



ROUTES TO ROOTS NEWSLETTER

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"On the other end of the line was one of my clients with a story that shook me to the core and further enhanced my passion for this profession."

In This Issue:

1. *Unexpected Discoveries*
2. *The Family History Puzzle*
3. *Mother's Day is Just Around the Corner!*

Unexpected Discoveries

Three weeks ago I was working away in my office deeply engrossed in one of my many genealogy projects when the telephone rang. Ordinarily I eagerly anticipate each new call but this time my head and heart were so deeply embedded in a family research project that I was perturbed at the interruption. Common sense took over and I picked up the receiver and gave a cheery "Good morning GenealogyResults Marg speaking."

On the other end of the line was one of my clients, Sam Pilch, with a story that shook me to the core and further enhanced my passion for this profession. Sam is one of my clients whose project was nearing completion and we had been in regular contact via phone and email. There remained some unanswered questions that I was continuing to pursue. This call, though, was one of those unexpected, emotionally charged human interest stories that are uncovered for everyday ordinary people when they decide to research more about their family's past.

One of the mysteries when I started was that Sam didn't know who her great grandparents were. They were clearly one of the key missing links in this genealogy chart. It took a bit of work but I finally figured it out by comparing some Census records to some birth and death registrations I had located. In the course of this research I discovered, much to my surprise, that Sam's grandparents had had a little boy they called Vern, their first child. The little boy only lived 18 days dying in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children due to complications from being born prematurely. When I asked Sam if she knew this information, she did not. She called a couple of her aunts who also did not know that they had had an elder brother. One of these aunts was always raised to believe that she had been the eldest child. Last week this aunt was in Peterborough for a visit and when her niece presented her with this information, and the proof, Sam's aunt was quite upset. As their day went on, however, this new family knowledge turned into a positive thing.

I had discovered that little Vern had been buried in St. John's Norway Cemetery in Toronto. Sam's grandparents (parents of the infant) are buried in Peterborough, Ontario as it was the easiest thing to do at the time of their deaths. Sam's sister has been in touch with the cemetery in Toronto and found out there is still space in the baby's plot. Sam's aunt is now making arrangements to have her parents dis-interred from the cemetery in Peterborough and moved to rest with their little boy in Toronto.

Although this outcome is not the expected outcome from a family history search it was one that brought great satisfaction to the client and a sense of peace that the little baby boy who has been resting so long by himself will once again be with the parents who had had such a short time to love him and be with him. ✍️

The Family History Puzzle

There is a certain thrill in discovering something new, in putting together the pieces of a puzzle and uncovering the past. The thrill is the same in genealogy, as relatives, some long gone, help piece together a family history and give insight into how a family came

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to be.

As we learn more and more about our ancestors, they become more like the real people they were, who faced real struggles and experienced real joy, instead of simply existing as a name on a page.

And our ancestors weren't always perfect. Among the marriage certificates and family letters I have uncovered in my research, I have also found a newspaper article from 1914 describing the arrest of my great-grandfather for trying to get a Toronto streetcar driver to take him to Detroit. He was unable to pay the one dollar fine, so he was sent to jail for ten days.

One of the great joys of genealogy is bringing the names and stories of our ancestors back to life, some of which may have been long forgotten.

The search for roots can be frustrating. Information isn't always easy to find and records haven't always been kept in perfect condition. But the satisfaction of completing a project, or even finding enough of a clue to keep going, far outweighs any aggravation along the way.

People may have different reasons for wanting to piece together their family history. But, regardless of the motivation, the end result is a sense of family that can be passed on and treasured for generations.✍

Mother's Day is Just Around the Corner!

Are you struggling with ideas for a unique, yet meaningful, gift for your Mother, this Mother's Day? Wouldn't it be exciting to discover the secrets of your family's history? To find out what shaped their lives and, ultimately yours?

The task of researching your genealogy—the many paths that trace your family tree—can be a huge challenge. But you don't need to tackle it yourself. Whether your roots are in Canada, the United States, England, Ireland or Scotland, GenealogyResults can do the research for you.

Perhaps you'll select a basic product that included a package of research, a family tree report and associated source documentation. Or maybe you'll want an in-depth package, which can include charts, a family book, CDs, historical timelines and much more. You get to decide how much detail you want GenealogyResults to provide.

**It's your family's past.
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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