

NBGS MIRAMICHI BRANCH NEWS LETTER



FEBRUARY 2017

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We begin another year and 2017 has already made its mark as one we will long remember. The ice storm of late January severely impacted the Miramichi and beyond and many of our members endured periods without power and other basic amenities. Our neighbours further north on the peninsula were harder it than us and our thoughts were with them during this difficult time.

February has brought us one snow storm after another – evoking memories of winters past when we had more than our share of the white stuff. Leaves some of us envying our snowbird members who are enjoying the sunny south right now!

At the end of 2016, I completed my two year term as President of Miramichi Branch. I want to thank all members, especially those on the executive, for their support and hard work during the past two years. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

For the first time in a number of years, we start 2017 without a full executive in place. At our annual election of officers in November, we were fortunate to fill some of our positions and we thank those who came forward and those who agreed to continue in their current positions for another term. Two important positions are currently vacant – President and Secretary. We will function in the interim but we need to have these positions filled as soon as possible. We need your active input and

support if we are to remain in existence and move our group forward.

This year, 2017, as Canada celebrates its 150th birthday, Heritage NB is suggesting we use this opportunity to recognize the past contributions made by the people of New Brunswick to Canada. A perfect year to begin to tell your family's story or, if you have been working on it for some time, make this the year you finish it.. As genealogists, we know our story is never complete – there are always changes – but complete it as of 2017. And when you have that committed to paper – we would welcome a copy for our archives. It doesn't have to be a fancy published book – even a few sheets in a duo-tang folder are welcome.

Our branch continues to meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Chatham Library at 6:15. We would love to have you join us. Please note that there will be no evening meeting in February as the Genealogy Open House held on February 18th at the Chatham Library as part of Heritage Week replaced our regular monthly meeting. The next meeting will be March 28th. Hope to see you there.

Submitted: Faye Baisley, President

The tests of life are not to break you but to make you.

NBGS BRANCH EXECUTIVE FOR 2017

President:	vacant
Vice President:	Dianne Mullin
Past President:	Faye Baisley
Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Elsie Stefanyk
Membership Chair:	Corey Ahern
Directors:	Bill Donald Donna Kelly
Provincial Reps:	Marilyn Creamer-Fowler Carolyn Harris



WE REMEMBER

Within the span of two months, NBGS Miramichi Branch lost two of our long time, dedicated members – both of whom served as members of the Branch Executive Board.

Dollypearle Drysdale Martin

Dolly joined Miramichi Branch in 1993 and, as long as her health permitted, she attended meetings regularly. She made a genealogy day of it. She always arrived at the Chatham Library early and worked on research until the time of the meeting where she had her regular place at the end of the table. She served on the executive in a number of capacities including Treasurer and, most recently, Membership Chair. The latter role was one she truly enjoyed. She loved hearing from members, dealing with issues, relative to their membership, helping them with their research, and just plain having a good chat. For those she corresponded with by mail, you could always tell the letter was from Dolly. The outside of the envelope was usually adorned with stickers and inside contained clippings that she thought you would enjoy reading.

She also volunteered at Branch events and especially enjoyed working at the Irish Festival and meeting the people who visited our display.

For the past several years, Dollypearle was a resident at Mount Saint Joseph Nursing Home. Even there, she shared her love of genealogy with staff members and visitors. She eagerly looked forward to receiving her copy of Generations and the Miramichi Branch newsletter. She read them cover to cover as soon as they arrived. As soon as she had her telephone connected there, she volunteered to be our “phone committee” and called local members reminding them of the monthly meetings. She loved having the personal contact again and members enjoyed receiving her calls.

Dollypearle passed away on December 20, 2016. Her funeral service was held at St. Andrew’s United Church, Miramichi on December 29, 2016. The following personal information was contained on the program given out at her funeral:

Born in Douglastown, New Brunswick, she was the daughter of the late John Franklyn Thomas Hanna and Esther Wood and also her adopted parents Edgar Harrison Martin and Mildred Wood. She was a retired service specialist in Maine, a member of the former St. Mark’s United Church in Douglastown and St. Andrew’s United Church, Chatham. Along with being a member of NBGS Miramichi, she was a member of Ever True Rebekah Lodge.

She is survived by three sons James Edgar Drysdale (Nancy) of Disputanta, Virginia, John Andrew Drysdale (Elaine) of Thomaston, Maine and Charles Wesley Drysdale (Dawn) of Brooklyn, New York; two sisters Mildred Roberta Timberlake of Lexington, Mass. and Alice K. Upton of Drumheller, Alberta; two brothers John Franklyn Hanna of Chatham, NB and Wilbur Hanna (Gloria) of Douglastown; 9 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Besides her parents she was predeceased by one sister Linda and one granddaughter Destiny Leigh Drysdale.

Velna Adelle (MacKnight) Dickson

Velna, former President of Miramichi Branch, passed away on February 5, 2017. Velna was one of our charter members having joined in 1991 and remaining active until ill health prevented her from attending meetings. Last year when we celebrated our 25th anniversary, we were honoured to have her cut our anniversary cake.

When we did a profile on Velna a few years ago, she told us that her interest in genealogy began many years ago. It was sparked by sitting at the end of the couch listening to her uncle, George MacKnight, telling how the MacKnight's came to Tyrrell's Point or listening to her father and her uncle, Wesley, from Saint John telling family stories. She began her affiliation with NBGS Miramichi when she called Carmen Williston for a Fowlie-Williston connection and Carmen asked if she would be interested in a genealogy society on the river. She was interested, attended the first meeting, and remained an active member until her death.

Born in Chatham, NB on October 1, 1942, she was the daughter of the late W. Winston and Rubina F. (Jardine) MacKnight.

Velna attended Teacher's College for two years in Fredericton and received her Bachelor of teaching from UNB. She taught school in Napan, CFB Chatham and the Ian Baillie Primary School and retired from teaching in 1996. She was a life member of Carmel United Church where she was a Sunday School teacher and Sunday School Superintendent for many years. She was Board of Stewards and church Treasurer. She was past president of the Miramichi Branch of the NB Genealogical Society, Parkinson's Society, Miramichi Chapter and Miramichi Garden Club. She was an assistant Organizational Leader of the Napan 4-H Club and a NB Provincial 4-H Show Committee member. She always loved being a part of the planning Committee for the Jardine and MacKnight Reunions.

Velna is survived by her daughter Nancy MacLennon (Malcolm) of Grande Prairie, AB; sons Scott Dickson (Tara) of Fredericton, NB and Sheldon Dickson of Grande Prairie, AB; grandchildren Hanna Dickson, Bruce and Emily MacLennon. She was predeceased by her parents, husband Raymond M. Dickson and brother Douglas MacKnight.

As per Velna's request there was no visitation or funeral service. A grave side service will be held in Black River Community Cemetery later in the spring.

Dollypearle and Velna were both long time, dedicated members and we will miss them. On behalf of all branch members, we extend our condolences to their families, friends and genealogy cohorts.

Submitted by: Faye Baisley

MEETING BY MEETING

NBGS Miramichi Branch would like to update members from 'away' as to the activities of the group. With this in mind, we will let you know about the interesting speakers we have had lately and the ones who are booked to speak at the branch meetings.

If you are in the area, plan to drop in. Our meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday evening of the month (with the exception of June, July, August and December) at the Chatham Public Library, King Street, Miramichi East at 6:15 pm.

September - The September meeting started our Fall/Winter schedule. We had no special speaker for September. Our business portion was a catch up after the summer break, initial planning for our December social and finishing up with our annual Meet and Greet with a bit of time to socialize and 'catch up' with other members after the summer break.

October brought us local author and member Ben Donovan. Ben spoke about his newest book, *Beautiful Blackville Meet the Rushing Renous*. He regaled us with interesting stories from his initial research to launch of the publication. One interesting story he told about collecting pictures of the graduation class of each year was that one year there were only two grads, a boy and a girl and they ended up getting married...to each other! (Ben very generously donated a copy of the book to us for our branch library along with a CD of the St. Bridget's Church, Renous records.)

November is always the month of the annual meeting, the one in which we determine our officers for the following year. Election was held and, unfortunately, not all positions were filled. We hope the situation improves in the new year. At the conclusion of the business portion of our meeting, we played a short game. Each member was asked, "Which of your ancestors would you most like to meet and why?" Answers were most thoughtful and funny. Some spontaneous Show & Tell items were shared as well. Leaving on a high note, we wished each other a joyous Christmas holiday.

December – we do not hold a regular monthly meeting in December. We had planned a Christmas Social for Saturday afternoon, December 3, but this was cancelled as we did not have sufficient positive response to hold it. Regrettable, as it would have been a fun afternoon.

January – our January meeting was postponed for a week due to inclement weather. We had a short business meeting to catch up after the Christmas Break. Member Roger Savoy gave a very interesting and informative presentation on his family research into the Savoy and other Acadian lines in his family and what he learned from his DNA testing.

February – no regular Tuesday evening meeting will be held as are participating in a Saturday genealogy workshop at the Chatham Library (February 18th) as part of Heritage Week.

That wraps up our meeting schedule. Until next time, then, have a great winter, digging into your Roots. (*great way to spend a snow day!*)

Submitted by Judy Vautour

HERITAGE DAY GENEALOGY OPEN-HOUSE – February 18th

Date: February 18th

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: Chatham Public Library

Come out and meet with branch members who will be on hand to discuss genealogy issues and share their family stories. Also, see what's new in the Library's research section and our Branch cupboard. Hope to see you there.

IMPORTANT MEETING CHANGE INFO

At the October 2016 regular monthly meeting, the membership approved eliminating the June monthly meeting beginning in 2017. With declining attendance at monthly meetings, we hope a reduction in the number of meetings is a positive for our members and encourages attendance at the remaining eight meetings (January-May and September to November). With it becoming increasingly more difficult to fill a full slate of officers, it is hoped that fewer meetings will help in that regard as well.

THE RANKIN HOUSE

February 15, 2017 was a sad day for Miramichi Heritage as we witnessed the demolition of the historic Rankin House in Douglastown.

The following is a summary of an article by the late Edith McAllister which appeared in the **Northumberland News** January 16, 1985.

The Rankin house, a two-storey Georgian style building, was erected in 1837 to replace an earlier home which burned down in March of that year. The first house had been built soon after Alexander Rankin and his cousin, James Gilmour, arrived at Miramichi in 1812 from Scotland to establish the Gilmour, Rankin & Co. firm and found the village of Gretna Green, later renamed Douglastown.

The house was occupied by Mr. Rankin until his death in 1852 and also housed the clerks who were sent from Scotland to be trained by the Gilmour, Rankin firm. After 1852 Richard Hutchison, who had been a partner since Mr. Gilmour returned to Scotland in 1842, took over management of the firm and lived in the Rankin house. When Mr. Hutchison died in September 1891 his son, Ernest, did not wish to live in the house and gave it to the village for a school. This was in 1892 and for the next 88 years it served that purpose. It was left vacant when a new elementary school was opened in Douglastown in 1980.

Alterations Made

Use as a school made a number of alterations necessary but these resulted in only minimal damage to the structure. The elegant "Greek revival" portico at the main entrance was removed and destroyed, an iron fire escape defaced the front facade, washrooms were installed beside the staircase, a central chimney was built and the 14 fireplaces were blocked off. The exterior was covered with clapboard siding and walls removed on the second level to accommodate the school classes.

A survey was made for the provincial government in 1980 by Robert Power of Fredericton, historical architect, who reported the building as sound and worthy of restoration. Three years later the work of preservation was undertaken by the Historical Society under the direction of the president, John McKay.

The portico has been duplicated and replaced, the clapboards removed and the original flush board siding caulked and painted and a new roof laid. The massive stone chimneys with their quaint chimney pots have been rebuilt. All necessary repairs have been done and new electrical wiring and plumbing installed, as well as sky-lights and windows in the original style. In the basement the kitchen, with its huge stone fireplace with cast iron oven and water tank is unchanged. A one-storey extension, which was added to the north wall to serve as caretaker's quarters, has been retained and repaired.

The house is an excellent example of colonial architecture. It has a central hall and originally had four rooms on each of the first and second floors. There are now three on the first and two large rooms on the second; here the fireplaces have been opened up. The entrance hall has its original archway with panelled embrasure, plaster trim and cornices. The staircase and railing have been repaired.

Built by Murray

The 1837 house was built by William Murray, the Miramichi's famed master builder who erected many of the area's heritage structures. His fine workmanship is evident everywhere. The house is a wood frame building on a stone foundation; its front facade faces the river, which in the early days was the chief thoroughfare for travellers.

In Mr. Rankin's time and well into the 20th century a pair of very fine handmade wrought iron gates closed the end of the driveway. These gates, made by John Norman about 1841, were removed and destined for destruction. Fortunately, the late Dr. Louise Manny managed to save the gates and they are now at the entrance to the pioneer graveyard at The Enclosure, the provincial park which Lord Beaverbrook donated to the province.

Hon. Alexander Rankin

Honourable Alexander Rankin was the most important and influential figure in Miramichi during the years of the area's greatest prosperity. Although he was five years younger than James Gilmour he was the dominant partner in Gilmour, Rankin Company which furnished a livelihood for hundreds of workmen for many years. In his 40 years in Miramichi he was a leader in all community affairs. His spacious home was a centre of hospitality and all important visitors were entertained there.

Both Rankin and Gilmour were born in Mearns, Renfrewshire, Scotland, and were members of a remarkable group of families, all related by blood or marriage, who made up the several firms associated with Pollok, Gilmour & Co. of Glasgow and Liverpool. This company was one of the greatest timber, trading and shipbuilding firms in the world. The decision to set up a business at Miramichi was made after an inspection trip by Allan Gilmour and the two young men were sent out in 1812. The workmen who came with them were set to work to clear a site from the wilderness and lots were laid off and sold to the employees at low prices. Living quarters, a mill, store, offices and warehouses were erected. It was not until 1857 that the firm began to build ships in their own yard although many Miramichi ships had been sold to the Pollok, Gilmour Co. for its fleet. From 1851 the Ferguson, Rankin & Co. firm, an off-shoot of the Douglastown business, built ships in their yard at Bathurst.

James Gilmour was interested in agriculture and raising prize cattle and was the first president of the Highland Society at Miramichi. In 1842 he returned to Scotland where he died in 1858, in his 75th year. He was said to have accumulated a princely fortune. His place as partner was filled by Richard Hutchison, a cousin from Renfrewshire, who had come to Miramichi in 1826 at the age of 16. The Douglastown firm prospered and was able to survive fires and depressions, due to integrity, hard work and sound business practices.

Rankin was a force in the community and the province, respected, even revered, for his generosity and kindness, his integrity and fair dealings. He promoted education and agriculture, served on the Board of Health, was a contributor to all good causes and a supporter of St. James Presbyterian Church in Newcastle. At the time of the Great Fire of Miramichi in October 1825 he sheltered hundreds of the destitute in his home and offices; he headed the relief committee and gave generously from his own pocket as well as goods from his warehouses. It was said of him that "his charity was unbounded."

Young men from the Renfrewshire families who made up the several companies were sent to Miramichi to be trained in the Gilmour, Rankin offices. A hard training it was--14-hour days, no comforts and small pay--but it turned out self-reliant and industrious men who founded branches of Gilmour, Rankin & Co. in their turn. The firms they established were at Quebec City, Montreal, Saint John, Bathurst, Dalhousie and Campbellton. All lasted for many years, particularly those founded by the Rankin men. The family names of these young men were Gilmour, Rankin, Ritchie, Hutchison, Ferguson and Young. While in Douglastown they made their home at the Rankin house.

Political Career

Alexander Rankin was elected to the provincial House of Assembly in 1827 and served there until his death in 1852, being chosen to represent Northumberland County in seven general elections. In 1847 he was appointed to the Legislative Council, as minister without portfolio, which post he held also until his death. As a legislator he encouraged agriculture and domestic manufactures and the education of the young. His death occurred on April 3, 1852, while on a visit with his brother, Robert, in England. He had never married.

Richard Hutchison, the surviving partner, took over the management of the firm in 1852 and moved into the Rankin house. He became sole proprietor in 1870 and the name was changed to the R. Hutchison Co. in 1880. A large lumber and sawmill business was carried on until his death in September 1891 when his son, Ernest, succeeded him. In 1907 the business and its extensive timber limits were sold to the International Paper Company. These interests took in 45 square miles of granted lumber lands and 300 square miles of crown lands under lease, a general store and a large sawmill. A subsidiary of the International Paper Company, the Miramichi Lumber Co. ran a sawmill on the former Gilmour, Rankin property for many years.

Richard Hutchison was a leader in business, political and social circles. He was stern, but just, with no patience with idlers. He was unpopular and called a "hard man" by many. He was a member of the provincial House of Assembly before 1867 and of the Smith-Anglin administration opposed to Confederation. He was elected Northumberland County's second Member of Parliament after the death of Hon. John M. Johnson in 1868, but retired after one term.

Between the year 1907 when he retired and his death in 1918, Ernest Hutchison built and equipped the Miramichi Hospital in Newcastle and gave it to the people of Northumberland County. He also gave the brick Associated Lodges Hall in Douglastown to a number of associations in the village.

(by Edith MacAllister. *Northumberland News*, January 16, 1985)

PATRONYMICS – PATTERNS OF NAMING DESCENDANTS

Last year, we inserted into the newsletter an article about the Scottish naming patterns used by parents in naming their children. This article describes a different style of naming patterns.

Long ago, we lived in small villages and we only needed one name. As time went on, life became more complex and there would have been more than one boy named John. We then had to distinguish between them. We used their fathers' names to distinguish one child from another: Robert's son John or David's son John. Use of surnames developed.

Patronymics is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as, "a name derived from that of the father or parental ancestor usually by addition of a suffix". That suffix in many cases as, "-son" In old Britain we find John's son is named John "Johnson"; in Ireland Brien's son may be named John "O'Brien," while in Scotland, Donald's son may become "John MacDonald".

We may not have heard that Russian patronymics involves the child's second name. The second or middle name will be derived of the father's given name and ends with the suffix '-evich' or '-ovich'. The full name is necessary in official documents. An example of this is 'Ivan Petrovich Belkin'.

With this in mind, genealogists are often challenged when doing family research.

Scandinavian countries have their own style of patronymics as well.

This winter, I worked on my computer searching for ancestors of my daughter-in-law. Luckily, her parents had the Canadian-born ancestors well documented. My task was to find the Danish-born ancestors. Since my own great-grandfather was Swedish-born, I knew it could be a difficult task involving patronymics.

Her great-grandfather came relatively lately to Canada – the early 1900s; and since he married here, we have found his marriage information in the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick records. His name was Niels Christian Larsen. He listed his father's name as Lars H. Nielsen. The first name of the father provides the root of the surname of the

son plus the addition of the suffix '-sen'. Larsen. Now, that he lives in Canada, the Larsen name is used for all his own descendants.

We used www.familysearch.org to enter Niel's name for Danish information. The parents' names were confirmed on that website. Lars and Maria (Pedersen) Nielsen were there. But we were unable to go back any further than that. The names are quite common around Copenhagen and I could not find Lars' parents. Yet.

Many countries have their own patterns of patronymics and there are 'matronymics' as well. Use your computer browser to find interesting information about this topic. Forgive this humble writer for her limited knowledge but she hopes you will be interested enough to do some research on your own. A website we found interesting is:

<http://dgmweb.net/Ancillary/OnE/Patronyms.html>
<http://dgmweb.net/Ancillary/OnE/Patronyms.html>
[itted](http://dgmweb.net/Ancillary/OnE/Patronyms.html)

Submitted by Judy Vautour

MIRAMICHI'S HOCKEY OLYMPIAN

The very first Olympic hockey competition included a player who was a native son of Chatham, New Brunswick. Staged during the Summer Games of 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium, they were the first international contests pitting European teams against those from Canada and the United States. Other countries competing were Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The game was very different then. There were seven players, including one called a "rover", and the rink was smallish 59 feet by 185 feet. There were two 20 minute periods, not three. And, if a player left the game hurt, the opposing team also had to play a man short.

The Canadian team was the class of the field and it surprised no one that they won the Gold Medal with

an undefeated record. The Canadians were actually the Winnipeg Falcons who had won the right to represent Canada as its National Team by winning the Allan Cup, characterized as the Championship of Western Canada. Ironically, of the National Team's eight players, seven were of Icelandic origin with only goalie Wally Byron being Canada-born.

The United States had no comparable competition by which to select a National Team for the Games. Instead, it cobbled together an "all-star" team of eleven with players from three athletic clubs – Pittsburgh (PA), St Paul (MN) and Boston (MA) -- that sponsored local hockey teams. Despite a limited time to practice and play as a team, the Americans took home the Silver Medal, losing only to Canada in the semi-finals.

There were four Canadians on the US team, including Francis Allan Synott of Chatham. Though Canadian by birth "Frank" as he was called, entered the US in 1914, served a stint in the US Navy, and became a Naturalized US Citizen in 1918. He worked for the Boston Herald as a printer, a trade he first learned as a youth. And, clearly, he was playing some first-rate hockey for the Boston Athletic Club!

Frank was the son of George Synott, a mill worker, and Margaret Hay. He was born 28 December 1891, only the second boy of the family's nine children. Through the period up to and including his Olympic career – he also played in the 1924 Games – is well documented, the record thereafter is very thin. He next appears in the 1940 US Census with a spouse, Marie, and a son, Frank, Jr. And, his death was documented in Boston at 12 October 1945. There isn't much else to be found.

Talent, such as Frank's athleticism, and the discipline to perfect it was not a rare thing in the Synott household. Three of Frank's sisters were professional musicians, either as performers or teachers. Sister Carrie was a singer. Sister Mary, who was unmarried, emigrated to Boston in 1910, and was listed as a pianist in subsequent Censuses.

Sister Ann Gertrude emigrated to Ohio, married, and performed as a hotel pianist for her career. It seems that Ann must have been as bold as she was talented. US immigration records indicate that as a young, single woman she performed as a pianist for at least one cruise boat from New York to South America and back.

So, while the Canadian Olympic hockey team was mostly Icelandic, the US team had a Canadian core. Hockey officially became an international sport in 1920, and the Miramichi made a significant contribution to that milestone.

Though, as family researchers, we are in awe of our ancestors who braved the oceans, broke the soil or eked out a living under tough conditions, I think we all secretly hope to find that person or that family whose out- of-the-ordinary life or fortune makes a special story. Finding Frank Synott, my Father's third cousin, while researching my Hay family ancestors who came to the Miramichi in the 18th Century from the Scottish Highlands satisfied my hope. See "Hay Family – Miramichi " on Ancestry.com. Please contact me if you have information about the Hay family.

Submitted by: Neill Carter – January 22, 2017

SUTHERLAND CONNECTIONS

My 2nd great grandfather, Robert Sutherland (1809-1870) married Elizabeth Thain on 10 July 1838 in Ludlow Parish, New Brunswick. I have evidence (photos of the Ludlow Parish Tax Rolls) suggesting that Robert met Elizabeth in 1837 while both Sutherlands and Thains were working at the lumber camp in Boiestown on the Miramichi. In addition, my 1st great grandfather, Jairus Copperthwaite Sutherland (really his name) was born on 22 Nov 1842, probably in Durham Bridge when Robert, Elizabeth and two infant daughters were leaving Boiestown after the downturn in the lumber industry on the Miramichi in the early 1840's.

Finally, I believe that my Robert was the youngest son of the George Sutherland, who was one of first settlers of this branch of the Miramichi as described by William Mackinnon in this excellent book, *Over the Portage: Early History of the Upper Miramichi*. Sadly, I have been unable to document the connection of my Robert to the aforementioned George and am looking for male Miramichi Sutherlands willing to submit a Y-DNA sample to prove our kinship. I'd pay for the cost of this testing.

Submitted by: Richard Sutherland, an 'undocumented' Miramichi Sutherland

PS: Durham Bridge is located "Over the Portage" from the Miramichi to the Nashwaak.

2017 MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2017. Our membership fee of \$35.00 is due as of January 2017. This will insure you receive copies of the provincial publication Generations, as well as our branch newsletter, access to our library, and networking opportunities.

IRELAND/SCOTLAND TRIP - 2017

Below is information on an up-coming trip to Ireland and Scotland which will take place this fall.

The trip departs from Halifax and arrives in Dublin on October 1. Schedule of dates/areas visited:

Dublin Oct 2

Kildare, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Dungarvan,

Youghal Oct 3

Cork city, Blarney, Black Rock, Bandon **Oct. 4**

Kinsale, Skibbereen, Bantry, Dunmanway, Bandon

Oct 5

Gougane Barra, Kenmare, Killarney, Tralee,

Limerick, Galway **Oct 6**

Athenry, Galway **Oct 7**

Clifden, Westport, Sligo **Oct 8**

Donegal, Belfast **Oct 10**
Titanic Museum (Belfast), Hollywood, Bangor,
Belfast **Oct 11**
Glasgow, Glencoe, Beaulieu, Inverness. **Oct 12**
Edinburgh **Oct 13**
Glasgow **Oct 14**
To Halifax (direct) **Oct 15**.

This trip can accommodate 22 travellers maximum. There will be tour guides in both countries. All breakfasts and 5 evening meals are included. All tour entrance fees covered (many are not mentioned in the brief list above). Cost is approximately \$4,058.00. Contact Maritime Travel for booking.

Also, if you plan to take part, provide Mary Anne with some family information soon and they may be able to visit a relevant family historical site along the route.

Submitted by: Mary Anne Riordon-Barry
riordonbarry@gmail.com

FOUNDING CULTURES MUSEUM UP-DATE

We have three timelines (world, Ireland, New Brunswick). Have symbols, music and family crests. There will probably be a Famine Display from the New Brunswick Provincial Archives. We need to prepare the NB settlements information - ...specifically 4 areas: North America, Miramichi, Saint John and Moncton.

If you can help with the histories of local New Brunswick communities/ photos/artifacts etc. please contact me: riordonbarry@gmail.com.

I am doing the Irish Room. The museum has a person working on the Scottish Room and the Acadian Room. No one has volunteered to do the English Room and I'm not sure if an individual is doing the Native Room.

Submitted by: Mary Anne Riordon-Barry

They lived and laughed and loved and left.
- *James Joyce*

INTERESTING EPITAPHS

The following were taken from the Find A Grave web site under the heading "interesting epitaphs." Some are thought provoking, some funny, and some just plain strange. I've included a few I found interesting. If you are interested in seeing others check them out at: www.findagrave.com

Glenna June Bellomy Anderson (1926-2008)
I WAS SOMEBODY

Jim Blair (1947-1985) Wisconsin, USA
IT HAPPENS

Mary Fowler (1767-1792)
New Haven, Connecticut, USA
Molly tho pleasant in her day
Was sudd'nly seized and sent away
How soon she's ripe how soon she's rottin
Sent to her grave & soon for gottin

Ray Dean Weddle (1942-1996)
Los Angeles, California
Pardon my Humble Abode
My Spirit is out right now
But I'll see you later on

Dewey Hill (1899-1938)
Warren, Pennsylvania
Sure Hope it's better where you went
Than where you've been



A WEE BIT IRISH

With March 17th just around the corner, we wish all our Irish members a Happy St. Patrick's Day and share a wee bit of Irish with our readers.

A Chicago Irish Tradition

I had the good fortune to spend two years in Chicago, a very Irish American city which hosts a number of St. Patrick's Day celebrations – the most unique the dyeing of the Chicago River green.

The Chicago River would run green for the first time in 1962. How this is done is summarized below (as taken from the Chicago Tribune).

Early in the morning, the crew arrives at a city boat slip on the North Branch of the river. Everyone wears clothes and shoes they don't mind getting dirty and a white paper smock over them. The crew hops aboard two small motorboats donated by volunteers. The larger boat, at approximately 18 feet, has a crew of four. The smaller boat, a 12-footer, has two people in clothes. A 9 a.m. start: The larger boat is responsible for dyeing the river, which begins when it arrives under the Michigan Avenue bridge near Wacker Drive.



(I took this photo in 2008 when I attended the dyeing ceremony – Faye)

Three men use flour sifters to dump about 40 pounds of an environmentally friendly orange

powder into the river. The fourth drives the boat. The formula for the powder, which turns the water bright green when it hits, is top-secret. The smaller boat "chases" the larger boat and churns up the water, which helps disperse the powder across the river. The large boat snakes across the waterway between Wabash Avenue and Columbus Drive dumping powder.

It takes about 45 minutes for the river to turn completely green. Depending on which direction the wind is blowing, the water can stay green for up to a few days.

As one who has personally attended this event, it is truly something to see. The crowds are enormous – they estimate around one million people turn out depending on the weather. This is followed later in the day by a huge St. Patrick's parade.

Submitted by Faye Baisley

IRISH CHUCKLE

Two Irish lads were working for the city public works department. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the lad who plants the trees called in sick."

FROM AN IRISH TOMBSTONE

Death leaves a heartache
no one can heal;
Love leaves a memory
no one can steal.

We would like your feedback.

Please send ideas, suggestions, comments, questions, and/or articles or tidbits for inclusion in a future newsletter. This can be given to any member of the executive or e-mailed to me at: fayebaisley@hotmail.com

NBGS Miramichi Branch meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Chatham Public Library at 6:15 PM.

Meetings are held 9 times per year – January to May and September to November. The Branch does not hold regular meetings in June, July, August or December.

Visitors are always welcome.



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