8.

<sup>54</sup> "Archives Offers Genealogy Data." New York Times (February 18, 1979): 33.

<sup>55</sup> Thomas A. Johnson, "'Roots' Has Widespread and Inspiring Influence." New York Times (March 19, 1977): 46.

<sup>56</sup> Meredith B. Colket, Jr., "Some Trends in Genealogy." National Genealogical Society Quarterly 68 (Winter 1980): 4.

<sup>57</sup> "Roots author sees benefit from TV version." Saskatoon StarPhoenix (1 February 1977): 13 and "Roots makes Big Impact." Regina Leader-Post (29 January 1977): 6.

<sup>58</sup> R. Bruce Shepard, "Genealogy for Black America: Alex Haley's Roots." SGS Bulletin Vol. 8 No. 3, (Summer 1977): 107-110.

<sup>59</sup> David Roberts, "The man who would be Lord." Globe and Mail (24 July 1999): D3.

<sup>60</sup> Stephanie Nolan, "After 400 years, says owner, 'It's time to reveal Shakespeare to the world'." Globe and Mail (12 May 2001):F8.

<sup>61</sup> Michael Posner, "Men of Letters." Globe and Mail (7 February 2002): R5.

<sup>62</sup> Charisse Jones, "Family history develops detailed image of slavery." USA Today (26 August 1999): 7D.

<sup>63</sup> Marilyn Cochran Baker, "Grandmother's legacy treasured." Winnipeg Free Press (8 May 2004): A15.

<sup>64</sup> John Nicol, "Sleuthing for Medical Clues." Maclean's (20 September 1999): 48.

<sup>65</sup> "Balancing the rights of donors and their miracle children." Globe and Mail (2 August 1999) and

"Britain's test-tube children get right to trace donors." Globe and Mail (26 July 1999): A1, A9.

<sup>66</sup> Dorothy Lipovenko, "More take trips to trace ancestry." Globe and Mail (10 September 1997): A6.

<sup>67</sup> Larry Oakes, "A search for the 'Old Country' enriches life in the new." Minneapolis Star Tribune (August 9, 1998) (<http://www.startribune.com>)

<sup>68</sup> Larry Oakes, "Footprints of family: A Swedish Homecoming." Minneapolis Star Tribune, (December 9, 2001) (<http://www.startribune.com>)

<sup>69</sup> Araminta Wordsworth, "Mormons' genealogy Website overloaded." National Post (May 26, 1999): A20.

## Chapter Two

### Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, 1969-2004

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) was founded in 1969 in order to assist individuals to research family history. Although in the early years the society's resources and knowledge were limited, its members were not deterred but focused on assisting themselves and others with genealogical research. As the years passed and funding improved, the SGS was able to promote itself successfully and increase its resources for researchers. This chapter will illustrate how a small, fledgling society, with limited family research experience, grew to become a thriving organization, with the largest genealogical lending library in Canada, while embracing new technologies, new forms of genealogical education, and new ideas and programs. These new programs and approaches all provide evidence that the SGS is an excellent example of the new genealogy.

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society is a product of the new genealogy. Social historian and genealogist Samuel Hays identifies the increase in genealogical societies and publications as one of the first trends of this new phenomenon.<sup>1</sup> The SGS was not established to serve the elite of Saskatchewan, but to serve anyone who wished to learn about their past. Robert Pittendrigh, one of the founders of the SGS admitted that when he became interested in genealogy, "genealogy was regarded as a bit strange, and a hobby for the well heeled."<sup>2</sup> Despite this perception of genealogy, Pittendrigh was introduced to other middle-class Regina residents who also had an interest in this pastime. When the society was first developed, its earliest members recognized their need of greater knowledge about genealogical research. The society was not founded by scholars who

had knowledge of archives, libraries, and genealogical research. The society ensured that anyone who was interested in genealogy was welcome to join it, regardless of their skill level. The 1969 SGS constitution stated that membership was open to anyone who was “interested in promoting the purposes of the Society (promotion of genealogical research in Saskatchewan) on payment of the annual fee.”<sup>3</sup>

The SGS has reflected the characteristics of the new genealogy through its many publications, educational programs, a written set of standards and ethics, partnerships with archives, libraries and historical societies, and continual efforts to use new technologies such as the Internet. The society’s membership boomed in the 1980s and 1990s, which may be attributed in part to the increase of interest in genealogy prompted by Alex Haley’s book and mini-series “Roots” and the great expansion of genealogical information on the Internet. Educational programs for genealogical researchers developed by the SGS also reflected and contributed to the new genealogy by providing SGS members with a measure of professionalism that enhanced broader societal interest in and respect for genealogy. Several of these programs also reached out beyond the membership of the SGS, which brought the work of the SGS to the wider society and helped encourage increasing numbers of people to look into their family history. These educational programs encouraged researchers to explore various avenues of genealogical research beyond their family pedigree. The SGS has long been active in ensuring ethical means of genealogical research, another aspect of the new genealogy. The organization has set out written ethical standards which must be upheld by the society and its members. Although some innovations were slow to develop, as membership and funding grew, the SGS was able to fully embrace the new genealogy by offering professional

training, publishing newsletters and books about Saskatchewan genealogy, utilizing new technologies and innovations in genealogical research, and by promoting genealogy to a wider audience by encouraging family history research instead of simple lineages.

The SGS began at a meeting on 6 February 1969 held to determine whether there was sufficient interest in genealogy in the Regina area to form a genealogical society. A total of 28 people gathered at the Regina Public Library, most of whom had little or no information about genealogical research. Despite their lack of knowledge, there was great enthusiasm within the group. It was decided that a genealogical group or society should be formed to help educate interested people.<sup>4</sup> An interim executive was established, and a number of goals were discussed. The aims developed in the first meeting formed the basis of the group's work in the following years.

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society's first set of goals was intended to encourage genealogical research in Saskatchewan. The society wished to develop a library and archives of reference materials for the use of members. It also hoped to educate members in the practice of genealogical research and to assist in publishing the results of genealogists' work. A bulletin or newsletter would also be published to keep members abreast of new information.<sup>5</sup> During the first year, decisions were made to adopt the constitution of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) as the basis of the SGS constitution and to use the OGS (the oldest and largest genealogical society in Canada) as a source of experience in the development of a new genealogical society.<sup>6</sup>

Each meeting in 1969 brought new ideas and decisions about how the SGS should be organized. It was decided in a meeting on 10 April 1969 that local branches would be established by an application to the main branch of the SGS. Branches were permitted to

have their own constitution and charge a membership fee. Membership fees for the provincial society were set at \$5 per person with \$2 for each additional family member.<sup>7</sup>

As the society grew, the SGS established a mission statement, a vision, a goal and a mandate in order to describe their activities and to illustrate the purpose of the organization. The mission statement for the SGS is to “promote and develop the study, research and preservation of Genealogy and Family History.”<sup>8</sup> The mandate of the SGS is: to preserve Saskatchewan records, to be of assistance to all Saskatchewan residents researching their heritage anywhere in the world and to anyone researching their Saskatchewan heritage, to be a collective voice of genealogy in the province of Saskatchewan and to coordinate all genealogical and family history projects and research in Saskatchewan.<sup>9</sup> Their vision is to have stable financing, up-to-date resources, and to further the use of technology, education and preservation of genealogical records.

Funding has been integral to the survival of the SGS. It first received funding from the Saskatchewan Department of Culture and Youth in 1973 for a total of \$1215.00.<sup>10</sup> The SGS received funding from the Department of Culture and Youth throughout the 1970s in various amounts. It used some of this funding to develop a project to seek out the location of cemeteries and burial grounds in Saskatchewan.<sup>11</sup> In 1977, the SGS received funding from the federal Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, Department of Labour, to develop a multicultural library collection in the form of books, microfilm and microfiche that would reflect the multicultural nature of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society and help SGS members with their genealogical research.<sup>12</sup>



In 1980, the SGS began making application to the Saskatchewan Sport Trust to obtain funds for the acquisition of library research materials. Sask Sport Trust was a non-profit, non-governmental organization that provided financial assistance from the profits of lottery dollars to sport, culture, arts and recreational organizations in Saskatchewan.<sup>13</sup> The money was requested by SGS to purchase publications related to settlement, genealogical, and migration histories, atlases, dictionaries of family names pertaining to Canada, the United States and Europe for use by SGS members, and to assist the SGS to answer genealogical queries.<sup>14</sup> Another part of a grant received from Sask Sport was used to fund travel by SGS members to conferences and for one couple to do genealogical research in Germany.<sup>15</sup>

The SGS currently operates under the Non-Profit Act and is a charitable organization which also receives a postal subsidy from the Heritage Branch, Government of Canada.<sup>16</sup> Since 1985, the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society has been receiving funding in the form of lottery dollars as a member of SaskCulture, through grants from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sports, Culture and Recreation. The SGS strives to fulfil its vision of having a stable financing source, but currently has to rely on applying to SaskCulture for funding. However, there is a significant amount of work required to prepare each application, and many different accountability issues to contend with every year. The SGS's grant applications are judged on criteria set out by SaskCulture's Cultural Policy. The criteria consist of several categories: Access and Service, Representation, Organizational Effectiveness and Effective Governance.<sup>17</sup>

The SGS outlines the SaskCulture Cultural Policy Criteria in every annual report and demonstrates SGS's commitment to follow the criteria in all categories. The Access

and Service criteria involve consideration of the number of programs offered, number of people using the programs, number of donations to the organization, and amount of money raised during fundraising, not including money granted from Lottery dollars. Also included in these criteria is the impact that the organization has on the cultural landscape and society of Saskatchewan. The SGS's financial report, which outlines donations and money raised, is presented to the annual meeting of the SGS and is available for consultation in its published annual report.

The annual report also describes the society's work over the past year on new or continuing programs. Members must represent all areas of the province and the society must keep records of these statistics. The SGS must show how membership affects the organization. In the annual report, the SGS outlines the exact membership numbers and shows where in the province and across the country the members reside. The branch reports within the annual report also illustrate the spread of members across the province and also highlight the accomplishments of the members, no matter where they live in the province. The SGS operates with a Board of Directors, which includes the President, Past- President, Vice President and a set of five directors from across the province. They represent the society when required and are active in workshops and annual meetings. They keep up to date with the operation of the main branch of the SGS as well as the local branches, and ensure that they are knowledgeable about the new developments in genealogy. The SGS Board of Directors follows the Carver model of governance, which means that it sets policy, but is not involved in the day-to-day running of the organization, which is managed by a paid staff. The Board constantly adds new policies, reworks existing policies and evaluates its performance at every meeting to ensure that

the mandate and goals are being followed.<sup>18</sup> Adherence to SaskCulture's Cultural Policy criteria is essential for SGS in order to receive funding from SaskCulture. Without this funding, the SGS cannot perform the majority of its essential services.

Many SGS projects are undertaken by the SGS branches, not the SGS as a whole. During the development of the SGS, it was decided that branches could be formed that charged their own membership fee and had their own constitution. At the end of 2002, there were 21 branches and one study group, split into 6 regions. The size of some branches is small, only 10-14 members, while cities such as Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, and Moose Jaw have larger groups, ranging from 39-88 members.<sup>19</sup>

For SGS members to form a new branch, they must have ten or more paid memberships within the SGS and must provide the SGS with a complete membership list. A Chair and Secretary-Treasurer must be nominated to head the branch. As well, no other branches must exist within 50 kilometres of the branch except at the discretion of the SGS Board. All SGS branches must operate under the main SGS constitution, bylaws and governance policies.

In order to maintain a viable branch, branches must have four or more members, operate under the SGS bylaws, constitution and policies, submit a written annual report of their activities (which is published in the SGS Annual Report), submit a current membership list which includes a current executive list, have an elected chairperson and secretary-treasurer, and hold regular meetings.<sup>20</sup> Although the branches are run differently depending on their size, they may perform several duties. Branches may publish a newsletter, hold special collections in their library and sell publications that were compiled by branch members such as cemetery or obituary indexes<sup>21</sup>.

Membership in the SGS was initially small (27 members) mainly from the Regina area. The fees in the early years were modest, \$5 per person, with \$2 for each additional family member. As time passed and the SGS became more visible within Saskatchewan communities, membership increased. The SGS saw increases in its membership in the late 1970s and 1980s. Between 1979 and 1980 membership increased by 115 new members and 50 total members. Between 1985 and 1986 membership increased greatly with 283 new members and an overall increase of 214 members. During this time, interest in family history in Saskatchewan was not only spurred by the "Roots" phenomenon, but also the celebration in 1980 of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the province of Saskatchewan.<sup>22</sup> Many communities in Saskatchewan were encouraged to publish their histories, and families were urged to provide family histories to these publications. This may have contributed to the increase in SGS membership in these years because these people often sought assistance from the SGS to perform their research. Although there are no statistics compiled regarding the ethnic or social backgrounds of SGS members, one glance at the SGS Library, which houses thousands of books, CD-ROMs and microfiche from literally around the world, illustrates that this genealogical society has members from many different ethnic communities.

As well in the 1990s, SGC membership grew steadily, with an increase of nearly 100 new members between 1995 and 1996 as the largest one-year jump. During this period, family history came to the fore assisted by the rise in the use of the Internet. Archives, libraries and family history societies began to place either free or fee-for-service databases online, which encouraged anyone with a computer and Internet access to delve into their family's past. The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society also launched

its website in 1996, which made the society more accessible to genealogical researchers both in the province and elsewhere. The SGS reached its highest membership total in 1998-1999, with over 1300 members from across Canada and the United States. Membership declined slightly in the following years, but according to Marge Thomas, Executive Director of the SGS, membership in genealogical societies in many places, such as Australia and Great Britain, also peaked in the late 1990s then experienced some decline.<sup>23</sup>

One demographic group that has been a consistently growing portion of SGS membership is the seniors category. Statistics regarding senior members have been kept since 1984, and since then the percentage of senior members has grown from 23 to 42 percent. (See Appendix A.) Marge Thomas explains that many of the new members are much older than the members who joined in the 1970s. The main demographic in the early years was late middle-aged individuals, but now she finds that people between 45 and 65 are often too busy to take up genealogical activities, and therefore join when they are much older. Senior citizens now comprise one of the largest member groups in the SGS. Thomas also speculated that many inexperienced genealogical researchers who only use the Internet may feel that they do not need a genealogical society or may not know that one exists.<sup>24</sup>

Declining membership and the growth of genealogical information on the Internet are trends that are likely to continue. More and more databases and web pages are being launched every month, which push researchers out of the traditional confines of a library, archives or genealogical library and allow them to access information without leaving home. Whether it is justified or not, many newcomers to genealogical research may feel

that they do not need a society to which they pay fees, when they can research their family history for little cost via the Internet.

The SGS offers research services for individuals who are unable to visit the SGS library. For a fee, the SGS will perform basic searches in its obituary, cemetery, newspaper, homestead indexes and the Saskatchewan Residents' Index. The society requires a surname and a given name and, after searching, will provide a detailed report describing the sources searched. If the search is successful, the SGS will provide up to \$2.00 worth of photocopying. The society also charges for searches in other databases in the SGS library, such as the International Genealogical Index (IGI), indexes of births, marriages and deaths for the United Kingdom and Ontario, census research, and Indian and Métis genealogy.<sup>25</sup> Branches often respond to queries from genealogical researchers beyond their localities and outside the province. Even with the proliferation of material on the Internet, in 2002 the SGS responded to 3500 telephone calls, 350 letters, and 1800 emails. These statistics illustrate that many people do not find everything they need on the Internet and still require the help of a genealogical society to complete their research.

The SGS has always been involved in the education of its members. It has continually improved its educational programs to respond to the increasing knowledge needs of its members as well as the technological changes that have taken place in genealogical research. Much of the early training and education of SGS members came from annual seminars held each fall, as well as from the acquisition of resource books for the SGS library. The SGS seminars have been an effective promotional and educational tool for SGS members. SGS seminars were initially held in Regina, but as the branches around the province grew, they were able to hold seminars in places such as Saskatoon,

Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Melfort, Battleford, and Prince Albert. The first SGS seminar was held in 1969 and was entitled, "Resources of the Saskatchewan Archives and the Public Archives of Canada." This seminar focused on the genealogical resources available at these archives as well as on how to perform genealogical research. Seminars in subsequent years focused on British research, births, marriages, and deaths in Saskatchewan, probate records and wills, research at the Latter-Day Saints Library, German-Russian settlements, Eastern European research, the Barr Colonists and several beginner genealogical research sessions.

As SGS members' basic knowledge of genealogical research grew, the seminars became more ambitious. They began to look at genetics and genealogy, oral histories, photography, computers, and ethnic research topics outside ethnic groups who traditionally have carried out genealogical research (such as First Nations/Métis people).<sup>26</sup> Indeed, in 1971, well before many researchers were interested in using genealogical research for medical or genetic purposes, a seminar topic of "Genetics and Genealogy" was presented to seminar participants. Medical research topics now have become another aspect of family history and genealogy and the SGS recognized this connection very early on in its existence. The SGS has shown an interest in exploring an increasing variety of topics since the early 1970s. This recognizes the need to expand the knowledge base of genealogical researchers in light of changing developments.

The 2003 seminar also shows a new and lighter approach to genealogy. The title of the seminar, "Unearthing our Ancestors: Finding the Skeletons," shows a humorous side to genealogy, a research pursuit often thought of as stuffy or snobbish. Gone are the days of only locating the successful or famous ancestors – now genealogists are hoping to

'find the skeletons,' of infamous relatives as well. The SGS 2003 seminar contained traditional topics such as research in specific geographical areas or certain cultural groups, but the majority of the speakers focused on other topics, such as researching female ancestors, properly documenting a family history, tips for researching in libraries, and using computers for genealogical research.<sup>27</sup>

Along with the annual seminar, one of the SGS's most useful promotional and education tools is its publication, the SGS Bulletin. This newsletter has been published since 1970 and is now appears quarterly. While keeping the members informed about the general activities of the society, it also includes articles about specific genealogical education topics and new publications. The Bulletin has published articles pertaining to the collection and preservation of genealogical artifacts and archival material. A relatively new column in the Bulletin is devoted to computing and genealogy. It reviews new developments and provides suggestions on how to store genealogical data in a computer. The Bulletin echoes the goals and mandates of the SGS, which encourage education and promotion of genealogy, as well as the use of new technologies. Bulletin contributors have been active promoters of archives and libraries by writing articles about resources that have proved beneficial.

The SGS has also published numerous indices and guides for genealogical research, but the most ambitious effort is the book Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors: A Guide to the Records and How to Use Them, published initially in 2000.<sup>28</sup> This publication is an excellent example of the SGS's attempts to encourage researchers to explore family history beyond tombstone information from a variety of Saskatchewan sources. The society has also been able to promote itself by offering this book for sale to



non-SGS members on its website. This publication offers an in-depth look at all genealogical sources available for Saskatchewan genealogical research. It describes how to access basic tombstone information such as vital statistics and census records, but also describes sources such as maps, court records, funeral home records, municipal records and others that are less obvious to the average researcher. It also has an entire section devoted to Aboriginal/Métis research and provides detailed information for the Aboriginal genealogical researcher – a topic which has become extremely popular in the last few years. The guide also provides an entire section devoted to archives, libraries and museums that hold genealogically pertinent material. The SGS maintains a close association with archives and consulted with the Saskatchewan Archives to provide accurate information about its holdings.

Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors also includes information on the implications of the Saskatchewan Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for genealogists. The guide describes how to access records under the Act. This shows that the SGS is aware of privacy concerns and wishes to make sure that researchers are educated as well. (This increased concern about privacy is another aspect of the new genealogy to which the SGS is responding.) The society also outlines several of its educational programs in this publication. This publication sums up the goals and the mandate of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. It encourages everyone to research their Saskatchewan roots and identifies a wide variety of sources to use in exploring one's genealogy in and beyond Saskatchewan. It also illustrates the society's desire to work with other institutions to further genealogical research in Saskatchewan.

The SGS Education Committee was formed in 1988. Its mandate has been: "to promote genealogical education by overseeing the development of a genealogical curriculum, the training of genealogical teachers, and the promotion of genealogical courses in Saskatchewan."<sup>29</sup> This Education Committee and its programs for genealogical training have been one of the most significant programs set out by the SGS. Before the formal education committee was established, genealogical classes were given through the community college in Regina. In the branches, instruction was given by those members who felt they had developed a knowledge of genealogy. To help complement this instruction, in 1982, SGS librarian Laura Hanowski began to travel around the province giving genealogical instruction at all levels, from beginner to advanced. With the development of the Education Committee in 1988, it was decided that a course would be given to train members as Saskatchewan genealogical instructors and researchers. The expectation of this course was that the new instructors and researchers would use their knowledge to teach courses across the province. The programs and courses consisted of: Certified Instructors/ Researchers Courses; beginner and advanced level classes on all aspects of genealogy; outreach services to libraries, schools and community colleges; "Genealogy in the 90's," which produced a lesson plan and instructor's manual on Saskatchewan genealogy; and the development of a Métis and First Nation program.<sup>30</sup> The "Genealogy in the 90's" curriculum was one of the first that trained genealogists as family history educators. It was designed to promote research into and the study and preservation of Saskatchewan family history and genealogy. It represents the society's recognition of the need to provide outreach services and advanced education to members who had moved well beyond the basics. This project

was soon eclipsed by the certification courses offered by the SGS. It nevertheless illustrated the need to promote educational programs and to reach out beyond the organization to assist others.

The first SGS certification course that genealogists can take is the Certified Saskatchewan Record Searcher course. It is a prerequisite for all other SGS certification classes. This course provides genealogical researchers the information they need to search basic Saskatchewan sources, such as homestead, cemetery, obituary, local history and Saskatchewan Residents' Index records. It also teaches the candidates how to analyze research, write reports, and make recommendations for further research. It also includes an ethics component. The course consists of two days of classroom sessions, as well as several research projects and an open book exam. Each candidate must meet with the Board of Certification to discuss a question about an ethical challenge. If successful, the candidate is expected to sign the SGS Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics. The successful candidate is given a temporary two-year certificate which will be renewed as a five-year certificate when the candidate submits a report detailing his or her research over the past two years.<sup>31</sup>

The SGS has been working with the Aboriginal and Métis people since Bill C-31 was passed in 1985 by the Canadian government to amend the Indian Act. This legislation makes it possible for more people to apply for official status as Indians and obtain the legal and other benefits of that status. The SGS has reached out to Aboriginal and Métis genealogical researchers to ease the difficulties that can sometimes be encountered by Aboriginal or Métis persons who wish to search their family history in order to qualify for Indian status. The SGS launched an Aboriginal/Métis course in the

1990s which introduced SGS members to basic Aboriginal/ Métis genealogical research. However, a certification course devoted to Aboriginal and Métis research, the SGS Aboriginal Record Searcher Course, was only launched in 2004. This course instructs students on the basic Aboriginal record sources for western Canada and how to develop a research plan and write a detailed research report. The classroom instruction includes the establishment of a Code of Ethics, the study of basic Aboriginal record sources focusing on Métis research, the development of a research plan, and analysis of completed reports. The participants also learn basic sources for tracing First Nations individuals using federal Department of Indian Affairs records and individual band records. Students have four research assignments that contain an analysis and research plan. The final examination is an open book exam. Candidates who have successfully completed all examinations, completed all parts of the exam, are members in good standing of the SGS, and who have signed the SGS Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and Letter of Agreement will meet with the Board of Certification to be Certified as Aboriginal Record Searchers.

The Certified Saskatchewan Researcher course can be taken once the genealogist has obtained the Certified Saskatchewan Record Searcher course. It provides more in-depth knowledge about Saskatchewan genealogical sources. This course consists of one classroom session and ten independent assignments. Researchers must make visits to specific repositories such as Land Titles (now called Information Services Corporation) and the Surrogate Court. They must understand the context of the material they are searching as well as how the material can benefit genealogical researchers. The Certified Saskatchewan Researcher candidate must move beyond working alone and volunteer at

least twenty hours helping other genealogical researchers at the SGS library. As well, the candidate must also publish at least one article in the SGS Bulletin. Candidates create their own research guides for each assignment, and submit all assignments when they meet with the Board of Certification to discuss an ethical problem. Similar to the certification for the Record Searcher, the successful candidates are given a temporary certificate, renewable after two years when candidates illustrate what research has been completed and how they are improving their genealogical research skills. This certificate is renewed every five years.<sup>32</sup>

The Certified Saskatchewan Instructor course is the most advanced level of the SGS education program. The course consists of two classroom sessions where candidates learn how to teach basic research techniques, methodology, and ethics to beginning genealogists. They learn how to create lesson plans, develop workshops and how to evaluate the lessons that have been presented. The candidates will teach at least ten hours of workshops as well as prepare the material for the workshop. An open book exam is submitted which evaluates their work and also serves as their manual for teaching workshops and courses. The Board of Certification examines their work at the completion of their requirements. As with all of the SGS courses, they are expected to sign the SGS Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics. The candidates will be given a temporary two-year certificate. During these years they are expected to show awareness of new genealogical methodologies and teaching techniques by teaching workshops and attending SGS seminars and activities. After two years have passed and a submission outlining their activities has been approved, they are given a permanent certificate that is valid for five years.<sup>33</sup>

Although the certified researchers, record searchers and instructors sign a Code of Conduct and a Code of Ethics, these codes apply to all SGS members. The SGS has been concerned about improper genealogical research since its inception in 1969. The constitution has a section devoted to ethical researching. In the constitution, one purpose of the society is “to encourage and instruct members in the ethical principles, scientific methods and effective techniques of genealogical research and to defend the standards of genealogy from incompetent and disreputable persons.”<sup>34</sup> This code of ethics strives to ensure that all SGS research will be performed in an ethical and responsible manner at all times. Researchers will not damage, misuse, or annotate records. They will respect the rules and regulations of research facilities and will give credit to the proper copyright holders. They will ensure that the information they have published is correct and they will show discretion and judgement with regard to confidential information. They will cooperate with other researchers as well as historical and genealogical societies, and they will act with integrity and honesty when performing research for others. The Code of Conduct was enacted to ensure the professionalism of any person representing the SGS, either in a paid or volunteer role. Infractions of the code of conduct may include actions that do not present a positive image of or misrepresent the SGS, actions that are contrary to Board of Directors decisions or undermine existing policy, failure to fulfil responsibilities, and actions that do not support the goals and missions of the SGS. Any infractions of the Code of Conduct or the Code of Ethics will incur sanctions and possible expulsion of the SGS member from the society.<sup>35</sup> These codes are so thorough and professional that other genealogical societies across the country have used them as the basis of their own ethical guidelines.<sup>36</sup> Some SGS members have not only been keen to

ensure that their own members follow ethical means of genealogical research, but, on one occasion, also shed light on a company which was selling illegitimate 'coats of arms' to unsuspecting shoppers at the Regina Exhibition. As a result, the SGS members set up their own booth at the exhibition. They did not criticize the company directly, but carefully explained who is entitled to honours such as a 'coat of arms'.<sup>37</sup> They wanted to make sure that even the most casual genealogist was being treated in an ethical manner.

The SGS's genealogical training programs have been an extremely successful venture for the society. The programs have helped dispel the myths that were often perpetuated by historians, archivists or librarians that genealogists were ill-trained and were not professional researchers. In fact, the SGS expects all people who have completed any of the courses to keep abreast of new genealogical sources and techniques by reading genealogical periodicals, participating in lectures and seminars and by being active members of the SGS. The educational programs give SGS members an opportunity to keep learning about new research methodologies and to stay abreast of the technological advances that have been occurring since the debut of the SGS. Successful completion of SGS courses by a number of members in such a short time has professionalized the society, and illustrates that genealogists can be as concerned about the care and preservation of library and archival records as they are about their own genealogical research.

Throughout the years, the SGS has embarked upon many projects that have contributed to the development of family history sources in Saskatchewan. These include a cemetery indexing project, newspaper obituary indexing and the Saskatchewan Residents' Index and a Saskatchewan Homestead database indexing project. The SGS has

also embarked upon many partnerships with libraries, archives and other historical or cultural organizations. This, too, has helped the SGS to cultivate a professional image.

The SGS Cemetery Project's goal was to identify the location of public, church and individual burial sites throughout Saskatchewan. This was the first project undertaken by the SGS and has been a great success. Members transcribed cemetery records in their locality and the results were typed onto file cards and added to the cemetery record.<sup>38</sup> In 1984, the SGS asked the Genealogical Society of Utah to microfilm 65 000 cemetery index cards created by the SGS in order to create a permanent record of this collection. Another batch of 65 000 cards was microfilmed in 1988. Cemetery recordings are now entered into the Saskatchewan Residents' Index (SRI) for easy access. There are over 300,000 names and 3,227 cemeteries recorded by the Cemetery Project.<sup>39</sup>

The SGS Obituary Collection project was begun in 1972-1973 by SGS members who clipped obituaries found in the Regina Leader Post and Saskatoon StarPhoenix. This work has been continued by branch members and SGS volunteers. Individuals and branches also contributed by clipping obituaries from other newspapers in their various areas. The obituaries are put in alphabetical order and forwarded to the SGS, where a volunteer eliminates the duplicates and places them in alphabetical order. The obituary file boxes represent hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours of work.<sup>40</sup> To index the Regina Leader Post, the SGS has an agreement with the Regina Public Library, which assists with the indexing project with reduced rates for copying pages of the newspaper.

The Saskatchewan Residents' Index is a compilation of many indexing projects that the SGS has undertaken since the 1970s. It uses sources such as the cemetery and



obituary index, community history books, maps, voters' lists and yearbooks. The SRI has taken these sources and compiled the information into one useful database. Although the SRI is unable to indicate family relationships, or whether listings under the same name are of the same individual, it can assist researchers by pinpointing a set of sources to examine. The SRI, the cemetery and the obituary indexes, are all ongoing projects and are added to as new information becomes available.<sup>41</sup> The SGS branches contribute largely to the addition of names by helping to index the SRI.

The SGS has constantly evolved its indexing systems throughout the years from card indexes to computerized databases. It has embraced computer technology in order to assist genealogists to the fullest extent. As well, these projects have been developed to assist anyone who has Saskatchewan roots, not just Saskatchewan's elite. They transcend ethnic, demographic, sex and religious lines to attempt to assist research from any cultural or social background.

The SGS has also sought to work more closely with archives in Saskatchewan. The most significant partnership with an archive to this date has been with the Saskatchewan Archives to develop the Saskatchewan Homestead Index Database Project. In November 2003, the SGS acquired funding from the Saskatchewan Archives and the Saskatchewan History Foundation to index the homestead surname index housed at the Saskatchewan Archives. This index, containing over 200 000 names of individuals who applied for homesteads in the province of Saskatchewan from the mid 1870s to 1930, will be entered in a database and eventually placed on the Internet to give genealogists another research tool. Although the indexing volunteers or staff will be working at the Saskatchewan Archives, the SGS is directing the project. This project (further explained

in Chapter 4) has brought members of the SGS into the archives to perform data entry and proofreading. The SGS has taken control of this project – applying for funding, finding the volunteers and hiring several students for the project. When completed, this database will be available online through the SGS and Saskatchewan Archives. This project is a good example of the partnerships that the SGS tries to establish in order to help make Saskatchewan genealogical resources available.

The SGS has also had ambitious plans for locating archival records in Saskatchewan. It worked with the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society, Saskatchewan Council of Archives, Saskatchewan Archivists' Society, and Saskatchewan Architectural Heritage Society in the early 1990s on the "Documentary Heritage Project." This project attempted to identify, preserve and gain access to historical records that were not in the custody of any archives in the province. Unfortunately, the project did not continue beyond the initial feasibility study as economic conditions in Saskatchewan were not conducive for funding an inventory of the entire province.<sup>42</sup>

As well, the SGS is currently in discussions with Saskatchewan Health, Division of Vital Statistics, to develop an indexing and transcription project for records of early births, marriages and deaths in Saskatchewan.<sup>43</sup> The Education Committee of the SGS has partnered with the Métis-oriented Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) in Saskatoon to help teachers introduce professional genealogical research in several Métis heritage courses.<sup>44</sup> This partnership with the GDI is promoting the SGS to a social group which is keen to understand its past. The partnership also illustrates that genealogical research is not only for middle class or upper class researchers of European background, but for anyone regardless of class or race who has an interest in their past. These partnerships are

mutually beneficial. Regarding indexing projects, the SGS can utilize the indexes for broadly based genealogical research and present itself to other key institutions in society as a professional organization which can be trusted in collaborative projects with handling archival documents. Furthermore, archives and other government departments with historical records can have valuable records indexed and made more accessible, something which they may not have otherwise been able to achieve because of resource restraints. Partnerships among genealogical societies, historical organizations, libraries, and archives have helped dispel the myth that archives and heritage societies are hostile or indifferent to genealogists and genealogical research. These partnerships have also advanced the standing of the SGS as the key professional organization in the province which acts and speaks for genealogists.

One of the goals of the SGS is to "preserve, conserve and collect materials relevant to the study of genealogy and family history."<sup>45</sup> The SGS Library has fulfilled this goal and has proved to be a well respected source of reference material for genealogical research around the world.

In 25 years, the library has grown from a small collection of donated books to the largest genealogical lending library in Canada. The SGS library was once stored in the librarian's home and books were only brought to the general meetings when someone had a specific request. The library was then moved to the Canadian Plains Research Centre at the University of Regina. In 1985, the SGS library moved to its present location at 1870 Lorne Street in Regina. The early collection of books focused on 'how to' genealogy volumes. Members were encouraged to donate books and copies of their completed genealogies to the society. The goal of the library was to complement rather than

duplicate resources already found in the Saskatchewan Archives, Provincial Library or Prairie History collections found in local libraries. The collection has grown to include books about genealogy within Canada and throughout the world. Members can borrow books by mail and postage is paid by the SGS. Early in the development of the library, the SGS began exchanging periodicals with other genealogical societies to help members and the society keep aware of genealogical happenings throughout the world. Each year the library has over 5000 visits from members and visitors throughout the world<sup>46</sup>. At the end of 2002 the collection had 19,901 books, 804 periodicals, 1,162 microfilms, 34,457 microfiche, 245 maps, 8 videos and 14 CD-ROMs. The total value of the collection is presently in excess of \$300,000.<sup>47</sup> All branches have a modest library, which is supplemented by the SGS main library at 1870 Lorne St. in Regina. Often, branch libraries have a local angle, containing community history books, indexes published by local branch members, and local newspapers. The non-local material in the library may also reflect the main area of genealogical interest of branch members<sup>48</sup>. In order to assist genealogical researchers who wanted to move beyond researching a lineage, the library acquired books on various topics, including social histories of specific areas, books on how to perform specific genealogical tasks such as medical research, and books on the derivation of ethnic surnames, to name a few.

The SGS launched its own website in 1996. The site contains information about the SGS and its services.<sup>49</sup> It outlines the SGS's mandate and goals, and lists a number of research tools. The website provides links and information about the various SGS branches and information on general membership in the SGS. Reference books and materials such as cemetery or census indexes, family tree sheets and even SGS bumper

stickers can be purchased through the site. The SGS website provides information on upcoming workshops and conferences and can update researchers on current genealogical issues such as the demand to release the 1911 Canada census. The SGS Cemetery Index is a heavily visited section of the website, which can assist genealogical researchers to locate cemeteries across the province. If the cemetery has a website, there is a link to that site. In 2001, the website had over 75 000 visitors to the homepage and the cemetery index page.<sup>50</sup> Three of the SGS branches, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Prince Albert, have websites. These sites help promote the branches well beyond their community to the far reaches of the World Wide Web. Although they are carrying their message far and wide, their primary intent is still local. They wish to encourage all people from the local area to come to their monthly meeting in order to learn about genealogy as a pastime or possibly a career.<sup>51</sup> The SGS website has pushed the SGS out into the world beyond Saskatchewan's borders and helped promote the idea that genealogical research related to Saskatchewan is an activity that anyone can participate in, no matter where in the world they live. The website helps debunk the myth that genealogical societies are elitist and insular; instead they are using the new technology to promote their organization to the entire world.

Part of the mandate of the SGS is to "promote and foster the study of genealogy and family history."<sup>52</sup> Throughout the years, the SGS has used many different sources for the promotion of the society. The society promotes itself by networking with genealogical societies across the country and around the world. It also works with other multicultural groups in Saskatchewan by placing ads in these multicultural groups' newsletters<sup>53</sup>. They have also used unique promotional tools such as placing ads on

Regina Transit buses and selling T shirts and coffee mugs with the SGS logo. The SGS also maintained a weekend newspaper column in the early 1990s in the Regina Leader Post called "Dear Genie," which answered genealogical questions for Leader Post readers.<sup>54</sup> The SGS is a member of the Saskatchewan Heritage Committee and helps the committee identify heritage concerns in the province. SGS members place brochures in libraries and archives across the province and send brochures to all provincial cultural organizations.<sup>55</sup> In 2003 the SGS promoted the society, as well as the annual seminar in Saskatoon, by setting up a booth at the downtown Farmer's market, where individuals could talk about genealogy and be encouraged to attend the seminar. These are just a few of the many tools the SGS has used to make the society visible to the general public, and to debunk the myth of elite, snobby genealogists.

The branches of the SGS are thus part of their community, which has been important to the SGS because it wishes to partner with as many organizations as it can and to promote genealogy in as many places it can. For example, the president of the Saskatoon branch sits on the Heritage Fair committee, and branch members were participants in the Heritage Fair held in February 2003 in Saskatoon. Much of the planning for the annual seminars held each fall is performed by branch members, sometimes in conjunction with the main SGS, but often on their own.<sup>56</sup> Some of the SGS branches also have promotional displays at various locations within their district or have an active role within the community. In 2001, the Grenfell branch continued its ongoing association with the local museum by helping update the museum's records. Some branches receive grant or trust money from their local rural municipalities, town councils

or city councils in order to complete ongoing projects, such as acquiring and microfilming back issues of newspapers.<sup>57</sup>

Another way in which the SGS has helped to “promote and foster the study of genealogy,” has been lobbying organizations to release closed records that have genealogical significance. Throughout the years, the SGS has been a supportive voice in the demand to release Canadian census records to the public. As early as 1969, SGS members were writing letters to their MPs and to cabinet ministers to encourage them to support government action that would allow researchers to view the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census records.<sup>58</sup> As soon as they were successful with the release of each census, they would take on the task of gaining access to the next one. The SGS currently has a representative involved in lobbying efforts with other genealogical societies and archival and historical associations to release census records gathered in and after 1906.<sup>59</sup> In particular, the society has used its website to continue to demand the release of the 1911 census.

The SGS is an organization that reflects the main characteristics of the new genealogy. Consistent with the social character of the new genealogy, from its outset in 1969, the SGS has seen genealogy as a broadly popular phenomenon. The new genealogy has moved genealogical research beyond simple searching for an elite pedigree. The SGS has thus developed a large library which contains much more than simple ‘tombstone’ information (about birth, marriage and death dates). It provides various books and reference materials to encourage researchers to look into the broader historical and sociological aspects of their families, instead of simply pursuing a pedigree. The SGS has also sought to repair the frayed edges of the relationships between genealogists and

archivists prior to the emergence of the new genealogy. It has pursued a new alliance between genealogists and archivists. Genealogical societies such as the SGS have been working hard with archives and libraries on projects such as the SGS homestead index and the obituary index.

The SGS has also joined in lobbying efforts with these partners to gain better access to the national censuses. It has responded to the new climate of concern about access to information and privacy which shapes the new genealogy by striving for greater access to these records while educating its members in the need to be more sensitive to the confidentiality of other more recent sources of personal information. The SGS has also added new programs and services in order to further genealogical research with the new tools and in the new directions characteristic of the new genealogy. It uses new technological tools such as the Internet. And the SGS has broadened its services in response to the new legal, medical, and social dimensions of the new genealogy, as represented by the society's assistance to researchers interested in their genetic history and to the needs of ethnic minority groups such as the First Nations and Métis population. The SGS's educational programs have helped professionalize genealogical research and have encouraged genealogists to learn new research techniques and to work with archives and libraries to explore various genealogical holdings. Genealogical researchers in Saskatchewan have been able to further their research in new and exciting directions due to the forward thinking and forward actions of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society.



## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Samuel P. Hays, "History and Genealogy: Patterns of Change and Prospects for Cooperation." In Generations and Change: Genealogical Perspectives in Social History. eds. Robert M. Taylor and Ralph Crandall, (Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1986): 29-51.
- <sup>2</sup> Robert L. Pittendrigh and Bev Weston, Our Silver Heritage: A History of the First Twenty Five Years (1969-1994) of The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. (Regina: Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, 1995): 20.
- <sup>3</sup> Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB), R-642, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Fonds, File 5, Constitution, 1969.
- <sup>4</sup> Pittendrigh and Weston, 20 -21.
- <sup>5</sup> Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB), R-642, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Fonds, File 20a, Meetings – Minutes and Reports, 1969-1982, Minutes of a meeting held at the Regina Public Library to ascertain if there is enough interest in genealogy to form a Society, February 6, 1969.
- <sup>6</sup> SAB, R-642, File 20a, Minutes of meeting, 6 March 1969.
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2002.
- <sup>9</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>10</sup> SAB, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society fonds R-642, file 15, Correspondence from Don Graham, Department of Culture and Youth to Mrs. Helen Boomer, President of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, March 26, 1973.
- <sup>11</sup> SAB, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society fonds R-642, file 15, Correspondence from D. Hooegeveen, President of the SGS to Don Graham, Department of Culture and Youth, November 16, 1975.
- <sup>12</sup> SAB, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society fonds R-642, file 15, Grant Application Form, n.d.
- <sup>13</sup> SAB, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society fonds R-642, file 8b, Correspondence: Saskatchewan Culture and Youth, Saskatchewan Sport Trust Culture and Arts Division Guideline for applying for assistance, 1977.
- <sup>14</sup> SAB, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society fonds R-642, file 15, Sask Sport Trust Grant Application, January 25, 1980.
- <sup>15</sup> SAB, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society fonds R-642, file 15, Final Report of Grants Committee, n.d.
- <sup>16</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2001, 8.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>18</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2002, 1.
- <sup>19</sup> As of the end of 2002, the branches were: Central Butte, Craik, Grasslands, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Pangman, South East, Weyburn, Radville (Study Group), Grenfell, Pipestone, Regina, Yorkton, Biggar, West Central, Battleford, Border, Saskatoon, North East, Prince Albert and Quill Plains. The Estevan branch, which had been inactive for several years, folded in 2002. Saskatoon has the largest branch.
- <sup>20</sup> Personal correspondence with Marge Thomas, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, April 15, 2003.
- <sup>21</sup> SGS Annual Report, 12.
- <sup>22</sup> See Chapter 1 for a full discussion of the impact of Alex Haley's novel and mini-series Roots.
- <sup>23</sup> Personal correspondence with Marge Thomas, July 2002.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>25</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/general/sgs\\_research.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/general/sgs_research.htm)
- <sup>26</sup> Pittendrigh and Weston, 16-19
- <sup>27</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksgs/2003\\_seminar.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~sksgs/2003_seminar.htm), SGS 2003 Seminar Program and Events, August 22, 2003.
- <sup>28</sup> A Second Edition was published in 2003.
- <sup>29</sup> Pittendrigh and Weston, 53
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid., 4, 53-54.
- <sup>31</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_cert\\_record.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_cert_record.htm)
- <sup>32</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_cert\\_researcher.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_cert_researcher.htm)
- <sup>33</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_cert\\_instructor.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_cert_instructor.htm)

- <sup>34</sup> Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB), R-642, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Fonds, File 5, Constitution, 1969.
- <sup>35</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_ethics.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_ethics.htm) and [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_conduct.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_conduct.htm)
- <sup>36</sup> Personal Correspondence with Marge Thomas, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, July 5, 2004.
- <sup>37</sup> Pittendrigh and Weston, 39.
- <sup>38</sup> The branches took over the transcription of burial sites when the numerous branches were developed.
- <sup>39</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2002, 3.
- <sup>40</sup> Pittendrigh and Weston, 52.
- <sup>41</sup> "Major Collections," SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/researchtools/sgs\\_major\\_collect.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/researchtools/sgs_major_collect.htm)
- <sup>42</sup> Pittendrigh and Weston, 33.
- <sup>43</sup> Personal correspondence with Marge Thomas, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, April 15, 2003.
- <sup>44</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>45</sup> "About SGS," SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_about.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_about.htm)
- <sup>46</sup> Pittendrigh and Weston, 51-52.
- <sup>47</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2002, 4-5.
- <sup>48</sup> Personal correspondence with Marge Thomas, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, April 15, 2003.
- <sup>49</sup> Saskatchewan Genealogical Society website: <http://www.saskgenealogy.com>
- <sup>50</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2001, 6.
- <sup>51</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_branches.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_branches.htm)
- <sup>52</sup> SGS Website: [http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs\\_about.htm](http://www.saskgenealogy.com/aboutsgs/sgs_about.htm)
- <sup>53</sup> SGS Annual Report, 1998, 5-6.
- <sup>54</sup> SGS Annual Report, 1991, 13 and SGS Annual Report, 1992, 18.
- <sup>55</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2003, 3.
- <sup>56</sup> Personal Correspondence with Marge Thomas, April 15, 2003.
- <sup>57</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2001, 10-12.
- <sup>58</sup> SAB, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society fonds R-642, file 8a, Correspondence: Census.
- <sup>59</sup> SGS Annual Report, 2002, 3.

## Chapter Three

### Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Survey Responses

Although one can study genealogical societies and trends in genealogy through scholarly literature and examination of archival documents, it is the actual genealogists who can provide the best account of how genealogy is being done in the twenty-first century. Are practising genealogists embracing this new genealogy or are they still pursuing a distinguished ancestor from the past? In order to provide an answer, I devised a questionnaire for members of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society to explore why genealogists research their families. The survey also asked them for information about their interaction with the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society and archives and their use of the Internet in genealogical research.

This chapter will examine the responses to the questionnaire. The majority of the respondents typify the new genealogy. They are researchers who are acquiring new sources for research in archives and in the digital world, who are taking educational classes to learn to research within ethical guidelines, are reaching out to family members and friends, who are creating bonds with archives and archivists, and who are using their findings to create a family history, instead of a simple lineage.

In the summer of 2003 and winter of 2003/2004, I asked members of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society to answer a short questionnaire about genealogical research. I received thirteen responses to my initial request, which was placed in the Summer 2003 issue of the SGS Bulletin. In January 2004, I attended a general meeting of the Saskatoon Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society to ask for more respondents, and received six more responses, for a total of nineteen replies, which

comprise approximately two percent of the total SGS membership. Because I am based in Saskatoon, the majority of the respondents (thirteen) are from the Saskatoon area. There were no respondents from outside of Saskatchewan, although eighteen percent of the SGS membership is comprised of individuals who reside outside of Saskatchewan. This survey does not claim to be statistically valid, but offers insight into the characteristics, interests, and motivations of genealogists in Saskatchewan.

Nineteen of the 22 respondents were female<sup>1</sup>. The average age of the respondents was 55.1 years. The oldest respondent was 79 years of age, the youngest 29 years. Four of my respondents were senior citizens – over 65 years of age – but seven respondents were retired or semi-retired. Although senior citizens make up 45 percent of the SGS membership in 2002, my survey only had a response of 22 percent from senior citizens. The respondents' ethnic backgrounds were varied, including German, Norwegian, English, Scottish, Mennonite, Jewish, and others, but none were from an Aboriginal background or from a non-European (Asian, South American, Indian) ethnic group.<sup>2</sup> The respondent's occupations were: office worker, teacher/educator, bookkeeper, professional genealogist, cab driver, agronomist, homemaker, greenhouse manager, Human Resources manager, library clerk, education counsellor, contracts administrator, and layout artist. Six respondents were either employed or retired from the education profession. Three of the respondents' occupations were in the genealogy field, which illustrates that some researchers have moved genealogy beyond a mere hobby and turned it into a profession. This data suggest that the new genealogy in Saskatchewan, at least, is engaged in by a broadly middle class and multicultural social group.

Many of the respondents have had an interest in genealogy for many years. Some professed to have been interested in genealogy since they were children or teenagers, while only two respondents had become interested in the past year or two. Genealogy has often been described as a life-long interest, and the feedback from most of these respondents offers proof of this point.

In chapter one, I discussed how people are embarking on genealogical research for reasons beyond searching for a distinguished ancestor. Some researched their families to write books or plays, seek answers for medical ailments or to prove ownership of documents or legal claims to titles. Similarly, the SGS respondents all had different reasons for starting their genealogical pursuit. Half of the respondents stated they started genealogical research because they lacked living relatives to relate their family history, or their family members would not speak of their past. Respondent ten had very speculative information, but a great deal of her maternal grandmother's past was a mystery. This respondent felt she could answer many questions about her mother's childhood if she could fill in the gaps by doing genealogical research.<sup>3</sup> The rest of the respondents became interested because of numerous family reunions, parents who were interested in genealogy as well, or the desire to be able to provide a family history to future generations. Respondent sixteen stated that she became interested in her family history because her surname was the same as a very famous individual in Germany and she wanted to know if they were related.<sup>4</sup> Respondent nineteen stated that the breakup of her marriage caused her to explore her family history and "gain a sense of my identity."<sup>5</sup> For the most part, the reasons these genealogists gave for starting their research were not based on the hope of financial gain or of a rise in social status because of their findings.

Their decisions to research their family had a different focus, a desire to place themselves within this world and connect it to the past.

All respondents but one stated that their genealogical interest has had an impact on them or on others. Most of the respondents related their experiences in detail and several of them stated that they had been in contact with relatives with whom they had not been acquainted, that genealogy had turned into a 'passion' or potential profession for them. Other respondents had become the source that other family members or community members turned to when confronted with genealogical questions. Respondent eight felt that genealogy had helped him have great respect for the elderly, their stories and their knowledge.<sup>6</sup> Respondent ten stated that her genealogical research had acted as a healing process after the death of both her parents. After her mother's death, genealogy was an interest she shared with her father, which helped her appreciate her father much more. She states, "Personally, I have acquired greater insight into them as people, the lives they lived and the impact it has made on me as a person."<sup>7</sup>

Respondent five felt that a considerable impact had been made on her and her family. She states,

The impact has been enormous. I have learned a great deal about the history of Ireland, Canada and Saskatchewan and how historical events have shaped the countries we know today. But, I have also come to realize the value of knowing our personal history. I now have a much greater understanding of cultures that place such great importance on knowing and honouring their ancestors. I have come to see myself as only the latest in a very long line of people that will continue after I have become history myself.

I have learned things about our family history that are not things to be proud of and some that I am extremely proud of. One of the things that genealogists often have to struggle with is how to maintain the family balance and perception of itself if the emerging facts do not confirm what the family knows as its history and this is something I have had to come to terms with.<sup>8</sup>

Respondent five's genealogical research revealed aspects of the past she was previously unaware of – such as the overall history of certain countries and the importance of honouring one's ancestors. However, the honour is not just accorded to the heraldic members, but for everyone from whom she is descended. She has also learned that there are some events in her family history of which she was not proud. She is aware that with the positives genealogists reveal about their families, there can be negatives, which may not be warmly embraced by family members who are not keen to learn about the family's past. Her experiences in genealogical research have had an enormous effect on her own life. It also made her aware of the tension that can be created in one's own life or a family's when illusions about the past are shattered.

I asked respondents if they had encouraged either family members or friends to take up genealogy. Fifteen respondents replied that they had and four said that they had not. Of the fifteen respondents, several stated that, although they had encouraged family members or friends, they had not yet been successful. However, most respondents who stated that they were not successful in recruiting family members have had family who were responsive by providing relevant family history information to the respondent. Respondent three encouraged all family members who may not be interested in conducting genealogical research to at least start a family health tree so that they can better anticipate potential health issues.<sup>9</sup> Respondent five stated that she encourages anyone she meets who has the slightest interest in genealogy to pursue it. In fact, she claims, "Many people are now going to SGS meetings, prowling archives, and visiting cemeteries because of my help and

encouragement.”<sup>10</sup> Although many respondents have not had their family and friends eagerly join them in pursuing family history, they were keen to plant the idea of doing family history in their minds. These respondents are part of a growing group of genealogists who attempt to share their enthusiasm for the topic so that others may also enjoy its benefits.

In chapter two, I examined the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society in depth and described its mandates and services. I asked society members whether they have used the services the SGS provides and why they decided to join a genealogical society rather than attempt to do the research on their own. The replies reveal that eleven out of nineteen respondents had done genealogical research before joining the SGS. Eight respondents had performed minimal or no genealogical research before joining the SGS. Several of the respondents who had not performed genealogical research stated that they specifically wanted to join a genealogical society and discuss their problems or roadblocks before starting their research. Although these respondents were new to genealogy, they were already aware of the SGS’s services, which is a strong indication of the success of SGS outreach and promotional efforts.

The reasons why the respondents joined the SGS varied, but most stated that they wanted to have contact with experienced researchers and to learn new research techniques. Respondent three stated that there were so few guidebooks in the 1970s when she decided to explore genealogy that the SGS was a good way to draw on the experience of others.<sup>11</sup> Respondents five and nine knew individuals who were already members of the SGS who invited them to come to a local branch meeting.<sup>12</sup> After



exploring the benefits of membership, several respondents stated that access to the SGS Library was a main reason for joining, as the library would provide them with resources they normally would not have access to. One researcher stated, "After chatting with the librarian it was very evident that very little help would be forthcoming unless I took out a membership," which indicates that she would not be able to perform research without the aid of a genealogical society.<sup>13</sup> Respondent seven found membership very crucial to her genealogical research as she has lived in isolated communities in northern Saskatchewan and the lending library was key to her genealogical research as she borrowed many library books.<sup>14</sup> The respondents' answers typify many who have embraced the new genealogy. They joined a genealogical society so that they could move beyond the traditional sources in their genealogical research and learn new tools and sources, which only a genealogical society could offer. And these new sources propel the researchers into creating a social history of the family instead of a 'tombstone' lineage

I also asked how long the respondents had been members of the SGS.

Respondent three has been a member of the SGS the longest. She has been a member since 1976. Respondent thirteen has been a member for the shortest time, since May 2003. Four respondents have been members of the SGS for over 20 years; two have been members for eleven and nineteen years; six have been members for five to ten years; and six respondents have been members for five years or less. One respondent did not answer this question. These statistics show that the SGS is attracting new members. The numbers also suggest that the SGS is able to retain long-time members in the fold. The long-time members felt that the SGS is an important part of their pursuit of genealogy, despite the recent trend of declining membership in genealogical societies across Canada and the

world.

How active have these respondents been in the SGS? Have they used the resources of the local branches (i.e., monthly meetings, libraries, and local training courses) or have they been content with the services of the main SGS? Only two of nineteen respondents were not members of a local branch. Over half of the respondents were members of the Saskatoon branch because I canvassed their general meeting for replies, but other respondents were members of the Moose Jaw, Regina, Quill Plains, Swift Current and Border Branches. Respondents were not only members of the local branches, but were active in them. They had served as committee members responsible for the cemetery recordings, family history fairs, programming, and organizing annual seminars. Several respondents were librarians for their local branch or were on the executive. Others participated in teaching genealogical summer classes and sat on the College of Certified Saskatchewan Genealogists.<sup>15</sup> Several respondents had also been members of the province-wide SGS executive for a period of time. These respondents have been very involved in various ways in their local branches and the main SGS. The local branches have obviously been helpful to these researchers as they continue to attend local meetings and pay dues to both the local branch and the main branch of the SGS.

Along with membership in local branches, I was also interested in knowing whether these respondents attended the SGS annual seminars, meetings, and workshops. These activities can help researchers learn about new sources and make contacts to further their own research. Only one respondent had not attended or planned to attend the SGS annual seminar or annual meetings. The majority of respondents attended SGS annual seminars when the seminar was held in their home city, but some made the effort

to attend the seminars no matter where in Saskatchewan they were held. Almost half of the respondents have attended workshops that specialized in a specific genealogical research topic or have attended SGS annual meetings. Again, these researchers have shown that they had a desire to explore new options for genealogical research by attending these seminars, workshops and meetings.

I asked respondents about the SGS researcher courses -- Record Searcher, Aboriginal Record Searcher, Researcher and Instructor -- that are offered to SGS members.<sup>16</sup> Eleven respondents have taken at least one of the courses that have been offered by the SGS; four were planning on taking the courses very shortly; and four had not taken any courses. One respondent designed the SGS courses. She stated that she recognized the need for this type of course after helping many people search for their Saskatchewan ancestors at the SGS library. She states that the courses are modified every time that new databases are developed or new records made available which can assist genealogical researchers. Three respondents had completed or were near to completing the Record Searcher, Record Researcher, and Instructor courses. I asked the respondents if they felt the genealogical courses they had taken were helpful to their genealogical research. Many responded with a positive answer. Respondent five stated, "I thought I was a pretty good researcher until I took the course. Then I found out just how much I did not know! The courses have been of great benefit in learning about what resources are available. But more importantly, I learned to develop better research strategies and to be more aware of the ethical standards and conduct of a researcher."<sup>17</sup> Many stated that they could have performed basic genealogical searches without the courses, but the research would have been much more time consuming and not up to the

standards that they are now expected to meet. One respondent took a basic genealogical course at the SIAST Kelsey campus, which was taught by SGS Saskatoon branch members. She stated the basic course was an excellent foundation for doing genealogy. She doubted that she could have continued researching without the assistance provided by the instructors. Respondent nineteen had not taken the professional SGS researcher courses, but the SGS workshops she had participated in had definitely helped her by directing her searches to the proper sources. The fact that many of these respondents were keen to further their knowledge by enrolling in genealogical education programs, and that some have taken a larger step and begun teaching SGS courses, personifies the new genealogy. These genealogists have broadened their knowledge base beyond the basics and acquired a sophisticated, and in some cases, even professional interest in genealogy. Some have chosen to make genealogy a profession, not simply a hobby.

In the past, archivists and genealogists have not had the most harmonious relationship. Each group harboured biases against the other. Archivists commonly thought that genealogists were unscholarly, while genealogists saw archivists as elitists who lived in ivory towers. There are signs that these attitudes have been fading. To see what genealogists now think of archivists I posed a series of questions to the SGS respondents who had used the archives for genealogical research. I wanted to know how they perceived archives and whether they had positive or negative experiences when doing research.

I also wanted to learn about the preconceived notions genealogists may have had about archives and archivists. Prior to embarking on their research did they have a feeling that archives were going to be difficult places to access, or did they think archives

would be something like libraries, where they could simply browse in the stacks? I received a variety of responses, but most respondents said that they were simply unsure of what to expect at an archives. Some thought that archives would have “old and unimaginative material,” or be “a big scary building full of dusty old papers,” or create the “...same feeling you would have for any government institution, cold and impersonal,” and be “dirty, dusty, dark places with piles of stuff that a person would wonder why it is being kept.”<sup>18</sup> Several respondents thought that the staff at the archives would be “ivory towerists,” or “did not think they would be so people-friendly.”<sup>19</sup> Many were uncertain about what to expect at an archives or how to access the information that is held in them. Several who were uncertain about how to access archival information assumed that it would be difficult and confusing to do so. Two respondents thought that an archive would be similar to a library. Several did know that an archive is a repository of historical documents and a place to find answers to your questions. Respondent two had used archives extensively in his past profession so he was aware of the type of material kept in one.<sup>20</sup> Prior to visiting an archive, many of the respondents had a misconception of them, which could be seen as a lingering aspect of the mindset of the ‘old genealogy’.

However, this mindset dissolved once the respondents had had an actual experience consulting with archivists. After spending time at an archive, virtually all respondents came away with a different perspective. Many responded that as they spent more time at an archive and got to know the staff better, the more confident they became about asking questions. When they asked more questions about their topic, archivists were often able to refer them to different sources. Respondent fourteen stated that she

was no longer intimidated about approaching archives.<sup>21</sup> Several respondents stated that they have come to appreciate the importance of collecting and preserving archival records. Respondent six replied that she now felt that archives were “a big useful building full of treasures!”<sup>22</sup> Two respondents had concerns about archives and archival responses to genealogists. One felt that the reception area of one archive was not as welcoming as it could be, with poor signage within the building and the reference desk often unattended.<sup>23</sup> Another respondent felt that all archivists should take genealogy classes, as some advice given by archivists was not up to genealogical standards.<sup>24</sup> One respondent had not visited an archive in person and therefore had no comment to this question.

Respondents had accessed many different archival sources while pursuing their research topics. They had used sources from the Saskatchewan Archives Board, University of Saskatchewan Archives, National Archives of Canada, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Family History Centres in Saskatoon and Salt Lake City, the Archives of Ontario, Archives of Manitoba, Public Record Offices in England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, National Archives of Ireland, the American National Archives and Records Administration, and other archives or libraries. The majority of the respondents contacted these archives either by mail or email. One respondent had never made an in-person visit to an archives, while the rest of the researchers had visited either the Regina or Saskatoon offices of the Saskatchewan Archives. Several had the opportunity to visit the National Archives in Ottawa and the National Archives and Records Administration office in Seattle, WA, and one was able to travel to use archives in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Many of the respondents reported using ‘tombstone’ sources such as birth,

marriage and death records or census records, but many also described using archival sources that help tell the story of their ancestors, such as ship passenger lists, newspapers, obituaries, court records, homestead records, school attendance records and histories, and municipal records. Although many of the latter group of records help confirm or deny the 'tombstone' information that the researchers had compiled from other sources, most importantly, these sources helped provide researchers with a feel for the past by exploring everyday events.

Respondents were positive about their experiences using archives in person. Many related their experiences of visiting the Saskatchewan Archives, stating that the staff was helpful, friendly, efficient and could lead researchers to sources they may not have known. Several respondents liked to have 'hands on' access to the records and believed that they could explain their problems more clearly to an archivist in person. Nearly half of all respondents had not used the telephone to contact archives or libraries for genealogical assistance. Respondent one stated that long distance calls were too expensive to use as a tool for obtaining information.<sup>25</sup> Of the eleven who had used the telephone, they all said that their experiences were positive, receiving the information they required and also obtaining photocopies of archival material via telephone calls. Only three respondents had not used regular mail for their genealogical queries, but several mentioned that they do not use mail anymore because most archives have email. Respondent one stated that letters she had written to individuals remained unanswered, but she always received informative answers from archives, libraries, churches or museums.<sup>26</sup> Only one respondent had a negative experience when using mail as she felt that the archives had provided a less than satisfactory or complete answer to her queries.

All but five respondents had used email to send their queries to an archive. Overall, their responses were positive, stating that replies were quick and effective, and that by email they could access the archives on their own time, rather than during regular office hours. Several were impressed that although many archives warn of a delay in replying to emails, they found that the responses came quickly and with many suggestions to help solve their research problem. Several respondents preferred email to any other method of contact. Respondent eight felt that the responses to his emails were very prompt, but the drawback to email was that this method is impersonal. He felt that he could only ask about one source at a time when corresponding by email.<sup>27</sup>

Although in the past there may have been animosity between genealogists and archivists, it appears that this animosity has virtually disappeared. There were few concerns or negative experiences when the respondents did research in archives or contacted an archive by mail, email or telephone. A majority of the respondents reported that archivists had been helpful, friendly and supportive of genealogical research. Several respondents felt that it was imperative to become acquainted with archivists as they could provide research angles that researchers would not have discovered without their assistance. One respondent was concerned, though, that archivists may not be well versed in the theories and practices of genealogical research. But this was the only evidence of this concern that appears in the responses. Although I did not canvass archivists for reports on their experiences with genealogists, the fact that few of the genealogists surveyed had negative experiences in archives indicates that most archivists have a welcoming and respectful attitude toward genealogists. These respondents illustrate that the 'cold war' between archivists and genealogists has certainly thawed and



developed into a relationship of mutual respect.

Much of the increase in genealogical research has been attributed to the popularity of the Internet and the ease with which genealogical researchers can find information about their family on the Internet. Genealogy has become the second most researched topic on the Internet, but with that growth, there has been the downside of proliferation of incorrect or incomplete information. I wanted to discover how many of my SGS respondents had used the Internet to perform genealogical research, and to see if they discovered any problems when doing their research with Internet sources. I also was curious to know whether these researchers felt that they could conduct all of their genealogical research on the Internet, or felt that they still had to use primary or secondary sources in libraries, archives or genealogical societies.

All but one respondent had used the Internet for genealogical research. Those who had used it had used sources from around the world. Many had used the ArchiviaNet databases from the National Archives of Canada, library catalogues, the Canadian Archival Information Network, the British Columbia Vital Statistics database, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org (Latter-Day Saints website), Cyndi's List (a website devoted to sources for genealogical research), Rootsweb message boards, Glenbow Archives databases, genealogical society websites and personal web pages. They had used archival sources such as ArchiviaNet's Western Land Grants, Soldiers of the First World War, Post offices and postmasters, 1925-1935 Immigration Records databases and the 1901 and 1906 Census images. Respondents had also consulted the CPR Land Database from the Glenbow Archives as well as various birth, marriage and death indexes from sources across Canada, the United States and beyond.

Respondents had many suggestions for sources that they would like to see placed on the Internet to assist genealogists. Several mentioned the Saskatchewan Homestead Index, which is held by the Saskatchewan Archives. Others remarked that scanned images of census records, church records, voters lists, town and city directories, naturalization papers, ship passenger lists, birth, marriage and death registrations, municipal records, military information, vital statistics and maps would be helpful on the Internet. Beyond nominal indexes, many respondents wanted Internet access to finding aids, shelf lists and microfilm holding lists so that they could prepare for either a visit or contact with the organization.

Many respondents had encountered problems when trying to use the Internet for genealogical research. Over half of the respondents reported that they found inaccurate and repetitive data on Internet genealogy pages or that data presented was not sourced so that they could ascertain its accuracy. Respondent nine has become very frustrated with the proliferation of errors that she has encountered on family history pages on the Internet. She states,

I use that information as a 'guide' only, because there is so much misinformation out there. I have found and proven to myself (as well as a few other people) that there are so many errors out there on the net. What really gets my goat is that you can prove they have errors and they will still not correct them, this is when I wish I could just rip their site off the net. I have given a lecture at the local Family History Fair on the pitfalls of just using the net for your research - as you can see this is a very touchy subject for me.

These people that put their family history on the net and use information they found on the net are far as I am concerned are [sic] not real genealogists - they are 'name collectors'. I always if at all possible double check the actual records (the records have been microfilmed or the actual files that I can get copies of) to see if the information I found is correct.<sup>28</sup>

Other respondents noted the high cost of accessing certain genealogy data pages and

wished that there were more databases free of charge. Respondent twelve remarked on the lack of images or documents available online for research.<sup>29</sup> Respondent eighteen had not encountered any problems using the Internet, though he did note that he had to search other sources when he could not locate the information he was trying to find on the Internet.<sup>30</sup> Respondent ten also stated that she had not experienced any problems other than of a technical nature doing genealogical searches on the Internet.<sup>31</sup>

All respondents who answered my questions about using the Internet to perform genealogy agreed that the Internet has improved their research. Several said that they have made contact with distant family members or people researching similar geographic or cultural areas. Some respondents stated they could prepare for their research trips to archives or libraries easier by finding out the proper microfilm reel numbers to ask for or by examining finding aids and indexes online. They have been able to rule out certain genealogical sources at home, instead of wasting time and money contacting the archives and finding out that an archival collection was not relevant to their research. Several respondents remarked how easy it was to order copies of digitized material they located online, so they never actually had to visit the repository or even order the microfilm. Respondent thirteen was very supportive of using the Internet to help with genealogical research. She stated, "I would not have been able to start without the Internet."<sup>32</sup>

The final question I posed to the respondents asked whether they felt their genealogical research could have been accomplished by only using the Internet and not using archives or libraries. With the exception of Respondent thirteen, who stated that she could do everything on the Internet if all resources were available, all other respondents replied with a very emphatic "No." Most of the respondents stated that the

Internet does not replace viewing the actual record, especially to ensure that the information is accurate. Several respondents also replied that nothing takes the place of making personal contacts with archivists, who may be able to point you in directions you were not aware of just by searching the Internet. Respondent five stated, "Despite the huge amount of material on the Internet there is still far more out there that is not on the Internet. Genealogy often requires more than just finding some straightforward records, it is a matter of correlating bits and pieces of evidence found in any number of sources and knowing the history, culture and laws of the area. The Internet doesn't even come close for doing this kind of work."<sup>33</sup> Respondent eighteen, although he had not visited an archive in person and had done a considerable amount of his genealogical research online, also felt that although the Internet was a good place to make contacts, "Nothing replaces interviewing people or visiting graveyards."<sup>34</sup>

The majority of respondents had become quite Internet-savvy and were aware of the potential difficulties that may arise when performing genealogical research. Although aware of the pitfalls, they had not shied away from using archival and genealogical research web pages. Many would have liked more digitized images and nominal indexes that would have saved them time spent contacting or visiting archives. These respondents are interested in new research options that will assist them in taking their research to a new level, and they show that genealogy is a subject that cannot be exhausted as long as genealogists can find new angles to pursue.

Overall, the respondents from the SGS were representative of the new genealogy. They were not primarily concerned with tracing a prominent ancestor, and were happy to discover farmers and factory workers in their past. They have encouraged family

members or friends to take an interest in genealogy. Virtually all have embraced new technologies such as the Internet, and most are interested in acquiring new sources of information and new tools for research. Most respondents had either taken genealogical research classes or had indicated that they were planning to take the classes, which reinforces the premise that 'new genealogists' are continually learning and wanting to practice their genealogy within ethical standards. Most are keen to use archives and to interact with archivists in order to locate material. They have shown that they respect archives and archivists, who in turn have come to respect them and their pursuits. 'New genealogists' are delving beyond 'tombstone' sources that only provide birth, marriage and death details, instead looking into sources that can provide the whole story about an individual. Their continual quest for new knowledge is essential to the new genealogy.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> There is an imbalance in favour of female participation in my survey which cannot be explained as yet. The SGS does not keep gender statistics on its members. Perhaps a wider survey would result in a different conclusion. If a larger survey confirms this imbalance, it may suggest that some women feel comfortable pursuing genealogy because it parallels their traditional role as nurturer of family ties, communication, and traditions. This is not to say that genealogy is by its nature a pursuit that should appeal to females primarily, but that some men and women may view it as such.

<sup>2</sup> Although there are many non-Europeans now researching their family history around the world, such as Connie Briscoe, who researched her African – American roots as the basis for a novel, this is not reflected in my respondent's backgrounds.

<sup>3</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent ten. For the full text of responses, please refer to Appendix B.

<sup>4</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent sixteen.

<sup>5</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent nineteen.

<sup>6</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent eight.

<sup>7</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent ten.

<sup>8</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent five.

<sup>9</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent three.

<sup>10</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent five.

<sup>11</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent three.

<sup>12</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent five and nine.

<sup>13</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent ten.

<sup>14</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent seven.

<sup>15</sup> The College of Certified Saskatchewan Genealogists is no longer a SGS committee.

<sup>16</sup> A full description of these courses can be found in Chapter two.

- <sup>17</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent five.
- <sup>18</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent six, ten and eleven.
- <sup>19</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent nine and fourteen.
- <sup>20</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent two.
- <sup>21</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent fourteen.
- <sup>22</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent six.
- <sup>23</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent five.
- <sup>24</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent sixteen.
- <sup>25</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent one.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent eight.
- <sup>28</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent nine.
- <sup>29</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent twelve.
- <sup>30</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent eighteen.
- <sup>31</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent ten.
- <sup>32</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent thirteen.
- <sup>33</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent five.
- <sup>34</sup> Survey Questionnaire - Respondent eighteen.

## Chapter Four

### Genealogy and the Saskatchewan Archives Board

This chapter will examine archival responses to the new genealogy at the largest archives in Saskatchewan – the Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB). It will outline the variety of new services SAB is developing to assist genealogists and respond to the new genealogy. This chapter will discuss genealogical research services at the Saskatchewan Archives Board, challenges the SAB faces in responding to rising interest in genealogical research in Saskatchewan, and how SAB might continue to adapt to new opportunities and tools.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board holds many sources that can be of assistance to genealogical researchers. Some sources provide ‘tombstone’ information, such as birth, marriage and death dates, while others provide genealogists with contextual information such as where individuals attended school, the social organizations they may have belonged to or what the community they lived in was like. I will outline a number of the most heavily consulted archival sources for genealogical research that are available at Saskatchewan Archives, and will explain their provenance as well as their significance to genealogical researchers, especially in the context of the new genealogy.

The most heavily used source at Saskatchewan Archives for genealogists is the Department of the Interior Homestead records. Prior to 1930, all administration of natural resources in the western provinces -- which included land settlement -- was done by the federal government’s Department of the Interior. After lengthy discussions throughout the 1920s, control over natural resources was granted to the western provinces in 1930. Although few Department of the Interior records were transferred to the

provinces at that time, the provinces were allowed access to any files which they required.<sup>1</sup> When the Department of the Interior ceased to exist in 1936, some of its files were transferred to the provinces and amalgamated with those of various provincial government agencies. One set of records that was not transferred is the Department of the Interior land records, or "homestead files". Since they were not judged to be needed by the provinces for any administrative purposes, they were retained in Ottawa by the Department of Mines and Resources, where they were available for legal or historical purposes. Meanwhile in Saskatchewan, A.S. Morton, head of the University of Saskatchewan History department, petitioned successfully for creation of a public record office for the province of Saskatchewan.<sup>2</sup> This office became the Saskatchewan Archives Board. Morton immediately began attempting to acquire records that pertained to the history of the province and its predecessor, the North-West Territories. This search led him to the Department of the Interior records stored in Ottawa.<sup>3</sup>

In 1942, the Department of Mines and Resources received authority to destroy any records of the Department of the Interior which were of no value, microfilm certain records as a preservation measure and turn over the remainder to the Dominion Archivist. At this point, no province -- with the exception of Manitoba -- was interested in acquiring the records. The Dominion Archivist, Gustave Lanctot, asked Morton for his opinion on the destruction of the Department of the Interior files. Morton replied that although many of the records were of little historical value, there were small pockets of valuable correspondence, which would likely be lost among the voluminous records of no value. He felt that "it would appear to be wise to save them all -- to keep the chaff for the sake of the wheat."<sup>4</sup> Morton's main interests were the policy files from the Department of the



Interior, not the actual homestead records. It does not appear that he had any interest in these records from a genealogical standpoint. Instead these records would be key to making the University of Saskatchewan a centre for the study of prairie history in Western Canada. The genealogical interest in the Department of the Interior records would not become apparent for another forty years, or until the new genealogy made genealogical research a widespread social phenomenon.

The records were kept in Ottawa until after the war, when it was thought a decision had to be made regarding their disposal. Although Morton was willing to take in all records from the Department of the Interior to the Saskatchewan Archives Board, Manitoba and Alberta both opposed that suggestion. It appears Morton began discussions with the western provinces about the transfer of land records to the various provinces, but on his death in 1945 the records still remained in Ottawa. It was not until 1956 that the Department of the Interior land records pertaining to the province of Saskatchewan were finally transferred to the Saskatchewan Archives. However these records did not come intact. Most homestead files had been stripped of documents that were considered unimportant or no longer needed to maintain the file, such as paperwork from seed grain loans or homestead inspectors' reports.

Once the records were in the custody of Saskatchewan Archives, the archivists soon realized that a name index was required to make the records available to researchers, as the records were organized by a departmental file number system. In the mid 1970s, the Genealogical Society of Utah approached the Saskatchewan Archives to microfilm the homestead files to add them to their collection. The GSU recognized the genealogical significance of the homestead records and was interested in obtaining a copy

of these for its repository. Starting in July 1977 and ending in 1980, the Genealogical Society of Utah microfilmed the homestead files. Initially they filmed the entire homestead file and then about one third of the way through they started filming only genealogically pertinent pages (mainly the application for entry, application for patent, and notification of patent), because funding fell short. The Genealogical Society of Utah retained the master copies for research in Salt Lake City, and provided a microfilm copy to the Regina SAB office so that both organizations had the homestead files available for research. Even after the output of time, storage space and money to organize the records, they were used infrequently by researchers, mostly to establish proof of age or citizenship. However, by the mid 1980s with the growth of the new genealogy and interest in family history, the homestead records became much more heavily used.<sup>5</sup>

Settlement in the western provinces, including Saskatchewan, boomed after the passing of the Dominion Lands Act in 1871. The Dominion Lands Act allowed settlement of individuals and families on 160 acres of land with the payment of a \$10.00 registration fee. In order to obtain patent on the land, the homesteader had to reside on or near the land for at least six consecutive months within three years, and had to make improvements, such as breaking at least thirty acres of land.<sup>6</sup> Homesteaders did not have to reside upon the land, although they had to live within nine miles of the homestead on land that they or an immediate relative owned. Homesteaders who were not British subjects were required to be naturalized before obtaining patent on the land. After they proved their intention to stay on the land to a homestead inspector, a patent would be granted to the homesteaders for the land. Successful homesteaders could also apply for an adjoining quarter-section of land called a pre-emption, or if an adjoining quarter-

section was not available, they could obtain a 'purchased homestead' which was land which could be purchased for \$3.00 an acre within nine miles of the original homestead.<sup>7</sup>

If the quarter-section in which the farmer had chosen his homestead was not suitable, he was allowed to abandon the land by stating his reasons for abandonment. Many declarations of abandonment show the difficulties faced by new immigrants to Saskatchewan. The land was often too dry, rocky, sandy, wet, stony, or simply unsuitable for farming. Interestingly, though, many of the abandoned homesteads were taken up by others and successfully patented. Not all abandonments were due to environmental factors. Some left the land because there were not enough people of their ethnic background in the area, or over disputes with neighbours about the amount of hay on the land. Others left after learning that they were on the wrong piece of land because they did not know the geography, or were put off the train in the wrong location, or did not understand English and could not communicate with land agents.<sup>8</sup>

Homestead files are composed of records that were created to administer the homestead process from the initial date of entry of the homesteader onto the land to the eventual notification that patent had been granted. For the most part, the homestead files contain three main documents: an application for entry upon the homestead, an application for patent (also referred to as the sworn statement), and the notification of patent. The application for entry was the first document filed by the homesteader. This document provided the homesteader's name, age, place of birth, previous residence, and occupation. The homesteader was asked to list members of the family by age, but often the ages were not provided, just a simple tally of family members under the heading of adult male, adult female and children under 12. Names of family members, other than

that of the homesteader, were not required and rarely appear in the records. The application for patent, or 'sworn statement', contains the least 'tombstone' information, but can be of great interest to genealogical researchers because it provides a glimpse into the early years of the homesteader's attempt to make a life in the province. After a homesteader spent several years on the land, a homestead inspector would inspect the improvements made (such as building a house or breaking land). The inspection also required that two of the homesteader's neighbours swear that all of the information provided was correct. If the homesteader had not made enough improvements or had not resided on the land long enough to satisfy the inspector, the inspector could recommend that patent not be granted. The application for patent shows the name and citizenship status of the homesteader, details the duties performed on the homestead, such as breaking and cropping land, amount of stock, size of the house and outbuildings, fencing, and any other improvements. If the homesteader had resided away from the homestead, he had to state where he was living and what he was doing when he was away from the homestead. Sometimes these statements can lead genealogical researchers to other family members who had homesteads close by, such as brothers or fathers, because homesteaders living with a family member often provided the family member's name and legal land location. As well, if homesteaders documented why they left their homesteads to pursue other job opportunities, genealogical researchers may get insight into their other occupations. The final document that is included in the homestead file is the notification of patent to the homesteader. There is no tombstone information on this document, but it does provide researchers with the date when their ancestor obtained ownership of the land.

While these three documents are the primary documents found in most homestead files, some homestead files can contain other documents which can greatly assist genealogical researchers. As mentioned earlier, homesteaders who were not originally British subjects had to be naturalized as British subjects before they could receive patent on the homestead. On most occasions, the homesteader would show his certificate of naturalization to the homestead inspector and it would be promptly returned to the homesteader. However, on occasion these certificates of naturalization were retained within the homestead files. The naturalization certificates may show the town, city, or country where the homesteader was born, which can assist researchers to narrow down their genealogical research. If a homesteader died before receiving patent on the land, several documents may appear in the homestead file. Often a will or probate record is with the homestead record, which states when the individual died, the location of death, and details regarding the homesteading duties upon the land. The will may also mention other family members and children's names if the deceased was married. This can lead genealogical researchers to other archival sources such as a death certificate, burial record or an obituary. Many times the homestead was taken over by the widow of the deceased and then her name appears on the notification of patent.

Other documents that can appear in homestead files include declarations of abandonment or cancellation, homestead inspectors' reports, applications for seed grain loans and correspondence from the homesteader regarding his homestead. Although few of these documents contain tombstone details, they can give insight into the life of the homesteader and help the genealogist add small details to the story of the family. The Saskatchewan Archives has recently seen an increase in requests for homestead records

due to the Century Family Farm award program sponsored by Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization. The Century Family Farm award is given to families that have resided on a specific piece of land for over 100 years.<sup>9</sup> Often the researchers phone or come into the SAB office, intent only on finding out the date of entry on the homestead, but many leave the office or end the phone call wishing to know more about their family. They move beyond researching the basic facts and start to become interested in the 'social history' aspects to their family history derived from knowing about, for example, the amount of land broken, the size of the house, and the number of animals kept. Some of these researchers move on to other genealogical sources at Saskatchewan Archives, such as ship passenger lists, border entry records, census records or church records.

Department of Municipal Affairs municipal corporation records at the Saskatchewan Archives can also provide tidbits of information to genealogical researchers.<sup>10</sup> Rural municipalities in Saskatchewan were organized in the early 1900s from smaller local improvement districts (LIDs), many of which were developed during the North West Territorial period. During the organization of rural municipalities and beyond, the Department of Municipal Affairs kept records containing correspondence, petitions for incorporation, town and village censuses, reports and other material for the majority of rural municipalities, villages, towns and cities. After 1914, the department required a census to be taken for any community wishing to be incorporated as a village. This can be an excellent genealogical source for families who lived in small towns or villages and were not homesteaders. The petitions for incorporation, although limited in detail, can provide genealogical researchers with a legal land description for relatives

identified on rural municipal petitions and the occupation of relatives named on urban petitions. Since researching urban residents in Saskatchewan can be quite difficult, these municipal corporation records can greatly assist genealogists.

Other municipal or local government records kept by the Saskatchewan Archives that can assist genealogists are town, village or rural municipality tax assessment rolls. Rural municipalities, towns and villages used these assessment rolls to keep track of all payments of taxes within the community or area, and to report to the provincial government the total taxes taken in every year. Often the tax assessment rolls provide a researcher with the legal land location or block number of the residence and the amount the resident paid for their taxes. Locating the legal land location can assist researchers in using the homestead records at the Saskatchewan Archives or to locate land sale records at Information Services Corporation (formerly Land Titles). Some genealogical researchers are keen to learn the types of expenses their ancestors had. The tax assessment rolls show one part of their yearly expenses.

Cummins Rural Directory maps held at the Saskatchewan Archives are another source used by genealogists at the Saskatchewan Archives. Oliver F. Coumans (later Cummins) was a civil engineer who worked as a Dominion and Saskatchewan Land Surveyor. By 1913, he had taken up residence in Regina and by 1917 the Regina city directory shows Cummins as the president of the "O.F. Cummins Map Company". In 1917 he published his first set of maps, entitled "Coumans Saskatchewan Land Map Series" (later maps carry the name "Cummins"). In 1918, he moved to Winnipeg and published maps there in a branch office of the Regina main office. The Regina office closed in the early 1920s and operations were centralized in Winnipeg. While Cummins

was in Winnipeg, maps were published of Manitoba , Alberta, and Saskatchewan (1918), Saskatchewan only (1920 and 1922), and Manitoba only (1923). In 1923, Cummins moved from Winnipeg to Toronto, where he published maps of land ownership in Ontario in 1924. A commercial failure occurred in 1925 when Cummins attempted to publish PEI landowner records along with a general atlas published in bound book form. He continued, however, to publish maps in 1926 (Saskatchewan), 1927 (Alberta), and 1930 (north-central Saskatchewan). No maps were published after the 1930 north-central Saskatchewan map and the company ceased to operate by the early 1940s.<sup>11</sup>

The maps for the province of Saskatchewan were issued as single map sheets, instead of the earlier county atlases that were published as bound book form. The 1917-1918 series used a larger sheet format, covering 36 to 48 townships, but after 1920 the format was standardized, covering an average of twelve townships each. In 1920 a uniform sheet numbering system was used for each province, which followed in all subsequent map publications. The Cummins Rural Directory maps show the names of landowners on each quarter-section of land, names and locations of post offices, and the location of rail lines. Researchers who may have been unsuccessful locating individuals in the homestead records can often use these maps to track down a legal land location. They can also spot relatives or familiar neighbours on the maps, which may lead researchers back to the homestead records or to Information Services Corporation for land records other than the original homestead.

The Saskatchewan Archives does not hold many records pertaining to schools in Saskatchewan. Despite this, two types of records from the Department of Education are used by genealogists. The first set of records is school organization files that were



maintained by the Department of Education.<sup>12</sup> Prior to the 1960s, Saskatchewan had thousands of school districts, many of them in rural areas. In order to establish a school district in an area, local residents had to petition the Department of Education to set up a school in the area. The Department of Education kept a set of files that contained the correspondence, petitions, reports, and plans for the school district. Genealogists may locate the name of their ancestor on letters petitioning the department or on the actual petition that shows the name and address of ratepayers in the area. Lists of early school trustees are included with these records as well as annual reports for the school. On occasion, blueprints of the schoolhouse are in the organizational files. These blueprints can be of interest to genealogists who are interested in seeing the layout of the classroom that their ancestors used.

Inactive teacher registers for 1912-1938 form a small set of records developed by the Department of Education which are now in the custody of Saskatchewan Archives and are also consulted by genealogists.<sup>13</sup> These registers list the names of teachers, where they received their teacher's certificate, and the schools where they taught. A teacher had to have ceased teaching by 1938 to appear in this register. Although its use is thus limited, the register can nonetheless be very informative. The register can also lead researchers to an ancestor's records at a teachers' college or to delve into school organization files to find the ancestor's name and any reports from the teacher to the school board.

Newspapers held at the Saskatchewan Archives have been a goldmine of material for genealogical researchers. Saskatchewan Archives holds newspapers from across the province, the earliest dating from 1878. The newspapers kept at Saskatchewan Archives

range from the large centres such as Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, and Prince Albert, to those from small villages and towns such as Borden, Porcupine Plain, and Eston. Most often, genealogical researchers use newspapers to find obituaries, marriage notices, and birth announcements. Many genealogical researchers will return to the newspapers and comb them, week by week, year by year, to explore the day-to-day life of their family. They explore the advertisements and discover the price of goods for the time; they read the social columns for any mention of their ancestors; they peruse the paper to learn about the weather and activities their ancestors might have participated in. Genealogists can discover a great deal about the community their ancestors lived in simply by reading the local newspapers of the day. Archivists from the Regina office of Saskatchewan Archives created a surname index of obituaries found in the Regina Leader Post, a source that has been extremely useful for genealogical researchers.

Several records of genealogical value that belong to the Library and Archives Canada have been made widely available on microfilm to archives across the country, including the Saskatchewan Archives. Although these sources are not solely Saskatchewan Archives sources, they are heavily used at Saskatchewan Archives and deserve mention because of their importance for genealogical research in Saskatchewan. Federal census records held at the Saskatchewan Archives include national returns for 1881, 1891, 1901, and for 1906 for the western provinces. Census records were compiled by the federal government to ensure an accurate assessment of the population of the country. The census enumerator recorded the names of each person in a household, the person's sex, age or year of birth, country or province of birth, occupation, date of immigration to Canada (1901 and 1906), legal land location if living in a rural area

(1906), and whether household members could read or write English or French. The census records were used to determine the average age of residents of Canada, ethnicity of the population, percentage of men and women, size of communities, and population of provinces. These records are clearly popular with genealogists. Nominal census indexes have been compiled by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society for 1881 and 1891, and a 1901 nominal index was compiled by the Alberta Genealogical Society. These indexes have been invaluable to genealogical researchers because census enumeration districts can be difficult to determine, especially if researchers are uncertain about the exact location of their ancestors. The indexes can lead genealogical researchers directly to the proper microfilm reel, census district, and page, and so help them avoid spending countless hours looking at the film of the actual census documents, much of which is difficult to decipher because the records were poorly filmed.

Ship passenger lists acquired from the Library and Archives Canada have also been deposited on microfilm at the Saskatchewan Archives. The Saskatchewan Archives holds ship passenger lists from 1865 to 1919. These constitute an official immigration record for this period. Every person on the ship was accounted for when the ship arrived at its port, whether they were simply visiting Canada or making Canada or the United States their intended destination. The lists provide the name, age, country of origin, occupation, and intended destination of all people on the ship. They are arranged by port and date of arrival and there are no nominal indexes for these records. Genealogical researchers must usually spend a considerable amount of time looking through these microfilm reels in order to locate their ancestors. They are often aided by other genealogical sources at Saskatchewan Archives such as homestead records or census

records, which help determine when their ancestors arrived in Canada. On occasion a specific city or town of origin is mentioned on the ship list, which can assist researchers who want to contact overseas archives or genealogical societies.

Although the Saskatchewan Archives may not hold all pieces of information required by genealogists to perform their family history, much information still can be obtained by researching its collections. Many of these sources can lead researchers to other archival or genealogical sources that may not be held at Saskatchewan Archives or even within Saskatchewan. Archivists are able to provide researchers with contact information for other archives, libraries, or government departments to help them with their family history search.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board website was launched in April 2001. The website was launched to assist researchers who may not be able to visit the archives in person, or to prepare individuals who wish to use the archives. Along with general information about the archives such as contact information, one section of the "Services for the Public" page is completely devoted to family history.<sup>14</sup> The first section of the family history page describes how individuals can acquire genealogically pertinent material about their family in the form of letters, wills, deeds, photographs, family bibles, naturalization papers, personal reminiscences, newspaper clippings, and even embroidered quilts. It suggests that genealogists can interview elderly family members for their knowledge of the past. The website stresses that new genealogists should learn to organize and record all information discovered and even to record the places where genealogical research was unsuccessful. This section also recommends contacting a genealogical society and describes the mandate and services offered by the Saskatchewan

Genealogical Society, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, and the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. The website also devotes a section of the family history resources page to the genealogical search for Aboriginal ancestry.

The second section of the family history page describes official Saskatchewan sources such as vital statistics, court, land, municipal, church, cemetery, and educational records. It provides contact information for all sources that are not available through the Saskatchewan Archives and links to appropriate websites. The final section describes specific genealogical sources available at the Saskatchewan Archives such as homestead records, newspapers, family and community histories, maps, oral histories, photographs and private records. The Saskatchewan Archives website is one way in which SAB has embraced the new genealogy. It has made its holdings (although without searchable databases) accessible to millions of potential genealogical researchers and increased the SAB's visibility well outside the province.

For researchers who want to visit the archives, the Saskatchewan Archives still employs card catalogues (catalogued by creator of the document or fonds in most cases), paper finding aids and microfilm card indexes to provide public reference services. In order to make the resources of the Saskatchewan Archives more user friendly for all researchers including genealogists, the Saskatoon office has created databases for textual and photographic holdings. The Regina office has created an architectural, sound and moving image and cartographic database to assist researchers. These databases can be searched by a subject keyword and can greatly improve and speed up the location of pertinent archival holdings for researchers. Although not yet fully available to the public

in the reading rooms, the Saskatchewan Archives is striving to make these databases researcher-friendly, so that eventually researchers can use them to the fullest extent. Because of the subject searching capabilities, these databases may assist genealogists in locating material they had not previously known about because the card catalogue, particularly in the Saskatoon office, does not provide complete subject cross-references.

Saskatchewan Archives took small steps into the web world with the Saskatchewan Archives website. After the successful launch of the website, Saskatchewan Archives began applying for funding to the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) to place fonds and series level descriptions of Saskatchewan Archives material on the Saskatchewan Archival Information Network (SAIN) or Canadian Archival Information Network (CAIN, now known as Archives Canada). In the late 1990s and early 2000s, most funding from the CCA and Canadian Heritage was provided to archives that were willing to make their collections more accessible through RAD-based fonds and series level descriptions. Saskatchewan Archives wished to develop institutional standards before embarking on such a large project and therefore delayed applying for funding. SAB had only received one year of funding for CAIN/SAIN projects when the CCA and Canadian Heritage decided to move in new directions. They chose to refocus funding on visual web-based exhibits which include digitized photographs, documents, and microfilm rather than on the fonds and series level descriptions of collections found on SAIN/CAIN which they had traditionally emphasized.

SAB began to develop a proposal for a digital homestead index database project in November 2002 and subsequently submitted a proposal to Canadian Heritage

for CAIN funding for the "Saskatchewan Homestead Digitization Project." This project was to be a virtual and interactive exhibit showing the homestead experience in Saskatchewan. Selected documents, photographs, maps, posters and audio clips were to be included and would link to fonds and series level descriptions from public and private sources at SAB. Notably, a link was to be provided to a searchable index to the homestead files for Saskatchewan. After data entry of all homestead index cards was completed, a project coordinator would be hired to create the virtual exhibit, link all of its parts together, and create curriculum based projects for K-12 students.

In May 2003, Canadian Heritage rejected the proposal for the "Saskatchewan Homestead Digitization Project," without providing an explanation for its decision. With that rejection, SAB began looking for new partnerships to press ahead with the homestead index database. The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society agreed to partner with the SAB. The SGS had the ability to fundraise and to apply for funding for which the SAB was ineligible. For example, if the SGS administered the homestead index project, the project would be eligible for Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF) funding. In October 2003, SHF granted the SGS \$10,000 for the homestead index database project. In November 2003, the same project rejected by Canadian Heritage for CAIN funding was sent to the Museums Assistance Program for funding approval, but again was rejected.

The SGS pushed forward, looking for partnerships with other organizations. It was able to arrange with SIAST (Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology) to have a student from the SIAST Career Development Enhancement Program do data entry for the index as part of an institute work assignment. SAB also

contributed several staff members to perform data entry with the index cards on a part-time basis. Volunteers from the SGS were signed on to proofread the entries for any errors. Sask Learning has been approached to participate in the interpretive layer of the index, by developing curriculum-appropriate projects for students.

While Saskatchewan Archives and the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society were looking for funding sources, they were being strongly encouraged to explore a digitization project to scan all pages of the homestead records using the master microfilm copy and place these images online. Both the Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian Genealogy Centre were in discussion with the Saskatchewan Archives, as the Library and Archives Canada had considerable experience digitizing both primary documents and microfilm. SAB explored this option with the Genealogical Society of Utah, which owned the master copy of the homestead files microfilm. SAB also consulted Information Services Corporation (ISC) in Regina about its experience with digitizing records from the former Land Titles offices. SAB was also interested in a possible partnership with ISC, which might be able to provide technical advice and support services and might be interested in collaborating since its own contemporary land records were the continuation of the homestead files.

Despite the enthusiasm of all parties, SAB decided that it was unable to participate in such a monumental project. The main stumbling block was the cost of digitizing the images. SAB has 727 reels of microfilmed homestead records. The cost of digitizing each image would have been eighteen cents an image. The estimated the cost of digitizing all 727 reels was about \$300 000, which was only the digitizing charge. Every page would also have to have been manually linked to the homestead surname



index database, which would have doubled the cost. SAB estimated that it would have taken approximately six to eight years to complete the project, as it would have only been possible to bring ten to fifteen percent of homestead files online each year. As well, SAB had to consider the cost involved in administering the database, the cost to host the website, the cost to develop the interpretive layer, as well as the cost to migrate the scans (likely there would have been a change in software to a newer program at least once in six to eight years.) When budgeting for all costs, SAB estimated that the cost of one year of digitization would be \$117 000. SAB has experienced difficulties in the past obtaining funding for small projects, and several of its past budgets were cut by the provincial government. SAB has also seen the difficulties the SGS has experienced when appealing for private partnership funding for the homestead surname index database. Many companies simply are not investing in heritage projects, especially the agricultural sector on whom SAB and the SGS were focussing. There may have been a possibility of one year of funding, but SAB did not wish to start such a massive project without assurances that there would be funding for more than the first year of digitization.

Despite the disappointment on all sides, SAB and the SGS have continued on the homestead surname index in earnest. This database will prove invaluable to SAB for reference services, as researchers will be able to search the surnames on their own and obtain exact file numbers and legal land locations for the files they are interested in. This year alone, SAB has provided \$10 000 in funding and \$6500 in staff commitment to the indexing project. The SGS has committed over \$3000 as well as project management and volunteer proofreaders. SAB and SGS hope to have the project completed by December 2004.

Although genealogists in Saskatchewan have access to many genealogical sources in Saskatchewan and beyond, there are still roadblocks that can hamper genealogical research. The issues range from monetary to legislative. As already shown, although genealogists may be keen to see digitized images online, the cost of scanning and linking those images can be prohibitive. Although genealogical societies will often offer volunteers to contribute labour, many of these projects require the work of trained technicians, so no amount of volunteer work can bring down the cost. When archives have to rely on funding from provincial governments, often their needs are not fulfilled due to powerful competing pressures to increase funding to health care, education, and agriculture.

Genealogists in Saskatchewan also encounter legislative roadblocks to their research. The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) was enacted to ensure that personal information about the race, creed, religion, colour, sex, sexual orientation, family status or marital status, disability, age, nationality, ancestry or place of origin of the individual is kept private for 25 years after death. This affects access to government documents held at the Saskatchewan Archives. For genealogical researchers, researching prison records, civil service records, and records such as the Department of Municipal Affairs census records, means applying to the Provincial Archivist for access and the possibility of material being restricted under FOIPPA. Passed in September 2003, the Saskatchewan *Health Information Protection Act* (HIPA) protects health information for thirty years after the death of an individual, or 120 years from the date of the document if the date of death is unknown. While FOIPPA only covers provincial government material, there initially were no exceptions for any

records in the Saskatchewan Archives governed by HIPA due to Saskatchewan Archives' role as a trustee of health records, as designated in the legislation. Currently, SAB is working with the provincial government to exempt both private and government records already in the custody of the archives and open for research use from HIPA. Although it is yet to be seen whether HIPA will have a great effect on genealogical researchers, it is possible that they may be denied access or have to wait for records to be reviewed for any health information before they can view records.

Although the following two problems that hamper genealogical research do not deal with Saskatchewan Archives sources, access to Vital Statistics and post 1906 census records is often requested by genealogical researchers at Saskatchewan Archives. Currently in Saskatchewan, no Vital Statistics records have been made available to researchers without restrictions, nor have any been released to the custody of Saskatchewan Archives. Vital Statistics records in Saskatchewan date back to the 1880s, however, genealogical researchers wishing to obtain a copy of a birth, marriage, or death certificate, even for the very earliest registrations, must submit a form declaring their reasons for applying for a certificate and pay a fee of \$25. Nearly every other province in the country has at least some of its historical vital records available either on deposit at the provincial archives or through the vital statistics office. Many Saskatchewan genealogists feel frustrated because they can obtain death registrations from British Columbia for individuals deceased more than 30 years, but have to justify their request for a death registration in Saskatchewan from the 1890s. Archivists at Saskatchewan Archives, although unable to act in any way, are frequently exposed to the genealogists' frustration and demands for access.

Census records have been an invaluable resource for genealogists. However, in Canada, the latest census released to the public (and latest to be transferred to the custody of the Library and Archives Canada) has been the 1906 census, although the general understanding of most genealogists and historians is that the censuses were to be transferred to the Library and Archives Canada and released 92 years after their creation. However, no census records created after 1906 have been transferred from the custody of Statistics Canada to the Library and Archives Canada. Meanwhile, in the United States, genealogical researchers have access to the 1930 United States Census. Prior to Parliament being prorogued in late 2003, legislation had been tabled in the Senate to release the 1911 census, with certain restrictions. For example, researchers would have had to sign a form with which they promise not to share any details from the census. Genealogists have been lobbying for years to have the 1911 census and subsequent census records released without any restrictions, but have been encountering roadblocks and delays from the federal government. The Saskatchewan Archives staff encounters frustration and disappointment among genealogical researchers whose relatives arrived in Canada after 1906. The staff is unable to provide much help with these records to these genealogists.

Has the Saskatchewan Archives embraced the new genealogy? Saskatchewan Archives has sources such as homestead records, municipal records, and many others that offer rich material for the growing number of now increasingly sophisticated genealogical researchers. The SAB website has moved Saskatchewan Archives into the virtual sphere, making information available on the Internet and allowing a new way for researchers to contact the archives. Although Saskatchewan Archives does not actively

acquire genealogically specific archival material, it has become aware of the sources for genealogical research within the records currently held at SAB. Small indices or databases created by SAB staff for sources such as obituaries for the Regina Leader Post or the Pioneer Questionnaires have made genealogical searches within these sources easier for researchers. As well, the development of the homestead index database in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society illustrates the type of partnership that archives and genealogists can develop to promote positive relationships between archives and genealogists. The initiative to place this homestead database online also shows the desire of Saskatchewan Archives to use the Internet to promote the archives and encourage genealogical research via the web.

Unfortunately, Saskatchewan Archives has not been able to embrace the new genealogy more fully, especially in regard to the provision of new technologies to researchers. The Regina office does not have completed databases for its textual and photograph collections, which limits services provided to researchers. Even though the Saskatoon office does have databases for photographs and textual collections, these databases are not available to researchers in the reading room. Discussion of placing these databases in the reading rooms has occurred for well over a year, but there has not yet been any action taken to prepare the databases for the reading room. As well, due to fiscal restraints and institutional priorities, the Saskatoon office cannot provide full microfilm reference services to genealogical researchers. Researchers can still use the microfilm readers, but cannot print out any of their findings in the Saskatoon office. Without the reader-printer, the Saskatoon office loses revenue from the copies generated, and cannot offer the same services as the Regina office – to the detriment of genealogical

researchers in Saskatoon.

The underlying reason why the Saskatchewan Archives has not adapted more fully to the new genealogy is insufficient funding. The provincial government's financial support of the archives has been limited and disappointing. The Saskatchewan Archives, along with many government departments, suffered budget restraint under the Devine government in the 1980s. In 2001, taking initiative following the Michael Swift consultant's report on strategic directions for the Saskatchewan Archives in the late 1990s, the provincial government made a commitment to the archives of \$1 million extra per year for six years to clear up the backlog of unprocessed records. Unfortunately, before this program was a year old, the funding was rolled back considerably, severely hampering the project. In the 2004 budget, the Saskatchewan government again added extra funding to help the archives comply with new legislation affecting ministerial papers, but only time will tell whether this funding will last.

The provincial government has so far committed very few funds to the celebration of the province's centennial in 2005. This may create a lost opportunity to respond to interest in genealogical research in the province, since the centennial is likely to stimulate even greater interest in genealogy in Saskatchewan, and thus provide new opportunities for the SAB to serve genealogists. The government does not appear to want to make funding for new technologies for presenting the province's history online a priority. The provincial government has discontinued a program entitled "Government On-Line" (GOL), which funded online initiatives within the provincial government. Saskatchewan Archives hoped to access this funding and purchase MINISIS, a database that would have helped Saskatchewan Archives place fonds and series level descriptions online for

researchers. This purchase has had to be delayed as a result. Without greater support from the provincial government, Saskatchewan Archives will be unable to embrace more fully some key but sometimes costly technological features of the new genealogy.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Doug Bocking, "The Records Go West: Department of the Interior Records in the Saskatchewan Archives," Archivaria 25 (Winter 1987-88), 107.

<sup>2</sup> Joan Champ, "Arthur Silver Morton and his Role in the Founding of the Saskatchewan Archives Board," Archivaria 32 (Summer 1991), 104.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 108.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 109.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 110.

<sup>6</sup> A concise description of homestead regulations can be found in D.M. Loveridge's, "An Introduction to the Study of Land and Settlement Records," in Gerald Friesen and Barry Potyondi, A Guide to the Study of Manitoba Local History, Appendix 1, 101-129.

<sup>7</sup> Lloyd Rodwell, "Saskatchewan Homestead Records," Saskatchewan History, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, 1965, 11.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 13-14.

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/about\\_us/programs\\_services/centuryfarm00.asp](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/about_us/programs_services/centuryfarm00.asp)

<sup>10</sup> Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB), Call Number S-MA.5

<sup>11</sup> Eric Jonasson, "Oliver F. Cummins' Directory Maps: Canada's 20<sup>th</sup> Century 'Country Atlases'," Canadian Genealogist, Vol. 3, No. 3, 1981, 141-143.

<sup>12</sup> SAB, Call Number R-177.10/7.

<sup>13</sup> SAB, Call Number R -329.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.saskarchives.com/web/services-pub-family.html>

## Conclusion

In the past thirty years, there has been a significant shift in the characteristics of genealogical research in North America at least. Earlier genealogical research, even dating as far back as ancient times, was largely an elite activity. Social elites in Europe, for example, often sought formal recognition of a significant title or rank by using archival records and other sources of information which were not always readily available to others. By the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, those who pursued genealogical research in more egalitarian societies had more publicly available archives to use. But they were often members of the new business and professional elites of these societies, who usually sought archival materials to support a family tie to an illustrious ancestor. Less powerful social groups were also interested in genealogy, but did not use archives much to pursue it. A family Bible, album, and memory and oral tradition often held the family's genealogical knowledge for its own use, rather than for wide public recognition of a prominent ancestral link.

The changes in genealogical research since the 1970s prompted American historian Samuel P. Hays to maintain in the 1980s that a "new genealogy" had emerged. This new genealogy is a widespread social phenomenon which is more focussed on archival research than earlier genealogical pursuits by those outside social elites. Alex Haley's 1976 book Roots: The Saga of An American Family, and the popular television drama based on it, helped shape the new genealogy by stimulating interest in family history among a much wider range of people, including minority groups. The new genealogy is also characterized by an interest in more than illustrious or elite ancestral ties, as people from various walks of life pursue an equally diversified family tree,



sometimes even relishing a notorious ancestor. And genealogists now not only often have an interest in a family tree, but also in the historical context in which the family's history can be understood.

The new genealogy is also typified by the flourishing of genealogical societies, publications, codes of ethics, adoption of the Internet as a major research tool, and an improvement in the relationship between archivists and genealogists, which was not always warm in the early years of the explosion of public interest in genealogy in the 1970s and 1980s. Furthermore, genealogical research has also been brought into the mainstream of general interest as the basis of media reports, plays, and books.

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society is a good example of the new genealogy. It was established in 1969 as a broadly based public association at the outset of the rise of interest in genealogy. Its membership has grown along with the increase in genealogical interest. It has also reflected the less elitist approach of the new genealogy by welcoming Aboriginal genealogical needs. It has improved genealogical work by developing educational programs and codes of ethics. It also adopted new technologies such as the Internet to serve genealogical research.

The SGS has created partnerships with archives and government organizations to help promote genealogical research in Saskatchewan. The society has adapted its programs to meet the needs of its members in response to the new legal, medical, and social dimensions of the new genealogy. Virtually all of the members of the SGS who were interviewed for this thesis embraced new technologies in their research, had taken educational and training programs offered by the SGS, and had encouraged other family members to explore family history. Many were comfortable with performing

genealogical research in archives and held archivists in high esteem. Although these genealogists felt comfortable with using the Internet, they also recognized some of its limitations. These new genealogists are exploring beyond sources of 'tombstone' information on births, marriages, and deaths. They also examine sources that provide a wider understanding of the individuals they are researching and the historical context in which they lived.

The Saskatchewan Archives is involved in the new genealogy by partnering with the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society to place the provincial homestead index online, provide access to other archival sources of special interest to genealogists, create databases and searchable indexes for a variety of sources, and make information about genealogical sources available via the Internet. Unfortunately, Saskatchewan Archives has not been able to embrace the new genealogy more fully, especially in regard to the provision of new technologies to researchers. The underlying reason why the Saskatchewan Archives has not adapted more fully to the new genealogy is insufficient funding. Without additional support from the provincial government, Saskatchewan Archives will not be as a full a participant in the new genealogy as it would like.

## Appendix A

### Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Membership Table, 1969-2002<sup>1</sup>

Year	Number of Members	Number of New Members	Members in province	Members out of province	Members outside of country	Percentage of members who are seniors
1969	27					
1970	53					
1971	112					
1972	164					
1973	165					
1974	181					
1975						
1976	222	60	188	26	8	
1977	234	58	197	29	8	
1978	264	89	221	35	8	
1979	275	74	226	36	13	
1980	325	115	269	46	10	
1981	354		313	35	6	
1982	452	139	388	58	6	
1983	493	128	421	62	10	
1984	568	145	488	69	11	23
1985	684	192	590	82	12	22
1986	898	283	774	107	17	23
1987	937		808	116	13	24
1988	974		824	139	11	25
1989	1079		897	170	12	25
1990	1114		908	193	14	28.5
1991	1108		890	205	13	30
1992	1120		910	192	18	32
1993	1160		929	219	12	34
1994	1138		909	206	14	38
1995	1170		941	208	22	40
1996	1269		1020	231	18	41
1997	1296		1075	210	11	41
1998	1338		1100	225	13	41
1999	1368		1136	218	14	40
2000	1314		1093	209	12	41
2001	1232		1015	205	12	42
2002	1200		982	209	9	45

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Statistics in table are inconsistent as uniform statistics were not kept from 1969 to the current day. Statistics for 1975 were unavailable.

## **Appendix B**

### **Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Surveys**

#### **General Information**

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Sex:
4. Birthplace:
5. Current Residence:
6. Ethnicity:
7. Occupation:
8. When did you first become interested in genealogy?
9. Why did you become interested in genealogy?
10. What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others you know?
11. Have you encouraged other family members or friends to start doing genealogical research?

#### **Saskatchewan Genealogical Society**

12. Did you undertake genealogical research before joining the SGS?
13. Why did you decide to join the SGS?
14. When did you join the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society?
15. What committees or local branches have you joined?
16. What SGS conferences or workshops have you attended?
17. Have you taken any of the researcher courses offered by the SGS?
18. Do you believe that these courses have helped you perform genealogical research or could you have performed research without them?

#### **Genealogy and Archives**

19. What archival resources have you consulted while performing research? What archival resources have you used in Saskatchewan? What archival resources have you used outside of the province/country?
20. Have you performed in-person research at archives? Have you used email, mail or telephone calls for long-distance research at archives?
21. How would you characterize your experiences using archival sources? Please explain using the following methods of research:
  - a) In-person visits
  - b) Telephone calls
  - c) Email
  - d) Mail
22. What was your initial perception of archives before beginning genealogical research?
23. Has your initial perception of archives changed as you have interacted with staff and used resources? If yes, how has it changed?

**Genealogy and the Internet**

24. Have you used the Internet to assist with genealogical research?
25. If yes, what sources do you use on the Internet?
26. What archival sources have you used on the Internet?
27. Are there any archival sources that you feel would be useful via the Internet?
28. What problems have you encountered with performing genealogical research on the Internet?
29. How has the Internet improved your search for family history information?
30. Do you believe that genealogical researchers can solely use the Internet in order to perform genealogical searches?

## General Survey Information

<i>Number</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>When did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>Why did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others?</i>	<i>Have you encouraged other family members?</i>
1	79	Female	Farm outside Nipawin, SK	Irish - Father Swedish - Mother	Retired - worked in office procedures for 42 years	30 + years ago	Never knew either of my grandfathers	Became rather addicted to finding answers to my questions	No - family members seem to rely on my involvement
2	69	Male	Sydney, NS	British	Retired Professor	About 1 year ago	Suddenly realized that not many of my contemporary relatives were still alive and that a lot of knowledge of about the family would disappear if no record was made to it; also a desire for an 'open-ended' hobby for my retirement years.	I spend a lot of time contacting my relatives and getting information from them, and have learned quite a lot about my ancestors that I did not know before.	No.. Perhaps one person doing it is enough!
3	63	Female	Regina, SK	German Russian/Austrian	Educator	1974	My parents and siblings were great storytellers so I thought it would be interesting to start recording information about their parents to learn more about where they had come from. Also my husband's family had the same religious and cultural background but spoke a different dialect and cooked the same kinds of food in a different manner so I started to ask questions about their background to learn more about why this was.	What started out as a personal interest turned into a career as a librarian and teacher in the genealogy field. This led to developing a program to produce certified Saskatchewan researchers. The knowledge and experience gained enabled us to produce a guidebook for those who wish to conduct research into their Saskatchewan roots.	I do encourage other family members to start doing genealogical research not only to learn about who the extended family are but to learn how geography, environment and personal relationships may have affected decisions made by the family. Those who are not interested in conducting research themselves are encouraged to at least start family health trees so that they are better prepared to anticipate potential health issues.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>When did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>Why did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others?</i>	<i>Have you encouraged other family members?</i>
4	58	Female	Saskatoon	German (Mennonite)	Self-employed bookkeeper, semi-retired	In the early 1990s.	Attended some family reunions in the late 1980s and became curious about the family roots.	I have become much more aware of sources of information, documentation of the actual research, ethical issues. I have also met a lot of very interesting people along the way.	Yes, I've tried. My own kids are not interested as of yet, but others in the family have at least co-operated.
5	53	Female	Maple Creek, SK	Irish/English	Contracts Administrator	About 1988 when we had a ... family reunion and several family members expressed a curiosity about the family roots.	I have always been interested in history in general. Our family did not talk much about the past except that we were of Irish descent and I have always wanted to visit Ireland because of that. After talking to other people that I knew and they were so enthused, I decided to try and find out at least a bit about who my great-grandparents were.	<p>The impact has been enormous. I have learned a great deal about the history of Ireland, Canada and Saskatchewan and how historical events have shaped the countries we know today. But, I have also come to realize the value of knowing our personal history. I now have a much greater understanding of cultures that place such great importance on knowing and honoring their ancestors. I have come to see myself as only the latest in a very long line of people that will continue after I have become history myself.</p> <p>I have learned things about our family history that are not things to be proud of and some that I am extremely proud of. One of the things that genealogists often have to struggle with is how to maintain the family balance and perception of itself if the emerging facts do not confirm what the family knows as its history and this is something I have had to come to terms with.</p> <p>Genealogy for our family has determined the destination of family vacations. Family members have become more aware of our roots and have expressed a greater interest in our roots and often help me whenever they can.</p> <p>Because of genealogy I have made friends and a web of contacts all over the world and a great deal of my lifestyle today revolves around genealogy.</p>	I always encourage anyone who shows the slightest interest in the subject. Many people are now going to SGS meetings, prowling archives, and visiting cemeteries because of my help and encouragement.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>When did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>Why did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others?</i>	<i>Have you encouraged other family members?</i>
6	46	Female	Moose Jaw, SK	Scottish	Genealogist and Layout Artist for monument company	I have always been interested in my family's roots. I began taking notes as a youngster in the mid 1960s. (and I must say, they are quite funny to look at now).	My paternal grandfather came to Canada in the late 1920s and spoke with a strong North East Scottish accent (Doric). I asked him about our roots and began looking for 'paper proof' of the events he told me about in the mid 1980s.	<p>Personally, my research has given me a foundation to stand on. I believe 'you canna ken where you're gaen, if you dinna ken where you've been'.</p> <p>I have learned much about historical events and how they effected the decisions that my ancestors made. And finally, genealogy has helped [me] understand some of my family's health problems by studying the economic/living conditions as well as the 'cause of death'.</p> <p>Professionally, I worked with a fellow genealogist in Ireland for a client from Saskatchewan. She knew very little about her paternal grandfather. After finding information on a few generations in Ireland, we were able to locate a burial place, farmsteads, houses in Belfast etc. Our client and her then 80+ year old father made a trip to Ireland the following fall and visited the sites we were able to locate.</p> <p>Our client stated that she had never seen her father more relaxed and at peace, as when he stood at the gravesite of HIS grandparents in Ireland...grandparents who were never met nor spoken of in all his years of living.</p>	Yes, I have various family members who are now committed to doing genealogical research properly...sitting [sic] sources, investigating all angles, etc.
7	49	Female	Russell, MB	Canadian - British Isles background	Human Resource Consultant	Initially when a teenager, then took it up more actively starting in my 20's.	Initially it was because I was interested in history and how my family fit. As I had a family, it was important to gather things together so when they became interested they could see their family history, as they were not growing up in communities where they had relatives.	It has given me a hobby/interest outside of work and family responsibilities. It has made me the family resource for family history.	I have tried to encourage the interest but have been more successful with friends than family



<i>Number</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>When did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>Why did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others?</i>	<i>Have you encouraged other family members?</i>
8	29	Male	Spalding, SK	Norwegian, Austrian, Swedish	Teacher (Special Education)	About 1985	Living in a small community where many of my ancestors first settled upon coming to Saskatchewan, I was fortunate to grow up knowing one set of great-grandparents, as well as many of their siblings, and many other relatives. I believe that this, coupled with my grandmother's shared interest in history, and her being able to answer my questions as to exactly how we were related to this person or that person, was what rooted in me my interest in genealogy.	People researching their roots in my hometown community are often referred to me to help them with their own research (where the records are, minor translation of German or Norwegian text, etc) Genealogy has helped me to gain an even greater respect for the elderly and their stories and knowledge, and has also given me the opportunity to get to know many people, both relatives and other, that I otherwise would not have known.	I wouldn't say that I have encouraged them, but I have provided assistance to many that were beginners.
9	21 + (actually 57)	Female	Saskatoon, SK	before starting research: English, Scottish, Irish and French Now: German, possibly English or Jewish	Cab Driver	When I was a child	When I was a child my mother was writing a letter to a cousin of Dad's in Nova Scotia - I didn't know we had relatives in Nova Scotia. I also asked her where they lived in Nova Scotia and she said in Shubenacadie - I fell right in love with that name. This episode piqued my interest in family history though I didn't pursue it but it always was in the back of my mind. Then a few months before my aunt died in 1994 I finally started digging into my family history.	It has created some interest in the family - but not overly much	Yes

<i>Number</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>When did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>Why did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others?</i>	<i>Have you encouraged other family members?</i>
10	56	Female	Regina, SK	German	Retired Educator	I first became interested in Genealogy in 1989 when one of the other teachers on staff told me about her work in Genealogy with her family. She gave me a copy of the SGS Bulletin. I did not pursue any research at that time as I was still teaching and felt that I did not have the time to spend.	There was a family history story that my maternal grandmother, who died when my mother was an infant, had been a passenger on the Titanic. My mother always believed that her family was Russian even though their mother tongue was German. There was a great mystery surrounding the death and burial place of my maternal grandmother and a lot of missing details on my mother's childhood. I felt that to find the answers to these questions may have provided some completion to my mother's personal history.	My research has acted as a healing process for me after the death of both my parents. I was never certain as to just how much my mother understood about the things that I discovered as she was not well and her mind did [not] always function to capacity. The information that I had found for her did give me a great deal of personal satisfaction. After my mother's death, my research gave my father and I another common interest. As we worked together I came to appreciate and admire his acute memory and his personal history. Personally, I have acquired greater insight into them as people, the lives they lived and the impact it has made on me as a person. Many of my friends have become interested and have started researching their own families. My own family has progressed from being tolerant of my new passion to very interested in what I have discovered. Through my research I have reconnected with family I was totally unaware of. Along with a friend who I met through genealogy classes we have established our own business, developing curriculum, teaching classes and doing research for others in genealogy.	Yes my family members are interested but not to the extent that they wish to do research on their own or to help me out. I have had far more success with my friends who now have started researching their own families. Right now I am working on my nieces and nephews in hopes that someone will take over all the material I have collected. One of my nieces has expressed an interest in taking over after I have gone.
11	47	Female	Hamilton, ON	Scottish and English	Retired Teacher	1994	Death of last parent in 1993	I have become more knowledgeable about history and have a much greater appreciation of the pioneer life experience.	Yes
12	60	Female	Melville, SK	Irish	Researcher	41 years ago.	I couldn't keep track of my husband's 10 aunts, uncles and children. His grandmother gave me a chart with all their names on it. A first cousin of mine did my father's side family and I found it very interesting		Yes I have without much luck

<i>Number</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>When did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>Why did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others?</i>	<i>Have you encouraged other family members?</i>
13	28	Female	Central Butte, SK	White	Mom of 3	2 years ago	I want to make my son a family tree for his book.	It has given me a new direction to take (career wise)	No.
14	61	Female	Saskatchewan	English, German, Irish	Retired Teacher	about 10 years ago	I found a letter in my mother's effects describing a connection to an important American businessman, and I decided to try and see if there was a relationship.	I have found it to be immensely rewarding. I have met several distant cousins I did not know before. I have shared my research findings with many relatives.	Yes
15	71	Female	Melville, SK	French, Irish	Greenhouse Manager	I have been interested most of my life. Both my mother and my father talked about what they knew of the family.	I have always wanted to fill in the blanks of my Father's family. Some one had done a bit of research on the ... but only went so far. My mother had stories of her Irish family but only a few facts.	Like most families some of my children are interested and some are not. I have helped a few others get started and get information. It really does take a lot of time.	I have been working on this with my family.
16	57	Female	Rosthern, SK	German from Russia Pre 1800 from Alsace/Lorraine, Germany or France	Counselor @ Regional College re; education, training (B Ed, BSW)	When I was 16 my dad's maternal cousin created a family book for the ... side of the family I remember I thought at the time the ... side should be done.	Because of my ... surname. Were we related to the ... of... fame???	It has become a 'passion' for me. My relatives denote me as the fount of family knowledge. It is an all encompassing passionate hobby.	Yes
17	76	Male	Wolford Twp, Grenville County, Ontario	Predominantly Irish - some English and Dutch	Retired	Approximately 1950 - only got personally serious during the last 4 years.	My father was deceased and my mother living alone. On visits we talked about ancestors. As a result of those discussions my mother wrote many letters and assembled much information - little verified.	It has made me much more aware of history in the relevant areas - Sask. Ontario, Ireland, US and beyond. It has brought me and members of my family much closer together and introduced all of us to relatives we did not know we had. Personally, it has given me a worthwhile and interesting and challenging project for my retirement years - dedicated to future generations.	Yes, but successful in only 3 - 4 instances. However, many have assembled most if not all data for their immediate families.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>When did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>Why did you become interested in genealogy?</i>	<i>What impact has your genealogical research had on you or others?</i>	<i>Have you encouraged other family members?</i>
18	34	Male	Saskatoon	Mix of Norwegian, French, Scottish, English, Irish, German and Welsh	Agronomist	10-13 years old	Came across family history that had been written in the 1960's. My parents supported genealogical research.	My wife's family has become more interested in their history. I have definitely found my passion and interest for my life. Sorry, no rich relatives or piles of money or claim to any throne.	Yes, I have probably planted the seed with anyone I have requested information from.
19	59	Female	Calgary, AB	Canadian (English)	Clerk	1999	Marriage break up. I wanted to learn more about my family history. I needed to gain a sense of my identity.	Added dimension to my life that I am sharing with my family members.	Yes

## Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

<i>Number</i>	<i>Did you undertake genealogical research before SGS?</i>	<i>Why did you decide to join SGS?</i>	<i>When did you join the SGS?</i>	<i>What committees or local branches have you joined?</i>	<i>What SGS Conferences have you attended?</i>	<i>Have you taken any researcher courses?</i>	<i>Do you believe that these courses have helped?</i>
1	Yes	To learn about new avenues of information	About 1981	Moose Jaw Branch Led committee for Rosedale Cemetery and Moose Jaw Cemetery	None	No.	N/A
2	Yes	Contact with experienced family history hunters for advice and sources of information	March 2003	Saskatoon Branch	None, but plan to attend annual seminar [October 2003 in Saskatoon]	Not yet	N/A
3	No, I started research after taking an introductory genealogy course from the SGS in 1974.	I joined the genealogical society because there were few guidebooks available in the late 1970's so it was much easier to draw upon the experience of others to make the task easier.	1976	SGS and Regina Branch.	I have attended all but a few annual meetings and seminars since 1976.	.... These courses are modified each time they are given to reflect the new databases or records that we learn exist. Emphasis is placed on what the records are, where they are located and how to use them to further genealogical research in relation to other records that are available.	I am biased because I know I would never have had the time or knowledge to use the records as effectively. Furthermore as students take the courses we are learning about more records and how to use them. By sharing this information with one another and writing articles for the SGS Bulletin we teach the larger genealogical community how to use of them.

<i>Number</i>	<i>Did you undertake genealogical research before SGS?</i>	<i>Why did you decide to join SGS?</i>	<i>When did you join the SGS?</i>	<i>What committees or local branches have you joined?</i>	<i>What SGS Conferences have you attended?</i>	<i>Have you taken any researcher courses?</i>	<i>Do you believe that these courses have helped?</i>
4	No	I needed help on how to start, where to look - all that.	1996	Border Branch #21	Prince Albert 1996 Saskatoon 1998, (2001?) Regina 2002, 2000 Since I started attending in 1996 I've missed Moose Jaw and Estevan	Completed Record Searcher and almost done Researcher	I probably could have started without them but I don't think I would have expanded my knowledge nearly as well or as quickly as I've done without the courses.
5	I did not do much before joining SGS.	I decided from the start that the thing to do was to find others who knew how to do genealogy. I looked in the phone book and found the SGS listed, after talking with a friend where I work, who was already a member, I decided to pay a visit to the library. After that I was hooked. At the beginning I joined the SGS and the Irish Club here in Regina, the SGS is still my mentor and support, the Irish Club has folded.	1990 or 1991	Regina Branch...	I have been at most of the Seminars since the first one I attended in 1991. I have taken many workshops that have been done other than Seminars.	Yes, I am a Certified Record Searcher and Certified Researcher. I am currently enrolled in the Instructor Course.	I thought I was a pretty good researcher until I took the course. Then I found out just how much I did not know! The courses have been [of] great benefit in learning about what resources are available. But more importantly, I learned to develop better research strategies and to be more aware of the ethical standards and conduct of a researcher.
6	Yes	I needed to learn how to research my roots properly. I also saw and still see, great value in the membership. I am now a private researcher and it is important to me to have access to the huge genealogical library at SGS.	Mid 1980's	College of Certified Saskatchewan Genealogist (CCSG).	Annual seminars: Melfort, Regina, Saskatoon. Annual general meetings with workshops on 'health history', 'library sources' Workshops: England, Ireland, Scotland, Quebec, Ontario, Metis, LDS Family History Centres,	Yes, I am a Certified Saskatchewan Record Searcher and Certified Saskatchewan Researcher.	Yes, the courses helped me to find and learn about the various sources in Saskatchewan. However, I think I have learned to use the sources through my own experiences and research. I believe one could perform research without having taken any SGS courses, but I think it would be a longer process to find the 'end result'.

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7	No real research before joining SGS — but I had gathered some information and made some contacts.	I lived in isolated communities in northern Saskatchewan and found their lending library a great interest. I borrowed lots of their resources initially.	late 1970s	Branches-Swift Current and Regina... College of Certified Saskatchewan Genealogists...	Almost all since the late 1980s.	Record Searcher Researcher	I certainly was and could have continued to research without the courses. They gave me a greater, hands-on knowledge of sources in Saskatchewan and for Saskatchewan research. They also instilled a greater sense of ethics - particularly as it pertains to doing research for others.
8	Yes	It was one of the first genealogical organizations that I was aware of that was relevant to me and my research interests.	1980s - but lapsed memberships	Quill Plains Branch	One annual seminar	First part of Record Searcher Course	Yes, information provided was beneficial (some previously unknown resources, etc)
9	Yes	I met ... at the library and he invited me to the local branch meeting - I enjoyed it and decided to join.	Not given	Saskatoon branch ...	Seminars in Prince Albert, Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon	Yes - I took the researcher course but didn't write the test ...	Yes it was a big help - it made me realize I had to be more careful in my sourcing.
10	No, one of the first things I did was go to the Genealogical Society to present my initial problem and consult on what and where I should go next.	After chatting briefly with the librarian it was very evident that very little help would be forthcoming unless I took out a membership.	September 1997	Family History Fair Committee...	International Genealogical Conference, Regina 2002 SGS Seminars, 1999-2001, Moose Jaw, Estevan, Regina	I am a certified Saskatchewan Record Searcher, Researcher and Instructor through the courses offered at the SGS.	The Record Searcher and Researcher courses have been most helpful and have given me the sound foundation for research in Saskatchewan. I could have performed research without them but not as efficiently, it would have taken some time to fumble my way through.

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11	Not really	To learn how to do genealogy and to borrow books from their library.	1996	Saskatoon Branch of the SGS	1995-1998, 2000, 2002 SGS Conferences One day workshops - Ontario research, British Isles Research Branch leaders workshop	Saskatchewan Record Searcher Saskatchewan Researcher	I might have been able to perform the research but not to the standards under which I operate now and I did not know about some of the sources. I have also been exposed to the operations and holdings of various research facilities, archives in particular.
12	Yes	We moved back to the province.	1995	Saskatoon Branch	Last Saskatoon conference, a workshop for Ontario and one for England.	Yes. The record searcher and the researcher	I always learn something at a course.
13	Yes	Because I want access to books in their library and to have others to talk with.	May 2003	Saskatoon branch	None...	On the waiting list to start	You can do a lot of research but they give you new places and ideas. Also train you.
14	Yes	To learn from others Access to (SGS) Library	about 2000	Saskatoon Branch	Regina Conference, July 2002 Saskatoon Conference, October 2003	I have enrolled in the record searcher course, January 2004 - none taken previously	N/A



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15	Yes, I took a class at ... given by member of the Saskatoon branch. It started my research after that.	To meet other people who were interested in genealogy and to find people working in the countries that I was.	About 1997 or 1998	Saskatoon Branch...	A workshop and annual meeting held by the SGS last spring (2003) Seminar held last October by the Saskatoon SGS	I am going to take the record researcher course that is going to be given at the end of January 2004.	The beginners course ... was the best course I could have taken. I doubt very much that I would have continued on researching without the instructions given by those two teachers. They were excellent. That was a great base for doing genealogy properly and for learning more.
16	Yes	Because I belonged to the Germans from Russia Heritage Society I thought I should join the local society	1997 or 1998	Saskatoon branch of SGS GRHS out of Bismark, ND, numerous mailing lists on the Internet	SGS Seminar in 2002 SGS Seminar in 2003	Instructor Class Record Searcher Researcher	Helped tremendously - found out sources never realized existed.
17	Very limited - helped my mother structure and document the info she assembled	I wanted to join the Saskatoon branch in order to attain a network of (with) others who could help me with my project. In joining the branch, I was encourage to also join the SGS, to receive their publications and have more ready access to their resources.	About 2000	Member of the Saskatoon branch	The 1998 and 2003 Seminars. I have not participated in workshops but did participate in the 2003 Heritage Society (Saskatoon) day at which our branch provided displays, etc.	No, I have not.	N/A

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18	Yes. Seriously around 1998 but had collected information since age 13.	1) Networking 2) Information resource - I knew that there were people out there with brick walls like mine and had knocked them down.	December 2002	Saskatoon Branch ....	Oct. 2003 in Saskatoon - Seminar	Planning on taking the record searcher course in January 2004	Yes. The people I have met and presenters have introduced me to definite shortcuts.
19	Not much	I wanted to learn what resources were available and meet others who had experience doing research	September 2002	Saskatoon branch	October 2003 Saskatoon Seminar October 2002 - SGS Regina Workshops - compiling and publishing your family history, taking the next step	No	The courses (workshops) I have taken have definitely helped me by directing my searches.

## Genealogy and the Internet

Number	Have you used the Internet for genealogical research?	If Yes what sources?	What archival sources on the Internet have you used?	Any archival sources that would be useful on the Internet?	Any problems using the Internet?	How has Internet improved your search?	Can genealogists use Internet solely for research?
1	No - but just got the Internet hooked up last week. Hopefully I will learn	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No - Not as far as I am concerned.
2	Yes, without it I would never have started	All free sources and some that require payment such as Ancestry.com.	Latter Day Saints, Rootsweb, Ancestry.com mainly.	All would be.	There are a lot of repetitive and inaccurate data that must be sifted through.	I have found most of the information I have there and have made contact with a lot of other searchers willing to share their information and experience.	No, but it is an excellent starting point.
3	Yes	ArchiviaNet Library Catalogues Archives pages - HBCA, Glenbow, BC Vital Stats CAIN Family history catalogue and resource guides the library has produced PANL - source for Metis roots and also used NFDL GenWeb pages which are indexing NFDL archive records	NB Archives for Metis research - databases helped make quick searching Western Land Grants DB - but still likes SAB homestead index better. Post offices and Postmasters - good source for 1901 and 1906 census districts. Still prefers to use microfilm - dial up Internet is slow - no access to census images.	Sask. Homestead index - but nothing takes the place of reading the original document yourself.	Many databases are not checked for accuracy before they are posted Much of the information on the Genweb pages is inaccurate or not kept up to date.	It has shorten[ed] research time looking for film numbers. The FA are most valuable with explanations about the resources and how information that falls under the Privacy Act or FOI can be obtained. Outlines about archival collections alert one to other sources that could/should be searched. If I remember to check the 'news' sections I can take part in special events at research centres and save myself a trip if the centre is closed.	NO. The Internet is a useful tool but nothing replaces searching the complete record for yourself.
4	Yes, I've done some.	ArchiviaNet Family Search.org - LDS Ancestry.com ISC Online	Glenbow - CPR Land Database.	Census Records (Images).	Several of the USA Databases don't have much available free of charge (LDS Family Search excepted).	It has helped me to order records in for viewing. It has expanded my knowledge of availability of resources.	No. I think it is an excellent tool for finding sources of information and for learning more about the institutions who provide info as well for making contact with the staff, but as far as doing actual research I think you still need to look at the source documents.

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5	Yes	I mostly use archives and library catalogs. I like to get into catalogs and inventories as much as I can. I have briefly been on a couple of the listserv mailing lists and have posted queries on Bulletin Boards. I have made purchases from bookstores online and paid membership fees online. I look for online databases relevant to my area of research, particularly if the site is operated by a genealogical society or some similar type of organization.	I use the National Archives regularly, particularly their searchable databases, such as the Western Land Grants, the CEF WWI and the government papers. I try to find archives in any country or state/province I am searching in to look for databases or catalogs and inventories.	I would like to see more searchable catalogs and finding aids online. Databases are great, but I also want to know what can be borrowed through ILL as I want to get closer to the source than a database.	As mentioned above the lack of being able to find what is in a particular archive is usually my biggest stumbling block. I have run into people on listserv etc that do not cite their sources, but those people can be ignored. There is far too much "pushy" commercialism on some sites such as ancestry.com and genealogy.com that I do not like and don't use much. The biggest problem with Internet is likely the lack of integrity in the data to be found. There are far too many websites with so called family histories that do not have sources cited and proven.	It has been great for being able to find what kinds of resources are out there. Before the Internet you had to go there in person or hire someone. Now, at least you can get a good idea of what you are going to find in a library/archive before you go in person.	The Internet is a great resource and tool for finding things but it is not a source. For meeting the genealogical proof standard things found on the Internet are not sufficient. Everything on the Internet is a derived or secondary source that must be verified by getting as close to the original as possible, so the Internet is usually just the starting point for finding genealogical evidence. Despite the huge amount of material on the Internet there is still far more out there that is not on the Internet. Genealogy often requires more than just finding some straightforward records, it is a matter of correlating bits and pieces of evidence found in any number of sources and knowing the history, culture and laws of the area. The Internet doesn't even come close for doing this kind of work.
6	Yes	Many sources...National Archives of Canada's Archivanet, Scotland's people, Scottish Archives Network, Sask Archives, Ellis Island, Allen County library, Toronto Public Library, LDS's familysearch	NAC, SCAN, all of the above	It would be extremely useful to have the homestead index for Saskatchewan on the Internet.	Finding too much information that is not sourced. I will not believe anything unless I can find the original source and check it myself.	Instant access to many records is very valuable for me as a private researcher. I can do much of the 'leg-work' for clients at home using various sources; ie. ArchivaNet, Library catalogues, Familysearch...	No.  Note: I have also taken an on-line Scotland course with David Webster (a professional genealogist/lecturer from Scotland) offered by Ancestry.com through Myfamily.com I did not include this with the SGS courses.
7	Yes.	I have used: mail lists, special interest sites, indexes, archives and libraries databases of resources	Census, Indexes to archives sources, databases	More lists of what the archive has on hand would be a great way to start. That way you know what might be useful before you get there to look at their cards.	Not being able to ensure that the information is correct or complete.	Some of the indexes and on-line information from resources outside Regina -- allow me to do some work from here before going into the resource itself. I can also purchase information or copies of information without having to leave home.	NO. You seldom get copies of original documentation on the Net. The indexes and someone else's information is not sufficient to use for ensuring that you have correct information.

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8	Yes	Many many many Rootsweb message boards and mailing lists, Norway online census; NAC land records, post offices database, WW 1 Soldiers database, census, USA Social Security Death Index, Genweb pages for various countries and states, etc etc	census records church records, etc	Online SK Vital Stats database	Possibility in error transcription, no one is available to answer questions that might arise	It has greatly improved communication, as messages can be sent with a reply arriving the same day. The vast amount of information available would take one year to track down if it was necessary to visit or write to each location to obtain the information.	No, however it is a good tool.
9	Yes (See rest of response under Any problems)	Personal web pages, Archvianet, transcribed records, Ancestry.com, society sites, genweb sites, etc	[At]testation papers, scanned books, scanned census records	Scanned church records, voters lists, town and city directories (the last two would be nice if they were searchable), naturalization papers, ship lists, border crossing lists, Birth, Marriage and Death registrations, the 1940 national registration, and I'm sure that there are many more things that could be put out there by the archives.	Accuracy I use that information as a 'guide' only, because there is so much misinformation out there. I have found and proven to myself (as well as a few other people) that there are so many errors out there on the net. What really gets my goat is that you can prove they have errors and they will still not correct them; this is when I wish I could just rip their site off the net. I have given a lecture at the local Family History Fair on the pitfalls of just using the net for your research - as you can see this is a very touchy subject for me. These people that put their family history on the net and use information they found on the net are far as I am concerned are not real genealogists - they are 'name collectors'. I always if at all possible double check the actual records (the records have been microfilmed or the actual files that I can get copies of) to see if the information I found is correct.	Somewhat	No - they need to make good use of the actual records as much as possible. They need to use the net as a guide only.

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10	Yes, I use the Internet a lot.	ArchiviaNet, Family Search, Ancestry, MyFamily, SGEE, Veteran's Affairs, Municipal Directory, Department of Immigration, Search Engines, Library Websites, Vital Stats websites, Ellis Island, Glenbow.	Western Land Grants, CPR Land, Military Records, Message Boards, Census Records, BDM Indexes, lists of Microfilmed Records, Surname Searches, Ship's Manifests, Memorial Sites, Military Book of Remembrance, Library Catalogues	Homestead Index Files, indexes for other sources available such as Municipal records, School Files, Military Information. It would be wonderful to have a complete online listing of materials available at the archives.	I have not really encountered any real serious problems other than of a technical nature.	The Internet has made accessing various sources much easier and efficient. It allows me to be better prepared for doing my onsite research.	No, the Internet is a very useful tool providing easy access to a variety of information. It does not allow you to view the actual documents which is essential in getting a more complete picture of events as well as collecting direct and indirect evidence. It also does not provide you with the onsite experience where you can gain all sorts of help. There are also lots of sites on the Internet which do not always provide the most accurate information.
11	Yes	Depending on your definition of source - mailing lists, databases, indices, scanned images of primary documents and books.	Databases, indices, scanned images of primary documents.	Probably, if I had a greater knowledge of what there is for archival sources. The Internet has been a tremendous boost to the National Archives and Archives of Ontario just because people are now able to see what is in their holdings and also to be educated about them! Lists of microfilm numbers for films available for interlibrary loan is, in itself, a priceless source.	Indices are not always accurate or complete.	It has opened up the PRO and GROS in the British Isles to me. Also the various websites have a wealth of maps, parish lists, history, etc. that would be difficult or more time consuming to get elsewhere. It has allowed me to find far removed 'cousins' working on similar lines way, way back and to be exposed to others working in the same geographical areas who have been transcribing LDS films.	Not a chance!!!
12	Yes	Web pages for the countries Canada, USA, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany and Switzerland	National Archives Ontario Archives British, Scottish, Irish, US Archives	N/A	There are not enough images or documents.	The Internet has opened up sites (ex. NA) to find film numbers to send for.	No. They need to check original documents or films or microfiche images of originals.
13	Yes	Genweb, Rootsweb, Cyndi's List, Government sites, mailing list.	BMD, Census, Wills, Military	More records that could be searched online.	Verifying source, confirming overseas addresses.	I would not have been able to start without the Internet.	Yes, it would be possible if the records were available.

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14	Yes	Family Search Cyndi's List Google Searches Genealogical Societies Family Names	Census BMD Sites	More BMD for U.S. States More Census Info	Some sites require money Not everything you want to find is available Don't know how accurate info is - I've found many errors in IGI postings.	It has made it vastly easier, timewise, browsing. I have made several connections with relatives Very easy to communicate with researchers I have hired.	No.
15	Yes	Ancestry.com; Vital Stats, BC, Family History Centre, Ellis Island and others	Archives in Ottawa Vital Stats from BC	I am really not sure what other records I would like to see available.	Some of the input is from other researchers and I have found some of the information to be incorrect.	I have found places to look for further information.	No. The information with copies of the original records are valuable but some of the information from other researchers is incorrect.
16	Yes	Listserve - Closed list for Kutschurgan area of Russia National Archives, American National Archives	Immigration 1925-1935 Dominion land claims 1906 census Home children	Border Crossing Index Ship List Index Contents of RG microfilms esp. the ones with Immigrant shed lists.	Not knowing if info is correct (sourced) SID (NAC Census software) problems.	Facilitated "meeting" real live relatives.	No - info may be incorrect.
17	Yes to a limited extent	Rootsworld Review, Ancestry Daily News, Interlink bookshop, NAC, RootsWeb World Connect, Ontario Cemetery Findings, Merrickville Public Library, Genuki, Obituaries, Ontario Newspapers, Cyndi's List, British Ancestors	NAC (Canadian Genealogical Centre), BMD, Census, Immigration Records, Newspapers and Obituaries SAB, U of S Archives	Yes, as many as possible. It can be quite costly, relatively, to visit the archives.	a) finding useful websites b) Uncertainty re: whether free service or fee involved.	a) increased speed and lessened cost of getting at selected information. B) through meeting relatives through the Internet it has greatly enhanced my research findings (several whole branches of family found).	No, I do not feel so to date. There is much general guidance and information available, but limited specific information eg: family data, verifying documents, etc.
18	Yes	NAC 1871 Census, LDS, Cyndi's List, Private family webpages, genealogy.com, family tree DNA, InGeneas, Archives of Ontario, RootsWeb	NAC, Archives of Ontario	More census information More vital statistics	None - just not able to find everything I need so I have to go to other sources.	I can search for specific names, join discussion groups, put queries on the net (which have resulted in amazing contacts), join surname lists.	No! The information on the Net is a great place to start and make contacts. Nothing replaces interviewing people or visiting graveyards.
19	Yes	Family Search Archives.ca Canadian Biography Online	1881 British Isles, ON Index Veterans Affairs - WW1 Dept of Indian and Northern Affairs	Maps	Only being able to search a name by surname plus first name. My grandfather was called by his THIRD name.	I keep finding out more interesting information that encourages me to keep on looking. Have found an unexpected link to Saskatchewan's history (1885).	No we need to verify the information with certificates (birth/christening, marriage, death, military, etc).

## Genealogy and Archives Survey Responses

<i>Number</i>	<i>What archival resources have you consulted in SK and outside SK?</i>	<i>Have you researched in person, email, mail or telephone?</i>	<i>Experiences: In person visits?</i>	<i>Experiences: Telephone Calls?</i>	<i>Experiences: Email?</i>	<i>Experiences: Mail?</i>	<i>Initial perception of archives?</i>	<i>Has initial perception changed?</i>
1	Mormon Church - SLC and Moose Jaw Swedish records in Sweden-performed by qualified researcher Canadian Census records Homestead Funeral records Tombstones/Cemeteries British records researched by qualified researcher	No - Too expensive for long distance calls	In the early stages of my research I needed a great deal of help in order to learn. Time proved to be the essence of patience	N/A	N/A	Letters often remained unanswered when written to individuals. Letters written to Libraries/Churches/Archives/Museums were usually answered with competence	My initial perception was that Archives would have "old" and "unimaginative" materials	I certainly appreciate the importance of collecting and protecting the history of our pioneers/this province and our nation, supported by the balance of data from other Nations.
2	U of S and Saskatoon Public Libraries, Mormon Family History Centre Internet searches, newsgroups, Rootswab and Ancestry.com	Just starting to do so; extensive email correspondence with people with similar interest areas	Few done so far; quite time consuming.	Not very practicable except as last resort	Best and most efficient way	Okay, if necessary	I have used archives of information extensively in my work as a university professor...	No change
3	Ship passenger lists, homestead records, school district records, 1955 school histories, newspapers, census records - at SAB Used Aboriginal sources - scrip, sessional papers for her new course research at NAC, AO, BC Archives, LDS records in Saskatoon and in SLC	... I have spent many hours doing personal and client research [at SAB Regina]. I have also taken the opportunity to do research at the office in Saskatoon. Because of this I have not had to telephone or email the office.	I find the archives staff to be most helpful. If I explain what it is I am trying to find they can recommend where I might find the answers and usually know of other records that could be of as much or more help than what I'm looking for. Because I have been around the archives for so long staff often keep an eye out for other materials and point out new findings that have come to light as a result of research conducted by others.	I haven't used this service because it's so easy for me to go to the archives. However, on occasion, staff have called the Saskatoon office when homestead records were missing or they weren't sure what advice to give about records found in Saskatoon.	I haven't used email up until now. BUT I have used the website to double check information in Exploring Family History or the Directory of MP's and Federal Elections of the NWT and Saskatchewan if I'm at the lake or don't have my copy with me.	I haven't written to the archives for help BUT I have been most impressed with letters I have seen that were written to clients who had contacted the archives by mail.	I had no idea. I assumed archives were much like libraries. When I first started using SAB the Regina office was located on the top floor of the library building. Staff were very friendly and anxious to help. Security was not the issue as it is today.	Many of the staff who were there when I first started researching are still on staff. However, the current staff are just [as] willing to help. I have been particularly impressed with the personnel who work with government records on 13th Ave. They have gone out of their way to teach us about the court records in the collection.



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4	Used resources at SAB Saskatoon - homestead files Email to Regina SAB Frances Morrison Library -Local History Room, Newspapers, Reference Collections RPL - Prairie History Room NAC Databases Queen's Bench records, Saskatoon	All of the above	Staff have always been friendly and helpful. I have not always found what I was looking for in terms of results but the resources have been made available with promptness and courtesy	As Above	I've usually had good results with email.	Haven't made any requests by mail but have received photocopies requested, by mail.	Rather overwhelming the volume of information available and the knowledge required to make use of it.	Yes, it's been like everything else - you learn a little at a time, you try to make use of what you've learned to learn more. The staff are like your tour guides through the records, always helpful with suggestions.

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5	<p>I am in the SAB Regina regularly. I have not visited the SAB Saskatoon in person but have borrowed from there through Regina. I also use the Prairie History Room at the Regina Public Library, which has archival material.</p> <p>I often borrow from the Archives of Ontario through Inter-library loan and have done the same for Provincial Archives of Manitoba. I use the National Archives of Canada online frequently and also borrow film through ILL.</p> <p>I have visited the Glenbow Archives in Calgary and the Medicine Hat Archives in Medicine Hat, AB.</p> <p>I spent a couple of days in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast, (which is the archives for NI) and a day each in the Irish National Archives in Dublin and the Irish National Library.</p> <p>I also use the online resources of the New Brunswick and British Columbia archives.</p>	I have done all of these ways of research at archives.	I have always had the best results from in-person visits. By speaking with the reference archivist you can better explain your problem and get a better understanding of the archives resources.	I have not done much archive use by phone. The only time I can recall was when I made some calls to the Dufferin County Archives in Orangeville, Ontario.	I have used email for several archives and found it to be effective. I got immediate response and when I asked further questions the response was always good.	The only mail I have done is to the National Archives for requesting copies from files. By fax or mail is the only way they accept requests. The response has been good, they warn on the website it will be at least a month.	I didn't know much about them, except that this is where our country's historical documents were held	<p>On my first visit (which was to the Regina SAB) I was quite intimidated, I didn't know who or what to ask, didn't even know what the term "reference archivist" meant!. I was afraid to ask questions in case I sounded stupid, but knew I had to if I was going to get anywhere. Unfortunately, the Regina SAB is not as welcoming as it could be, the reference desk area is often unattended and sometimes newcomers stand around for a while wondering where to go. The building's entrance foyer has no one out there and the signage consists only of the building directory, and that is hard to read so it is not easy to find your way to the reading room area.</p> <p>I eventually have gotten to know the staff and of course, they are great. I have become used to archives now and am not afraid to approach even the most uninviting of desks (and some have been notable in that regard).</p> <p>Now, I am very much more aware of the kinds of things found in the archives and of how important it is to treat the documents carefully. I am endlessly amazed at the variety of things that can be found in an archives.</p>

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6	Saskatchewan Homestead records, court records, census, Ontario, New Brunswick and British Columbia Birth, Marriages and Deaths, newspapers, photographic collections, passenger lists, church records.....etc. In Scotland: Births, Marriages and Deaths, Old Parochial Registers, Kirk Sessions, manuscripts, valuation rolls, tax records...	Yes, I seem to be at the SAB-R more than at home! Yes, I have used email and telephone calls.	very useful to have 'hands on' access to the records. The staff are very helpful in finding and also providing ideas when I use the archives.	very useful when I can not visit the archives in person.	EXTREMELY useful, because I can access the facility on my time. I can formulate a question and have written record of the answer.	I do not use mail anymore. Most Archives I use have email and it is so much faster!	I[A] big scary building full of dusty old papers.	Yes very much so. The archives is now a 'big useful building full of treasures!'
7	Among the resources I have used are: census records, city directories, Cummins maps, ship lists, homestead records, newspapers, federal records - ie border crossings, Dept. of Interior records,  I have used many of these outside the province in both Alberta and Manitoba.	I have performed research in person at archives - in Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Calgary.  I have not used the other methods indicated at this point.	good - especially when I have done my homework, know what I am looking for and what I need.	N/A	N/A	N/A	I am not sure I was even aware of them prior to learning about them through genealogy. I expect that any knowledge of them was that they kept old/historical things for use by museums. Before actually using them I guess I thought they would be like a library.	As I have used the resources, I have found that you get more information if you know what you want, talk to the staff. Some staff are of course more helpful than others - that likely depends on what you are needing to know. Staff are very helpful if you let them.
8	In Saskatchewan - homestead, school, pioneer questionnaires Outside Saskatchewan - census, plat books, Births, Marriages and Deaths records, church records, landholding records, cemetery records	mainly in person in Saskatchewan, outside of Saskatchewan by mail, email and in person	often beneficial because other available sources can also be consulted, in addition to the one(s) in mind when making the initial visit.	N/A	Generally very prompt, but with the drawback of being impersonal and only consulting one source.	Same as email - also can be a lengthy process.	Very formal	As I made more and more visits I became more acquainted with the staff, which often leads to discovering alternative sources, discussion of related 'current news' in the field, etc.

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9	Saskatchewan - homestead records, newspapers, border crossing records National - church records, voters lists, books and the staff checked their computer records they have for CP Railway (the CPR's I needed was in their database) NS - Church records, books, marriage registration, files SSGS (Lunenburg NS) - church records, school records, funeral home records, files that people left with the South Shore Genealogical Society, family history books	Mail and phone calls - have not used email yet.	Some of the microfilming was not desirable (poor quality), I enjoy the archives that let me do my own copying instead of waiting for the staff being able to do it. I also enjoy also the fact when you need a file copied, even if you are short of change for you to pay for your photocopying they will bill you (I enjoy that trust - though I do understand there are people that abuse that trust) I like that they have archivists available to explain how their cataloguing works and if you don't have the foggiest idea what records are available or where they are in the archives and what records you should use in your research - they take the time explaining everything you should know and don't make you feel stupid not knowing all this stuff.	Again very helpful	N/A	Again very helpful	Ivory Towerists	Yes - friendly (not Ivory towerists), helpful - interested in history like I am and preserving that history.

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10	SAB Saskatoon and Regina, NAC	All of the above	The staff have always been pleasant and helpful. I have been able to locate the materials I needed easily.	Once again this has been a pleasant experience. The staff again are most helpful and accommodating. The response to my requests have been very prompt.	In spite of the warning that there may be some time before the email will be answered I have found the responses to my email inquiries to be very prompt. My inquiries have all been answered with other suggestions as to what I can do and where else I can look. I also appreciate the acknowledgement that my email has been received.	Once again the mail response has been very prompt with more helpful information I requested.	I was very uncertain as to what to expect when I went to the Archives. A good part of my hesitation was not knowing what was there or how to access it. This same feeling has been expressed by many of our students. I guess it is the same feeling you have for any government institution, cold and impersonal.	My remarks pertain mostly to the Regina location. My perception changed immensely as I enjoy going to the Archives to work. The staff is most friendly and helpful. Even if you do not ask for help directly they will check to see if you need anything, how you are progressing with your work or advise you of any new materials that are now onsite. There has been a comfort zone established which helps make my visits to the Archives most productive. It is for this reason that we hold a class at the Archives so that our students can also establish this comfort zone. The staff at the Archives takes the time to conduct a tour for our students which helps them understand more fully just what the Archives is all about.
11	Saskatchewan - homestead records Ontario - Birth, Marriage and Deaths, wills, land petitions, land abstracts, Tweedsmuir histories, WW 1 Attestation papers Scotland - civil records, parochial records, wills England - wills	In person and email	The staff is very helpful, thank goodness! I still find an archives the most difficult place to find things	N/A	For basic, simple questions, this is an excellent way to get quick answers	N/A	I do not think I had one since archives were not part of my life. If I did, it was probably of dirty, dusty, dark places with piles of stuff that a person would wonder why it is being kept.	Yes. I now know more about what is held in an archives AND because of my increased appreciation for that kind of material, I can see the value in them.
12	National Archives Ontario Archives US National Archives, Washington DC US National Archives, Seattle, WA SAB - Saskatoon and Regina	I have performed in person research at SAB Saskatoon and Regina and NA in Seattle. For the others I have used mail.	My experiences have been good at all archival sources once I figured out how everything worked.	Good	Good I get an answer back	I got an answer back	I don't think I had one.	Yes, I've learned more about the call number system making it easier for me to find info.

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13	I have used the homestead files (Saskatchewan) census, and church records England the BMD	Yes for all	Always helpful staff	Very friendly	Very quick	takes a little longer but good responses.	It would be much larger	I realized that it's not that big
14	SAB Saskatoon US Military I have hired researchers elsewhere who may have used archives.	In person in Saskatoon I have used email and mail outside of Saskatoon	Staff at Saskatoon very helpful. Easy to find info I was looking for in homestead records and passenger lists	N/A	I have had prompt replies in all cases. I prefer email above all other methods	Satisfactory	I did not think they would be so people-friendly I had no idea what was held in archives	Yes, I am no longer intimidated about approaching archives.
15	I did some research at the archives at the U of S (SAB) through them I got very valuable information. I also did some research in the archives in Ottawa. Again I was able to access some very good information. I was able to get civil war records for an American archives.	I have researched in both archives here at the U of S and in Ottawa in person. I have also phoned both and written letters to the archives in Ottawa	The in-person visit here was very productive and the staff at the time were very helpful. Again the staff in Ottawa were very helpful and I was able to get the information I wanted.	U of S - good - they even copied some material for me to pick up.	I really haven't used this to get information -	Some of the replies were informative. Some other responses were less than what I would expect from an archives (Ottawa Only)	I really didn't think much about them other than being a keeper of records.	Yes. I have found that there is a great deal of information for genealogists if we learn how to get it.
16	Homestead flats, school records, directories, RM records, Local Histories, microfilm of early SK documents, census records, ship records, border crossing.	In person in SK and everything else outside of SK.	It got better when I realized what I needed to get (I was more informed and knew what sources to ask for).	Not many calls - mainly for answers to questions.	Not many but basically good.	National Archives - good - phone when they thought that cost was prohibitive.	Thought staff was helpful. Wished there was a comprehensive list of what there was in the archives.	After I took courses in genealogy I realized that some of the advice given by staff was not up to genealogical standards. Staff told me which pages to have photocopied of homestead file. I had to go back and get the rest because I needed the rest. Staff should be required to take genealogical classes. Bibliography is different for genealogical sources.

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17	I have used computer search engines and consulted with staff at U of S (SAB) on several occasions and spent 3 days at the National Archives in Ottawa.	Yes in several occasions. Used email and mail and telephone seldom.	Friendly, introductory, useful though of limited value in the Irish research I was doing. More useful for Sask. Resources.	Limited	Prompt response to limited requests.	Ok, but seldom used due to close proximity to campus.	a) Remote, reserved and rather complicated with whom to deal b) perceived a technical process involved that might be quite time consuming in order to find and use resources c) unsure of what one could expect from staff	a) Staff generally friendly and helpful B) Not too certain how well each is informed on genealogical research methods and resources (perhaps this was always the case for me - could be an initial perception as well) c) it takes more patience and time than initially perceived.
18	Arch resources - NAC Internet, census records, Western Land grants In SK - LDS FHC microfilm None outside SK	None in-person Yes - Internet only	N/A	N/A	Very user-friendly	N/A	A place where I can find the answers. I was not aware of the archives in Saskatoon to be honest but need to make a point of visiting now.	N/A
19	NAC microfilms FHC Saskatoon - fiche and computer AFHS - Volunteer provided photocopies of information in community history books about some of my family members Isle of Wight - Shanklin - volunteer searched PRO files for my ancestors - emailed results	In person research done at Sask. Archives, U of S. Email for research to Anglican Archives in Ontario	Very helpful staff. Can only go occasionally because I work full time. I didn't have a clear idea of what I was looking for but obtained homestead records.	N/A	N/A	N/A	That the information contained in the archives wouldn't be indexed so that I could find specific data pertaining to my family, (eg. There were 20 ... families for applied for homesteads in the 1880's at Regina)	Yes, as I learn more about my ancestors, I can be more specific about the questions to ask.

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