

Family History Newsletter



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Oct 2015

Not a Virtual Experience

by Brenda L. Smith

This summer I found the cemetery where the subject of my research—Adolphus Fellers—has lain since about 1918. With Erica Williams on this second trip to northwest Montana, I connected with local historian and journalist Nancy Thornton. I also met George and the Girls.

Nancy described the route to the resting place of my Aunt's Great Grandfather. On my previous trip to northwest Montana I had searched the Choteau city cemetery and found more recent Fellers interments. Also I had been told about the Teton Canyon "Métis" Cemetery. Nancy assured me that I needed the cemetery just south of the village of Dupuyer, a few miles north. Her directions led us in a circle around the only hill in the area—west a quarter mile, south almost a quarter mile, east a short quarter mile, into the field.

Opening the field gate I spied about thirty black Angus cows and their bull around a large pond to the west and thought they would ignore us. By the time I was back in the car some of the girls had ambled over to the track leading to the cemetery. The car's front bumper gently nudged them aside as we eased up the hillock. They watched us pass with placid eyes following our progress.

A chained and padlocked double gate was the main entrance in a chain link fence. We entered the site by the foot gate at the bottom northeast corner to find graves on the southern hill top wearing a crown of ancient lilac hedge. The first grave I spied was Adolphus Fellers. Strewn across the hillside

lay the families that his children had married into. Mostly they had been Métis, mingled with other migrant families determined to settle the North American prairies. Many had migrated back and forth to Canada, developing a culture that cushioned from repercussion of the 1880s Northwest conflict and the US government's policy of erasing the native presence anywhere it challenged western settlement.

Flush with discoveries it took me time to notice that the cows were now lined up along the hedge peering in at us. I turned at the sound of a crash against the main gate— and then a second crash.

The car was nearly invisible. The girls were licking bugs off the grill, tasting the windshield, rubbing against the doors. George—I named him on the spot—was leaning forcefully against the padlocked gate.

Plan! We needed a plan! I suggested that Erica calmly slip through the foot gate while I firmly instructed George that he was going to stay put. It worked. I looked him in the eye and told him to wait quietly. The girls skittered aside as Erica opened the driver's door and George turned to check what was happening. But he didn't seem bothered. While his attention was diverted, I too slipped through the foot gate and into the car.

We had difficulty finding the track back down the hill because, as cows will, they had thoroughly slobbered the windows and pushed the mirrors flat against the doors. George and his girls watched us roll away. They were disinterested when we stopped outside the field to wipe their contributions off the windows as best we could.

Online Resources

Indiana Genealogical Society

www.indgensoc.org

Free military databases:

- Burials of Mexican War Veterans from Indiana
- Burials of Revolutionary War Veterans in Indiana
- Burials of Spanish-American War Veterans from Indiana

MarineLives

<http://www.marinelives.org/wiki/MarineLives>

The MarineLives collaborative public history project was established in 2012 to digitise, transcribe and annotate the manuscript records of the English High Court of Admiralty from the 1650s and 1660s.

London's Livery Companies

www.londonroll.org

A searchable database of records of Apprentices and Freemen in the City of London Livery Companies between 1400 and 1900.

Chronicling America

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

A free, online searchable database of historic US newspapers published between 1836 and 1922.

Seventh-Day Adventist' Church Records

www.adventistarchives.org

The archives houses over 20,000 linear feet of records covering the entire period of church history. They include: legal instruments, minutes, reference files, reports, correspondence, publications, recordings, films,

video and audio tapes, and photographs.

City of Regina Archives

www.regina.ca/residents/heritage-history/city-archives/

The collection includes over 6,000,000 documents of legal, historical, administrative or financial value.

Scottish Post Office Directories

www.nls.uk/family-history/directories/post-office

Online you can now access 694 directories for the period 1773 to 1911, covering 28 of Scotland's towns and counties.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

www.abbygs.ca

- **End of Life Records** with Brenda S. Smith, Thursday, Oct 15, 2015, 1:00 pm, The Reach, Studio 2.
- Speaker Carly Butler Verheyen, Nov 19, 2015: 1:00 pm, The Reach, Studio 2.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

- **Family History Orientation**, Nov 7, 2015, 10:00am, Free. Pre-registration is recommended.
- **Finding your Scottish Roots, part 2** with Lorraine Irving, Nov 14, 2015, 10:30am – 12:00pm. Fee: \$10.
- **Family History Show & Tell**, Nov 28, 2015, 10:30am. 7th annual Show and Tell! Bring in your own creations or even an artifact belonging to an ancestor.

Finding Your Roots Seminar

www.findingyourroots.ca

- **Family History Seminar** with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, schedule and instructors on website. 6270 - 126 St Surrey, Saturday, Oct 17, 2015. Fee: Free. Sack-Lunch: \$5.

Vancouver Public Library

www.vpl.ca/programs/

- **Genealogy: Trace Your Ancestors with Ancestry Library Edition**, Sunday, Oct 18, 2015, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Computer Training Lab
- **Genealogy: Trace Your Ancestors with FamilySearch and Library and Archives Canada**, Sunday, Oct 25, 2015, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Computer Training Lab
- **Genealogy: Trace Your Ancestors with Ancestry Library Edition**, Wednesday, Nov 4, 2015 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Computer Training Lab
- **Genealogy Workshop**, Wednesday, Nov 18, 2015, 1:30pm – 3:30pm, Alma VanDusen & Peter Kaye Rooms
- **Genealogy: Trace Your Ancestors with FamilySearch and Library and Archives Canada**, Wednesday, Nov 25, 2015 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Computer Training Lab

Maple Ridge Family History Group, "Remembering our Military Ancestors" Bring an artifact and/or a story about an ancestor who served in the military. Or explore your tree and create list of everyone who served and the different wars in which they were involved. Wednesday, November 5, 2015, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.