

ALBERTA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Relatively Speaking

Journal of the Alberta Genealogical Society ® 1973

In This Issue; President's Message; Correction to May Issue; If Walls Could Talk; Vanishing Prairie Icons: Not Quite Castles, Part One; Drayton Valley Branch Special Anniversary; Wetaskiwin Branch Celebrates 25 Years; Remembering Robert "Bob" Franz; An Unusual Research Services Request; Found Ashes; Reunion for Macintosh; Genealogy 4 Youth Gala 2025; AGS Awards; Guidelines For Authors; Theme for November RS; ABCs of Genealogy; Casino Volunteers Wanted; 60th Anniversary Celebration for Our Canadian Flag; 2026 Themes for RS; Spinning Webs; Index.



Borras Hall in Northeast Wales is one of the ancestral homes of Miriam Roberts, dating back to the 1200s. Read about Miriam's trip to Wales and visiting three of the houses connected to her family, starting on page 91.

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RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Mission Statement

Relatively Speaking is the quarterly Journal of the Alberta Genealogical Society whose purpose is to support the goals of the Society by providing:

- a regular, attractive, high-quality periodical
- articles of genealogical and/or historical interest
- genealogical articles written by youth
- information on family history, genealogy resources, methodology, research tips and collaborative events
- timely information regarding major AGS events and Conferences

The Publication

RELATIVELY SPEAKING is produced by a team of volunteers, and uses contributions submitted by members and supporters of the Alberta Genealogical Society.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING is published and mailed on or about the 15th of February, May, August and November. Closing dates for receiving contributions are the 15th of December, March, June and September.

We accept contributions on a wide variety of topics that will be of interest to anyone researching their family history and that are appropriate to our Mission Statement and theme of the issue. We especially welcome those with an Alberta connection.

Final authority for acceptance or rejection of material rests with the Editor and Ad hoc Editorial Committee. Neither the Alberta Genealogical Society nor ***RELATIVELY SPEAKING*** assumes any responsibility for errors or opinions on the part of contributors.

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In this Issue

As summer hums along, the pleasures of travel, and a well-loved home to return to, make their appearance. Readers of our August issue are invited to explore both these themes with offerings from two authors.

In *If Walls Could Talk*, a retelling of an excursion to her ancestral home, Miriam Roberts shares her memories of living in Wales and the houses of her childhood. When the search for a family headstone turned into a tour of a home that belonged to her 16 x great grandparents, she also unearthed some notable Welsh history. In his article *Not Quite Castles*, John Althouse explores the grand, and not so grand, hotels that followed the building of railways across Canada's prairies, and invites readers to visit some of the few remaining that still stand.

In continuation of recognizing three AGS branch anniversaries, the Drayton Valley Branch highlights their upcoming 30th anniversary celebrations, while Sharon Aney reports on the Wetaskiwin Branch's 25th anniversary celebrations from this past May.

In a more poignant observance, AGS member David Clarke offers a fond tribute to his colleague and friend Bob Franz, who passed away in April, 2025. Bob served as president of the Brooks & District Branch and the Alberta Genealogical Society, among many other capacities.

Under *Methods and Sources*, Claudine Nelson relates the challenges given to the AGS research team – in helping trace the owners of an early 20th century photo album as well as a pendant with ashes – and the heartfelt thanks to the team for their work. Les Campbell shares his skills with genealogy software Reunion version 14, to help genealogists build their family tree, and more.

In recognition of two prestigious AGS events, Lynne Duigou reports on the ever-popular Genealogy4Youth Gala, attended by students from St. Thomas Aquinas School in May, while Al Bromling, Lianne Kruger and Janine Carroll bring the AGS award recipients for 2024 into the spotlight. To wrap up, Denise Daubert applauds the 60th Anniversary of Canada's national flag, which took place February 15, 2025.

As always, *Relatively Speaking* would not be the consistently amazing experience without the generous work of many volunteers and authors. Our final celebration is to all of you.

Kate Wilson, Editor

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President's Message

by Lianne Kruger



*"The best way to show your love for those who are gone is to tell their stories."*¹ This quote inspires me to share my family history with my family. Even more, I want to share it in a way that my family will want to learn – and enjoy learning about it. The quote says "tell", so I tell them in a video using my voice instead of writing. I create short, 3 – 5 minute videos. I pick a few scanned photos that together tell a short story, or share a part of the life of an ancestor. In PowerPoint, I insert one photo per slide. I put the photos in the order I need to tell a story.

On each slide, I record myself, in PowerPoint, sharing vocally that part of the story shown in the photo. I like how recording is done and saved in PowerPoint. No other program is needed, and you don't have to go find the recording on your drive, as it is saved with the slide. If you already have a recording, you can add that instead. I then add transitions to move from one slide to the next automatically, so that the PowerPoint will go through the slides by itself.

Once it is done and tested, I then save the PowerPoint as an .mp4 file. The file must be .mp4 in order to upload to YouTube. Once the video is on my YouTube channel, I can decide whom I will share the videos with. If I want to share my video with the world, then I define it as public. If I am not ready to share it, I mark it private so only I can view it. If I want to share it with family but not the world, then I mark it as unlisted. As unlisted, I can share a link to the video in an email or blog post, or Facebook post, or anywhere. I have also made videos using my phone. One of my sons loves the rain. I stood outside in the rain one day to record, on my phone, a story about him and the rain. It was then uploaded to my YouTube channel right from my phone.

A great place to store your video to share with family is in your very own YouTube channel. You can create a free YouTube channel with a free Google account. You can use the Google account you already have or create a new one just for this. Good luck. Email if you have any questions, or share your stories. One of those stories might highlight your time as a member of AGS.

Thank you to all members who support AGS by attending monthly meetings and other activities. Thank you to all volunteers who keep AGS going. You are all doing a great job. I wish you all a good summer.

Lianne Kruger
AGS President

¹ *Once Upon A Time, ABC TV Series, Season 4 Episode 21, 2015*

Correction — In the May 2025 issue of *Relatively Speaking*, the final section of the article by William Anhorn, *The Inexplicable Disappearance of Reverend Robert Earl Ross and the Story of His Wife Pearl Ross and Her Young Family*, was incomplete. The final two paragraphs of the story were left out. We regret this error, and offer our sincere apologies to the author. Below is the final section, including the missing final two paragraphs that ended the article.

... In stark contrast, Earl's brother Alton James Ross lived a life of crime. The criminal record of Alton James Ross began within a few years of his mother's death. The psychological trauma and hardships he endured growing up no doubt played a significant role. He was arrested for numerous petty crimes, including theft, burglary and vagrancy and served several different prison sentences. He was described at times in various police reports as a petty thief, burglar, and gambler. He died in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1968.

This story of Pearl Ross and her children is a "true" life story which attracts attention, captivates one's imagination and draws sympathy by enabling one to identify readily with the people, problems and circumstances which are "real" life situations. Hope continues that with modern advancements of advanced DNA matching there may be some information as yet undiscovered, which may offer some clue or shed some light on the disappearance of Rev. Robert Ross.

RS



Miriam Roberts has written many articles for Relatively Speaking and for the Journal of Family History in Flintshire, Wales. She now lives at Points West Living in Drayton Valley, since her mobility has been compromised. Her husband also lives in the dementia unit at the same facility. Miriam is still involved at the Anglican Church.

If Walls Could Talk

by Miriam Roberts

The houses that our family have lived in would reveal a great deal of significant Welsh history.

I have lived in Canada for 58 years. On one trip to the UK I had visited my sister at Whitchurch, Shropshire as I was driving to my brother's place in Flintshire, Wales. I decided to stop at the village of Is y Coed to see my great-great-grandfather John Parry's grave, on my father's side.

I didn't find the headstone. Instead, I thought I would find out if there were any other Parrys in the area. I was directed to see John Parry who lived at Borrás Hall close by. Fortunately, they were home and made us welcome by giving us a cup of tea and a piece of cake while we were poring over a family tree they showed us. Although the name John was common in both families, we didn't find a connection.

While these Parrys shared the lengthy history of their house, he showed me a brief family tree of the original owners of the property, dating back to the 1200s. Lo and behold the names Robert Puleston and Lowry of Emral jumped off the page. They were my 16 x great grandparents on my mother's side. They lost the property due to the fact they had supported Lowry's brother Owain Glyndwr, who had led a rebellion against England from 1400 to 1415. (Refer to RS Volume 48, Number 2, May 2022 for more details.)

The present Borrás Hall is one of the most significant halls in Northeast Wales. It is constructed in the "box-framing" method, rather than the traditional cruck framing type. The H-plan brick house, the hall and solar wing of very substantial timber are



Borrás Hall

now encased in red brick partially covered in roughcast, and it has a slate roof. The central hall contains chamfered beams and a large inglenook fireplace with re-used Jacobean panelling detailing. We were taken down the stone cellar steps where a stone corbel, as a shield with chevron and two roses, were shown to us. This part of the hall was apparently a chapel in mediaeval times. There are no windows in this part of the building, as seen on the photo.



The dining room in Borras Hall.

In the photo of the dining room, a Welsh dresser can be seen on the left side of the table. These are typical of Welsh houses; they have about three shelves on the top to hold dinner plates, and below there are drawers for cutlery and cupboards to hold more dishes. Changes were made over the years to the original structure to modernise the building.

In 1988, Madoc's lead seal was found and was sent to Cardiff for

safekeeping. It is believed to be the seal of Borras and Erlas (an earlier occupant) who built Plas ym Mwrzas (the original Welsh name of the hall) in the 1200s. The seal has since disappeared!

In the book *Second Stages of Researching Welsh Ancestry*, which I bought (and now have donated to the Drayton Valley Branch of AGS Library), I found a copy of a nineteenth century engraving (which is in the possession of The National Library of Wales) of Cwrt Plas yn Dre. I had this engraving made into a painting by a local artist. She added another pig to the two pigs which were in the original, which adds a little whimsy to the picture of Cwrt Plas Yn Dre (Town Hall Court) in Dolgellau, Mid Wales.

This dwelling was owned by Baron Lewis Owen, my 11th great grandfather, married to Margaret Puleston who came from the same family as Lowry. But am not sure how they are related. Controversy is no stranger to this family. The Baron was born around 1500. Lewis' home was moved inexpertly to Newtown in the 1880s and has not survived. There is no description of the structure of the house, except what is seen in the engraving.



The author had this painting of Cwrt Plas yn Dre made, copied from a 19th century engraving.

Under the reign of Henry VIII, Baron Lewis Owen was appointed deputy chamberlain of North Wales and Baron of the Exchequer at Caernarvon. He was a Member of Parliament in four parliaments between 1547 and 1554.

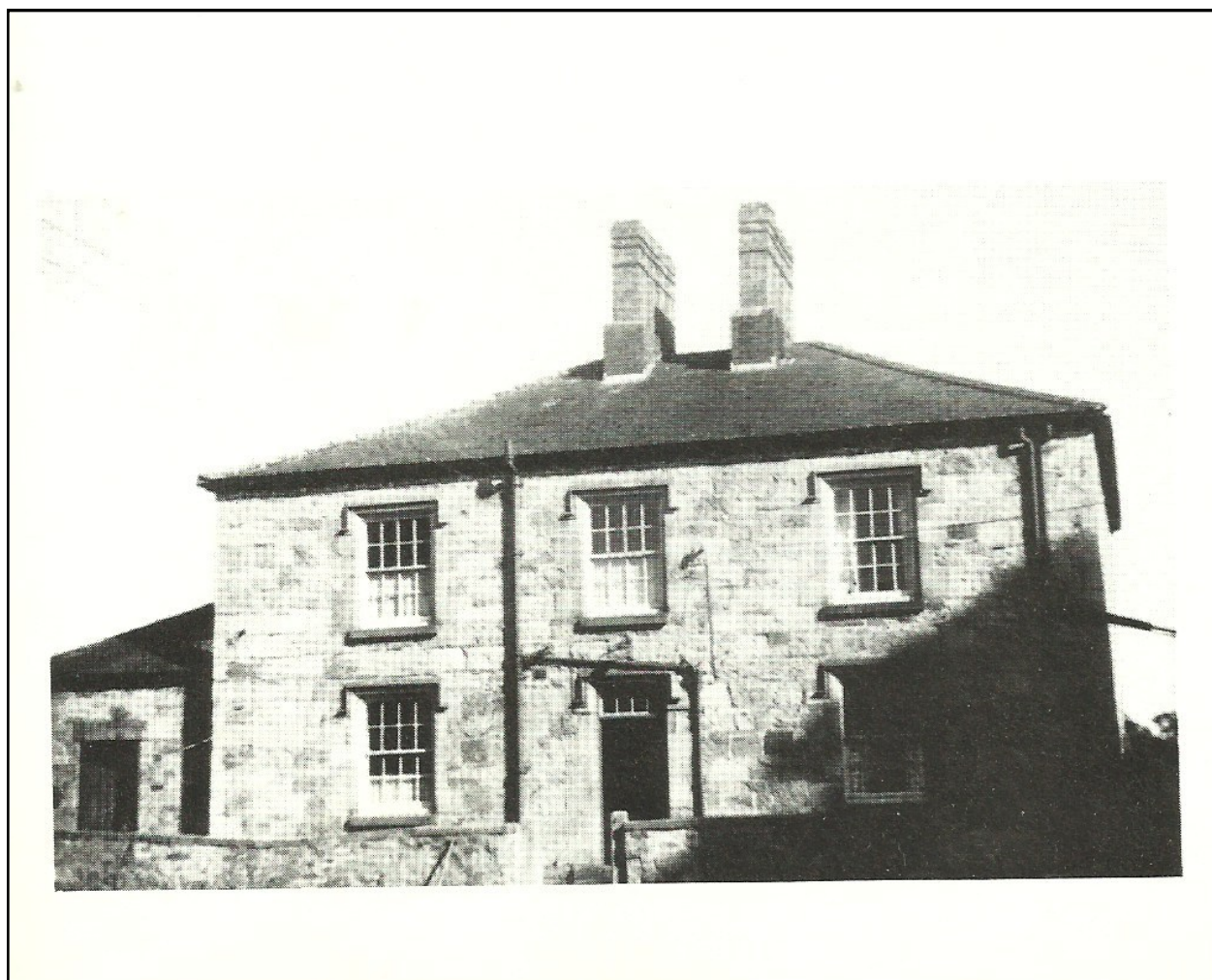
This period was a time of unrest in the County of Merioneth, believed to be caused by a group of outlaws called the red-haired bandits who were stealing livestock in the Mawddwy area. Lewis Owen was one who was trying to eradicate these outlaws from the county. On his way back on horseback from the Montgomeryshire assizes “when he was treating with Richard Mytton about the intended marriage of his eldest son” near Mallwyd, he was stopped by long trees felled by the red-haired bandits who were waiting to ambush and murder Baron Lewis Owen, on October 11th, 1555. The place to this day is called The Baron’s Gate. Eight men were sentenced and hanged for the baron’s murder.



A painting showing the front of Lygan Uchaf.

At one point during Owain Glydwr's campaign, Cwrt Plas yn Dre was used as a parliament.

When my sister and I went to visit my Aunt Becca in Dinas Mawddwy, the next village to Mallwyd, by bus, my mother insisted we take a small suckling pig with us.



The back of Lygan Uchaf farmhouse

My aunt met us off the bus in Dolgellau. We were relieved, having looked after the little porker on six different buses. It may be a coincidence that we were in the same town portrayed in the picture.

The third house I will describe is the one I grew up in, called Lygan Uchaf farm, in Northeast Wales between the villages of Hendre, Rhosesmor and Rhydymwyn. The house is built of locally quarried limestone. The district was rich in minerals, especially lead and its by-product of silver, as well as resources such as limestone, sand and gravel.

The farm was purchased by The Grosvenors in 1759, and in 1850 new farm buildings were built and a substantial house built in 1851. The date is engraved above the back door. There are a number of similar houses on the estate, of Georgian style architecture. The house is a listed building, which means that any modifications to be done to the building are limited.

The roof covering the house is of slate, with eight chimney stacks above, making it visible from the surrounding area. The back of the house has three windows on the second floor, each having sixteen panes of glass. On the second floor, the room to the left is not accessed from the interior of the house. I assume it was originally for a servant. Above the door to the house is a small room which was converted to a bathroom when I was growing up. This room had a trapdoor to the attic.

As children we always wanted to know what the attic contained. When our parents were gone to town one day my brother, with the help of my sister and I, climbed through the trapdoor to discover there was only dust, cobwebs and dead bats there!

The window on the right is for a large bedroom, which held two double beds, a dresser, wardrobe and washstand, with more space to spare. At the front of the house there were two bedrooms of similar size as the back bedrooms. Between these bedrooms there was a fairly large landing and staircase with a bannister descending to the main floor. My siblings and I would quite often slide down the bannister.

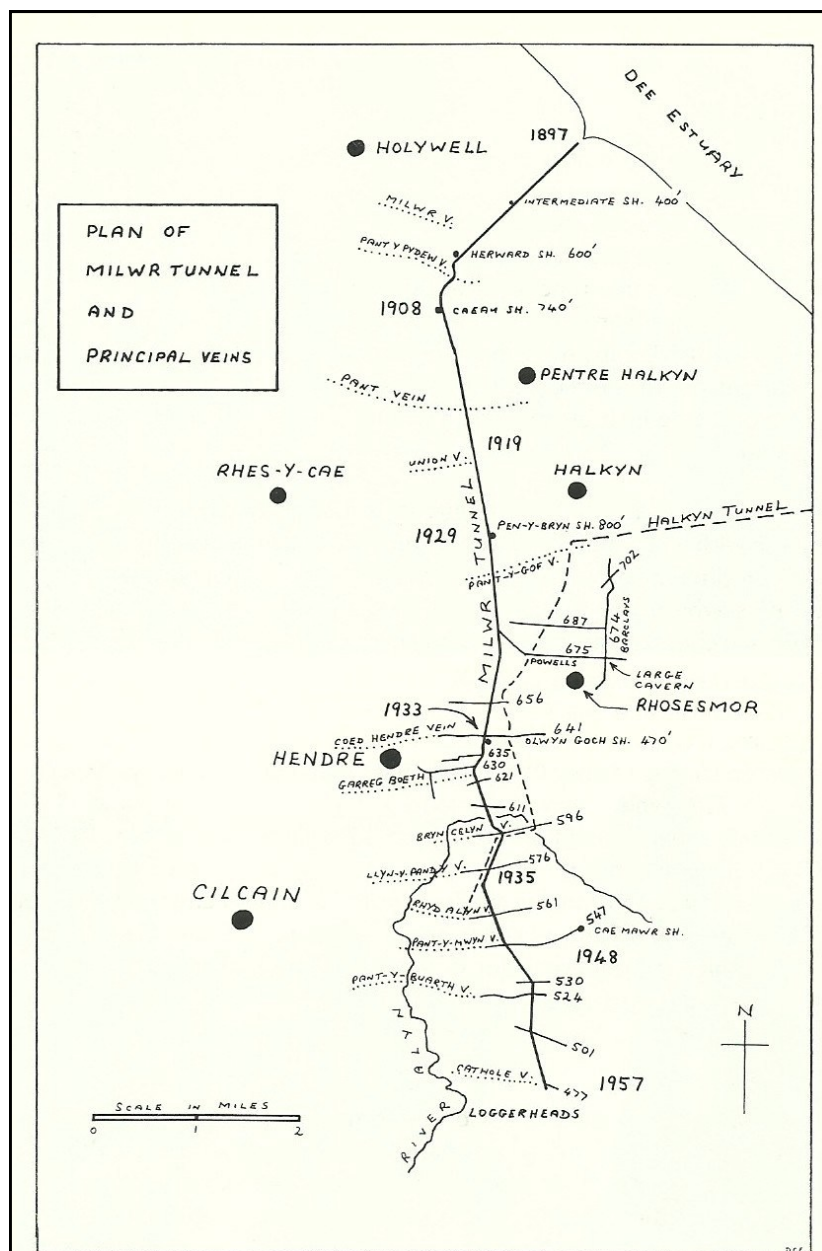
The front door was below the staircase. The two rooms beside the front door were a sitting room with a range, complete with an oven and a stone tiled floor, and the other room was called the parlour. It had a wooden floor, making the room feel warmer, and a fireplace to burn coal and wood. This is where guests were entertained. Below the parlour was a cellar, which was accessed from the back of the house. The back of the house had the main kitchen, with a range burning wood and coal, the only source of heat for the whole house. The other rooms were chilly.

The bedrooms each had a fireplace, but these were not used. The two front rooms and kitchen had shutters which we used in winter to keep the heat in.

During the cold winter of 1947, when the coldest temperature of -21 centigrade was experienced, we used the parlour. It was the warmest room in the house. Newborn chicks and lambs were also brought in to warm up. The beds were warmed with hot water bottles before bedtime.

The other room at the back of the house was originally a dairy, where milk was kept in large earthenware vessels which were placed on a thick slate shelf to help keep the milk cool. The milk was separated and churned into butter. The room was also used as a laundry room.

Between the two back rooms was a porch where boots were kept, with the pantry behind. This is where the door to the cellar was located, to access the stone steps. We didn't use the cellar, except when we were old enough when we worked on jigsaw puzzles together.



Lygan Uchaf is located approximately above line #641 in this diagram of tunnels, found in the book Milwr Tunnel.

Attached to the left side of the house was a limestone lean-to building. Originally, it had two large water boilers heated by wood and coal, between which was a large bake-oven to bake bread. There was another staircase on the inside of the building, to go up to the room above the dairy. This room is where my mother raised newborn chicks, which were placed in a heated incubator. Before the bathroom was installed in the house there was an outhouse, built of the same limestone, in the garden.

While I was growing up electricity and running water were installed into the house, and shortly after I left to go into nurses training, the phone was installed. When my brother was 16, below the age to legally drive, my father had an accident with the tractor, and my brother drove the car to call for an ambulance. Fortunately, my father recovered and I insisted a phone be installed at the house.

At the end of the 19th century, proposals were made by two gentlemen for a sanatorium to be opened in part of the house. About a half a mile away from the house there was a brick works, and the air was deemed polluted enough to be not suited for a sanatorium. There was also a concern about mining rights, and this idea was abandoned.

My paternal grandfather Evan Jones bought the farm from the Grosvenor estate in 1927, a time when estates such as the Grosvenor estate were breaking up, partly because of death duties and people going into different employment other than service.

Evan Jones' sister and husband, Edward and Margret Hooson, moved to the farm in 1898 and lived there until their deaths, when their son took over the farm. My father inherited the farm and moved in during the spring of 1943 until 1968, when my brother took over. His two sons and a grandson are farming there now.

We heard stories that there was a tunnel under the house, which we were skeptical about, when one day we were sitting eating our afternoon tea when we heard a noise which sounded like metal being moved around. We were starting to believe there was an element of truth in the tale. Years later a book called *Milbr Tunnel* was published in 1993, making the tale quite possible. There is a diagram of the tunnels in the book (shown in the illustration) which shows the tunnels and their proximity to the house. It looks like the tunnel is built directly below where the house is located. The tunnels were built to transport lead from the mines by locomotives, and a channel was made below the rails to drain water from the tunnels. One exit was about a ½ mile from the house, where the lead was unloaded onto trains to be shipped away as freight by the country's network of rail. Lead ceased to be mined in 1986. The first people to mine lead were the Romans, about 2,000 years ago.

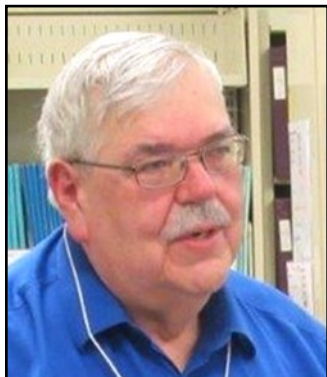
About another ½ mile down the valley, at Rhydymwyn, a chemical factory was built during WWII by ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries). About 60 years later, the truth was revealed about "The Valley", as it was dubbed. It was the site where "mustard gas" was produced during the war. The site was never found by the enemy because of its remote location. The products were stored in tunnels and caverns left over from the previous limestone and mining industries. Another development was in the works known as "Project X", started at the Antelope Hotel. It was the embryonic stage of the development of the atom bomb. Planning of the project was transferred to Quebec in 1943 where Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt met to develop a working protocol, known as The Manhattan Project. The final result of this project was made in USA, which culminated in the dropping of the first atom bomb over Hiroshima.

Although we were astonished to learn about the history of "The Valley", at the same time we were relieved to know that no untoward incidents occurred in the area. We lived without the fear of knowing what was being produced.

Sources

Intrigue of the Past In and About Flintshire by Mike Drvlin; *The History of Halkyn Mountain* by Bryn Ellis; and *Halkyn Mountain Communities in Times Past*, a community publication.

RS



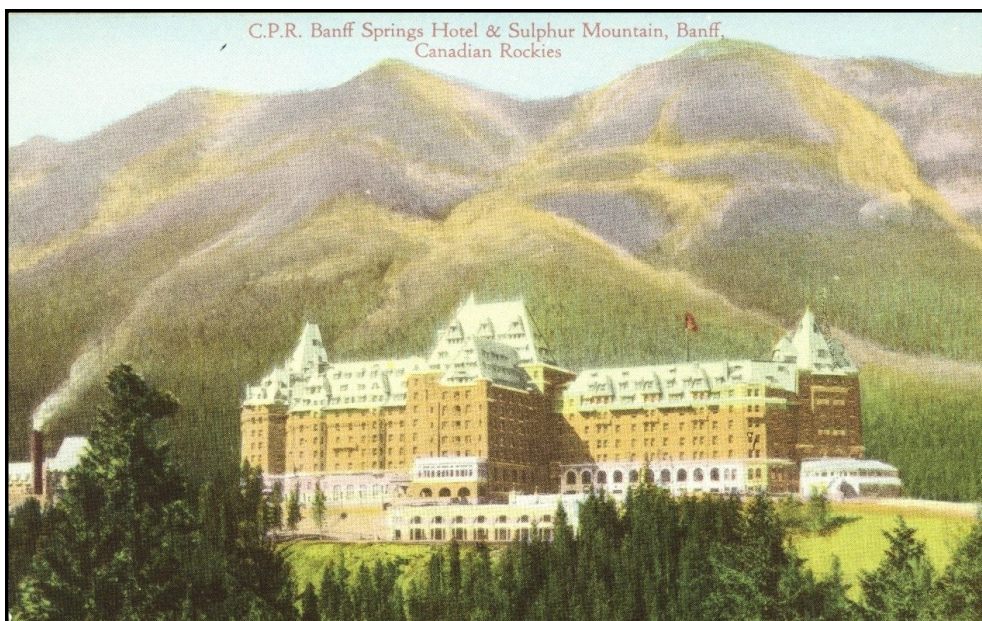
John Althouse was born in Canora, Saskatchewan, and his family moved to Edmonton in 1956. After graduating from University of Alberta he was a teacher for Edmonton Catholic Schools. In retirement he began researching his family roots in Canada, the USA, Germany, Volga German Russia and Ukraine, and has been a regular contributor to *Relatively Speaking* and *Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Bulletin*. In Edmonton, he has moderated the German and Post Scriptis Special Interest Groups, made genealogical presentations for AGS and other groups and was an instructor in the Tracing Your Family Tree courses. His true love is researching, experiencing and writing about the history of our Prairie Provinces.

Vanishing Prairie Icons: Not Quite Castles – Part One

by John Althouse

The following is another article in the series “Vanishing Prairie Icons” which have appeared in past issues of RS. These articles focus on a type of place once a common part of the Alberta landscape (which over time have vanished or nearly vanished) as well as provide a genealogical perspective related to these once vital prairie institutions.

Railways were a vital requirement to open that vast reserve of untapped prairie and adjoining parkland quickly, and essential for bringing large numbers of settlers needed to do this, to Western Canada. As the rail lines and town sites were surveyed, rails laid down, stations built, and settlements started to be developed at these townsites, there was a need for places where the many people who entered these settlements could stay for short – and occasionally longer – periods of time. The railway companies quickly recognized this when it came to major cities and scenic vacation spots of Western Canada, and they got into the business of building hotels in these important locales. These hotels were grand indeed, designed for the most affluent travelers. Many of these structures built in the Neo-château or Châteauesque style, which incorporated towers and turrets and other architectural design features which typified palaces. The facilities and services within these hotels made them truly palatial. These hotels bear names like The Banff Springs Hotel, The Fort Garry Hotel, The Bessborough Hotel, The Empress Hotel and The Chateau Lake Louise. Most Canadians recognize their names and images instantly. Today, these magnificent structures remain familiar as Western landmarks.



Grand railway hotels like the Banff Springs Hotel were palatial.

As the railway brought a large influx of individuals seeking land or intending to capitalize on the settlers and community in some way, there was a need to accommodate the arrivals in each new town along every railway line. Most of these numerous settlers were not affluent and needed affordable, temporary

accommodation in keeping with their meagre finances in the townsites close to where they planned to homestead. After the arrival of the railway, hotels were among the very first buildings to be erected in emerging townsites. The diversity of those who rode the trains often gave rise to not just one but several hotels of varying comfort and repute being erected in these embryonic towns. Of these, at least one was usually situated directly across Railway Avenue from the station, at the very beginning of Main Street. Next to the wooden grain elevators of early Western Canadian towns, the largest building was often its hotel. Just as the railways began to replace the crude trails that had once served as major routes in the west, these hotels replaced the “stopping houses” along the trails as a major source of accommodation for weary travelers. The hotels erected in many of these towns varied considerably, in terms of the level of comfort they offered, rates, and repute. However, unlike the more esteemed grand railway hotels in major centers, these hotels might provide comfort and convenience but certainly were not quite castles.



In some hotels the facilities might be rather basic.

Conversely, the names of many of these establishments oozed class. They often implied regal connections and therefore quality, even luxury, implying that their guests would be housed in conditions “fit for a king or queen.” These names included such lofty designations as Queens Hotel, Imperial Hotel, Royal Hotel, The King’s Hotel, King Edward Hotel, Alexandra Hotel, Royal Alexandra, Windsor Hotel, St. George Hotel, Royal George Hotel, and an almost endless list of similar names. Often another hotel in a town might bear the name of that town itself such as Munson Hotel, Didsbury Hotel, Wayne Hotel, Wainwright Hotel, or Irma Hotel. Here, there was an implication of quality, hominess and exclusivity that suggested it was the



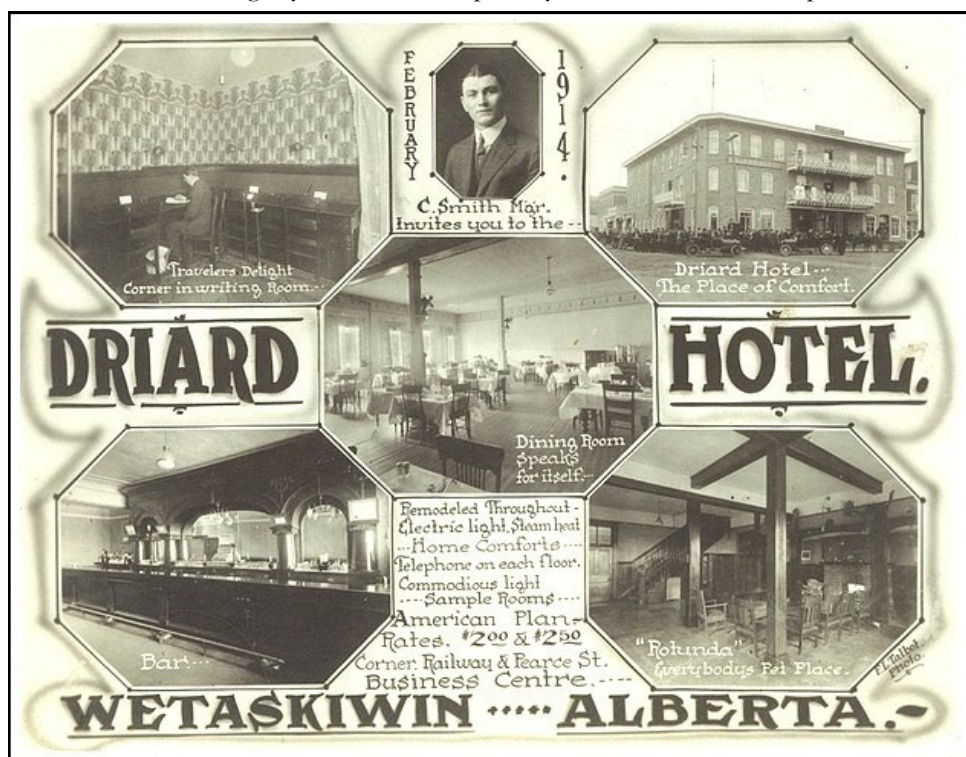
Some hotels like the Queens Hotel in Fort Macleod took on regal names.

hotel favoured by the residents of the town.

The stateliness of these hotels was often enhanced by the claims made in the hotel's advertisements. When the Wainwright Hotel re-opened after being destroyed by a fire, the new Wainwright Hotel could boast 60 rooms and boldly bill itself as "The Finest Smaller Town Hotel in Western Canada". Although seldom the same, hotels in many small towns made claims about their perceived "virtues". The Alexandra Hotel in Red Deer made note of its location "opposite the Dominion Land Office" making a good place to stay if making property transactions. In addition, it noted its "Homelike Accommodations" at \$1.00 to \$2.00 per day. An ad for a hotel by the same name in Didsbury stated it provided "Good accommodations for commercial men. First class sample rooms. Livery in connection". The Criterion Hotel in Wetaskiwin went further, offering "commodious sample rooms". Royal Hotel in Innisfail lauded its "best wines and liquors". The Arlington Hotel advertised that it "Sets a Table UNEXCELLED in Alberta". Lethbridge Hotel described itself as "MODERN COMMERCIAL AND TOURIST HOTEL" but for slightly more at \$1.50 per day and made note of its prime location "facing park". Often, these and

other similar descriptions lifted expectations of the hotels which might or might not pale when viewed in person and up close by travelers.

The prairie hotels did bring unique features and many firsts to the communities in which they were located. When it was built in 1903, the Prince of Wales Hotel in Wetaskiwin was the only place in the settlement that had its own electric lights. Power for the system was generated by its own generator. At that time, this hotel could boast other luxuries, hot water on demand and flush toilets. Prior to the advent of refrigeration, The Leland Hotel in Ponoka built an icehouse in the back, employed large quantities of sawdust for insulation, and



Prairie hotels in small towns did bring unique features and many firsts to the communities.

cut ice in winter from the nearby Battle River so it could provide a cold beverage even on the hottest summer day. For those ladies and gents in Ponoka who abhorred the demon rum and other spirits, there was an alternative to the two "wet" hotels, The Temperance Hotel. When the Transit Hotel in North Edmonton [now within Edmonton] opened in September 1908 in anticipation of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's arrival the following year, it could claim a hotel lighted by electricity, hot and cold water, a telephone system, and even a barber shop open in its basement. The interior of the King Edward Hotel in Pincher Creek, built in 1904, was steam heated for the comfort of its guests, had a telephone available for long-distance calls, and like its competitor, the Arlington Hotel, offered transportation to and from the railway station. The Grand Union Hotel in Athabasca built in 1913 advertised "many with private baths, and centralized steam heating". Other hotels would be among the first users of radio, and even had real fire escapes in place of rope ladders.

Hotels catered to travelers, particularly those who came and went by train. The basis of all these hotels were the individual rooms where the traveler could find comfort and rest during his sojourn in a community. The wash

facilities could differ significantly from establishment to establishment. Indeed, there were rooms that had running water and flush toilets. However, in some hotels, rooms were equipped with a washstand with an ewer, a basin, and a supply of towels. There were other facilities in these hotels designed to add to the comfort and enjoyment of guests during their stay. Again, these facilities varied greatly in type, size, and quality from one hotel to another. There would be a dining room or at least a café where a guest could get a meal. There was almost always a bar where travelers and locals might secure a drink. Over the years, this part of the hotel operation was the major source of income for the business. The hotel might also have facilities other than the bar where guests might find diversion during their leisure hours. This might be a smoking room, a reading room or library, perhaps a billiards room, and in rare cases even a bowling alley. Some hotels even had other businesses use space within their building to provide additional services for their guests and locals, as well. A hotel might have a barber shop, a newspaper and smoke stand, or a bank operating within it. Hotels were essential parts of the commercial sector of Western Canadian towns during their earliest days.

HOTEL ARRIVALS

Following is a list of the arrivals at the local hotels from Sunday last to this morning:

Park Hotel.

Sunday—A. J. Sather and family, Bert Perry, Edmonton, M. Millard, Edmonton.

Monday—W.F. Sharp, Edmonton, W. J. Kingworth and wife, Edmonton, A. Crawford, Edmonton, F. S. Green, Strome, A. R. DeLancey, Strome, J. R. McIntyr, Edmonton, V. L. Clarke, Edmonton, A. L. Girard, Montreal, C.H. White, Edmonton, F. S. Anger, Edmonton, H. Rannie, E. Grenier, R. A. Staples, Edmonton, A.

Tuesday—P. Welch, W. S. Fair, G. F. Edwards, Kerrobert, A. E. Yearnman, California, Mrs. Gray and family, Winnipeg, A. Whittaker, Vancouver, F. E. Farmer, Edmonton, G. D. Turner, Edmonton, A. A. Whiting, Winnipeg, J. H. J. H. Clarke, Winnipeg.

Wainwright Hotel

Sunday—J. M. Knight, John Lennie, Geo Nokes, J.J. Creighton, F. Moran, Edgerton, A. Wilkin, Edmonton, F. B. Hill, Edmonton, F. B. Hill, Edmonton.

Monday—A. Simons, Montreal, F. H. Russell, Edmonton, D. J. Simons, Edmonton, H. B. Hamelore, Edmonton, Ed Ripley, Edmonton, Jos. Pipeu, Ribstone, E. G. Blinn, John Tory, Wainwright, E. H. Tilly, Wabamun.

Tuesday—J. H. Clarke, Winnipeg, B. Eaton, Toronto, D. H. Dundas, Chauvin, J. Runsiman, Edgerton, Jas. H. Kennedy, H. R. Howard, H. R. Howard, A. Wilkin, Edmonton.

Guests in the local hotels were a matter of great local interest. Groups of citizens would gather on the station platform to see who was entering town by train. Some newspapers regularly published lists of hotel guests. As many of the temporary but regular guests of hotels in a town were “commercial travelers” (who today we call traveling salesmen), the hotels made special efforts to provide for these prized clients. During the early years of Western Canadian towns, commercial travelers armed with traveling cases containing varied goods and samples would travel from place to place along the rail lines to acquaint locals with the merits of their wares and take as many orders for them as possible. The bulk of the cases salesmen carried with them led them to favour hotels located directly across from the station. In addition, some hotels would provide a porter or other employee who would go to the station and transport these heavy cases to the hotel for a salesman staying at that hotel. Many hotels also provided facilities known as “sample rooms,” which the visiting salesman could book and in which he could lay out his wares for inspection. These sample rooms could range from an extra-large room furnished for this purpose, in which a range of wares might be laid out



Hotel guest lists were published by some newspapers.

Salesman in a display room at a hotel in Bowden, Alberta

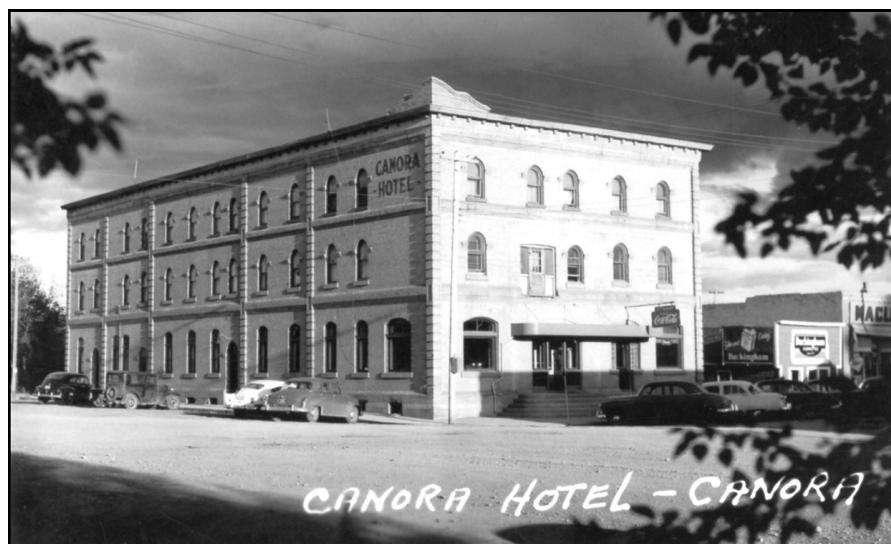
for display, to simply a regular hotel room equipped with tables for display instead of its standard furnishing. Prior to his visit, the salesman might send letters to the owners of the commercial establishments of that town with the dates of his visit and a hint of goods that he would be bringing for their inspection. On other occasions, on the day following his arrival in a community, the traveler might make personal visits to businesses with which had previously done business and with those with which he could potentially do business, making them aware of his samples and where and when they could come to view them. After the shops in the towns closed, the merchants would visit the sample rooms, inspect the traveler's goods, be told of their merits, and, if sufficiently impressed, place an order for those goods for their businesses.

However, there were also services beyond this that the hotel could provide for residents of the town. If someone required long-term accommodation as merchants interested in focusing strictly on their business endeavours and their families, they might take up residence in a room or a suite of rooms within a hotel. Often, the hotel would provide a certain area within the hotel where all these long-term guests would have their quarters. One such family during these early days was that of the hotel manager or owner proprietor. He needed to be available readily if an emergency occurred. Often, his wife and other family members would be employed in some aspects of the hotel operation. As the hotels often had large gathering spaces and food preparation service, most notably connected with its dining room, it was an ideal setting for gatherings like weddings and other events, especially for the more affluent residents

Empress Hotel Dance

One of the very best dances given in Empress was held at the Empress Hotel, on Friday evening last, October 16. The good number of a hundred citizens, or over, were in attendance. The music supplied by Messrs. C. E. Sexton, J. Schiltz and E. Franklin was of the best. The management of the hotel are to be complimented on the dance which all who attended seemed to thoroughly enjoy. Very good refreshments were served during the interval. The dance was given free, no admission money whatever, being charged

Hotels provided spaces for locals to meet and socialize.



This is the hotel where my parents lived briefly during the housing shortage following World War II.

turning soldiers and their families until they could find more permanent accommodation. My parents were one such couple who settled into the Canora Hotel for a few months until they were able to find a house to rent. These early hotels provided much for travelers coming to the community and regular residents of the community as well.

when there were few other alternatives that could supply such services. The large halls within a hotel might also host many firsts within the community, such as initial meetings of the mayor and local council, and early church services and temple services before permanent places of worship were erected. The large halls within hotels might also be the site for regular community gatherings such as dances, wedding celebrations and community suppers, and often the formative meetings of many community groups. In later times, like the days immediately after World War II when many communities faced housing shortages, the small-town hotels filled the void by providing accommodation for re-

Watch for Part Two in the November 2025 issue of RS.

RS

Anniversaries celebrated in 2025

*Three Alberta Genealogical Society branches have special anniversaries in 2025! We're helping celebrate with an exposé of these branches in the May and August 2025 issues of Relatively Speaking. The Wetaskiwin and Camrose Branches were highlighted in the May issue. Read the **Drayton Valley Branch** story below.*

Drayton Valley Branch

supplied by the Drayton Valley Branch of AGS

The Drayton Valley Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society is celebrating its 30th Anniversary on October 18, 2025.

Our story



Drayton Valley Branch members Connie Stuhl (back left), Bev Wright and Miriam Roberts (front) stand in front of the branch's book collection in the Drayton Valley Municipal Library.

In 1993, a group of seven people interested in genealogy gathered in a meeting room at the hospital, since many of us worked there, to discuss becoming a branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS). A member attended an AGS meeting and learned what would be required to become a Branch, and what the benefits would be to the group.

In September, 1994, money was received from AGS to purchase books and to support a workshop. Later in September, Pat Pettit was the guest speaker on "Beginning Your Family Tree". In 1995, the executive of the Branch was formed with 12 members. Founding members of the executive included Colleen Andersen, Connie Stuhl, Jim Maxwell, Joyce Dusterhoft and Juanita Block. Partnerships were made with the High School Library to order books through inter-library loan, and the Drayton Valley Library housed the microfilm reader and facilitated borrowing microfilm from the Ontario Archives and US Archives.

Our mission is to promote the study of genealogy and encourage others to research their family tree.

Some milestones

One major project included recording the births, deaths and marriages from newspapers published in Drayton Valley, Alberta. These included The Pembina News Advertiser 1954 – 1965, the Drayton Valley Banner 1965 and the Western Review 1966 – 2004. After nine years of recording, typing and proof reading, on November 7th, 2007 we held a book launch of "*Index of Births, Marriages and Deaths of Drayton Valley and Surrounding Area in Alberta*".

In 1999 communications began with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in hopes of opening a Family History Centre. After a few years, the Family History Centre opened in 2004.

At the AGS Conference in 2015, our Branch received the President's Award from AGS President Susan Haga in recognition of 20 years of dedication to the promotion of genealogical research and family history.

In 2016 our Branch took on the task of hosting Gen Faire "*Pulling Together Your Family History*" with a total of 69 people in attendance. Workshops were also held, with many interesting speakers over the years. Our group has recorded fourteen cemeteries in our area.

Reviewing a story in the history of Drayton Valley, written by Dr. Brian Loosmore, we wondered what other information we could uncover on Drayton Valley's first murder in 1922. During the Covid shut down, with not much else to do, Colleen Andersen, Miriam Roberts and Connie Stuhl started searching for more information. Pouring over the internet, searching through newspapers, requesting information from the Provincial Archives of Alberta and through military connections, we were able to accumulate a large binder of information. Re-opening after Covid, we were able to do presentations at the museum and later to family members.

We advocated that the Drayton Valley Library add *Ancestry.com Library Edition* to their public computers. We also approached the library director with information about Family Search Affiliated Library. He agreed to take these to the Yellowhead Regional Library for approval, and both resources were added to the public computers in the library.

In 2021, to make the Genealogy 4 Youth resources more accessible, kits were made for each of the age groups. The kits have been used mostly by the Home School Group.

Our Branch has been located in various locations over the years, including a meeting room at the Drayton Valley Hospital, Historical Society Museum, the 55+ Centre, the Shangri-La Lodge, Wishing Well Apartments and finally the Drayton Valley Library.

Our Anniversary Plans

On October 18, 2025 we will be hosting a special anniversary celebration at the Drayton Valley Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We have booked Gordon L. McBean as our guest speaker and a member from the LDS Church will also present on what's new with *Family Search*. *This will be a free event.*

- 4309 52 St., Drayton Valley
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Display tables with local resources

Drayton Valley Branch meetings

- In person the third Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July, August and December, at the Drayton Valley Library 5120 52 St., Drayton Valley, Alberta.

The Drayton Valley Branch does not have a website, but invites you to follow our Facebook Page [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/DraytonValleyBranchAlbertaGenealogicalSociety) (<https://www.facebook.com/DraytonValleyBranchAlbertaGenealogicalSociety>)

Resources available at the library include our book collection, available for loan or interlibrary loan through the Drayton Valley Municipal Library; a collection of obituaries from local newspapers; access to *Ancestry.com Library Edition* and access to Family Search Affiliated Library. We also have kits made up for the Genealogy 4 Youth which are available for loan through the Drayton Valley Library. They have been accessed by the Home School Program.

We do not currently have a newsletter.

RS



Sharon Aney is a charter member of the Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS. She has been editor of its newsletter *Roots & Branches* since 2010. In that position she has encouraged Wetaskiwin Branch members to write articles about their ancestors, their research journeys and their memories of experiences for the three books that the Branch has put out. Sharon's purpose for pursuing genealogy has been to find the stories of her ancestors. Now that she is an "ancestor" herself, as great-grandmother to two little ones, she is more convinced than ever that we all should be telling the stories of our past families for our future families.

Wetaskiwin Branch Celebrates 25 Years

by Sharon Aney

On October 4, 2000 a group of 16 interested individuals from Wetaskiwin sent a letter to the Alberta Genealogical Society requesting membership as a branch. It was accepted. Two members have remained active in 2025: Alice Hoyle, who has held the position of President for several two-year terms, and Sharon Aney, who has been Editor of "*Roots & Branches*" since 2010.

As I look back, I see phases in the growth of our individual members, and of our branch. Each phase was built on the previous one and contributed to our growth.

For the first dozen years or so, we had so much to learn. We moved from recording our family trees on paper to using a computer . . . and choosing one of many genealogy programs which would "retain our information forever and eliminate the need for paper"!

However, we had to make sure to "back up" our information on floppy discs, and later on CDs, or we could lose it all! So, many of us did not eliminate paper.

The Latter Day Saints (LDS) Family History Library was our first look at potential information found on microfilm and microfiche at the Bonnie Doon Branch in Edmonton. We advocated that the LDS Church in Wetaskiwin open the Family History Library. In 2004 we welcomed our local Family History Center, and some members volunteered in it until Covid 19 closed it down temporarily.

We learned how to do research on the many online databases which followed *ancestry.com*. We learned to use some archives in new ways as they placed their catalogues online. We also learned that not all archives were online. Therefore we still had to write letters with our requests for information, on occasion.

We were excited to share all of this with fellow members at our meetings . . . and with the community, holding an annual day-long workshop for ten years. We hosted a Gen Fair in 2006.



Alice Hoyle stands in front of the Wetaskiwin Branch display table.



Charter members Alice Hoyle, Sharon Aney, Leah Jaburek and Pat Ware (l to r) ready to cut the cake.

Moving into our second phase, as we learned the histories of our families, members began to write about their ancestors and how their stories were discovered. Their articles were, and continue to be, the main content of our branch newsletter which is posted on our website and is free for all to read.

AGS's *Relatively Speaking* editors have printed members' direct submissions and have requested that some articles be reprinted from our Roots & Branches newsletter. Thirteen Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards have been awarded to our authors and / or to the

newsletter as a whole.

In our third phase, we began to look beyond our own research boundaries. The challenge of the "Canada 150" movement to write something to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 was accepted. Our branch produced two booklets: "*Memories of Christmas*" and "*School Days Memories*". Of course, each article became a chapter in our personal story.

In 2018 we faced the possibility of losing the City of Wetaskiwin Archives. For five years we advocated to City Council that it be retained, and we are relieved that it has been turned over to the Wetaskiwin Heritage Museum Board to manage. To support the Museum we held a "collectibles market" in 2024 as a fundraiser. Some members continue to volunteer to assist its new archives director.

A branch committee spent considerable time and energy making arrangements for another Gen Fair to take place on March 25, 2020. Just days ahead of the event, public gatherings were shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. So the venue, speakers and caterer were cancelled and everyone stayed home.

In 2021 AGS asked if we could re-organize the 2020 plans for a 2021 Gen Fair. Kudos to Alice Hoyle and her committee, and to the presenters! It took place . . . online! AGS reported that there was record attendance at the first ever virtual AGM.

Realizing that we were living in an historic era, in 2021, 17 of our members produced a 97-page book relating our challenges in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, amid isolation, illnesses, deaths, missed birthdays, weddings, Christmas etc. We hope that a chapter like this one will never be re-lived by our descendants.

During and beyond the Covid-19 pandemic, our membership remained strong due largely to our president moving our meetings to Zoom. Claudia Malloch provides online content at each meeting: webinars, presentations by

professional genealogists, genealogical websites, etc. Zoom continues to be an alternative venue for our winter meetings. Members have become quite proficient in using the ever-increasing online resources, including DNA testing for family connections.

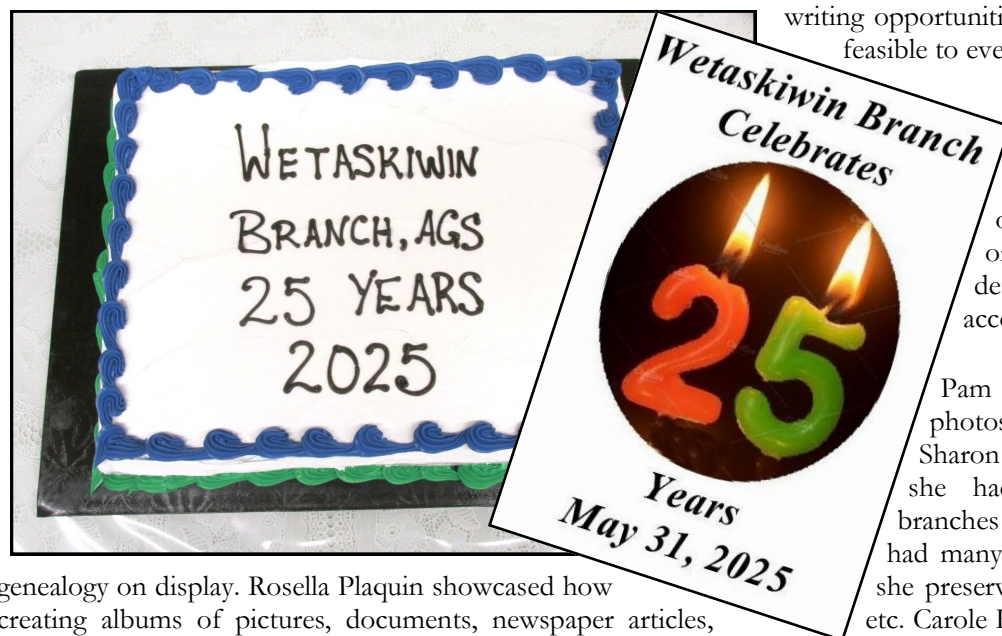
Sharon Aney has kept members involved by encouraging them to write articles for the newsletters. Lee Koop has developed our website into a comprehensive documentation of our activities. Several memberships have come from afar as a result of the website.

As 2025 approached, we realized that we had a lot to celebrate.

On May 31, 2025 we hosted 75+ people who joined us in the celebration of our 25th Anniversary. The organizing committee (Alice Hoyle, chair; Lee and Carole Koop; Alma Daigle; Bob Maynard and Sharon Aney) had arranged the day at the Seniors Centre. Sharon Aney compiled a history of the branch in a "Special Edition" of Roots & Branches.

We were pleased to welcome back charter members Leah Jaburek and Patricia Ware who helped cut the ceremonial cake.

Our feature speaker was Bob Layton, a former 630 CHED broadcaster. As genealogists and family historians, the crowd appreciated Mr. Layton's helpful hints on how to write "our stories". He stressed the importance of those stories to our present and future families. His humorous descriptions of circumstances which he had turned into writing opportunities made the idea of a story feasible to everyone.



genealogy on display. Rosella Plaquin showcased how creating albums of pictures, documents, newspaper articles, prizes and had them on display.

The auditorium was ringed with display tables. Our branch had two tables: one with a display board and one exhibiting several albums detailing our activities and accomplishments.

Pam Cooke brought books and photos of Maskwacis history. Sharon Aney brought six books she had written about various branches of her family. Bob Maynard had many generations of his English she preserved our branch activities by etc. Carole Koop had arranged for door

Recognizing other organizations with which we connect, the Family Search Centre, the Heritage Museum and City Archives were also invited to put up displays. Their representatives spoke about the mutual support and the benefits we share.

The noise level was considerable as people visited with each other, viewed the displays and discussed them. It was a very successful day, capping our first quarter century.

RS



David Clarke was born, raised and educated in Brooks, Alberta, a grandson of homesteaders (1903). After graduation with a B.A History from the University of Calgary, he followed a career in the travel industry for 35 years in Calgary, Victoria, Winnipeg and Norway.

Returning to his hometown, he took up the horticultural roots of his youth and worked for Alberta Heritage Sites and then the City of Brooks Parks Department for 12 years. A sporadic member of AGS since 2007, David is serving his 3rd term as President, Brooks and District and was recently elected 2nd VP on the AGS Provincial Board.

Remembering Robert “Bob” Franz

by David Clarke

Robert Adam “call me Bob” Franz, Past President Emeritus of the Alberta Genealogical Society (2016-18) and Brooks & District Branch (2013-17 and 2022), passed away April 6, 2025 at the age of 79. His struggles with respiratory illness and mobility issues over the last two years confined him ever closer to home, but his mind and heart remained wildly expansive in his artwork, computer research and publishing. In late February he broadcast a Yippee Ki Yay post about breaching a brick wall on his great grandmother “*doing a happy dance with my walker*”.

As editor of B & D Heirlines newsletter (2015-21) Bob garnered numerous Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) Kenneth Young awards. He received AGS Life Member Status in 2020, and the President’s Award in recognition of multi-level contributions in 2023. At the AGS 50th Anniversary conference, a Special Recognition was presented in appreciation for his AGS history “*Achieving Success*”, which was inclusive of 12 branches and running to 207 pages for the decade 2013-2023.

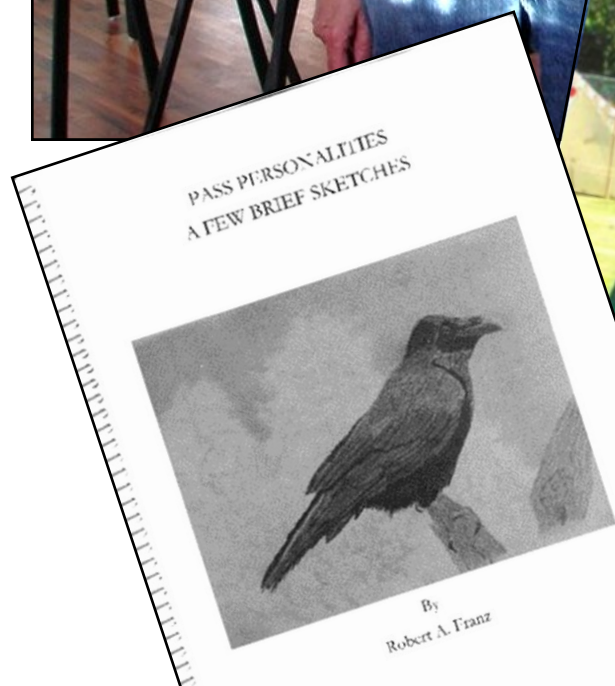
Bob was born in a “two-room shack” in Coleman, Alberta, a hard scrabble mining community in the Crowsnest Pass to ethnic German parents. As an only child, a “Oner”, he revelled in the embrace of his neighbouring grandparents, 14 aunts and uncles and a blizzard of cousins. Notably left-brained, academic success came early and he edited the school paper, the Grapevine. With two years university training he began teaching language arts and biology in Coleman.

With academic upgrades and school consolidation he became Vice Principal, then a move from the high alpine to the shortest of short grass as teaching Principal in Hays, Alberta.

His next move was to Brooks, Alberta as an administrator for Newell County, and eventually Chief Deputy Superintendent of the amalgamated rural/urban Grasslands School Division for 24 years.

The Crowsnest upbringing gave him a lifelong affinity for nature, and with childhood sweetheart and spouse Grace, son Kyle and daughter Meghan, toured across Canada and the US by camper van and trailer, transiting from the Hudson’s Bay to the Gulf of Mexico. Their dad’s short strolls were five-kilometre hikes, usually over broken terrain or down a gulch.





Clockwise from top: Bob with some of his artwork; Dorian Grey: A Study in Shades of Grey which won Bob the AACA Harry Wohlfarth Award; as a 15th century German burgher at the Brooks Medieval Faire; Vol II of Pass Personalities" 2023/24.

In retirement after 2005, Bob rediscovered latent talents and expanded interests. He joined Brooks and District AGS in 2010 and served as Branch Historian, President, Past President and Newsletter Editor. In the same period, he was a charter member of the Sage Brush Arts Society, running the executive gambit there and the Alberta Art Clubs Association.

Though Bob actually did have a Master's degree, (MEd 1974, University of Alberta), his pride was palatable in the designation "Master Artist" by the AACA (Alberta Community Art Clubs Association). He combined art and prose with two volumes of "*Pass Personalities*" on local characters from his hometown published 2023/24.

Bob at his passing was doggedly producing a history of all the schools in the immediate Eastern Irrigation District "*Chalkboards to Smartboards, 1909-2025*". His son Kyle has a PhD in Labour History from Queen's University and ambitions to finish that for him. No word on his children's novel, in its 3rd draft, or the outline for an adult high fantasy trilogy. The only place busier than his brain was his office with its copious library and artists' easels.

Beneath the fastidious work habits and the fabulous mustachios (à la Emperor Franz Joseph) was a not-so-hidden sense of whimsy: *if I'm teaching history, why don't we all have archery lessons or if I'm teaching science, let's start a Rocketry Club and blast stuff into the sky*. Bob, I believe, would be amused to have blazed his own path "Beyond the Sunset".

RS

Charles Denney Collection/Métis Family History

The Denney Collection is an exceptional resource for anyone researching their Métis family history in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Some coverage of Métis families in the NWT, BC and Northern Ontario.

The Collection has genealogical data on 1,200 families descended from the original Red River Settlers and Métis families who prospered over the Prairie fur trade era.

Visit edmontongenealogy.ca/charles-denney-collection-metis-family-history



Get experienced assistance and guidance

The knowledgeable instructors will point out the special skills and tools needed to research your family history. They will guide you in your research regardless of what level you are at and show you strategies to find the records you need.

There is a fee charged for attending these events. Non-AGS members are charged a higher fee to attend.

For information regarding upcoming TYFT events, go to the Events page.

« *Methods & Sources* »

This section has been added to *Relatively Speaking* to offer advice and tips on researching specific populations and genealogical topics, by providing advice and methods of research as well as sources of information and data to assist you in your research.

Unusual Request & Found Ashes

The following two articles explore requests sent to the AGS Research Services team.



Claudine Nelson attended her first Alberta Genealogical Society conference in 1989. She has been actively involved with the AGS and Edmonton Branch as a library volunteer, served in many Edmonton Branch Board positions and is currently the AGS Library and Resource Centre Chair. She has written and published two family histories and is working on the more complicated paternal family stories.

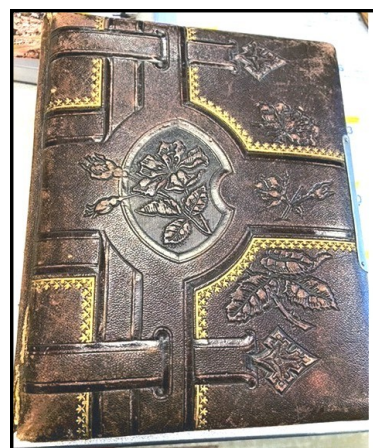
An Unusual Research Services Request

by Claudine Nelson

In February 2024 a reporter from Global News Edmonton phoned the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) library about a wrapped photo album which had arrived at their office. This request caught the interest of many AGS library volunteers. The ONLY clues found in the few pictures forwarded to us were from a classy leather-bound album. Some pictures were labeled from Scotland – Glasgow and Paisley: family of parents with eight children; two women; a couple; a lone female; and two children identified as Lillian and Hellen Shipp. The mystery deepens with more pictures: 1/ a lone boy in front of a building surrounded by snow, and 2/ a barn with 10 men standing in front of 'Sunny Field Farm - 1919', likely on the Canadian Prairies.

An Edmonton 2019 obituary for Donald Winston Shipp of Ucluelet, BC gave the name of his parents: Thomas Lawford and Jean Viola Shipp and brother Richard Thomas Shipp. The 1921 Manitoba census gave the name of Thomas Lawford's parents: Joseph Thomas and Selina Shipp, born in England, and five children, born in Ontario. A 1903 Bristol marriage registration showed that Joseph married Selina Annie Pullin. The 1891 Scotland census includes Pullen names. A George Pullen married a Shipp in 1861 in Surrey County, England.

Pat P., a volunteer with AGS, had a Manitoba local history book with the Joseph Thomas Shipp story. Their barn was built near Shellmouth, Manitoba. Distant family members have been found but none have wanted this photo album. Global News was still hoping to find a home for the album.



All pictures were sent to AGS Research Services to discover the origin of the album and its owner.

Finally, in May, 2025, the 8 1/2" x 7" x 2 1/4" photo album found a home.



One of the photographs in the mystery album shows two women who posed for their photo in Glasgow, Scotland.



Two children were identified as Lillian and Hellen Shipp.



Photo of a couple.



Photo of a family of parents with eight children.

It was mailed off to a descendant in Manitoba who knows the Shellmouth area and the barn. Corine and a nephew are now busy researching their family tree.

The album was dropped off at AGS office so that the researchers could see all the photos. A strange find within – *Lillian and Hellen Shipp* was written on the back of a picture taken by a non-professional on the Canadian prairies. This was not sent to us!

I am very proud of AGS Research Services in discovering what we did. Global Edmonton gave me permission to send it to Corine.



Top left: A lone woman, another photo in the mystery album.

Top Right: The mystery deepened with more photos, this one of a lone boy in front of a building surrounded by snow.

Left: This photo of men standing in front of a barn was likely taken on the Canadian prairies.

For more on the Global News article, here's the website:

[What's the story behind this mysterious photo album dropped at Global Edmonton? | Globalnews.ca](https://globalnews.ca/story/what-the-story-behind-this-mysterious-photo-album-dropped-at-global-edmonton/)

RS

Found Ashes

by Claudine Nelson

A very challenging research request was sent to the AGS Office.

Near Fitset Ninja in Edmonton, Jess had found a memorial pendant (pictured below) containing ashes. "Stephen" was engraved on one side, with full birth and death dates on another side. No surname!

Jess let us know that 'uncle' was on a third side. Jess had "*spent hours searching obituaries but have had no luck*".

The above query was forwarded to Norma Wolowyk, AGS Research Services Chair, who immediately posted it to the Research Services Committee. Time for three committee researchers – Pat Pettitt, Pamela Forsyth and myself, Claudine Nelson – to be challenged on Family Day, 2025.

I checked *newspapers.com* which was a long shot using just the first name, death date and Alberta, though there was nothing to say he died in Alberta. *Find-a-Grave* in Alberta was checked. No luck.

Pat saw Jess' search message on *Edmonton Lost/Found/Stolen(Canada)*, a Facebook group.

Pam was the one who decided to put the limited information into *ancestry.com* and found a Stephen that matched the birth and death dates in the *Public Member Trees*. Stephen was born in Calgary and died in Wildwood in 2013.

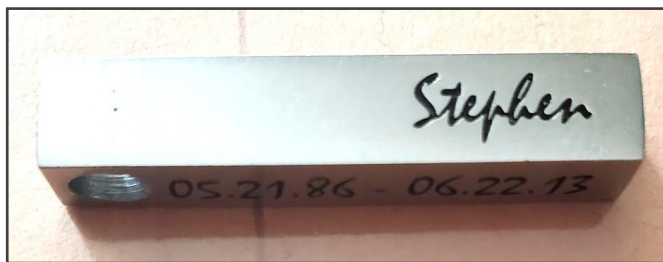
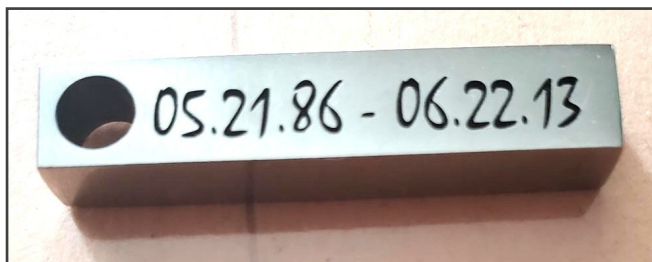
I went back to searching *newspapers.com* using Stephen's full name, death year and Alberta. A sad story was found in the Edmonton Journal about Stephen Thomson falling out of a boat while boating with friends, and they were still searching for his body in June, 2013.

This information was passed on to Jess, who then went on Facebook and found a page by Stephen's brother remembering his brother 10 years after the drowning.

Jess contacted a brother, Sean, who furnished the information that it was his sister's daughter who lost the pendant. Jess was looking forward to being able to give this piece of family history back to Stephen's niece.

"Without you guys, I would have never located the last name. The article you shared gave me the brother Sean, and after scouring his Facebook page found a post he shared from 2023 in June, tagging Stephen.

Thank you so so so much!" – Jess



RS

« *Methods & Sources* »

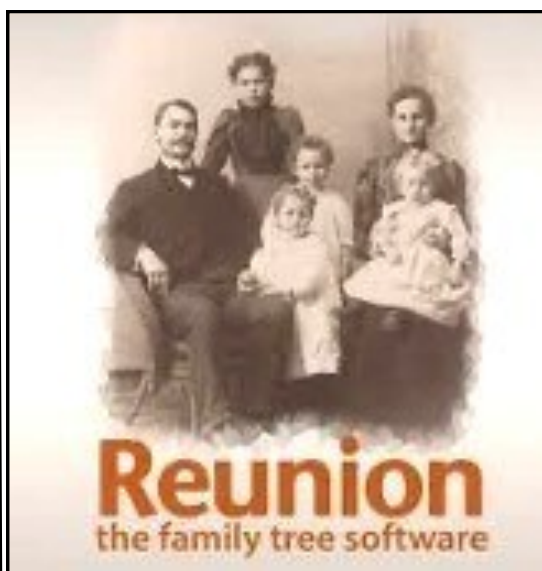
This section has been added to *Relatively Speaking* to offer advice and tips on researching specific populations and genealogical topics, by providing advice and methods of research as well as sources of information and data to assist you in your research.



Les Campbell has been a member of the Alberta Genealogical Society and the Edmonton Branch since 1997. As a member of the Edmonton Branch, he has been Vice President, President, Past President, Chair of the Scotland Special Interest Group (SIG) and Ireland SIG, Mac Genealogy User Group SIG, Webmaster and the Director of the Clandigger newsletter, as well as President of the Alberta Genealogical Society. He has been researching his English, Métis, German and American ancestry for 28 years. His research has taken him to England, Scotland and the United States.

Reunion for Macintosh

by Les Campbell



Reunion version 14 is commercial genealogy software for the Mac (Macintosh) laptop and desktop computer. The quality of the software is easy to use with many features, options, and improvements. You can easily build your family genealogy by entering data or importing a GEDCOM file. A GEDCOM file is a text-based file format used for sharing and exchanging genealogical data between different genealogy software programs and websites. Entering data is easy and straightforward. The core is the family view which appears in the center of Reunion's application

window. This is where you will do most of your data entry. As shown in Figure 1 the interface shows a couple (husband and wife) with vital stats and life events under each person's name. Their children are at the bottom. Their parents are at the top (parents of the husband in the upper-left and parents of the wife in the upper-right).

The Sidebar is great for navigating, searching, and keeping lists. The Sidebar is a column on the left side of the Reunion window which has various lists that when clicked will display in the right column of the Reunion window. Shown in Figure 1 of the Sidebar People has been selected, and People are displayed in the right column of the Reunion window. This is a great navigational tool listing people by surname. You can quickly find any person by using the search field at the top of the list.

The add (+) button as shown in Figure 1 is selected to add a person to the current family. You can add new people, people from the sidebar or search for people who may be already in the family file somewhere.

Birth, marriage, death certificates, obituaries, gravestones are stored as media, and you enter the data from each document as a source. When adding a source, a collection of fields comprising the source template will automatically appear in the source fields.

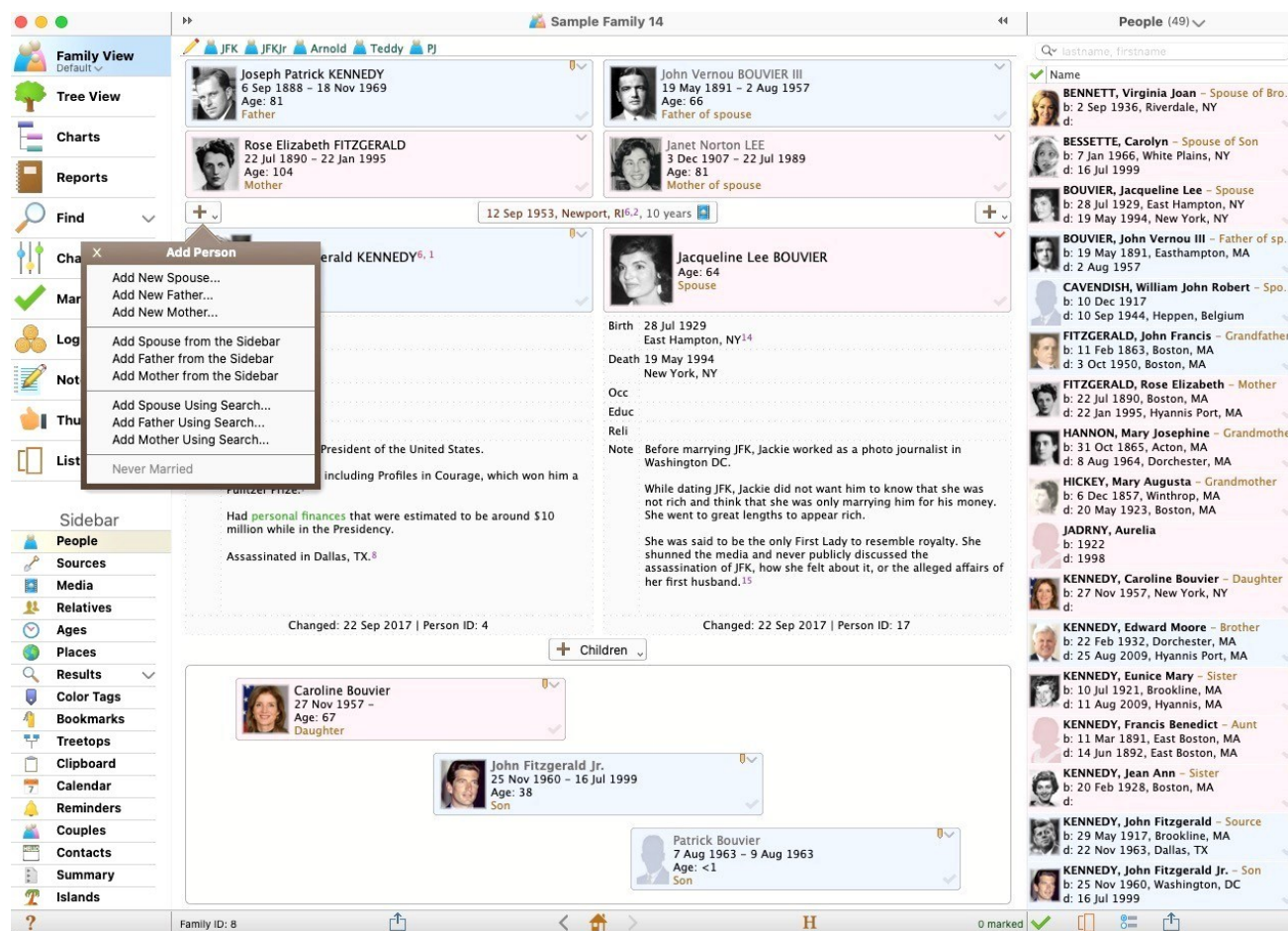


Figure 1 Family View

In the Edit Person panel, you can add or edit Name, Events, Facts, Notes, Flags.

- Events are comprised of a **date** and **place** and an event generally represents a significant occurrence in somebody's life, such as birth, marriage, death, obituaries, gravestones etc.
- Facts by default are Occupation, Education and Religion. You can configure your own set of default facts.
- Notes are free-form text relating to a person. Notes include personal stores, immigration details, land holdings and transactions, research notes etc.
- Flags can be set for Clergy, earliest ancestor, Military, Research Complete, Left-Handed etc.

	Name	Events	Facts	Notes	Flags
Type	Date	Place	Memo		
Birth	23 Mar 1914	Monroe Twp., Juniata Co., PA	Monroe Twp.		
Death	9 Aug 1990	Lewistown, PA			
Burial	12 Aug 1990	Hillside Cemetery, McAlisterville, PA			

Figure 2 Edit Person Panel

Once you've entered data, Reunion gives you numerous options for displays, reports and charts. You can create graphic charts including pedigree charts, descendant charts and ancestor charts (up to 99 generations), fan charts, bowtie charts, and timeline charts.

You do not have to exit the software to search online websites. Reunion can assist in performing searches by automatically launching your web browser, connecting with a web site, and passing it details about a person for whom you desire more information. If information is found (names, dates, places, images, etc.), you may peruse it and add/update records in Reunion accordingly. Websites to search include: familysearch.org, ancestry.com, archives.com, findagrave.com, etc.

Reunion automatically checks for maintenance updates. You have the option to select them from a pop-up menu and how often to check for updates.

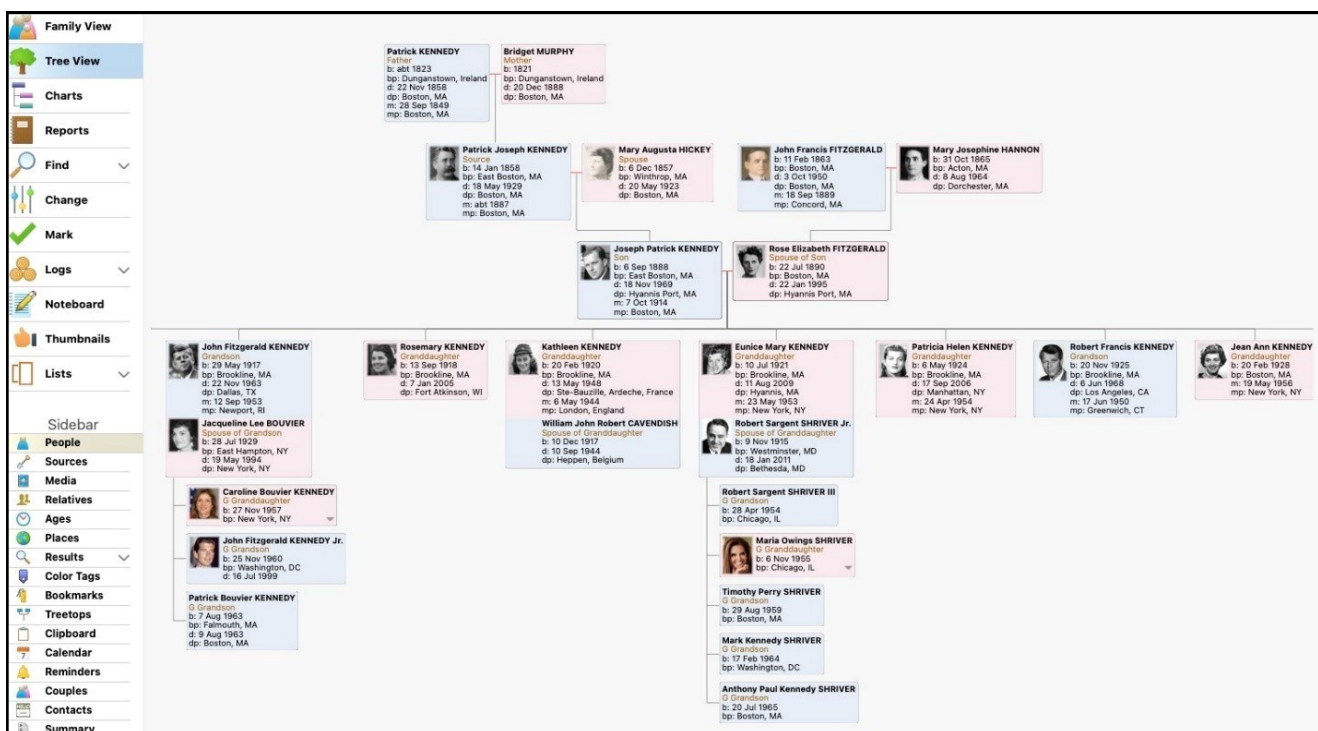


Figure 3 Tree View

You can share your genealogy on the internet by selecting web publishing. Reunion creates a wide variety of reports that can be automatically formatted for uploading to your web site.

In Reunion, a family book is an automatically generated yet fully customizable PDF (Portable Document Format) document that you can share with your family, publish, or print.

The electronic manual is online and is extensive, well-written logically organized. Click the Help button (?) in the lower-left corner of any window. This opens the manual to a page relevant to what appears in the middle of the Reunion window.

Tree View is in the left column under Family View. The tree view is a navigational graphic tree in the form of an hourglass or ancestor chart. It provides an excellent overview tool and provides a quick way to see lots of people

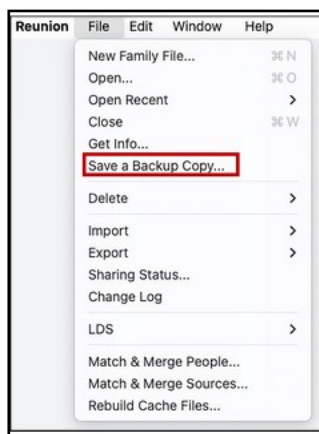


Figure 4 Save a Backup Copy

The MAC Genealogy SIG (Special Interest Group) is free and open to members of the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS). We meet at the AGS Edmonton branch library every second Monday of January, March, May, September, November at 7 pm. The focus of the group is on the use of the Mac computer and Reunion software. If there is enough interest from other branches a digital meeting (Zoom) will be given consideration.

graphically. It is easy to move around your family tree because each person appears in clickable boxes. And each box includes name, birth date, death date, and (for couples) marriage date.

After opening Reunion click on File to **Save a Backup Copy** of your family file. A default name, including the current date, will be entered for you. Change the name if you prefer and click **Save**. You can navigate among your folders and disks to choose a location for the backup copy. Simply copy your family file to the desired device like a USB flash/thumb drive or external hard drive as you would any other file or folder.

Reunion Web Store: Download the free *Reunion v14 demo and try before you buy!*
URL: <https://www.leisterpro.com/doc/v14/download.php>

RS

Did you know . . .

As an AGS member you can access reports on the AGS website

- ◇ Choose the 'Member Login' drop-down menu
- ◇ Log in
- ◇ Choose the reports you wish to peruse

• general meeting minutes • operations manual • board meeting minutes • archived reports

Visit www.abgenealogy.ca



Genealogy 4 Youth Gala 2025

by Lynne Duigou

Our Family Roots

Celebrating the
Indigenous or
Immigrant Family History
of the Gr. 5 Students

at

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School

Sponsored by
Art Gallery of Alberta

&

Alberta Genealogical Society

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Atrium & TD



ALBERTA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

On Saturday, May 10, 2025, the Alberta Genealogical Society presented 46 Grade Five St. Thomas Aquinas School of Spruce Grove students with certificates for the completion of a poster on their Indigenous or Immigrant Family History. Sponsored by the Art Gallery of Alberta, the students' posters were on exhibition for the month of May, 2025 in the TD Learning Gallery at the Art Gallery of Alberta. Approximately 200 students, parents and family members gathered at the Art Gallery for the presentation of certificates. Everyone was given free access to viewing of all Art Gallery Exhibits and were treated to a juice and cookies reception sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School.

This Genealogy4Youth project is in its eleventh year and 1,685 students from St. Thomas Aquinas school have now received certificates. AGS has presented 1,832 students across Alberta with Genealogy4Youth project certificates, and 45 of the students have written their family history stories. They became published authors by submitting them to Alberta Genealogical Society's Journal *Relatively Speaking*. *Relatively Speaking* goes to 650+ members, libraries and archives in Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

Marion Rex Howard, a retired Grade 5 teacher and AGS Life Member, has been spearheading this project since 2014. She makes an initial Family History/Genealogy presentation to each of the Grade 5 classes at the school. In 2025, with the help of their families and teachers, 108 students completed posters. The teachers then submitted the posters from each class for judging. Lou Duigou, retired Edmonton Catholic Schools Area

Superintendent and Lynne Duigou, an AGS Past President, judged the posters as to genealogical content, documentation, family tree, story and presentation of material.



This year students chose research featuring the following: *Austria, Bangladesh, Canada (Driftpile Cree Nation, Haida Nation, Iroquois Nation, Plains Cree, and Métis), Cyprus, Dubai, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Liberia, Northern Ireland, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Scotland, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Ukraine, United States, and Zimbabwe.*

Pictures of each of the students with their certificate were taken, to be given to them later.



Three Generations – Mom, Taylor Paradis and Grandpa in front of Taylor's Family History poster.

Waiting to congratulate the students on their achievement are (*top photo, left to right*) Jock Howard – President Edmonton Branch AGS; Jeri Wilson – Board of Trustees, Evergreen Catholic Schools; Derek Brown – Principal of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, and Fatme Elkadry – Edmonton Heritage Council.

RS

AGS Awards – April 26, 2025

Presented by Lianne Kruger, AGS President

by Al Bromling

Long-Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five Years (2000-2025)

Hans-Henning Muendel, #4215	Lethbridge & District Branch
Melvin Bender, #4251	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Doug Warren, #4263	Edmonton Branch
Margaret McInall, #4275	Edmonton Branch
Sherri Tomiak, #4305	Edmonton Branch
Louis & Helen Galick, #4328	Edmonton Branch
Miriam Roberts, #4339	Drayton Valley Branch
Margaret Nex, #4340	Medicine Hat & District Branch
James Fred Baron, #4403	Edmonton Branch
Uwe-Karsten Krickhahn, #4433	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Aline Lundquist, #4441	Edmonton Branch

Long-Term Membership Certificates – Forty Years (1985-2025)

Thomas Trace, #1663	Edmonton Branch
Lorraine Fiske, #1673	Edmonton Branch
Brian Klein, #1720	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Marcia Redford, #1739	Edmonton Branch
Phyllis Burnett, #1772	Lethbridge & District Branch
Edith Pinder, #1824	Medicine Hat & District Branch

Long-Term Membership Certificates – Fifty Years (1975-2025)

Bob & Anne Baines, #229	Lethbridge & District Branch
Norma Wolowyk, #243	Edmonton Branch
Arlene Borgstede, #244	Edmonton Branch

Life Membership (trophy, no certificate)

Leroy Koop, #2031, Wetaskiwin Branch – Leroy Koop is a vital member of the Wetaskiwin Branch. He is both Branch Treasurer and Membership Chairperson. He also keeps the webpage on the AGS website current and attractive. In addition to all this, he is one of the volunteer researchers at the branch.

When he takes on a research project for someone who has contacted the Branch, he goes all out, trying to find every bit of data. The results of this research can be found in several articles in *Relatively Speaking*.

Leroy contributes his knowledge and research skills to community organizations, helping them preserve their records. In the words of Alice Hoyle, the Wetaskiwin Branch owes him a debt of gratitude.

Leroy Koop accepts a life membership award for contributions to his Branch and the Society, presented by AGS President Lianne Kruger.



Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards – Excellence in Branch Newsletters



Alice Hoyle (right) receives the Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for Best Original Article for her story "Pick a Name, Pick a Profession". Presenting the award is Lianne Kruger, AGS President.

Certificate for Best Original Article – "Pick a Name, Pick a Profession" by Alice Hoyle, #4137, Wetaskiwin Branch, *Roots and Branches*, January 2024, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 5-8. (Re-published in *Relatively Speaking* May 2025, Vol 53, No. 2)

The article was a page turner. It could almost be an excellent short story or movie with all the twists and turns. It gives readers a sense of how unexpected information can pop up and lead to an interesting genealogical search. It is a gripping, personal story with excellent illustration on how to access and pursue multiple resources in order to locate documents to break through a genealogical brick wall.

Certificate for Best Local Content – "The Hodgson Story" by Leroy Koop, #2031, Wetaskiwin Branch, *Roots & Branches*, January 2024, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 9-13. (Re-published in *Relatively Speaking* May 2025, Vol 53, No. 2)

This story took readers on the journey that most genealogists face. One clue leads to another, and Leroy uses many resources to answer the questions. A complex story and a good example of how the research team at the Branch handled a query. The story is very well-written and the author carries the reader along. An accounting of how a Branch research committee can respond to a request from the public in such a way as to hopefully entice them to join AGS. The illustrations "prove" the findings and illustrate how local resources such as funeral home records can prove incredibly useful in genealogical research.



Leroy Koop receives the Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for Best Local Content from AGS President Lianne Kruger for his article "The Hodgson Story".

- Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter & Certificate for the editor to keep**

Wetaskiwin Branch, *Roots & Branches*, January 2024, Vol. 22, No. 1, Editor: Sharon Aney, #4148

This newsletter is quite plain to look at; but the articles – or meat – of the publication are the true winners. When doing genealogy, we sometimes find the most gems and breakthroughs in those handwritten scraps of paper. The newsletter meets all the criteria and more. Key features are stories that are well-written, gripping and demonstrate use of multiple resources to solve a genealogical mystery. The "Hodgson" story illustrates the value of Branch as a resource for people wanting to engage in their family history – in that instance wanting to put markers on their ancestors' graves.

- Special Mention Award for Excellence in Newsletter Layout and Design** – Brooks Branch, *B&D Heir Lines*, Fall 2024, Vol. 38, Co-Editors: Glenn P. Michell, #6037 & Lorraine Spence, #6873

When it comes to design and layout, Brooks is the clear winner. It is a beautiful newsletter and we are conscious that the Branch worked hard to design a new format last year. We also particularly liked the series of "Meet The Members" vignettes sprinkled throughout. It's a great approach to communicating with members and supporting them in getting to know each other.

We also want to commend the Camrose Branch for their Summer 2024 Newsletter. A worthy entry as well.

Finally, we send kudos to the members of every branch who spend volunteer time, energy and resources to produce their newsletter. They are an important part of a vital, functioning branch. Well done everyone.



Deb Trout (right) accepts a certificate on behalf of the Camrose & District Branch from Lianne Kruger as the branch celebrates their 25th anniversary.

Thanks to the Kenneth Young Judging Committee:
Lynn Fogwill, Pamela Forsythe and Susan Waters

Peter Staveley Memorial Award – *Relatively Speaking* Article

- Name on Peter Staveley plaque & Certificate for best article “*Finding Gold on Cortes Island*” by Lynne Duigou, #5510, Edmonton Branch, November 2024, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 164-167.



Lianne Kruger (left) presents the Peter Staveley Memorial Award for Best *Relatively Speaking* Article to Lynne Duigou, Edmonton Branch, for her November 2024 article “*Finding Gold on Cortes Island*.”

We are pleased to present the Peter Staveley Memorial Award for best article to Lynne Duigou, Edmonton Branch, for *Finding Gold on Cortes Island*, Volume 52, No. 4, Page 164. This article was well-researched and related to previous research Lynne had done on the topic. The article exhibits the use of a variety of resources: pictures, maps, information from the archivist at the Cortes Island Museum and the Canada Census of 1916. It should be noted that *Relatively Speaking* has published many articles by Lynne demonstrating research on her family as well as that of her husband Lou’s family. The committee would like to recognize the excellent quality of many of the articles published in the 2023-24 year. So many of the articles from members and youth “touched the hearts” of readers.

*Thanks to the Peter Staveley Judging Committee:
Marilyn Astle, Lucille Walter and Donna Wyatt*

Certificates of Appreciation

- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Edmonton Heritage Council** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for Operational Funding for Genealogical Resources and Programming 2024 (\$24,867)
- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Historic Resources Management Heritage Division** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for funding of Genealogical Resources and Programming 2024 (\$29,000)
- Certificate in appreciation of the dedication of the **AGS Research Services Team** who earned \$4,028.35 for AGS through their efforts in assisting family history researchers

Special Mention Award

- **Susan Haga, #5223, Retreat/Fall Workshop Leadership 2015-2024** – Susan has recently stepped back from the Retreat/Fall Workshop Coordinator role after ten years of diligent and enthusiastic leadership, preparing and hosting this event. The learning and camaraderie gained from these events is very much appreciated. Our sincere thanks, Susan.
- **Red Deer and District Branch in recognition of GenFair Leadership 2024 & 2025** – The Branch volunteers have planned and delivered excellent genealogy learning programs for the GenFair 2024 and 2025 events that are important to meet the AGS Strategic Goal of diverse educational opportunities. Very much appreciated.
- **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Red Deer Stake in recognition of GenFair facilities hosting 2024 & 2025** – The Church leadership has generously supported AGS GenFairs and Annual General Meetings in 2024 and 2025, through venue hosting and warm hospitality. Thank you.



AGS President Lianne Kruger presents a thank-you certificate to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Red Deer Stake President Doug Higham, for hosting the AGM the last two years at the church.

President's Award (engraved plaque, no certificate)

Alice Hoyle, #4137 – The President's Award is in recognition of the outstanding achievements of Alice Hoyle. Alice very quietly, almost behind the scenes, has worked continually to keep the Wetaskiwin Branch going for 26 years, since 1999.

For a few years from 2006, she was President of the Wetaskiwin Branch. She earned a life membership award in 2016. At that time, it was noted that she had served in all executive positions and as editor of the newsletter. She was also assisting with research, volunteered in the library, and was involved with all Outreach programs.

Alice got a few years' break as president and now, currently, she has been president of the Wetaskiwin Branch since 2017. She remained president even after her husband's death. She has moved to Lacombe to be close to her family, but is still president of the Wetaskiwin Branch.

Alice is always ready to help. She calmly thinks about all aspects before making decisions. She is a sturdy part of AGS.



Alice Hoyle (right) received the President's Award from Lianne Kruger in appreciation of Alice's exceptional volunteerism in service of the Alberta Genealogical Society.



Three AGS members received their Award of Appreciation from Lianne Kruger for great leadership in organizing the Gen Fair. From left to right are Lauranne Hemmingway, Diane Lebr, Lianne Kruger and Jean Boxer.



On behalf of the Research Services Team, Norma Wolonyk (right) accepts a certificate from Lianne Kruger. The team raised \$4028.35 for the Alberta Genealogical Society in 2024.



Ruth McConnell (left) accepts her certificate from Lianne Kruger in appreciation of her dedication as Secretary for the AGS Board of Directors.



Susan Haga (left) accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from AGS President Lianne Kruger for her dedication to organizing the AGS Board Retreat for 10 years.

Recognizing Retiring Members of the Executive

- Ruth McConnell, #5483, Secretary, 2023-2025
- Diane Wozniak, #6775, 2nd Vice President, 2023-2025

Branch Anniversary Certificates

- Camrose Branch, 25th Anniversary 2000-2025
- Drayton Valley Branch, 30th Anniversary 2000-2025
- Wetaskiwin Branch, 25th Anniversary 1995-2025

RS



Relatively Speaking Guidelines for Authors 2025

- We prefer original articles, never-before published, but we do accept articles previously posted on an author's blog or website or previously published in a genealogy newsletter, journal or magazine provided they meet the following criteria (#2-10).
- We will accept submissions in the following order: 1. Members, 2. Youth, 3. Non-members.
- Articles should be in Garamond font, in a digital Word format, 1000-2500 words maximum except for the rare, longer article which will be serialized and is published in two parts.
- A maximum of 4-6 photos/illustrations submitted in JPEG format will be accepted. Do not send original photo or documents. Please include information about the photos: who, what, where, when.
- We request a 100-word maximum biography and an author photo. We cannot be responsible for outdated author information that we keep on file. Please ensure your bio is up-to-date.
- In order to publish a variety of authors we prefer not to publish the same author in two consecutive issues or within the same issue, except for our regular columns such as *Spinning Webs* or *Finding Alberta's Past*.
- We reserve the right to edit and select the articles on basis of relevance, quality, and space using *The Canadian Style – A Guide to Writing and Editing* and the *Oxford Canadian Dictionary of Current English*. We will acknowledge that an article was previously published in another publication, in a blog or on a website.
- Articles and biographies must contain no promotion of author's products or services.
- Due to privacy and protection of personal information, we will not publish exact birth dates of people still living. A month and year are acceptable.
- For reader friendly formatting, we request that long web addresses be a shortened link within the article, and the full web address be listed at the end of the article.
- Due to space restrictions, we do not publish footnotes/references except in exceptional cases. We do state that "references are available upon request from rseditor@abgenealogy.ca" if references have been provided with the article.

Do You Know Someone Who Needs Help With Their Research?

Our experienced research team helps members and non-members in sourcing and finding key documents in their search for their family history and heritage.

Please contact research@edmontongenealogy.ca

Alberta Genealogical Society

Relatively Speaking *Submissions Requested*

Deadline - October 1, 2025

November 2025 Theme Through The Seasons



What are some traditions associated with seasons in your family's history? Any livelihood connections to the seasons – cattle drives, moving encampments, following the trapline? How about home-related activities like spring planting, canning or preparing for winter?

Has your family carried any seasonal traditions or festivals from your cultural heritage into the present? What are some resources for learning about your family's traditions?

Send these or other family history stories
Max. 2500 words (Word Doc), 4-6 pictures (JPEG) to:

rseditor@abgenealogy.ca

ABCs of Genealogy

Under the “D”

by Denise Daubert

Definitions of genealogy words & phrases

Def-uh-nish-uhns – noun. *The formal statements of the meanings or significance of words or phrases.* (Source: Dictionary.com)

I personally have always found words fascinating – how they describe things, how they fit together and certainly how they play a large role in genealogy.

In genealogy, there are a myriad of words that we need to learn and understand! Some words and phrases are antiquated and no longer used today ... but they were applicable during times past and thus they are still of importance to learn about when we are recording family history.

Below are some genealogy-associated words which begin with “D”. Appreciation and credit are extended to several websites that proved extremely helpful and were consulted to provide definitions:

- Familysearch.org/en/wiki/A_Glossary_of_Genealogical_Terms
- Support.ancestry.com/s/article/Glossary-of-genealogical-terms/?language=en_US
- Vocabulary.com/lists/672

Date of Immigration – the date an immigrant entered a new country (e.g. entered Canada)

Death Certificate – an official government document that records information about a person’s death

Descendancy Chart – a chart listing an individual’s descendants: children, grandchildren and so on

Deed – a legal document that conveys title to a property; also a contract

Departure Record – a record created when an individual leaves a country

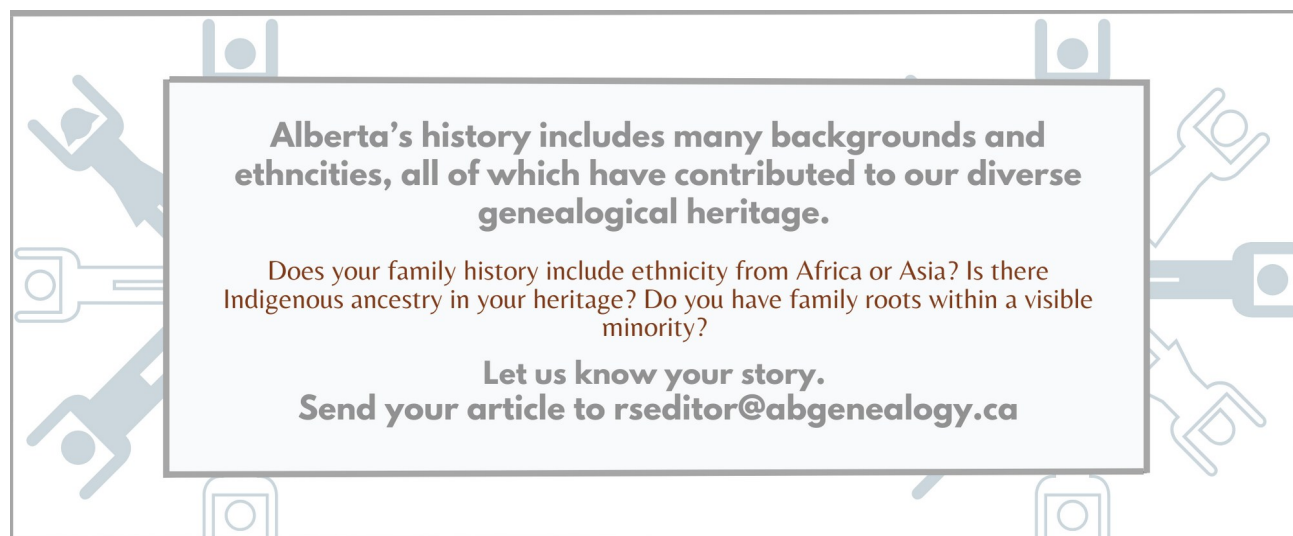
Died Without Issue – no children born to a couple

Divorce – a legal end to a marriage

Domestics – young women from countries outside of Canada who came to live and work as maids or nannies for Canadian families

Domicile – housing that someone is living in

RS



Come help at the Casino

Sunday Sept 28 & Monday Sept 29, 2025

@ - Century Casino in Edmonton

****over 50 volunteers needed**



Contact Laura Turnbull
AGS Casino Chairperson
Email: ljturnbl@telus.net
Phone 780-498-0605

Find the latest and upcoming AGS events !

Members of the general public are welcome to attend one session for each of our [Special Interest Groups](#). For more frequent attendance, membership with AGS is required.

Events may be on Zoom, hybrid (Zoom and in-person) or in-person. Please review each event's details.

For events at a glance, go to <https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/calendar>.

Special Interest Groups • Special Events • General meetings • and more !

60th Anniversary Celebration for Our Canadian Flag!

by Denise Daubert

In the scheme of things, a 60th Anniversary of a country's flag is special to celebrate and it is worth taking the time to share such news with others interested in history and genealogy. It was just a few months ago – on February 15th 2025, that our country's red and white maple leaf flag marked a 60th Anniversary!

I will take the time to record information about this 60th Anniversary into our family history notes. In undertaking research for this article, I learned that the Canadian maple leaf flag was designed by Canadian historian George Stanley. Recommendations for the new flag design were forwarded to the House of Commons by Prime Minister Lester Pearson in 1964.

Think back to how old you parents were) and if you introduced (it replaced the which had been in use

I was 10 years old at the new flag was introduced. I morning – just after the teacher would ask us to the flag up high on one of unison, we sang *O Canada*.



were in 1965 (or how old your remember the new flag being Canadian Red Ensign Flag since 1868).

time and in grade 4 when the clearly remember each school bell had rung – that our stand beside our desks, turn to the classroom walls, and in

There was also a Canadian flag displayed in the school's gymnasium and I recall when Christmas concerts and awards nights were held, at the start of the event, our principal would ask everyone to stand and sing the national anthem.

National Flag of Canada Day came into being in 1996 (by Order in Council) and has been celebrated February 15th since then, in order to commemorate the inauguration of the new flag of Canada on that date in 1965.

Wikipedia has a very informative article on our flag's 60th Anniversary. Take a look! You can also learn about Canada's first flag on the website www.canada.ca/flag-canada-history¹. Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper has just authored/released a book to mark our flag's anniversary. It is titled *Flags of Canada*.

¹ The full web address is <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/flag-canada-history.html>

RS



AGS HAS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO HELP

- events, activities, governance
- or simply helping others with their family research

email us at agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca
or phone (780) 423-8902



VOLUNTEERS

UNPAID NOT BECAUSE
THEY'RE WORTHLESS, BUT
BECAUSE THEY'RE
PRICELESS!

Relatively Speaking

Themes for 2026

February



Rekindling Family Connections – Have you had family reunions or get-togethers? How about a celebration of life for a family member? Have you ever found out about an unknown family connection or relative? Any success in searching for a lost family member? What were the best resources? How about DNA research? How have women in your family helped record ancestral connections, through their letters or keeping records of previous generations?

Deadline December 15, 2025

May



Connections to the Land – Is your family First Nations or Métis? When did they first get title to their land and where? Do they still have that land or are living on Reserve? Is your family part of a Métis settlement? Why was the colony set up in that location? Did your Métis ancestors have scrip, and did they claim it or sell it? Are your ancestors from outside Canada? Where did they settle when they came to Canada or Alberta, and why did they come? Is your family still on the original land? Does your family have an Alberta Centennial Certificate for having lived on the same land for 100 years?

Deadline April 1, 2026

August



Family Heirlooms and Important Places – Does your family have an item or items that have been treasured through the generations? What is its history? What are some good resources for finding items of significance in your family's heritage? What about within your cultural heritage? Is there a special place in your ancestors' past, or in your own past? Have you found some good resources for searching important locations in your family's history?

Deadline July 1, 2026

November

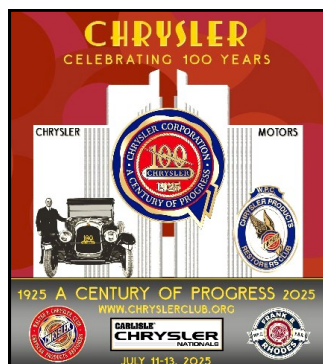


Sports – What are the predominant sports in your ancestry? How about within your family? Has anyone in your family's history been a sports professional? What were the popular hockey arenas or curling rinks in your community? Any memories of skating on frozen ponds or being part of a hockey team? How about football, baseball, curling? Was school a great place to learn? What are some good resources for learning more about sports facilities in your home town of community?

Deadline October 1, 2026

Spinning Webs

by Denise Daubert



Chrysler.com/100th-anniversary.html Chrysler, the well-known automobile manufacturer, is celebrating a centennial this year. They have designed an amazing website with information, a timeline and photographs. These details and photographs may be a wonderful resource for you as you explore and record your family history. Did your great grandfather perchance drive a 1924 Chrysler Six or did your uncle drive a 1957 Chrysler 300C? Did any family members work for one of the manufacturing plants? This website is worth a look to give you a peek into automotive history both in Canada and in the United States.



Together4health.albertahealthservices.ca>125 years

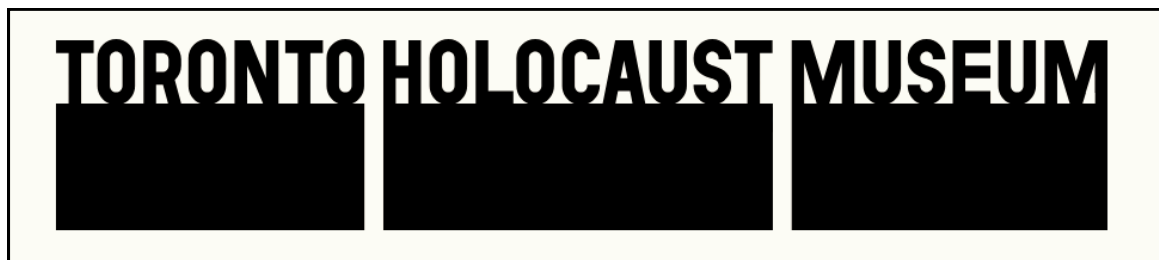
What single word describes the phrase “125th Centennial”? The word is “quasiquicentennial”! In Edmonton, the Royal Alexandra Hospital is celebrating a quasiquicentennial this very year. Interestingly, the book *The Alex 125* was researched and written by a local author to mark this milestone. A mural has

been designed and installed within the hospital and a time capsule coordinated. Is it possible that you or an ancestor graduated from the nursing school at this hospital? Was an ancestor on staff as a doctor or a medical technician? Were you born there? The three-month celebration that was held is showcased on the website.



Edmonton.ca>Edmonton_archives>historic-resources-inventory-register

This database, called *The Designated Historic Municipal Register* which belongs to and is administered by The City of Edmonton, is an inventory of structures/resources in the city that merit conservation and are designated as Municipal Historic Resources. On the list are single family homes, commercial buildings, apartment blocks etc. When you click on a property, an information sheet complete with photographs will come up in order to find more details and specific information.



Torontoholocaustmuseum.org The Toronto Holocaust Museum is located in North York. The museum’s website offers up details on the museum itself and on their exhibits. Many photographs on the website tell the story of this part of world history where, between 1933 and 1945, there was persecution of European Jews by Nazi Germany.

RS

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1. Brooks & District Branch

President : David Clarke
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4
email: brooksags@gmail.com
website: <https://agsbrooks.ca>
Meets 1st Wednesday of month at 1:30 PM,
Public Presentations selected Saturdays*
Brooks Public Library, 323 1st Street East,
Brooks, AB

*Email for more information

2. AGS Calgary

President: Susan Haga
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Calgary, AB T2C 1Y7
email: agscalgarybranch@gmail.com
website: www.abgenealogy.ca/calgary
Meets 4th Thursday of month, 7:00 PM*

*Email for location

3. Camrose Branch

c/o 6130 39 Avenue, Camrose, AB
T4V 3B1 phone: 780-781-5100
email: camrosegeneo@gmail.com
www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com
Facebook: Camrose & District Branch –
Alberta Genealogical Society
Meets 2nd. Tuesday of the month
except January & February, 7 PM,
Camrose County Agricultural Services
Building, Camrose, AB

4. Drayton Valley Branch

President: Connie Stuhl
Box 115, Rocky Rapids, AB, T0E 1Z0
email: ags.dvbranch@gmail.com
website: <http://www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch/>
Meets 3rd Wednesday of month - 6:00 PM
Drayton Valley Library,
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5. Edmonton Branch

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Unit 162, 14315-118 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6
phone: 780-424-4429
email: president@edmontongenealogy.ca
website: <http://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/>
Meets 4th. Thursday, 7:00 PM,
162, 14315-118 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB



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President: Maxine Maxwell
Box 1257, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1
phone: 780-512-6427
email: president@grpr-abgenealogy.ca
website: <https://www.gp.abgenealogy.ca/>
Meets 3rd. Wednesday of month, 7:00 PM,
Grande Prairie Public Library
101, 9839-103 Avenue,
Grande Prairie, AB

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President: Barry Simmonds
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Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5
phone: 403 328 9564
email: lethags@theboss.net
website: <http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/>
Meets 3rd. Thursday of month 7:00 PM,
Provincial Administration Building,
909-3rd Avenue North,
Lethbridge, AB

8. Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Deb Wickham
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T1A 7G8
email: mhgs@shaw.ca
website: <http://mhdgs.ca/>
Meets 1st. Wednesday of month, 7:00 PM,
Medicine Hat Monumental Co. Ltd.
974-13th Street SW.
Medicine Hat, AB

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email: rdbags@gmail.com
website: <http://www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch>
Meets 3rd Thursday of month 7:00 fPM,
LDS Church, 3002-47 Avenue
Red Deer, AB

10. Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Alice Hoyle
email: wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca
website: <http://www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch>
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LDS Church, 5410-36 Avenue
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