

Walking through graveyards, genealogists seek clues to roots

By ANIPEDERIAN
Herald Staff Writer

If you don't mind poring over dusty old books or tramping through muddy graveyards that may be overrun with weeds, then it may be the hobby for you.

If you like puzzles and enjoy mysteries, well then, genealogy could be for you.

An Agatha Christie fan, Elaine Bertrand of Bainton Crescent in Georgetown is an addicted genealogist. With a curious and probing mind, she thrills to travel, clue by clue, backwards in time.

Genealogy is the recording of a very personal history; it's the tracing through time of your ancestral roots.

Gathering up family stories and using all manner of ingenious linking up of clues from available resources, Mrs. Bertrand has traced her family roots back to 1760, to a marriage on Scotland's Isle of Mull.

HISTORY BUFF

Naturally enough, one isn't surprised to learn that Mrs. Bertrand is a history buff. President of the 230 member Halton-Peel branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS), she is also president of the 50-member Esqueping Historical Society.

"With families being so dispersed these days, just to get a sense of family, people are getting into their ancestors," Mrs. Bertrand said, in an effort to explain the growing interest in the hobby.

There are 25 branches of the Ontario Genealogical Society, and the members are getting younger all the time, she said.

"Ten years ago,



Visit cemeteries—you'll get all kinds of information there, says history buff and genealogist Elaine Bertrand. The older stones, like that of Robert Maw in Greenwood Cemetery in Georgetown, give much more information than current stones. This burial

genealogist's average age was 70. Now, at least half are in their 30s with young children," Mrs. Bertrand laughed.

The starting point for any aspiring genealogist is the current generation.

WRITE IT DOWN

"The first thing you do is write down everything you think you know," Mrs. Bertrand advised. "Talk to your relatives and get information from them. Never take anything as absolute gospel."

She cited the example of a genealogist who had assumed her family was Anglican all the way

back and grew frustrated when she couldn't find church records for a marriage in the local and area Anglican churches.

"Don't assume that because your family was always Anglican that they were married in the Anglican Church," Mrs. Bertrand said. "Perhaps there wasn't a minister at that church at the time and the marriage was performed by a Methodist minister."

CENSUS

Besides checking church records for information, Mrs. Bertrand advises using the

marking tells us Mr. Maw died June 7, 1861, at age 64, and that he was a native of Yorkshire, England. Many older stones have lovely old verses carved on them as well.

(Herald photo)

census that began in 1842. They can be ordered by township from the public library and come from the National Archives in Ottawa.

As well, cemeteries are a great source of information. Packing along a piece of chalk, Mrs. Bertrand walks among the stones, and if they are difficult to read, she runs her chalk over them to make the letters visible on a piece of paper.

Of the Halton and Peel cemeteries, 25 per cent have been studied and records made by the local genealogical society. Cemetery co-ordina-

tor, Mrs. Bertrand said every branch of the OGS is making records of

who is buried in the plots. In many cases, the original records have been destroyed in a fire.

BURNED
"Don't just give up when they say church records are lost or burned," Mrs. Bertrand said. "A lot of churches didn't have their own minister. Services were by someone who did a circuit of churches."

You take yourself to the church archives and find out what circuit a church was on and hunt the records accordingly. Sometimes church records were sitting in private homes, and sometimes a minister transferred to another church and took the records with him, Mrs. Bertrand noted. Find out where he went.

Hunting up a new approach when you think you've reached a dead end is part of the challenge of genealogy and certainly the attraction of it. There's always some little detail nagging for more attention that could unravel the mystery.

For more information about genealogy, contact Mrs. Bertrand at 877-8253.

Computers for sale

C.O.S.T. (Computer Order Saving Terminus Inc.) has a Georgetown representative, Trevor Cannon.

This new customer service operates as a purchasing agent working for the buyer.

Says president Dave Wilson, "all orders are initiated by the buyer. The customer faces the minor inconvenience of prepaying the order and waiting a couple of weeks for delivery, but it also means we can operate on a commission of only 10 per cent over dealer cost."

Orders are forwarded by mail to COST's Downsview headquarters where they are fed into a computer for processing.

COST then buys the item from the manufacturer and arranges for shipment to the customer. Mr. Cannon can be reached at 877-8939.

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NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

To facilitate the rehabilitation by the C.N.R. of the Limehouse Bridge, The Regional Municipality of Halton will be closing a portion of Regional Road No. 43 (No. 22 Side Road) at its intersections with the Fifth Line, in the Town of Halton Hills, from:

9:00 A.M.
Thursday, October 27, 1983
until 5:00 P.M.
Saturday, December 10, 1983

A signed detour will be provided using No. 22 Sideroad, Fifth Line, Highway No. 7, and the Fourth Line.

The Road will remain open for local access only.

David Varley
Regional Clerk

Halton

the **HERALD**
Community

Norval
Three months abroad, Norval woman learns about UK's farming

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief account of RRI Norval resident Carol Reid's recent exchange visit to the United Kingdom.

On the rainy evening of May 3, 1983, four Ontario Junior Farmers: Bruce Johnston of Perth, Lily-Ann Demanian of Peterborough, Lois Van Camp of Durham, and myself, Carol Reid of Peel, headed off to the United Kingdom.

Our adventure started in beautifully green Northern Ireland where we stayed for two weeks on family farms. Although security was tight in towns and cities, I was very impressed by the friendly, warm hospitality shown me by my hosts.

It was still raining when we arrived in FraeBrae, Scotland, but the dark weather didn't dampen our spirits as we learned about their agriculture and Young Farmers organizations.

REST
We had a few days "rest" in mid-June to play tourist and see the sights in London, England, before going our

separate ways to live with our English families for three weeks.

The official exchange trip concluded at the Royal Agricultural Show where we renewed friendships with international delegates we'd met along the way and said goodbye to our English friends. The families I stayed with and the people I met are very special and the memories of the three months are cherished.

In closing, I extend my deepest thanks to the ministry of agriculture and food and to the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario for providing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Also a big thank you to my family and friends for their encouragement and support.

DELEGATE

Norval W.I. met at the home of Marie Murray on Sept. 6 with 13 members and four visitors present. Business included the W.I. convention in Guelph Oct. 20 and 21, where Anne Wilson will be a delegate. The theme is "It's a small World!"

Contact Centre training session starts Tuesday

The fall training session for volunteers with the North Halton Contact Centre starts next Tuesday.

One of two training sessions held each year, the program prepares volunteers for calls they will have to deal with.

Ten years old this Nov. 15, the centre is changing its name from the Contact Centre to the North Halton Distress Centre. The change in name is to make it more uniform with other centres in the province. The service won't change and it will still be known as the Contact Centre to those who know it as such.

STATISTICS

Over the past six months, the centre, along with six others in Ontario, has been compiling statistics for the Ministry of Health.

The statistics will help the ministry identify needs in the community. If a service is lacking, the stats will show it. Thus, the ministry can move to develop services to meet those needs.

The 24-hour service is confidentially operated by caring volunteers, some of whom have been with the centre since its inception.

Volunteers call several elderly townspeople daily to check their well-being and give them someone to talk with. With Halton Hills

still being much of a rural area, isolation is a problem for many, from old to young mothers.

Many moms call to talk over their concerns with another adult, and young men in need of a befriending ear find help at the centre, when talking to parents won't do.

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Phone 877-8974

CREDIT VALLEY WATERSHED PLAN OPEN HOUSE

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority has completed a plan for its program priorities for the next twenty years.

The public are cordially invited to the following open houses to review and make comments on the Watershed Plan. Copies of the Watershed Plan are available on loan from central public libraries in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Erin and Orangeville and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority offices in Meadowvale, Ontario.

PLAN TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE OPEN HOUSES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
October 19	4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Lakeview Library, 1100 Abbotter Ave., Mississauga
October 25	4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	C.V.C.A. Offices, Mill St., Meadowvale
October 26	4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Silver Creek Education Centre, Ninth Line, Town of Halton Hills

MAP 1 MAP 2 MAP 3

For further information contact:
CREDIT VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MEADOWVALE, ONTARIO — 416-451-1615

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

SURVEYORS
R.E. Clipsham Limited
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1983 MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOTICE TO ELECTORS

The Polling Date for election to fill the vacancy of the office of Area Councillors, Ward 2 to be held on October 24th, 1983 during the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A notice has been mailed to qualified electors in Ward 2 advising of the location of their polling places. It is requested that each elector present his notification card at the polls.

An Advance Poll will be held on October 15th, 1983 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for electors who expect to be unable to vote on October 24th, 1983 at the following location:

Municipal Administration Building, Trafalgar Road.

Subject to certain conditions, an elector may vote by proxy by appointing in writing on the prescribed form, a person who is entitled to vote in this election. Such appointment is not valid unless certified by the Clerk not later than 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon of October 24th, 1983. Forms referred to are obtainable from the Clerk's Office.

Dated this 5th day of October, 1983.

K.R. Richardson, A.M.C.T.
Clerk Administrator and Returning Officer
Town of Halton Hills
36 Main Street South
HALTON HILLS (Georgetown),
Ontario, L7G 4X1