

History Repeats Itself

Eight years after the previous reunion, ancestors of the Sealy family gathered in Macrorie and Bratton to honor George Horatio Sealy (born 1846 in Kington St. Michael) and his wife Annie Knott Hall who emigrated to this part of Saskatchewan in 1904, together with various family members. Today, the family tree has expanded many times and so people traveled from Ottawa, Ontario, Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, while many of the descendants still reside in Saskatchewan, some on or nearby the original homestead places.

It was at the site of one of the homestead areas that the group gathered for a barbeque and a chance to catch up with the intervening years since the last meeting. Bouquets to our hosts Brenda and Don Hopkins and Wendy and Bruce Hopkins and their families. Don and Bruce are descendants of Edith Annie (born in 1875 in Chippenham , daughter of George and Annie) and Dr. Arthur George Hopkins.

On the second day of the event, the group visited the cemetery in Macrorie to pay homage to George Horatio Sealy who was buried there in 1928. A headstone installed in 2010 marks his resting place. After a lunch at the Macrorie Museum, hosted by the local ladies group, a gathering took place at the War Memorial in the museum grounds to remember John Alexander Sealy(Jack), a son of George Horatio and Annie . Born in 1881, he died May 1917, at Vimy, France, during the First World War. The Macrorie Legion Members, under the direction of Dean Corbett, honored Jack's sacrifice with a service of remembrance during which a wreath was placed at the cenotaph.

Following this service, the family and people from Macrorie enjoyed a tea party in the museum, giving those assembled a chance to visit and share experiences. Noreen and Spencer Sealy (great grandson of Horatio and Annie) presented the family bible to the museum for safe keeping on behalf of the Sealy family. One of the earliest entries is the marriage of Annie and George which took place in 1869 at the Westbury Parish Church.

In addition to the delicious desserts, we were privileged to have Garth Hampson, (great grandson of George Horatio and Annie) sing various songs from the two World Wars, accompanied by all those assembled. Garth was a member of the RCMP and in 1964 became a vocal soloist with the RCMP concert band. He still sings in uniform at national events in Canada and the USA , and has performed with choirs in churches and cathedrals in the UK. We would be remiss if mention was not made of the work that Garth has put into the organization of this 2018 reunion, and our heartfelt thanks go to him.

***The Sealy Family History** book compiled by Celie Clark after the last reunion has an interesting quote from Edmund Burke which the Sealy descendants embrace : “People will never look forward to posterity who never look back to their ancestors.” We would do well to remember this.*

Submitted by Barb and Ted Sealy (great grandson of George Horatio and Annie Sealy)