



Wetaskiwin Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society

Roots & Branches

Vol. 11 No. 1

October 2012

BRANCH MEETINGS

**3rd Tuesday of the month,
7:00 pm at LDS CHURCH
Note New Location!
5410 – 36 ave
except July, Aug. & Dec.**

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President's Message

 Joan Kreuger

I hope everyone had a great summer. It seems to have gone by so quickly. Now that fall is here it is time to get researching family again.

A couple members – Claudia and Alice have been very busy with the Workshop which is October 20, 2012 and titled "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy": Your Ancestors, The What, Where, How and Why.

I hope to see as many of you as possible. Last year we had a great turn out; sure would be nice if we could beat the number 40. The gals have worked very hard getting speakers etc. Thank you for all that you have done.

Our September program was a discussion of what everyone had done in researching over the summer.

The October meeting presentation is going to be a tour of the Family History Centre, and a hands-on presentation highlighting what is available in the FHC, especially the databases on the Portals site.

Have a great fall! And to those who go south for the winter we will be thinking of you.

~ ~ ~ ~

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~ ~

LIBRARY**City of Wetaskiwin Archives**

4904 – 50 St.

Tuesdays 1 – 3 pm

(Branch volunteers at library)

Library resources are available during
 regular Archives hours

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~ ~

**WETASKIWIN FAMILY
 HISTORY CENTER**

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,

5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin

Hours: Wed: by appointment

Thurs .: 1:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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ROOTS & BRANCHES is
 published three times per year by
 and for the members of
 Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS

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Editor's Corner

Sharon Aney

This spring we have heard through our AGS publication, *Relatively Speaking*, and from our own member, Alice Hoyle, the unwelcome news of the Federal Government's budget cuts to Library & Archives Canada. The results are hitting closer to home than we might have thought The Millet and Wetaskiwin Archives have already been affected according to an article in the Wetaskiwin Times on August 15. In case you missed it I have received permission to reprint the Wetaskiwin Times article on page 7. Have you contacted our MP yet?

At my first AGS conference (many years ago) I heard a speaker mention that a reason for doing her genealogy was for medical reasons. I dismissed it as rather esoteric. However this summer I was contacted by a cousin whose sibling was undergoing cancer treatment, and whose doctor had asked for a survey of cancer history in the family. I was able to provide that information for her in a short time – if I did not have the cause of death or treatment in my files I at least had contact information for our mutual cousins and aunts & uncles.

The list was surprisingly long. Alberta Health can now access medical files and do a genetic study. Hopefully future generations will benefit from this information of the current and past generations. I am vindicated if someone tries to dismiss my hobby with a "who cares?".

~ ~ ~ ~

*Many thanks to Claudia & Alice
 for their contributions to this issue!*

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RECAP OF MEETING PRESENTATIONS

May 2012

We met at the **LDS Church, which will be our regular meeting place** from now on. However, we are still looking for a place to re-locate our library should it become necessary to move from the Wetaskiwin Archives.

Alice informed us of Dave Obee's website: <http://www.cangenealogy.com> that includes lots of information and resources relating to genealogy, with a special emphasis on Canadian sources.

Alice also reported that following the April meeting in which Dona Cadwell presented her genealogy problem, another of our members, Jean Browse, looked into her own local history books of the areas relating to Dona's family and was able to provide more information for Dona. Thank you for the assistance, Jean.

The program was in the form of a webinar by Lisa A. Alzo: "*Digital Writing Tools for Genealogists*". She spoke of the many possible tools on the internet, i-pads and i-phones that are useful in researching, organizing, publishing and presenting your family stories, blogs, photos, etc. Thanks to Claudia for sharing this DVD with us.

June 2012

Arrangements are well underway for our 10th annual genealogy workshop, October 20th. We were sorry to hear that www.ancestry.com is no longer available at the Millet library.

The traditional program for the June meeting has been the sharing of our genealogical successes, challenges, adventures, brick walls, etc. We all enjoy the sharing and receiving benefits of others' suggestions.

Sept 2012

Our meeting presentation was "Summer Genealogy Discoveries". It was wonderful to hear that most of the members present did have some success with genealogy research during the summer. Last June, Rosella Plaquin advised that she and her daughter would be embarking on a journey to Ontario to look for information on her ancestors. Rosella was able to fill us in on all the wonderful discoveries they made during their trip, including towns named after her ancestors, displays in museums and archives that seemed to centre on her ancestors, etc. What an amazing story! She has gathered a wealth of information, including photographs, and is now working on getting them organized. We were all 'green with envy'.

Although the rest of the members could not, unfortunately, match the success Rosella had with her research trip, we did hear of successes relating to family research and with volunteer research done by our branch members for other members of our branch. Personally, I sometimes feel like I can find information on other people's families easier than I can on my own! ☺

We welcomed 3 guests to our meeting and they advised us of their status regarding genealogy research and also told us what information they would like to research. Several suggestions were given to the guests and we hope they are able to attend our October workshop as some of the presentations that day will relate to their individual needs.

A HARVEST OF FAMILY

Claudia Malloch

Recently I have spent many hours entering information gleaned from newly discovered members of my husband's (Neil's) family. As I did this, it occurred to me how much genealogy is like gardening. Early on in your research, you gather the tools, prepare your work area, plant your crop, weed diligently (sometimes) and wait for a hopefully bountiful harvest.

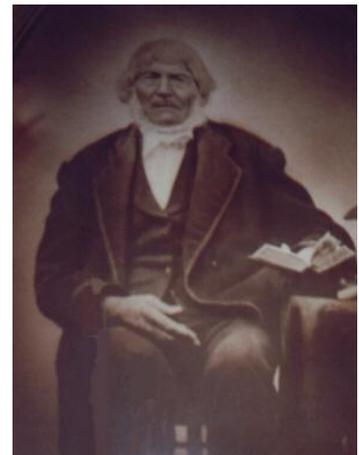
Many years ago I discovered message boards and mailing lists on Rootsweb.com. I diligently did searches for the surnames I was researching, including "Malloch". I also joined mailing lists for Nova Scotia to research my family surnames.

Not long after this, I received correspondence from Norma, a lady who had done a great deal of research on the Mallochs. She provided a very extensive base for the rest of my work on that family. Of equal value, is her willingness to notify me of any information that may be of interest. This January Norma sent a quick email to let me know that someone had posted a response to one of my names on Genforum.com (I am notoriously negligent at checking my message boards and forums).

The person who had left the message was Karen, the granddaughter of Ralph, the oldest son of Neil's grandfather, Irving. Ralph's mother was killed in the Halifax Explosion when he was two years old. Irving later married Lola Thorpe and had two more sons; Grover (Neil's father) and Calvin. Ralph hadn't really known his own mother and was raised by Lola. Some of his children didn't realize she wasn't their blood grandmother until they contacted me. They gained an entire family line.

Karen and I exchanged information and photographs. We talked on the phone and are now friends on Facebook. It has given me an opportunity to add more foliage to a poorly nurtured branch on the family tree and Neil could now learn more about his cousins.

Very shortly after this incident, Neil finally connected with someone sharing the same surname through a DNA test done years ago. He'd had several responses but all related quite far back with a different surname. This lady (Margie) and Neil shared the same great great grandfather. (Margie's Uncle Charlie, who is in his 70's, had supplied the DNA). We, too, were able to exchange information. She was extremely excited as she knew only basics and I was able to fill in some blanks and send a photo of one of their mutual ancestors, Rev. Peter Malloch (1796-1876). He was a Baptist Minister who had served on Campobello Island as one of its very early Baptist preachers. Uncle Charlie was also very pleased to find relatives...and particularly this photograph of Peter.



Since I hadn't had time to enter all the information I had in my database, it seemed like a fine time to put out a query on the Lunenlinks and Nova Scotia Links Mailing

Lists (Rootsweb.com). I've been a member of these lists for years; they have provided me with good information and I've helped other members as well.

The James and Sarah Ernst family of Preston, Nova Scotia was the target of my search this time. As I looked over my records and those I found on a web site, I had some questions about the birth of James' youngest daughter. James had been married twice and I didn't have a death date for his first wife but, from the date of his second marriage, it was possible this daughter belonged to the first wife, Sarah. Instinct and considerable research caused me to believe she belonged to the second wife, but the dates didn't make sense.

The overwhelming response and coordinated research by several people on the list was amazing. It took several of us sifting through information and exchanging findings and ideas to come up with a solid conclusion. This daughter belonged to the second wife, Annie. She had been raised by James Ernst and was listed on the census as his daughter, but she had been born when her mother, Annie, lived elsewhere before her marriage to James. Through a family member, I learned the second wife had come into the home to look after Sarah who was ill. In the process, I obtained Sarah's death date. It took me many hours to enter everything in my program after this profitable exchange. It certainly underscored the value of mailing lists and the people who belong to them.

Like my garden, which I sometimes neglect for periods of time, the preparation, planting and tending I have done, eventually resulted in a bountiful harvest for which, at this time for Thanksgiving, I am very grateful.

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*PARAPROSDOKIANS* are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

- *To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.*
- *Where there's a will, there are relatives.*
- *A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.*
- *You're never too old to learn something stupid.*

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LIBRARY:

Alice Hoyle

As of September 11th, we are once again staffing our Genealogy library/resource centre. Please refer to Library information on Page 2.

The only new item in our collection since our last newsletter is the new book by Dave Obee:

929.371OBE Counting Canada. A Genealogical Guide to the Canadian Census

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**WETASKIWIN TIMES, AUG 15, 2012**

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**NO NEW MATERIALS IN MILLET ARCHIVES DUE TO FUNDING CUTS**

By Devan C. Tasa/Staff writer

The Millet and District Museum won't be able to make any new historical materials in its archive available to the public due to the elimination of a federal program.

The \$1.3 million National Archive Development Program (NADP), which aims to support the activities of local archives, was terminated April 30 by Library and Archives Canada. Due to the program's loss, only two out of 13 provincial and territorial archives will remain open, Alberta's being one of them.

The Millet museum didn't have any archive projects this year, but in previous years it had received funding, said Tracey Leavitt, the museum's executive director.

"In the future without having it, it's going to drastically affect us because projects will not be able to be done, because that's the only money that we get that would assist us to be able to process our archive's records," she said.

"NADP was the only federal program that provided any funding to archives, which means the museum is more drastically affected by its loss compared to other program cuts where there are other funds to tap into", said Leavitt.

The museum doesn't have an archivist on staff, so every time it wants to process any records, it must hire a contractor. The end of the program means the museum will be unable to process any records obtained from the closing United and Catholic churches, said Leavitt.

"Anything that has been collected in the past, I would say, two, maybe three years, will not be processed at this time until we find out how we're going to be able to fund that," she said. "And we don't know where we're going to get it yet."

Before historical materials are processed, they are stored in boxes, inaccessible to the public. An archivist sorts those materials so that the public could do genealogical research and other archives could request materials.

The museum is also being affected by the loss of NADP funding to other archives and associations, Leavitt said.

"The NADP also supports many projects of our archival associations, which assist us more than the project money," she said.

The Wetaskiwin Archives was about to process a lot of historical materials before the program was terminated.

"The NADP funding not funding the Wetaskiwin archives affects the Millet museum because it's not accessible", said Leavitt. "(There were) a lot of photographs we would want access to because they would include Millet and area, so a lot of the stuff they were going to process would have been stuff that we could have used within our research requests."

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*There is something terrible yet soothing about
returning to a place where you once lived.
You are one of your own memories.*

Mary Morris, Crossroads

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**CITY DIRECTORIES:**

Sharon Aney

a good resource for finding ancestors with an urban background!

Many towns and cities in Canada and USA were recorded annually by such companies as Henderson and Polk as early as the late 1800s. Information on residents may have included such things as: address, occupation, and employer. Thus, these directories can be used to replace censuses, (think USA 1890), to find the relative that somehow was not recorded, had a name mis-spelled or was incorrectly indexed in a census, and to give information for the gaps of ten years between censuses.

I first used a city directory while using the "shotgun" approach of looking into any database that looked interesting. At the time I was looking for the several elusive siblings of my husband's maternal grandfather. Where was Zenon? The first clue came from a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin who thought that he "worked on a freighter on the Lakes". It was "confirmed" by a notation in his father's will that stated his residence as "Duluth". But I was not able to find him in census records, and was stuck for a while.

When I noted that the 1892 Duluth city directory was posted on [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) I searched and found Zenon Meunier listed as a single man, working as a labourer. Now, knowing that he did indeed live there, over the years I re-visited the census records and eventually found Zenon deLagasse in the 1910 and 1920 Duluth census. (Note that he used another surname later in life, which was common in this family). I had one more family member accounted for!

Another gap in the family history was in the story of my husband's grandfather Earl Aney. I had been able to document Earl's birth in Wisconsin in 1879, the family's move to South Dakota, his marriage in South Dakota, and his death in New Westminster, BC. But what of his life in the intervening years? I only had sparse oral history: immigration to Saskatchewan in 1909, a few years of unsuccessful farming / blacksmithing before moving to Regina, and eventually retiring to New Westminster in the 1940s and his death in 1957.

I discovered that the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society had a series of directories in its library, including Henderson's directories for Regina, covering most of the years of the Aney family's residence in the city. I ordered, at a cost, photocopies of some of the pages that might contain the surname "Aney".

They revealed:

In 1918 Earl R. Aney was employed as a driver for Dom. Exp. Co. and lived at 1351 Lorne N.

In 1919 he lived at 912 Dewdney

In 1920 & 1921 he was "emp North Star Drilling Co" and lived at 912 Dewdney

In 1922, 1923, 1924 & 1925 he was "mach (machinist?) Can West Drillers" and during those years he changed residence three times

In 1926 he was "eng (engineer?) at Sask Co-op Creameries and lived at 1075 Winnipeg St.

In 1927 he was "eng City" and lived at 1030 Wallace

In 1928 he was an "mech helper Adanac Brewing", still living at 1030 Wallace

In 1929 He was "emp W E Phillips Co." and lived at 1053 Wallace

In 1930 Earl R. Aney was a "whsemn Liquor Brd" and living at 1053 Wallace

I was also interested to see that, during some years, several of his children were listed with their places of employment, mostly while they still lived at home. Six of his daughters worked as stenographers and clerks. Even his wife was listed, in 1928, as employed at Regina Tent & Awning. At the time her youngest child was only 4 years old.

All of this was information I would not have found any other way. It gives me a picture of a family struggling to make ends meet. I ask myself: what made it necessary for him to be changing employers almost annually? lack of training? personality? his search for better pay?

If you decide to look into using directories as a family history resource, where might you begin looking for them? I would start by contacting local libraries or archives, provincial archives, genealogical societies in any province or state for look-ups or personal research in their holdings. Try online at [peel.library.ualberta.ca](http://peel.library.ualberta.ca) for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba cities. On [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) or [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) – look in the card catalogue under “schools, directories and church histories”.

You might also look for telephone directories.... just knowing that your ancestor lived in a community at a particular time could lead to other resources with good information. The Wetaskiwin City Archives has some telephone directories going back to the early 1900s, although staff has told me that holdings for the years prior to 1960 are hit and miss.

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STANDARDS FOR SOUND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

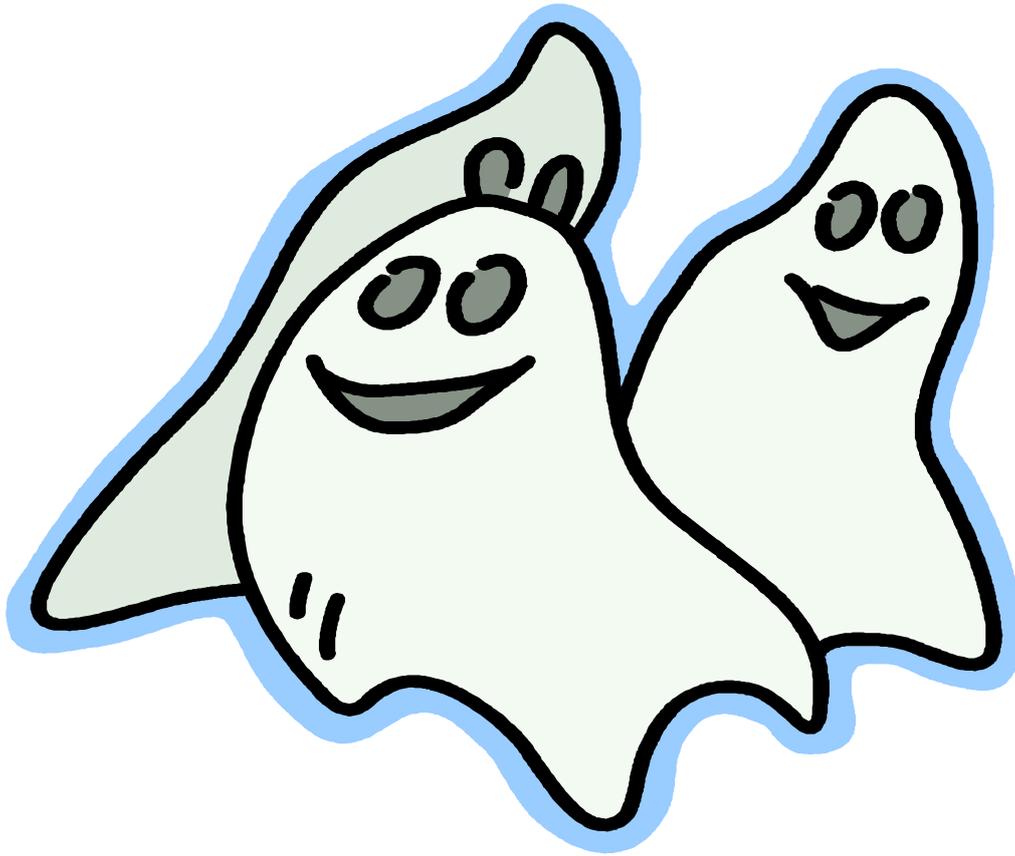
Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently—

- **record** the source for each item of information they collect.
- **test** every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
- **seek** original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.
- **use** compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records, or as contributions to the critical analysis of the evidence discussed in them.
- **state** something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
- **limit** with words like "probable" or "possible" any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
- **avoid** misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- **state** carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
- **recognize** the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.
- **consider** with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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*HAPPY HALLOWEEN!*