

# NBGS MIRAMICHI BRANCH NEWS LETTER



OCTOBER 2018

Volume XII, Issue No. 3

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall has arrived and, with our recent weather, it looks like winter has arrived as well! With summer over, our Branch meetings have resumed after a few months break.

This summer, not being a fan of the hot, humid weather we experience, I spent a lot of time indoors (where it was air conditioned!) working on my research. This included weekly visits to the Chatham Library. I was pleasantly surprised to see the number of people there doing genealogy research on each of my visits. Many were from the local area – but there were also people from across Canada and many US states. On my last visit there were four people from California.

They have all commented on how helpful people have been and how impressed they are with the publications our small local Branch has produced.

Our AGM is coming up on November 27 ... so election time once again. Please give some thought to offering for a position. We have a number of positions available this year: President – I have been filling in for the past two years as the position has been vacant; Membership Chair, Public Relations Chair. We also need an editor for this newsletter. If you would like more information

about these positions, please get in touch with me. It is only with dedicated volunteers coming forward to fill these positions that our Branch can continue to operate.

So, please join us on November 27th. We have a chair waiting for you.

*Faye Baisley, Past President*

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## MAY

At our last meeting prior to the summer break, we were pleased to welcome then NBGS Provincial President, David Laskey, from Saint John and his wife, Carolyn. Dave's topic was a timely one - Adoption in NB - in light of the NB government's decision to open adoption records in April 2018. Dave spoke on his personal journey to find a sibling who had been placed for adoption. We had an excellent turn out for the presentation and members

enjoyed both the presentation and meeting the Laskey's.

**JUNE, JULY & AUGUST** – summer break; no regular meetings held. As mentioned above, we participated in the Miramichi Irish Festival on both Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21. We had all our research materials on display at the Rodd Miramichi Hotel and members were on hand to help visitors with research questions. On Friday afternoon, Maryanne Riordon-Barry presented a 3-hour workshop, *Tracing Your Irish Roots*, at the Chatham Public Library.

### SEPTEMBER

Since we had our last business meeting in April, we dealt with some outstanding business at the September meeting. Following this we had a social hour and spent time looking at a map of Ireland brought by member Rick Arseneault. The map showed the location of surnames based on census data for farmers who farmed in the same place for several generations. As is customary at our September meeting, we also presented our annual Volunteer Recognition Awards. This year's recipients were Bill Donald and Ann Moriarty.

### OCTOBER

We had a brief business meeting and, while we had no formal program scheduled, members present discussed DNA testing and Ancestry's recent change in how they report results.

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

At Miramichi Branch, we are fortunate to have a number of dedicated members who give generously of their time. Every year we try to recognize a member (or members) for our Volunteer Recognition Award.

Aside from our regular September presentations, this year one of our awards was presented at the Miramichi Irish Festival. We felt this was the appropriate time to do this as the recipient, **Anna**

**MacDonald**, has been the driving force behind our participation in this event for many years and recruits her granddaughter, Victoria, as her assistant.



In addition, Anna served for a number of years on the Executive as both Vice President and President and is currently a Director. She has also been dedicated volunteer typing obituaries and also compiled the Birth and Marriage stats books. With a number of our members on hand Saturday afternoon at the Festival, we recognized both Anna and her granddaughter.

At the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, **Bill Donald** was the local member recognized. Bill joined NBGS Miramichi in 2004 and has been a dedicated volunteer since joining – working at various events such as the Irish Festival, Heritage Week, etc., helping visitors to the area with genealogy research questions - and just being there to help out in whatever capacity he is needed. He currently serves on the Board of Directors and has for a number of years.

This year, for the first time, we recognized a “non-local” member, **Ann Moriarty**, for her many volunteer hours doing obituary research. Ann joined NBGS Miramichi in 1999 and has been working on obituaries for 18 years. Ann provides obituaries for those with Northumberland County connections who have passed away in other areas of Canada. Without her diligence in doing so, we would not have these obituaries to add to our website data-base.

All will agree that these are three very worthy recipients of our annual recognition awards.

## VISITORS

This year we have had a number of people “from away” visit the Miramichi searching for ancestors from the area. These visitors were from: Washington State; Lynnfield, Massachusetts; California; and North Carolina. Our members volunteered their time to assist these individuals and the feedback we received reflects well not only on NBGS Miramichi Branch but the Miramichi community at large. Thank you to all those who gave of their time to help these visitors!!

### ARTICLE – Union Advocate, November 8, 1893

*Note: the language of the text is the original used in the newspaper entry and as transcribed by Daniel F. Johnson. Records acquired by the Provincial Archives are not translated from the language in which they originate.*

Daniel BELL, a Miramichi man, after a residence of seven years in New York, came back to Chatham for a rest. The Methodists had a picnic at Bay du Vin (North. Co.) soon after he came and of course he went with the crowd. Miss Maggie B. McLEAN, the charming daughter of George McLEAN of Napan happened to go also and she and Mr. Bell met by chance, the usual way, and were introduced. Mr. Bell fell in love at sight. He was the lady's shadow at the picnic and the next day he went to Napan to visit his relatives and found an opportunity of seeing the young lady also. He is an athlete possessing medals won in swimming and other sports, and he urged his suit with such vim and force that he captured the maiden's heart and won her consent in a few days. They were bound fast in matrimonial bonds Wednesday morn. by Rev. N. McKay at the residence of the bride's father, and after the wedding breakfast had been eaten, took the train for New York amid showers of rice and congratulations. - 'World'

***When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt. – Henry J. Kaiser***

## NEWS FROM YESTERYEAR

Member Anna MacDonald has been compiling stories of interest from old newspapers. Below are a couple of articles from her research:

### POLICE MADE QUICK CAPTURE

Two Young Fellows Breaking Into Cassidy's Store  
Laid by Heels.

Two young fellows, Jack Handley and John O'Kane were arrested Saturday night while breaking into Cassidy's shoe store and are now in jail. They affected an entry through the rear of the premises, but made so much noise that a nearby resident heard them and quickly had the lights flashed for the police. Officers Thompson and Haines responded and captured O'Kane just outside the building. They suspected an accomplice and after a protracted search discovered Handley inside and the two were taken to jail. No goods were stolen.

*Source: Gazette - September 11, 1911*

### MATTHEW DALEY HAS DISAPPEARED

Left Bowser House Late Last Night by the Fire-  
Rope Route-May be at His Home.

Matthew Daley who has been clerk at the Bowser House for some time and previous to that worked in other hotels in Chatham, disappeared last night shortly after eleven o'clock and diligent search has been made for him, but no trace of the man can be found. Mr. Daley has been very dull of late, but last night he seemed to enjoy a game of cards with some of the hotel guests, though he was rather quiet. About eleven o'clock he went upstairs and was thought to have retired, when he suddenly slipped down the fire escape rope from one of the upper rooms and disappeared in the dark before he could be seen.

His home is in Barnaby River and Mr. Flanagan is hoping that he has gone there. Daley was not any

too well clad when last seen just before he slipped down the rope, but as the night was rather cold he may suffer in the event. He had previously, it is said, had a little mental trouble and this may be another outbreak from the same cause.

*Source: Chatham Gazette - April 24, 1912*

## **STRAYS FROM AWAY**

### **FORAN, Barbara Anne (nee MARSH)**

1942 – June 04, 2018

Surrounded by love, on Monday, June 04, 2018 the family sadly announces the passing of Barbara Anne FORAN (nee MARSH), 75 years old. Beloved wife of Jeremiah for 57 years. She will be missed by her son Doug, daughter-in-law Bonita, son Paul and daughter-in-law Tanya. She was a proud Grandma and will be cherished by her grandchildren Briar, Mikayl, Josh, Jamie Lee and Jase. Family and friends will miss their daily calls with Barb. The family would like to thank all the staff on every level at Southlake Regional Hospital in Newmarket where a double rainbow appeared shortly after her passing. Also a special thank you to the Respiratory Therapists and ProResp who took great measures to care for Barb. A private celebration of life will take place at a later date. Memorial donations to a charity of your choice will be appreciated and memorial condolences may be made at [www.taylor.ca](http://www.taylor.ca)

*Source: Toronto Star, June 09, 2018*

*(Note: Jeremiah Foran is originally from Sevogle - son of the late Douglas Foran and Genevieve Copp)*

### **HILDEBRAND, Dr. John F. T.**

Dr. John F. T. HILDEBRAND passed away peacefully on October 18, 2018 at Hospice House Fredericton. Born September 25, 1925 in Birdton, NB, he was the son of the late John S. and Beatrice E. (EVANS) HILDEBRAND.

John is survived by his loving wife, Isabel (EWING); his children Linda (Jeffrey) DELOUGHERY of Moncton, NB, John (Sherrill

MULLEN) of Fredericton, NB, Alan of Calgary, AB, Katherine (Patrick LAFOREST) of Birdton, NB, and Barbara (Roland CUSACK) of Halifax, NS; grandchildren John Andrew HILDEBRAND, Taylor HILDEBRAND and Benjamin CUSACK; brother Douglas (Irene) HILDEBRAND of Fredericton, NB and sister-in-law Eileen EWING of Charlottetown, PE; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sisters, Ethel (Wesley) DAVIDSON, Eliza (Stuart) SEYMOUR and infant Marion, and his brother-in-law Russell EWING.

A life-long educator, John was a graduate of Fredericton High School, the Provincial Normal School and the University of New Brunswick. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from St. Thomas University. John taught at several schools in New Brunswick including Juniper, Bristol, St. George, Keswick Ridge, Fredericton High School, Albert Street School and **Harkins Academy, Newcastle**. While Director of Practical Studies at the NB Teachers College, he co-authored the text book, "Synthesis of Teaching Methods." John was Superintendent of Schools in the Fredericton area for many years. One of his most satisfying achievements was the introduction of early French Immersion into the Fredericton schools.

John was active in the United Church of Canada – as an Elder, and committee and choir member of the Nashwaaksis congregation, the first lay Chairman of the Fredericton presbytery, and President of the Maritime Conference United Church Men. He served on both the Board of Regents and Senate of Mount Allison University. John played a leadership role in many other community organizations including the YMCA, the Epsilon Y's Men's club and the Y's Men's Saint John River Valley district, the Fredericton Exhibition and its Harness Racing Committee, the Central NB Welsh Society and Cardigan Historical Project, and the Smith Loyal Orange Lodge #144, where he was a 50 year member. He was also an active member of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick.

A member of the NB Antique Auto Club, John enjoyed restoring his 1928 Nash. Throughout his life he delighted in singing and making music, and was an enthusiastic bridge player. And for over 50 years he reveled in the special times and adventures at the family cottage on Miramichi Lake.

Visitation will take place at York Funeral Home, 302 Brookside Drive on Sunday, October 21, 2018 from 2–4 and 7–9 pm. A Funeral Service will take place at Nashwaaksis United Church on Monday, Oct 22, 2018 at 2pm, with Rev. Frank Curtis officiating. A reception will follow, then interment in Douglas Rural Cemetery.

For those who wish, remembrances may be made to the Fredericton YMCA, Nashwaaksis United Church, or a charity of the donor's choice. Personal condolences may be offered through [www.yorkfh.com](http://www.yorkfh.com).

*Source: Telegraph Journal, on-line obituaries*

*Note: As indicated in the above obituary, Dr. Hildebrand taught at Harkins Academy and will be remembered by many in the area.*

*Note: the obituary below is from 2010 but will be of interest to those doing Copp and/or Russell family research as it contains detailed information on the life of the deceased.*

**PORTLAND – THELMA EDITH RUSSELL SMALL KENNEDY**, 94, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 13, 2010, after a brief illness. Born June 1, 1915, in Newcastle, New Brunswick, Canada, her father was ALLAN RUSSELL and her mother was ANNIE COPP. After graduating from Harkins Academy, she was employed by Frasier Lumber Company, where she supported her family during the Great Depression. At the age of 22, Thelma moved to Bangor, where in 1941, she met and married GERALD TURNER SMALL and moved with him to Portland. Her son Richard was born in 1944. From 1945 to 1950, Thelma held administrative positions with the Portland Gas Company and B. D. Stearns Inc. From 1950 through 1959, she was administrator manager for

Mill Company Gardens, a 96-unit housing development on Margaret Street in South Portland. In 1960, the family moved to Coolidge Avenue in South Portland, where she lived until 1996. After Gerald's passing, she married the Rev. DANA FORREST KENNEDY of Westport, Conn., in 1996 and lived with him in Milbridge until 2007, when at the age of 92, after divorcing Mr. Kennedy, she moved back to South Portland where she lived with her son, Richard, for a brief time. Throughout her life, Thelma was loved by her neighbors and known for her kindness to everyone she met. She often gave to those who had far less than she. She was a lifelong member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Thelma will be greatly missed by her son, Richard, his significant other, Lisa Stevens STUART, her only granddaughter, Julianne HURD, and her husband, Christopher, of Holliston, Mass., a great granddaughter, Allison, a great grandson, Jack. Thelma was especially close to her niece, Donna BEALS, of Topsham, who spent many hours with her during the last few years of her life. She will also be greatly missed by her brother-in-law, Lawrence SMALL and his wife, Elfie, of Billings, Mont., as well as other nieces and nephews including Donald RUSSELL and his wife Barbara of Topsham, Norman RUSSELL and wife, Marie, of Florida, Barbara WHITEWATER of Tulsa, Okla., Janice THOMAS of New Hampshire and former daughters-in-law Carmela PALANDO of South Portland and Bernadine WALSH of Natick, Mass. The family wishes to express very special thanks to her caregivers at Seaside Nursing and Rehab in Portland for their ongoing support and loving care. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 1, at Evergreen Cemetery in Milbridge, where she will lie beside her loving husband GERALD SMALL.

*Source: submitted by member Bernice Johnstone*

***Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. – Winston Churchill***

*Note: as a follow up to the discussion at our October meeting, and with the current focus on DNA testing, the following article, submitted by member Roger Savoy, will be of interest to many:*

### **DNA: CAN SIBLINGS HAVE DIFFERENT ETHNICITY ESTIMATES?**

It comes as no surprise that when two siblings are DNA tested, their results will usually be similar. What is surprising to many people, though, is how two siblings (not twins) with exactly the same parents and ancestors can receive different ethnicity results. After all, identical ancestors should give identical ethnicity estimates, right?

Well, it's not that simple. In fact, it's rather common for siblings to have different ethnicity estimates. There are several factors that can affect genealogical ethnicity. We'll take a look at those factors here.

#### **Basic Human Genetics**

To understand genealogical DNA tests, you must understand a little bit about human genetics. We're not going to get too heavily into the science of genetics, but there are some basics you need to know.

#### **Chromosomes**

DNA is divided into large chunks called chromosomes. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes. Most genealogical DNA testing, such as that done at MyHeritage DNA, is autosomal testing. That means it looks at the first 22 pairs of chromosomes, the autosomes. The 23rd pair of chromosomes is the sex chromosome, which determines if you are born male or female. Other DNA tests (Y-DNA, mtDNA) look at other parts of the DNA. But autosomal DNA testing is used to determine ethnicity estimates.

#### **Genes**

Each chromosome is divided into smaller chunks called genes. Each chromosome has hundreds or even thousands of genes. These genes tell our bodies how to grow and operate. Among many other things, they are responsible for our hair color, eye color, complexion, tendency to be thin or heavy, the shape of our faces, even if we prefer salty or sweet foods.

It is also these genes that help determine your ethnic heritage. Certain variations in genes are common in certain areas but rare in others. Some are only found in specific ethnic groups. Ethnicity estimates rely on these genes as indicators of where your ancestors lived.

#### **Genetic Jumble**

Your DNA says a lot about who your ancestors are and where they lived. However, because of the way genes are passed from parents to children, things get a little jumbled.

We each have 22 pairs of autosomal chromosomes, but those pairs are not identical. Our reproductive cells take bits and pieces from each of those chromosomes to make up a new, unique configuration. The new DNA strand is very similar to the old one, but not identical.

That's why siblings, who share most of the same genes, tend to look like each other. But unless they are identical twins, there are always some differences in their genetic code.

And that means there may be some differences in their ethnicity estimate, too.

Let's look at an example of how that might happen. In this example, we're starting with some basic ethnicity combinations. This simple model demonstrates just how different ethnicity estimates can be for siblings.

At first glance, you might think that if your paternal grandfather is 50% Irish and 50% Scottish, and your

paternal grandmother is 100% Italian, that your father would be 25% Irish, 25% Scottish, and 50% Italian, but that's not necessarily true.

In the illustration, the paternal grandmother can only pass on Italian genes, so half the father's genes are Italian (50%). But the paternal grandfather can pass on either Irish or Scottish genes, and it won't always be exactly half of each. In this case, more Irish genes got passed on than Scottish ones. Look at the maternal side, and you will see the same thing. More Irish genes were passed than Italian ones.

With each generation that passes, there is another chance for a random number of genes from each ethnicity to be handed down. Even after only two generations, the two siblings have some major differences at the genetic level.

So while we all get 50% of our DNA from each of our parents, the segments we end up with are completely random.

### **Ethnicity Estimates**

So, if everyone's DNA is unique (except for identical twins, triplets, etc.), then how do we ever manage to determine what someone's ethnicity is?

The answer is single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). In simple terms, these are really small pieces of DNA that are just a little bit different depending on your ancestry.

DNA mutates over time. Usually, DNA makes exact copies of itself, but sometimes there is a tiny mistake, such as changing a single letter on a page of text. If that mutation gets passed down, over time it will appear in more and more descendants.

People did not move around as much in the past compared to today, and they usually married within their own ethnic or religious group, so these SNPs accumulated over time. In some cases, they are entirely unique. If your DNA contains an SNP that only appears in Egyptians, then odds are that you have an Egyptian ancestor.

The testing done through MyHeritage DNA examines millions of these tiny bits of genetic code and compares them to sample databases to create your ethnicity estimate. The more SNPs you have that match a certain ethnic group, the greater your ethnicity estimate will be for that group.

But remember that DNA becomes mixed with each generation. If you inherit many SNPs associated with a particular group, you will receive a high ethnicity estimate for that group. If your sibling inherited fewer SNPs for that group, he or she will receive a lower estimate.

Also, each company that tests DNA uses a different method for calculating ethnicity. That means if you test with more than one company, even though your DNA doesn't change, your ethnicity estimate results might.

### **Finding Relatives**

One interesting consequence of this is that you and your siblings might also show different relative matches.

Once your DNA is tested with MyHeritage DNA, your results are matched against everyone else in the database to see if any of them are relatives. That gives you the opportunity to reach out to distant living relatives and share research and family stories.

Because your DNA is not an exact match to that of your siblings, the relatives you are matched with won't be exactly the same, either. In the example above, the son is more likely to find matches with strong Irish and Italian genes, while the daughter will find more German and Scottish relatives.

This mostly affects more distant relatives. Despite their differences, both the son and daughter are almost certain to find the same set of close relatives (first to third cousins).

## Conclusion

Can you and your sibling have different ethnicity estimates despite having the same ancestors? Absolutely. In fact, unless you are identical twins, it would be unusual if you didn't.

You and your siblings do not share the exact same DNA. Genealogical DNA testing determines ethnicity based on your unique DNA.

Quite often, these differences can be small, but not always. This doesn't mean the tests are wrong or inaccurate. It just means it is even more important that as many relatives as possible get tested, to receive the most information possible in tracking down your family tree.

*Submitted by: Roger Savoy (from MyHeritage Blog)*

## The McNAUGHTON FOUNTAIN Landmark of the Past

*By Lois Martin*

Up until about the 1950's the McNaughton Fountain stood tall and proud in the centre of Chatham's Water Street, near what is now Dewey's store. The area was called Haymarket Square.

The McNaughton Fountain was removed having been damaged several times by vehicles. Just where the fountain is today appears to be a mystery. The plaque, however, was mounted on a small monument and is part of the war memorial in Elm Park in Chatham.

The fountain was erected in 1902 to the memory of Gordon McNaughton of Black River who died in the Boar War on December 26, 1901 of enteric fever.

Gordon McNaughton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNaughton was in the words of the "Commercial" press "a bright, affable and noble young man." The Commercial was asked by his friends to assist in soliciting contributions for a fund to erect a memorial tablet.

On March 11, 1902, the Commercial reported the amount collected to date was \$48.66 some of which had been transferred from the "Regatta Fund."

On March 18, 1902 the fund had reached the handsome sum of \$81.56. The newspaper kept stressing that the campaign was purely a local one and the money would not be sent to South Africa.

On April 22, 1902 the Commercial reported: "The McNaughton Memorial Fund has been swelled this week by the handsome donation of sixty dollars from the Orange Lodge, of which the late Mr. McNaughton was a member. This action is to be heartily commended. It will be noticed that the donation is made on the understanding that the memorial is to be erected in some outdoor public place – Elm Park for instance. There are many of our public men in the country who, doubtless, intend contributing to this worthy object, have not yet done so, and we request all those who wish to subscribe to do so at once, in order that an early decision may be arrived at as to form of memorial that can be erected. It is hoped the fund will reach \$300 before the end of May."

At the end of May the fund had reached only \$200, but a number of subscribers met at the commercial office to plan the erection of the fountain which was to be "a handsome spray fountain surmounted with a figure of a soldier" and it was to be situated in Elm Park. Mayor Snowball intimated that council would assist. A committee composed of George Watt, D. P. MacLachlan and William Wyse was appointed to look after details.

In July the committee decided to erect a drinking fountain in Haymarket Square rather than the more elaborate, ornamental fountain in Elm Park. The total amount collected was \$280.06 which was spent as follows: Cost of fountain \$195.85; Freight \$13.89; Granite foundation, \$42.50; sheet lead, \$1.00; telegrams, 50 cents; hauling and spreading ashes, 75 cents.

Besides the financial limitations it was noted that the Town of Chatham had already installed a fountain in the park. Therefore Haymarket Square appeared to be a better location.

### ***August 12, 1902: Fountain Erected (From the commercial)***

The McNaughton Memorial Drinking Fountain has been erected in Haymarket Square. The water was turned on Friday evening, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1902. It is a substantial iron structure about 15 feet high, set on a granite base and fitted with a lamp on top. It has two metal drinking cups,



three horse troughs and a dog trough. The front panel of the base bears the following inscription “Erected by the people of Miramichi in memory of H. Gordon McNaughton who died of enteric fever at Heidelberg, South Africa, Dec. 26, 1901, while serving as a member of No. 16 troop C, Canadian contingent of the S. A. constabulary.”

The fountain and base cost in the vicinity of \$300 and the money was raised by subscription which The Commercial started a few months ago. Although it is only four days since the Fountain has been set up, people have already begun to appreciate it and it is in almost constant use. The granite block measuring five foot square and weighing about three tons, which forms the foundation for the fountain, was purchased from Edward Barry. The fountain was manufactured by R. G. Olmstead of Hamilton, Ont. and was set up under the direction of Town Superintendent Sandy McKay.

The committee in charge of the work desire to extend thanks to Messrs. John Flieger and Alex Morris for the public spirit displayed in hauling the 3-ton granite block from Bushville and the fountain from the station, free of charge.

An electric lamp is yet to be placed and the fountain given another coat of paint. When this is done a statement of receipts and expenditures will be given the public.

*Notes from the Commercial*

Mayor Snowball’s horse was the first animal to drink from the fountain. The first thirsty man to use the fountain cup was Gilbert, the Grocer.

The police have been told to arrest all boys caught fooling about the fountain. After a few boys have been carried away by the officers, they will begin to think the fountain is a bad think to play with.

Well-to-do people who refused to contribute to the fountain fund can now be seen enjoying the free water.

*(This article was written with the assistance of Charles Whitty who provided the information from his files).*

Source: Northumberland News – December 05, 1984

**Interesting Headstone Epitaphs**

Glenna June Bellomy Anderson  
1926-2008  
Arkansas, USA  
*“I Was Somebody”*

Jim Blair  
Wisconsin  
1947-1985  
*“...it happens”*

Mary Fowler  
New Haven, Connecticut  
1767-1793  
*“Molly tho pleasant in her day  
Was suddenly seized and sent away  
How soon she’s ripe; how soon she’s rottin’  
Sent to her grave and soon forgotten.”*

Roy Dean Weddle  
1942-1996  
*“Pardon my humble abode  
My spirit is out right now  
But I’ll see you later on.”*

These were taken from the Internet, so as to their accuracy....



**PRIMARY RECORDS ARE NOT ALWAYS ACCURATE**

We all want our genealogy to be accurate.

We search and search for that primary record, the one that we've been told is "THE" record to find -- a death certificate, a church baptismal record marriage record....

But - beware! Not all primary records are accurate.

As good genealogists we must consider that there can be errors. The informant (person giving the information) may not know the answers and may thus provide incorrect details. The clerk recording the information may not hear the response correctly and may enter it incorrectly. The person giving the information may lie, especially about their age.

Recently, I found a birth registration for a person in my family tree – Charles Beazely - listing a birth date of August 6, 1913 and listing his parents as James Beazely and Maggie McMahon. The problem with this is that Maggie McMahon Beazely died September 8, 1908 and there are three records to confirm this: a death registration on file at the Provincial Archives, an obituary in the local newspaper and a headstone at the local cemetery. This child does not appear in any subsequent census records and there appears to be no further mention of him. Yet, there is birth record on file at the New Brunswick Provincial Archives.

So be cautious when you encounter a primary source that simply doesn't match other reliable sources. Investigate! Think! Don't just accept the new "facts" without further legwork to prove or disprove them.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for 2019 are due by February 15, 2019 but can be paid at any time before that. Paying dues on time ensures there is no interruption in receiving *Generations* and Branch Newsletters. Dues for 2019:

- Individual Membership - \$40.00
- Family Membership - \$45.00
- Institutional Membership - \$45.00

Membership form is available in *Generations* or can be downloaded from the NBGS website.

***When you think about quitting, think about why you started.***



We have several positions that will be open for 2019 and ask members to consider offering for one of the following:

- President*
- Membership Chair*
- Public Relations Chair*
- Newsletter Editor*

If you have an interest, and would like more information on any of the above positions, please contact me or another member of the executive.

And please remember, if you volunteer for one of these positions, you are not on your own. The full executive is there to help and we are only a phone call or e-mail away.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The AGM of NBGS Miramichi will be held on November 27 at 6:15 PM at the Chatham Public Library. The main item on the agenda is the election of officers for the 2019 year. There will also be a short program and social hour. Please mark this date on your calendar and be sure to join us for the last meeting prior to the Christmas Break.**

*Be careful when you blindly follow the masses. Sometimes the "M" is silent.*



As Christmas is “*just around the corner,*” below is a seasonal poem submitted by member, **Dianne Mullin.**

***A Christmas Poem***

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book  
 And every year at Christmastime, I go and take a look  
 And that is when I realize that these names are a part  
 Not of the book they’re written in, but of my very own heart.

For each name stands for someone whose path touched mine and then,  
 Left such a print of friendship that I want to touch again.  
 And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,  
 I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine  
 Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between,  
 For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you  
 It’s because you’re on the list of folks I am indebted to.

And every year when Christmas comes I realize anew  
 The biggest gift life can give is meeting folks like you.  
 And may the spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures  
 Leave its richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

***Merry Christmas Everyone***

**NEWSLETTER**

We need submissions for the next newsletter (published in February): articles, tidbits, obituaries, queries, etc.

We also appreciate your feedback – comments and/or suggestions for improving this publication.

Submissions and/or feedback can be e-mailed to me at:

[fayebaisley@hotmail.com](mailto:fayebaisley@hotmail.com)

**MEETING/CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

Meetings are held 8 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.



Contact Information:

On the web at: [www.nbgsmiramichi.org](http://www.nbgsmiramichi.org)

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