



ROUTES TO ROOTS NEWSLETTER

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Family History...who cares?

In 1951 Margaret Crampsey quietly passed away. The following year I was born, her namesake. As I grew up I become aware that little was known about this woman, my grandmother. This was a mystery to me and particularly to my father who yearned to learn more about his mother and his heritage.

Following the birth of my first son twenty eight years ago I took upon myself to investigate the mystery. This early research kindled what became an ever growing passion for this intriguing field of discovery.

From this early research I discovered my grandmother set out from Ireland on her own leaving a large, loving family behind. My father never knew who his grandparents were, why his mother left or even exactly when she left. Determined, I set out to find some answers. I was never able to find out the why but I did fill in all of the gaps on her parents, great-grandparents and siblings. And, just a few months ago I found out the when. How exciting!!

Sadly, my father didn't live to see these most recent findings but I know he would be pleased. I now have a lasting history for my children and grandchildren so they won't have those same questions about their ancestors.

"What has to happen for you to **care** and leave a lasting legacy for your descendants?"

Canada's Online Atlas

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter available at <http://www.eogn.com>

When researching ancestors in Canada, you may find records that state they lived in Upper Canada or in Lower Canada. Where are those places? The *Atlas of Canada* can tell you. The same online atlas can also show you the locations of millions of other places in Canada.

Natural Resources Canada has a Web site with many maps, including today's political divisions, ecology, rivers, population, agriculture, mining, climate change, relief maps and much, much more. However, genealogists will be attracted to the Map Archives and historical maps. In 2006, the *Atlas of Canada* is celebrating 100 years of mapping Canada's geography and history.

I spent some time looking at pre-Confederation maps, namely 1740 and 1823. Both were fascinating as they showed the border changes before and after the British kicked the French out of North America (with the exception of St. Pierre and Miquelon). If you have French-Canadian ancestry, you will want to look carefully at the 1740 map to see where your ancestors lived. Zoom in to see all the villages.

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British North America circa 1823 was comprised of Lower Canada, Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland (including the Labrador Coast). The Northwest Territories were considered British possessions, while the Hudson's Bay Company controlled Rupert's Land. The United States and Britain jointly administered the Oregon Territory. I also noted the area called "Russian America." We normally do not think today of Russian territory within North America. Instead, we call it Alaska.

When you first see a map, it typically shows all of present-day Canada. However, using the mouse, you can click on points in the map to zoom in and out. You can also pan to the east, west, north, or south. I was able to zoom in until small areas of just a few miles across were displayed on the screen. The 1823 map also shows the locations of all Hudson's Bay Company Posts and King's Post Company locations, as well as other traders' locations and all significant European settlements. Best of all, it is easy to print any of the maps on your local printer.

Natural Resources Canada has provided a valuable service to genealogists and others. If you have Canadian ancestry, you will be interested in this site. You may also enjoy exploring Canada's history by use of these maps. ↗

The *Atlas of Canada* is available at <http://atlas.gc.ca>

Where Was Your Family in the 18th Century?

Are you curious about your ancestors? Perhaps a hero from your mother's past put up brave fight during one of history's wars. Or maybe one of your father's ancestors was a cousin of an English king—or one of his staff.

Wouldn't it be exciting to discover the secrets of your family's history? To find out what shaped their lives and, ultimately yours?

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GenealogyResults

364 O'Leary Ave
Peterborough, ON K9K 1E3
Canada

Phone: 705.742.3218

Website: www.genealogyresults.com

E-Mail: marg@genealogyresults.com