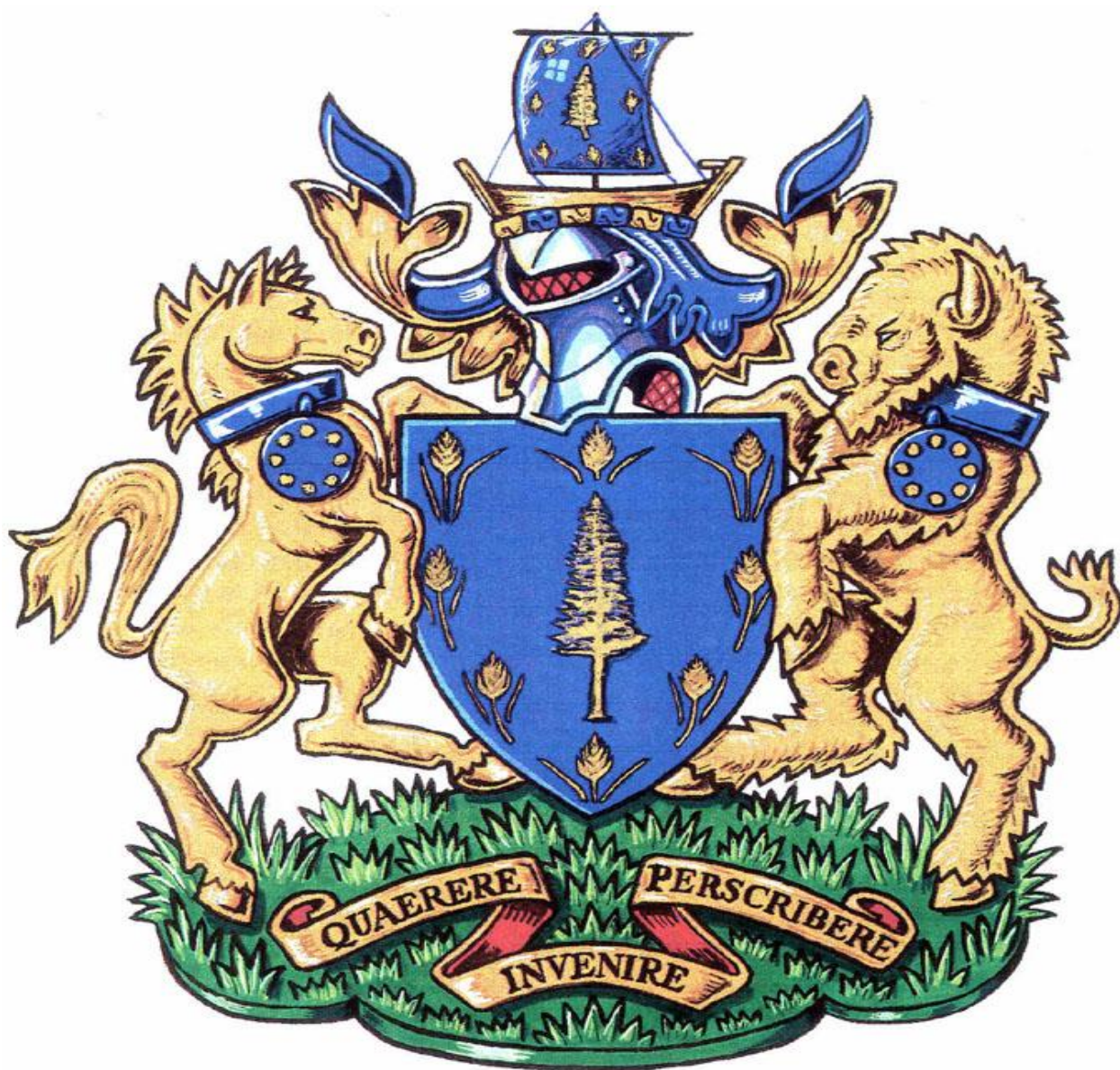


Alberta Genealogical Society



2025 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

25 April 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Dec. 31, 2025

Officers

President	Lianne Kruger
Past President	Al Bromling
1 st Vice President	Craig Newman
2 nd Vice President	David Clarke
Treasurer	Carolynne Ross
Secretary of the Society	Laurianne Schell

Directors / Trustee

Brooks	David Clarke
Calgary	Susan Haga
Camrose	Deb Trout
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Karen Wilson
Grande Prairie	Maxine Maxwell
Lethbridge	Barry Simmonds
Medicine Hat	Deb Wickham
Red Deer	Jessie Dial
Wetaskiwin	Alice Hoyle

Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Carolynne Ross
Nominations (Chair)	Al Bromling
Policies & Procedures/ Bylaws (Co-Chairs)	Craig Newman & David Clarke

Other Committees and Appointments

Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI)	Norma Wolowyk
Archivist & Historian	Norma Wolowyk
Electronic Services	Al Brettnell
Facilities	Bruce Boelstler
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Genealogy4Youth	Marion Rex
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Legal Advisor	Randy Simpson
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Janine Carroll
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking Editor	Kate Wilson
Relatively Speaking Mailing	Terry Terlesky
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster	Deb Boelstler

AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Shannon Cherkowski
Bookkeeper	Shirley Keller

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the Society are:

- ✓ To promote the study of genealogy and genealogical research within the Province of Alberta.
- ✓ To encourage adherence to accuracy and thoroughness in research.
- ✓ To encourage and instruct members in ethical principles, scientific methods and effective techniques of genealogical research and defend the standards of genealogy from incompetent and disreputable persons.
- ✓ To assemble a library of genealogical guides, handbooks, reference sources, family and local histories, and other books and materials which may assist the members, all of which will be available to members.
- ✓ To publish such bulletins, booklets, pamphlets, or other documents as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board of the Society and to make the same available to the members and others on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board.
- ✓ To establish friendly relations with other genealogical societies for exchange of ideas and information and the promotion of common interests.
- ✓ To enter into arrangements with other genealogical societies for the publication of bulletins, booklets, books, pamphlets, or other documents on such terms and conditions as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board.
- ✓ To promote seminars and workshops on genealogical research and methodology and such other studies as may seem helpful to the members.
- ✓ To provide a centre and suitable meeting place for various activities of the Society and its members by rent or purchase or otherwise.
- ✓ To encourage the establishment of Branches of the Society under such terms and conditions as the Bylaws of the Society may from time to time provide.
- ✓ To achieve the foregoing objects, funds may be raised and donations, gifts, legacies, and bequests accepted.

Registered as a Society 4 April 1973

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**Heartfelt
Thanks**

Alberta Genealogical Society
gratefully acknowledges the support of the
Historic Resources Management Branch
for \$29,000 in funding

received through the Government of Alberta

The sponsorship received from the Historic Resources
Management Branch is applied to expenses incurred for our
publications, training programs and general administration

Alberta 

**Our
Sincere
Gratitude**

Alberta Genealogical Society
gratefully acknowledges the support of the
Edmonton Heritage Council
for \$28,000 in funding

Received through the City of Edmonton

The sponsorship received from Edmonton Heritage Council
helps to provide operational support



WITH SINCERE THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Alberta Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges those who donated \$10.00 or more to AGS and/or its branches in 2025 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged. Your donation helps AGS to fulfill its missions: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

\$501 - \$1,000

Edmonton Community Foundation
Christine Prokop

Edward & Paulette Pohranychny
Mathew & Patricia Romanow
Eugene Wasylik

\$251 - \$500

Helen Brown
Canadian Online Giving Foundation
Marion Rex Howard

\$26 - \$50

Jean Browse
Gary Durie
Susan Edwards
David Lynch
Brendan McLoughlin
Dale Schutz
Lucille Shopland
Ivy Trumpour
Blanche Thomson
Sandra Uchman
Laurel Wolanski
Norma Wolowyk

\$101 - \$250

Mel Bender
Christine Burwash
Lynne & Lou Duigou
Peg Edgar
Robert Gibson
Jellyfish Design
Shannon Kuntz
Margaret Nex
Estate of Terrance Ruddy

\$11 - \$25

Lois Evans
Marcia Redford
Beverly Rogerson
Marilyn & Nick Schwering
Helen Thornitt
Veronica Wake

\$76 - \$100

Benevity
Judy Bradley
Sandy Buchko
Louis & Helen Galick
Larry Javorsky
Anne Phipps
Carolynne Ross
Peter & Phyllis Turtiak

\$10

Douglas Faulder
Shelley Hys-Postill
Brian Klein
Cindy Mailer
James Murray

\$51 - \$75

Margaret Dyck
Alora Nelson

We give our sincere thanks to 66 donors who wished to remain anonymous.

In memory of
Judy Bradley

Blanche Thomson
Norma Wolowyk

In memory of
Robert Franz

Lynne & Lou Duigou
Marion Rex Howard

In memory of
Stella Rees

Christine Burwash
Lynne & Lou Duigou
Marion Rex Howard

In memory of
Glenn Rickerd

Marion Rex Howard

In memory of
Bill Turnbull

Lynne & Lou Duigou
Marion Rex Howard

In memory of
Real VanBrabant

Lynne & Lou Duigou
Marion Rex Howard

In memory of
Sandra Vaneldik

Lynne & Lou Duigou

In memory of
Robert Varley

Marion Rex Howard



VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2025

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of
Directors, Committee members and
Volunteers in all ten branches of the AGS realized a
total of

32,397

volunteer hours
that were reported in 2025.

Sincere appreciation to all who serve the Society
so willingly and selflessly with their gifts of time,
energy, enthusiasm, and expertise.

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
53rd Annual General Meeting
Saturday April 25, 2026
1:00 pm. In person and Via Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME:** Lianne Kruger
Welcome, Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
“The Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges Alberta’s Indigenous People, on whose traditional territory we gather.”
2. **AGENDA:** Amend/Approve/Additions
3. **MINUTES:** Approval of the April 26, 2025 AGM minutes
4. Introduction of 2025 Executive Committee and Directors of the Board
5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee 2025 Annual Reports
6. Financial Report. Treasurer Carolynne Ross
 - Motion to adopt the Audited 2025 financial statements
 - Motion to adopt the 2025 AGS Provincial Office compilation report prepared by the auditors
 - Motion to adopt the 2026-2027 Consolidated budget, approved by the Board, as presented
 - Motion to appoint the auditors
7. Election and Bylaw Ballot Results by Al Bromling
 - President: (2026-2008) (call for nominations)
 - First Vice President: (2026-2028) (elected by acclamation – Craig Newman)
 - Second Vice President: (2026-2027) (call for nominations)
 - Secretary: (2026-2027) (call for nominations)
 - Treasurer: (2024-2026) (report outcome of ballot count)
 - Call for motion to destroy the ballots

Returning members

 - Past President: (2026-2028) Lianne Kruger

Report on the ballot count for proposed Bylaw amendments

 - revisions to Article 5
 - revision to Article 6
 - revisions to Article 12
8. Introduction of 2026 Executive: Al Bromling
9. Resolution of Respect: Doug McLeod
10. Courtesy Motions
11. Presentation of Awards
12. Adjournment

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
52nd Annual General Meeting – 26th April 2025 - Draft Minutes
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Red Deer /Virtual via Zoom

Attendance AGS Annual General Meeting: 38 Attendees in person, 11 on Zoom. Total of 49 participants

1. Welcome and Call to Order at 3:33 pm
The AGS Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by Lianne Kruger, President. Lianne welcomed members to the AGM and read our land acknowledgement.
“The Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges Alberta’s Indigenous People, on whose traditional territory we gather”.
2. Approval of Agenda
MOVED by Doug McLeod that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the 2024 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Craig Newman **CARRIED**
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting – 27th April 2024
MOVED by Marion Rex Howard. that the minutes of the 51th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented in the 2024 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Deb Wickham **CARRIED**
4. Introduction of 2024 Executive Committee and Directors of the Board by Lianne Kruger
 - a) President – Lianne Kruger
 - b) 1st Vice President – Craig Newman
 - c) 2nd Vice President – Diane Wozniak
 - d) Treasurer – Carolynne Ross
 - e) Secretary – Ruth McConnell
 - f) Immediate Past President – Al Bromling
 - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks & District – David Clarke
 - Calgary – Susan Haga
 - Camrose – Deb Trout
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Jock Howard
 - Grande Prairie & District – Maxine Maxwell
 - Lethbridge & District – Lee Hunter
 - Medicine Hat & District – Deb Wickham
 - Red Deer & District – Jessie Dial
 - Wetaskiwin & District – Alice Hoyle
 - h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the 2024 Annual Report

Lianne Kruger thanked everyone for their contributions and leadership in 2024.

5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee 2024 Annual Reports

MOVED by Deb Trout that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the 2024 Annual Report.

SECONDED by Susan Haga

CARRIED

6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Carolynne Ross

Carolynne presented the process involved in putting together facets of the various aspects of the 2024 audited statements and the 2024 budget. This included the Executive summary of the Richard “Dick” Nash Endowment Fund, the creation of a Consolidated Budget which was requested by the auditors (inclusion of branch budgets so 11 components) and additional branch financial support.

MOVED by Carolynne Ross that the AGS Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2024 showing an income of \$229,365 and expenses of \$201,816 with a deficiency of expenses over revenues of \$27,549 be adopted as presented.

SECONDED by Al Bromling

CARRIED

MOVED by Carolynne Ross that the AGS Compilation Engagement Report for AGS Provincial Office 2024 showing an income of \$169,495 and expenses of \$158,658 and an excess of revenue over expenses of \$10,837 be adopted as presented.

SECONDED by Deb Wickham

CARRIED

MOVED by Carolynne Ross that the AGS Provincial Office 2024/25 budget be adopted as presented.

SECONDED by Craig Newman

CARRIED

AMENDMENT:

MOVED by Jock Howard that the Consolidated Provincial portion of the budget be adopted and that the branch portion is there for information purposes.

SECONDED by Lee Koop approved 24, abstaining 4, opposed 5. **CARRIED**

Discussion: Al Bromling argues that we need to adopt the consolidated budget for the whole system. The auditor suggests the expenditures from the Branches should be included in the document.

AMENDMENT:

MOVED by Lynne Duigou that a line be added to the revenue for “SIG’s and courses” to include \$2500 for Edmonton Branch and \$200 for Red Deer Branch and remove it from the “Casino” line.

SECONDED by Jock Howard approved 20, abstaining 0, opposed 1 **CARRIED**

MOVED by Marion Rex Howard that KBH (Kouri, Berezan and Heinrichs) Chartered Professional Accountants be retained for 2025.

SECONDED by Deb Wickham

CARRIED

7. Election and Bylaw Results – Al Bromling

Election/Nominations Report

Nominations put forward:

- President (2025-2026) – Lianne Kruger elected by acclamation
 - First Vice President (2025-2026) – Craig Newman elected by acclamation
 - Second Vice President (2025-2027) – Craig Newman nominated Susan Haga and she declined. Lee Hunter nominated David Clarke and was elected by acclamation.
- Nominations ceased.

- Secretary (2025-2027) – no nominations. According to the Bylaws, a person may need to be appointed.

Returning member

- Treasurer (2025-2026) – Carolynne Ross

8. Introduction of Executive – Lianne Kruger

- President – Lianne Kruger
- 1st Vice President – Craig Newman
- 2nd Vice President – David Clarke
- Treasurer – Carolynne Ross
- Secretary – vacant

9. **Resolution of Respect**

WHEREAS:

The success of our Society has been, is, and will be, dependent upon many factors, including dedicated membership, professionalism in our research; the volunteer efforts of individuals who have provided dedicated service on Committees, Boards of Directors, members of Executives, library volunteers, lecturers at educational courses and volunteer efforts in community leadership as well as the support of spouses, and/or partners, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That members of the ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY go on record as expressing their deepest sorrow in the passing of the following AGS supporters:

NAME	MEMBER #	BRANCH	DATE
Richard Ian Peden	#5158	Edmonton	12 Jan 2024
Peter Wozniak	#6775	Edmonton	4 Jan 2024
Vivian Etty	#1216	Edmonton	13 Feb 2024
Gordon Newman	#5860	Medicine Hat	27 Apr 2024
Nick Shandro	#1083	Edmonton	12 Jul 2024
Joachim (Jo) Nuthack	#305	Edmonton	29 Jul 2024
Patrick Barry	#3620	Lethbridge	4 Aug 2024
Gerald G. “Jerry” Vague	#4950	Edmonton	3 Oct 2024
Friedrich Otto “Rudi” Grab	#6608	Wetaskiwin	24 Oct 2024
Gail Prette	#5273	Grande Prairie	13 Nov 2024
Douglas Youngman	#3644	Edmonton	5 Dec 2024

And that a copy of this Resolution be made part of the Minutes of this meeting.

Please pause for a moment of silent tribute to their memory.

MOVED by Lynne Duigou **SECONDED** by Doug McLeod **CARRIED**

10. **Courtesy Motions**

MOVED by Al Bromling that this meeting express appreciation and gratitude to all volunteers whose energy and commitment move our Society forward including branch volunteers and executives and the volunteers on the provincial board and committees whose combined effort is 29,579 volunteer hours in 2024

SECONDED by Maxine Maxwell **CARRIED**

MOVED by Marion Rex Howard that we express our sincere appreciation for the incredible support provided by our knowledgeable, dedicated, hard-working and experienced AGS support

staff: Shannon Cherkowski, Office Coordinator and Shirley Keller, Bookkeeper. They are the glue who take care of our day-to-day operations and hold our organization together, making it run smoothly.

SECONDED by Craig Newman

CARRIED

11. Presentation of Awards –

Life Membership

Leroy & Carole Koop #2031

Kenneth Young Award

Thanks to the Judging Committee: Lynn Fogwill, Susan Waters & Pamela Forsyth

Best Original Article – Alice Hoyle #4137 "*Pick a Name, Pick a Profession*" *Roots & Branches* January 2024 Vol.22 No.1 pp 9-13

Best Local Content – Leroy Koop #2031 "*The Hodgson Story*" *Roots & Branches*

Best Overall Newsletter *Roots & Branches*, January 2024, Vol. 22 No. 1 Wetaskiwin Branch

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

Peter Staveley Memorial Award

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

"*Finding Gold on Cortes Island*" by Lynne Duigou #5510, Edmonton Branch, *Relatively Speaking* November 2024, Vol. 52 No. 4, pp. 164-167.

Certificates of Appreciation

Edmonton Heritage Council for their generous support for Operational Funding for Genealogical Resources and Programming \$24,867

Historic Resources Management Heritage Division for their generous support for publications, training programs and general administration 2024 \$29,000

AGS Research Services Team who earned donations for AGS through their efforts in assisting family history researchers \$4,028.35

Special Mention Awards

Susan Haga #5223 Calgary Branch – In recognition of 10 years of diligent and enthusiastic leadership preparing and hosting Retreat/Fall workshop 2015-2024

Red Deer & District Branch – In recognition of GenFair leadership 2024 & 2025

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Red Deer Stake – In recognition of GenFair Facilities and Hosting 2024 & 2025

President's Award – engraved plaque

Alice Hoyle #4137 Wetaskiwin Branch – In appreciation for excellence in support of our Society

Retiring Members of Executive

Ruth McConnell #5483 – Secretary 2023-2025

Diane Wozniak #6775 – 2nd Vice President 2023-2025

Branch Anniversaries

25th Anniversary 1995-2025 Wetaskiwin Branch

25th Anniversary 2000-2025 Camrose Branch

30th Anniversary 2000-2025 Drayton Valley Branch

Long-Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five Years

Hans-Henning Muendel	#4215	Lethbridge	(2000)
Melvin Bender	#4251	Medicine Hat	(2000)
Doug Warren	#4263	Edmonton	(2000)
Margaret McInall	#4275	Edmonton	(2000)
Sherri Tomiak	#4305	Edmonton	(2000)
Louis & Helen Galick	#4328	Edmonton	(2000)
Miriam Roberts	#4339	Drayton Valley	(2000)
Margaret Nex	#4340	Medicine Hat	(2000)
James (Fred) Baron	#4403	Edmonton	(2000)
Uwe-Karsten Krickhahn	#4433	Medicine Hat	(2000)
Marie “Aline” Lundquist	#4441	Edmonton	(2000)

Long-Term Membership Certificates – Forty Years

Thomas Trace	#1663	Edmonton	(1985)
Lorraine Fiske	#1673	Edmonton	(1985)
Brian Klein	#1720	Medicine Hat	(1985)
Marcia Redford	#1739	Edmonton	(1985)
Phyllis Burnett	#1772	Lethbridge	(1985)
Edith Pinder	#1824	Medicine Hat	(1985)

Long term certificates – Fifty Years

Bob & Anne Baines	#229	Lethbridge	(1975)
Norma Wolowyk	#243	Edmonton	(1975)
Arlene Borgstede	#244	Edmonton	(1975)

Total Volunteer hours 29,579 hours reported in 2024.

12. Adjournment

Lianne Kruger declared the 52th Annual General Meeting of the Society adjourned at 5:15

Respectively submitted,

Ruth McConnell, Secretary

Lianne Kruger, AGS President

EXECUTIVE REPORTS



President

Lianne Kruger

Volunteer Hours: 511

AGS Website

I have set the ability to obtain the analytics for the AGS website. These numbers are needed and essential for grant

applications. I cleaned up on a few old webpages no longer needed. Deb and Shannon continually do a great job on the website.

AGS Branding

I worked with all branches to ensure the name on their website and their Facebook or any other Social Media states: (all three words) “Alberta Genealogy Society” and the Branch Name. Thank you to all the branches!

Membership Benefits

I talked with International Institute of Genealogical Studies. They are giving AGS members discounts. The discount is no longer a %, but discounts from packages of courses. If you are interested, contact IIGS, tell them you are an AGS member and they will explain your options. I tried to find other benefits and I updated the ones I found when VP a few years ago.

Prizes for AGS

I coordinated with FamilyTree DNA for four (4) DNA kits drawn from those who had paid for their membership by the deadline. All kits were awarded to members who renewed their membership.

AGS Brochure

I have been working on updating this. This brochure is for the office, Provincial Archives, libraries if they will allow, and for members to give away to friends.

Family History Fair 2025

I helped with the organization of the Family History Fair 2025 held in Red Deer, which included the AGM at the end. A separate report is included in the Annual Report. We came under budget.

Google Workspace

I have created a Google Sheet document for suggested speaker. There is a worksheet for each branch to add speakers they would recommend to other branches.

AGS YouTube channel (Unlisted / Public)

Members Only section.

- *AGS Records Help Playlist includes:*

MyHeritage Library Edition session by Daniel Horowitz session

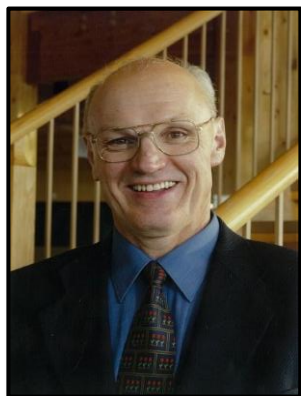
- How to use ARNI, ANI, and Homestead databases by Les Campbell. Link to Playlist link:

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhJ8YfeYFGcS8qIB0TjvBDneYTGE3gLzc&si=-GKFbP7g_WbueYQF

- *Canva Training Playlist link:*
Jeannine Younger presents Canva training for Genealogical Societies. 2 videos
youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhJ8YfeYFGcT8pRDadbjlP_xhimSGz9i&si=dfL8zTso_3RKjiYR

I will continue to add more videos as I receive them.

2025 Awards video from the AGM. I created them and uploaded them to the channel. For members only, as there are names on this video.



Past President

Al Bromling

Volunteer Hours: 410

During 2025 the main activities of the Past President included the following:

Support for Executive transition: The spring period included the selection of a Second Vice President and an AGS Secretary to complete the Society Executive to ensure stable leadership for the 2025-27 period. One selection was by nomination/vote at the Annual General Meeting. The other by appointment of a volunteer who came forward. Their commitment is appreciated.

Liaison with Google Workspace project: This project was initiated in 2022 to acquire cost effective digital tools for collaboration and communication within our Society. As liaison executive for the Google Workspace Steering Committee, I am pleased that the membership of this initiative continues to grow. The AGS wide email changeover to Google Workspace was completed in 2025. There is a growing need for training opportunities for volunteers engaging in the Workspace project. Kudos to the members of the Steering Committee. Please see the Google Workspace Project report for details.

Finance and Endowment Management practices: I assisted as a member of the Standing Committee on Finance. The transition to a consolidated two-year operating budget has been demanding of volunteer time and creativity. The Finance Committee and the Board also have the challenge of responsibly integrating the Nash Endowment investment earnings into our operations. The Board members are challenged to become more

capable in these financial leadership roles. Details are in the financial reports.

Nominations Chair Activity: I have worked with the AGS Coordinator to prepare the Nomination Forms and Awards package for our elections and awards process toward the next Annual General Meeting. Succession planning for Society leadership roles is very challenging as volunteer fatigue is a factor at all levels of the organization.

The Policy and Bylaws Standing Committee: I assisted this committee in developing amendments to update the AGS Privacy policy, the Code of Conduct policy and to prepare amendments to AGS Bylaws for membership consideration. The ballot for voting on these amendments will be mailed with the election voting package and the results announced at the AGM. Details are in the standing committee report.

Society Advocacy Initiative: Members are concerned that the costs and fees for access to government records impede genealogy research in Alberta. The Board has initiated a member committee to establish a fact-based advocacy document.



1st Vice President

Craig Newman

Volunteer Hours: 354

In 2025, I chaired several Executive Committee meetings, both the ones before the Annual Meeting and after I was confirmed by the Board in June to continue in that capacity.

I attended the Annual General Meeting in Red Deer which were extremely well done, and I look forward to attending the Annual General Meeting at Red Deer this year.

As the Chair of the Policy and Procedure Committee and with the help of Al Bromling and David Clarke, the Privacy Policy was rewritten and was passed by the Board.

Also, the Code of Conduct was passed by the Board.

I sat on the Bylaws committee with David Clarke and Al Bromling—the result being several amendments to the Bylaws which have been sent out to the members to be voted on.

I have also agreed to sit on the committee to negotiate the new Shared Use Agreement with the Edmonton Branch.



Treasurer

Carolynne Ross

Volunteer Hours: 530

Audit 2025

The audit was completed for the year 2025 by Louise Chauvet, CPA, CA and

her team at KBH Chartered Professional Accountants. KBH prepared Consolidated Financial Statements for the Society, which includes the income and expenses for the ten (10) branches and the Provincial Office. The AGS Branches that received a more in-depth review were Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, as both had casinos in 2024, as well as the AGS Edmonton and the AGS Provincial Office. A Compilation Engagement Report for the AGS Provincial Office was also prepared. The Consolidated Statement of Operations for the AGS Society showed an excess of revenue over expenses of \$94,960, with revenue

of \$307,453 and expenses of \$212,493.

These are some of the major variances (rounded):

Income 2025	\$307,453
Increase in interest & investments earnings	17,000
Increase donations	2,900
Increase in municipal grants	4,400

Expenses 2025	212,493
Increase in lease	6,200
Increase in costs of professional fees	6,300
Decrease in advertising & promotion	1,300
Increase in computer equipment	4,700
Increase in journal	2,100
Increase in office furniture	2,500
Decrease in website maintenance	1,000

The GST and the T3010 Registered Charity Information Returns were filed with the Canada Revenue Agency on a timely basis. The contracts with the *Relatively Speaking* Editor and the AGS Bookkeeper were renewed.

Guaranteed Income Certificates (GIC)

The AGS Society continues to have Guaranteed Investment Certificates (both redeemable and non-redeemable) which provide a twelve-month safety net should the operating budget become compromised.

Casino/Gaming

The AGS Casino/Gaming Chair has submitted this report.

Grants & Other Funding

The Grants & Other Funding Chair has submitted this report.

Richard “Dick” Nash Endowment Fund

AGS received the final distribution of the Richard Nash Estate which was added to the principal bringing the total to \$453,209. The Richard “Dick” Nash Endowment Fund was valued at \$559,465 as of 31 December 2025.

Research

The AGS Research Chair has submitted this report.

Relatively Speaking Sustainability Fund

The *Relatively Speaking* Sustainability Fund covered the fee for the *Relatively Speaking* Editor, publishing and mailing costs until the Fund was depleted. At the AGS September 2024 Board meeting it was approved that all future costs for *Relatively Speaking* would be included in the general operating expenses of the Society.

Membership Revitalization Reserve Fund

At the AGS September 2024 Board meeting, it was approved that this fund would be depleted by 31 December 2025.

Facility Manager

The position of Facility Manager reports to the AGS Treasurer. Bruce Boelstler and his team have performed minor maintenance repairs to the AGS Office and the AGS Edmonton Branch equipment, has completed and maintained the inventories of all holdings for the AGS Office and AGS Edmonton Branch, has updated and maintained the site security codes, and disposed of non-repairable furniture and equipment. Thank you for willingness to keep “watch” over Unit #162.

Bookkeeping

Shirley Keller, the AGS Bookkeeper, continues to provide excellent and efficient service to our Society. Not only does she do the bookkeeping for the Society, but she also consolidates all the financial information for the requirements of Revenue Canada; applies for the GST refunds for a number of the Branches and the Society; provides information, instruction and advice for the Branch Treasurers; maintains an excellent working relationship with our Office Coordinator, Shannon Cherkowski; provides assistance to the Grants & Other Funding Chair, Marion Rex Howard; prepares all financial material for the quarterly committee and Board meetings, and for the yearly audit, and assists in liaising with the auditors. She is a valued member of the financial aspect of the Society.

Finance Committee

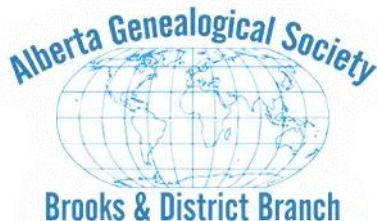
The members of the AGS Finance Committee are: Lianne Kruger, AGS President (Ex Officio); Al Bromling, Grande Prairie Branch; Laura Turnbull, Casino/Gaming Chair; Marion Rex Howard, Grants and Other Funding Chair; Connie Stuhl, AGS Drayton Valley Branch and AGS Finance Committee Secretary; Janine Carroll, AGS Camrose Branch Representative and AGS Membership Chair; Kurt Paterson, Advisor (non-voting) and Carolynne Ross, AGS Treasurer and AGS Finance Committee Chair. They have contributed much knowledge, many hours and lots of patience to meet the challenges of the growing financial management of the Society. My thanks to each one of you for your support and dedication to maintaining the well-being of the Alberta Genealogical Society.

Looking Forward

With the Province of Alberta Government’s withdrawal of the Historic Resources Management Branch Grant of \$29,000, the opening of the Shared Use Agreement between AGS and AGS Edmonton Branch, and the partnership of the AGS Edmonton Branch, AGS Grants & Other Funding Coordinator and the Edmonton Heritage Council, the financial picture of AGS will take on a somewhat different prospective in 2026 and 2027.

Lastly, as I hand over the position to someone else, I want to thank you for allowing me to be your treasurer for the past 4 years. There have been challenges, obstacles and rewards as we have moved the financial ways of the Society through some turbulent times. It is my hope that we continue to go forward with our goals and maintain our status as a recognizable and worthy Society.

BRANCH REPORTS



Brooks & District Branch

David Clarke

Volunteer Hours: 1104

Volunteers: 14

Membership: 21

We meet the 1st Wednesday of each month at our Society office on the 2nd. floor of the Brooks and District Public Library. A monthly presentation, on various topics, is presented on the last Saturday except during December and our summer hiatus. This is now hosted on Zoom.

Branch Happenings and Events

January – May:

Completed an inhouse strategic planning workshop, facilitated by Lisa Patton, Managing Director, Brooks & District Public Library.

AGM with David Clarke re-elected President for one additional year, and Lee Hunter elected Vice-President. Acknowledged our member Eileen French who served for 20 years as Casino Chairperson. She was replaced by Lee Hunter.

Public open house presentation, facilitated by Lee Hunter, on the WWII POW Camps in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge.

Members engaged together with the Public Library, for public open house “Roots Tech” Zoom conferences.

Public open house photography presentation, facilitated by Karyn Norden, on her recent trip to “Deutschland”.

Public open house presentation, facilitated by City Councillor Ray Juska, speaking of the significant Lithuanian settlement in Brooks and Area.

Numerous members attended to annual GenFair and AGM in Red Deer.

June – September:

Lee Hunter has committed himself to learning and enrolling in Google Workspace. With the assistance of Maxine Maxwell, he has watched training workshops. This is an ongoing process.

We go on our annual membership summer field trip to tour the Medalta Museum in Medicine Hat.

David Clarke was elected to the position of AGS 2nd. Vice-President, and Liaison for the *Relatively Speaking* publication.

Our Society participated in the annual City of Brooks Canada Day celebrations.

Together with Medicine Hat Branch, we shared an AGLC Casino in Medicine Hat.

We participated in the Brooks & District Museum’s Fall Fair where we manned our Society’s display and information table.

As a result of contact to us, and exhaustive research by Clara Iwaasa, we were able to connect a Belgian family with the history of their ancestors who had lived and worked in our area. This family then travelled from Belgium to Brooks and we were pleased to host them for tours and a luncheon.

In recognition of the passing of Bob Franz, long

time member, past President, past AGS President, our Society planted a tree and had his name engraved on a plaque in the local Commemorative Forest.

October-December:

City of Brooks proclamation Family History Week, October 19-25.

Mary Burkholder a member 1943-2020 and passionate genealogy researcher of Russian Mennonites, left a substantial collection of her personal research. We were able to donate this collection to the Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta.

Public open house Zoom presentation “*Where have all the Obits Gone*” was facilitated by Gordon McBean. One participant, a potential new member was awarded a Family Tree DNA test, which had been provided through the AGS Executive.

Lee reviewed our present computer capability. It was determined that the existing computer was sufficient for our needs. However, some “maintenance” work is necessary. We did purchase a webcam for future use.

Our Branch purchased the Zoom-Pro program which has been installed on our computer. This will be used in future public presentations and can also be a resource for members who are unable to participate, in person, at our monthly meetings.

There is a need to change and update our webpage. Lorraine is working on a new platform under Square Space.

Our Society created and purchased a new 33” x 80” pull up banner which includes our Branch Logo and the AGS Coat of Arms. This will be used at monthly presentations and events that we participate in.

Public open house Zoom screening and presentation “*We Lend a Hand.*” This is a docu-

drama film on the 40,000 Farmerettes, teenage girls who signed up for grueling farmwork in WWII.

Our annual Christmas gathering was held and well attended.



Calgary Branch

Susan Haga

Volunteer Hours: 100
Volunteers: 3

March 8th—Tour had been scheduled at the Military Museum in Calgary—largest tri-service museum in Western Canada and largest in Canada.

April 26—Susan Haga was re-installed as AGS Calgary Branch President as she had been ill for a time.

May 22nd—Laurianne Schell was appointed as AGS Calgary Branch Secretary. Our monthly meeting was a Zoom presentation on Military Records by presenter David Tyler that was held at Willow Park Chapel 940 Acadia Drive S.E. There were 4 in-person attendees present.

June 26th our monthly meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the 17th Avenue (SW) Calgary Family Search Center—presenter was Family Search Director Carol Hutchinson. She gave a hands-on presentation on Family Search. There were 7 attendees and 1 person attendee by Zoom.

September 25th—Laurianne Schell, our secretary, gave a presentation titled—*Doing It Right the First Time*. This was an in-person meeting held at the Willow Park Chapel at 7:00 p.m. with 4 attendees present. Laurianne had received permission from the President of the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) to talk about the reasons,

requirements and the benefits of certification thru BCG. She also emphasized that volunteers could use their experience with AGS toward their development activities.

October 23rd monthly meeting, we had a Zoom presentation at 7:00 p.m. with David Tyler on *How to Read English Script* at the Willow Park Chapel at our usual Calgary location. There were 4 people in attendance and 1 person by Zoom.

November 18th—Laurianne Schell started our Facebook page to help increase our membership. Followers: Alberta Family History Society and North of 54 Genealogy and 21 followers in total.

November 27th—our monthly meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Willow Park Chapel with a Zoom presentation with David Tyler—*England Beyond the Basics*. There were 3 in-person attendees and 1 Zoom attendee. We had wanted to get another presenter that we had spoken with previously but due to American Thanksgiving being held on this same day, all the other US presenters were not available.

Our membership is now at 22 members, up one membership from last year. Some of our membership had chosen not to renew but other new members joined our AGS Calgary Branch.

December—No meeting was held



Camrose Branch

Deb Trout

Volunteer Hours: 782.5
Volunteers: 14
Membership: 24
Primary 5 Secondary
Meeting attendance
average: 12

President: Deb Trout
Vice President: Janine Carroll
Secretary: Lilyon Luntz
Treasurer: Alora Nelson
Membership: Wendy Roth
Newsletter Editor: Maureen Scrutton
Events: Cindy Mailer
Webmaster/Facebook: Deb Trout
Director-at-Large: Bev Webster

AGM Date: Mar 13/2025 #Attending AGM:
11

January and February we did not hold monthly meetings although our SIGs did meet.

March was our AGM with all existing officers returning by acclamation.

Meeting Topics for 2025:

March – We watched a webinar about researching in Ireland. Members discussed their Irish roots.

April – Christine Woodcock from Ontario Ancestors presented her talk *Researching Your Scottish Ancestors*.

May – Researching Our Mothers. We showed a

video of Mother's Day traditions worldwide, and members shared about their Mothers, Aunts, and Grandmothers.

June – a video of Father's Day Traditions around the world and members highlighted a male ancestor

July – We travelled to Lougheed, Alberta to visit the Iron Creek Museum. It is composed of local heritage buildings that have been moved on to the grounds. Fortunately, the rain stopped for a few minutes so we could walk through the grounds without getting soaked.

August – Our planned cemetery visit was cancelled due to weather conditions.

September – Dave Obee was our speaker, delivering his latest presentation "*In Search of Home: Migration Into, Out of and Within Canada*". There were 20 in attendance in person and via Zoom.

October – The regular monthly meeting was *Finding An Ancestor's Burial Place*. Eleven members attended and there were some very interesting stories. Several stories for the Newsletter were promised.

November – *Our First Alberta Ancestor* with an attendance was 12. Members researched and spoke about their first ancestor to arrive in Alberta. Some of the members were their first Alberta ancestor.

December – We held our Christmas Social with a focus on potlucks. Members shared favourite recipes.

Events:

Spring Workshop April

April 12th was our spring workshop at the local library. Gordon McBean joined us via Zoom, presenting his talk entitled *Where Have All the Obits Gone?* Our club member, Charlotte Curtis, updated us on her ongoing obituary project for Flagstaff County. After lunch, club member Adele Goa presented *Researching in Norway*

Writing Retreat July

The Writing Your Family History SIG held its annual writing retreat in Delburne in July. Five members attended, a good time was had AND we got some writing done.

Community Registration Night

The branch hosted a table at the annual Community Registration Night. Three members manned the table. The interest from the public was good.

25th Anniversary

We held a reunion lunch at the Mirror Lake Senior Centre on September 21st. It was catered by a local company and was delicious. Two former presidents attended, one of which was our first president. Friends and family were included with a total of 23 attendees.

Fall Workshop

Our 25th Anniversary Workshop was held at the Camrose United Church with 3 speakers - Bob Layton on Writing Your Family History, Thomas MacEntee on Creating an Ancestor Sketch and Ellen Thompson-Jennings on Organizing Your Genealogy. In total there were 42 attendees, 17 AGS members and 25 from the public. We gained four memberships from this workshop – two were from door prizes. Our sign-in sheet asked where attendees heard about the event which will help us greatly for future events.



Drayton Valley Branch

Connie Stuhl

Volunteer

Hours: 452.5

Membership:
9

Volunteers: 5



Our weather in January for our meeting was once again cold with very icy conditions, so we cancelled rather than risk members out on the roads, most of whom live out of town.

In February, due to members being away, we cancelled our meeting, as we would not be able to

achieve quorum. Some members attended a Zoom session by Les Campbell on AGS Resources which they found informative.

Due to the cancellation of the last two meetings, our Annual General Meeting was postponed until March. There were no changes made to the existing executive of the Branch. At our regular Branch meeting, we discussed topics by a speaker for our 30th Anniversary to be held in October. Further planning started for our Anniversary. Google Workspace was discussed and it was decided that the President and the Treasurer would request access. Some books were donated by a community member and these were offered to the members to take home.

For April, we continued planning our 30th Anniversary, including setting a budget and confirming which topics we wanted from the speaker (Gordon L. McBean). We learned that a local group, River Valley Players, is planning to put on a play about Drayton Valley's First Murder, which we extensively researched, and we look forward to attending in 2026.

In May, we continued our planning for our Anniversary, firming up costs and assigning tasks. We had a discussion on how to increase membership and asked that members bring ideas back to a future meeting. Our resource was how to do a full text search within Family Search.

For June, posters were designed for the Anniversary. We discussed the new member benefit from the International Institute of Genealogical Studies and the AGS YouTube channel. We took a photo for a *Relatively Speaking* article on our Anniversary. Our Resource was about Your Ancestors FAN Club with a short video.

We usually do not meet during the summer but were given an opportunity to book Bob Layton as a guest speaker in September. We approached the museum and booked the Anglican Church at the museum site for venue. Posters were distributed

to members to place in various locations to help advertise the event. An article in the local newspaper was also submitted. We also firmed up the anniversary planning.

On September 13, we hosted Bob Layton at the Drayton Valley Museum, which was an apt location since the topic was "*How Do You Want to Be Remembered?*" We had 29 people in attendance, and the museum staff expressed an interest in working with us again in the future.

At our September Branch meeting, we reviewed the results of our advertising from survey results that were taken at the event on September 13th. The best results were from word of mouth and the Drayton Valley Branch Facebook page. Posters were distributed to members to help advertise the Anniversary event. An ad for the local newspaper was formulated and submitted. Other final tasks were decided upon for our 30th Anniversary.

Our October meeting was a few days before the Anniversary and planning of when to meet and set up were made. We decided to offer a free membership as a door prize. We still had some equipment that we were no longer using, and these were donated to a person that works at the local Library. The equipment donated was an overhead projector and a microfiche reader. She does different art projects and was thrilled with these donations.

On October 18th, we held our 30th Anniversary at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with 12 people in attendance. Greetings from the Mayor of Drayton Valley and the Reeve of Brazeau County started off our day. Our guest speaker was Gordon L. McBean with two sessions, "*If Not a Book*" and "*The Album That Keeps on Quizzing*". We also had a Family Search Update by Garry Stark from the Church.

Our November meeting was cancelled due to not having enough members for a quorum due to illness, family issues and not wanting to drive at night.

We do not hold meetings in December.



Edmonton Branch

Karen Wilson

Volunteer Hours: 14,589
Volunteers: 64

2025 marked the beginning of a new chapter for the AGS Edmonton Branch. We started modernizing how we present ourselves—through new window decals, conference materials, and an upcoming library redesign—while staying grounded in our mission to support genealogical discovery.

The Edmonton Branch Board is diverse in age, background and skills, yet united in purpose. We are focused on improving governance processes, refining procedures and strengthening our communication service to our members. Together, we have advanced important operational improvements, including updates to library booking procedures, renewal of our shared-use agreement, and clearer internal workflows. These foundational efforts may be largely invisible, but they are essential to sustaining a healthy, volunteer-driven organization.

Our volunteers remain the heart of this branch. 64 members contributed 14,589 hours in 2025—nearly 1400 more than last year. Thank you to Ivy Trumpour for tracking these hours, and heartfelt thanks to every volunteer who supports our programs and library. Another shoutout goes to the Special Interest Groups' facilitators who arrange such fascinating presentations for their groups.

2025 was a busy year with 10 General Meetings, 33 Special Interest Group meetings, partner events,

town halls and major community activities including Doors Open and the Family History Fair. A highlight was our June Potluck Social, reminding us that community matters as much as research. We grew our reach and strengthened our organization by partnering again with Grant MacEwan University students, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association, Edmonton Public Library, Provincial Archives of Alberta, and Edmonton and District Historical Society. We also ventured outside of the city limits with help from the Athabasca Historical Society.

Thank you to our Board, SIG leaders, course instructors and volunteers for your dedication as we honour the past and embrace change.



Grande Prairie & District Branch

Maxine Maxwell

Volunteer Hours: 2,479
Volunteers: 8 (14 for Casino)
Membership: 38

2025-26 Executive & Committees

President: Maxine Maxwell

Vice-President: Gail Schau

Secretary: Al Bromling

Treasurer: Gail Schau

Director at Large/Genie: Jay Sydoruk

Past President/Genie: Al Bromling

Membership: Brenda Henning

Researcher: Joan Bowman

Contracted Assistant/Genie: Juanita Jordan

Contracted Bookkeeper: Shirley Keller

It was a unanimous decision to renew contracts in 2025 for Juanita, our paid Assistant, and Shirley our paid Bookkeeper. We were very impressed with the expertise of Jeannine Younger, our contracted Google Workspace Trainer and appreciated that

other AGS members supported her in the monthly training sessions.

We were offered an early Casino on September 18 and 19, 2025. Filling the various volunteer positions went fairly smoothly thanks to the generosity of the volunteer members of our Branch and also from our like-minded Community Organizations. As a result, AGLC deposited \$37,394.30 into our Casino Account.

Meetings

2025 Executive monthly Meetings were scheduled on the 2st Thursdays of each month except July, August, December, with our expanded Executive Committee of eight members. All of the meetings were in-person in the Isabel Campbell Room of the GP Public Library.

Our hybrid **AGM** on March 19 was hosted by the South Peace Regional Archives with 9 members in attendance.

Following the Business Meeting, Archives CEO, Ellyn Vanderkerkhove, led a tour of their new Archives location followed by a talk on “*What is an Archive*” in which she encouraged donation of personal genealogical histories into their collection. In June, we were informed that the Grande Prairie Public Library informed us they could make better use of the Isabel Campbell Room, our home base for the last 20 odd years, and their decision to relocate us to a different area of the Library. We spent the rest of the year in communication and negotiation for the best-case scenario. Talks are ongoing.

Programs and Community Collaboration

Our ongoing programs that occasionally increase our memberships are:

Genies in the Library where our faithful volunteers receive clients on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (except the summer months), for drop-in or by appointment for one-on-one research assistance. Our Assistant has recently branched out to specialize in Metis Research. She has made use

of one of GP Branch’s perks of reimbursing costs up to \$700/person/year from Casino Proceeds for online training and/or travel.

Genies on the Road – a few of us travel and offer assistance to small groups for our Regional Libraries’ patrons, whenever they request our services.

Research Queries – our long-term researcher fills requests for obituaries look-ups and other local information by request. The charge is \$20/hour and clients can conveniently pay by e-transfer or PayPal through our bookkeeper to obtain immediate results.

Branch Library – our Branch Librarian monitors our large Genealogical Library, (Reference and Circulating) and is always on the lookout for additional materials.

Margaret Kay Memorial Bursary – The Margaret Kay Bursary, in the amount of \$1500, but had no applications in 2025.

Branch Databases – Additional information continues to be updated as indexing of obituaries from local and regional newspapers to the Website’s ‘Obituary Index’. One of our long-time remote members volunteered to scan obituaries from Regional Newspapers and Grande Prairie funeral homes. The Branch purchased a new scanner for her use for this important contribution.

Facebook Account – Our Assistant maintains a current, attractive and active page, recently announcing 7.7k views, 73 visits, 31 content interactions and a total of 114 followers.

Website – was added to our Assistant’s job description and we now boast a current and informative website that has seen 81 visits this past year.

Google Workspace Training – As part of our commitment to AGS members, GP & District Branch continues to contract Jeannine Younger. We were pleased to offer this incentive and service to AGS from our Casino Proceeds.

Community and Membership Programs

January 21 – we presented a mini hands-on Genealogical Workshop to 8 people from our local Retired Teachers' Group

May 1 – we assisted with their Peace Country Historic Society's Heritage Fair – where 40+ Grades 5-9 students and some of their parents from some selected local schools, enjoyed playing with our interactive display of toys 'of our grandparents' generation.

May 10 – we co-hosted a public, '*Gathering Our Families*' Workshop with the local LDS, attracting 88 attendees from our membership and the public.

May 24 – Peace Country Historic Society's Long Bus Tour. GP Branch covered the bus fee for participating members', as another membership perk.

October 23 – Two of us travelled to Fairview, per our '*Genies on the Road*' Program to showcase our Branch as part of their 1st annual Seniors' Expo. Our DNA Kit and complementary 1 year membership door-prize draw resulted in one new membership.

November 8 – We sponsored the snacks and refreshments for the Peace Country Historical Society's Remembrance Day Program attended by around 100 family and friends of the veteran they chose to honor. The whole afternoon's activities were recorded by PCHS.

Other Outreach in 2025

January 15 – We sponsored Les Campbell's virtual presentations; AGS Resources Part 1 and on Feb. 19, Part II for AGS members.

April 24 – three of us attended the AGS AGM and GenFair in Red Deer

On the first Mondays of most months, we sponsored the 'hands-on' training sessions on the various tools of Google Workspace with Jeannine Younger. Jeannine's choice of topic for each month was from the surveys she circulated to the AGS membership.

Both Les and Jeannine had given permission to have these recordings saved on the 'members-only' section of GP Branch Website and on AGS' YouTube Channel.

Every last Tuesday of the month – In collaboration with the local LDS FHC, we co-sponsored mini workshops and research opportunities for our members, free of charge.

We made our annual donation to our local Archives towards their ongoing Publication and also a first-time donation to the Whitelaw Historic Committee for updating their Community History Book Anniversary Project.

Display Tables at Community Events

March 6 & 7 at the South Peace Teachers' Convention, showcasing the AGS Genealogy for Youth Program.

June 2 – as part of the City of Grande Prairie sponsored Seniors' Week.

August 2 – a City of Grande Prairie sponsored Heritage Day, outdoors in Muskoseepi Park.

Google Workspace Initiative Project – GP Branch helped promote and expand Google Workspace to more of the branches, the Board and AGS Executive in 2025.



Lethbridge & District Branch

Barry Simmonds

Volunteer Hours 2886
Volunteers 22

We added 8 new members in our Fall membership drive.

Membership 51, total of 58 members

Meetings

We had hybrid meetings in January, March, April and May. In June, we had our annual BBQ picnic.

Annual General meeting

In February, we held our annual general meeting. This was not an election year.

Presentations

January – Dale Leffingwell presented the *“History of Milk River and area”*.

February – We did have a presentation. We had a light lunch and drinks. The members enjoyed time to catch up with fellow members.

March – Marilyn Astle presented *“How to use Wiki Tree to help with research”*.

April – Elaine Toth presented *“How to prepare your Oral History”*

May – Alan Whidden presented *“Building and Maintaining Ancestral Links”*.

September – Lacey Baker did a presentation

October – At our international pot Luck Dinner our member Henning Muendel presented *“How I published my Family History Book”*.

November – Wendy Aitken did a presentation of *“Highlighting Her Story: Women’s Contributions to Military Effort”*

Other Gatherings

In June, we had a BBQ pot luck meal at a member’s home.

Speaker List Project

The speaker list project is still on the books as it is now on the shared drive with AGS president.

Other Projects & Activities

In September, the president visited the group at the Lethbridge senior citizens center that was doing genealogy research. We did get several new members through this one visit.

We are busy reorganizing our library and updating our database of Alberta History books. Special thanks to Wendy, and Julie for their dedication to this reorganization.

Branch News Our Resource Centre was open to the public three afternoons a week. We are open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

The Branch newsletter *Yesterday’s Footprints* was published three times as usual and is publicly available on our website.

Our *Facebook* group *Lethbridge Genealogy* reached over 432 members by the end of 2024 as compared to 365 members by the end of 2023.

Our project of collecting and digitizing obituaries and funeral cards continued. Our current dedicated volunteer team includes Alma and Charlie Berridge, Louella Cronkhite, Eleanor McMurchy and Bev Tufts.

Our branch started using Google Workspace. 5 members have attended 2 training session held in November and December, with further training in January. Along with the training new position email address will be put in place next year. As our little society grows, our record retention is not very good. The Workspace will ease the burden of finding records for our business.

AGM in Red Deer

Two of our members attended the *“Family History Fair”* and our AGM put on by the Red Deer Branch and the Family History center.

Upcoming Things

We still need a number of members to help with filling empty positions in our branch.

Conclusion

As 2025 ended, our major concerns are to maintain members and increase the number of members, provide training for new members to help with maintain the library and with their research. Maintain our volunteer base and provide training to them. We plan to continue to upgrade our equipment for video and audio presentations.

My appreciation and thanks to all who continue to support the branch.

A special thank you to all the members who have helped make the branch successful over the last year.



Medicine Hat & District Branch

Deb Wickham

2025 Membership: 51
members, with 15
residing out of town.

Total Volunteer Hours: 2445, contributed by 17
active members.

2025 Branch Executive

President: Debra Wickham

Vice President: Dwight Brown

Secretary: Jocelyn Macaulay

Treasurer: Elaine Zimmer

Past President: Donald Zimmer

Meetings

Hybrid meetings are scheduled for the first
Wednesday afternoon of each month, excluding
July and August. All meetings are open to the
public. Attendance was as follows:

January: 13 members

February: AGM – 12 members

March: 12 members and 1 guest

April: 13 members

May: 12 members

June: 12 members

July: No meeting

August: No meeting

September: 11 members and 2 guests

October: 8 members and 1 guest

November: 16 members

December: 21 members

After a vote of the members, meetings were moved
from the evenings to the afternoons. Only three
programs were presented in 2025 with the highlight
in November presented by members Don and
Elaine Zimmer who shared pictures, stories, and
memories of their bike trip across Canada.

Executive meetings were called on an as-needed
basis, with three meetings held in 2025.

Certificates Received

10 Years: Sandy Buchko, Kathy Farrell, Dianne
Ferguson, Jeffery Kearney, Don Zimmer, Elaine
Zimmer, John Althouse

15 Years: Elemee Royer, Doreen Schank

20 Years: Marlene Smith

40 Years: Brian Klein

Duties, Rules, and Procedures

The committee continues to meet and revise
processes as required.

Library

We have over 1,500 resources catalogued in
ResourceMate. There has been a significant
improvement in the aesthetics of our library, and we
are pleased with our resources, with 90% being
available online. Going forward, we will be more
selective with additions to our library, especially
with donated items. Space has become an issue, and
we want the library to reflect what we stand for
regarding genealogy and local history.

In-library resources available to members include
Newspaper.com, NewspaperArchive.com,
AmericanAncestors.org, and FindMyPast.com.
The library committee consistently updates
members on available resources and makes
requests for additional materials.

The library is open to the public on Wednesdays
(except for the first Wednesday of the month), to
visit our library for help with research or just to see
what we are all about.

Projects

Our ongoing project continues to involve
organizing all hard copies of obituaries,
chronologically and alphabetically. We will then
compare it with our online database, remove
duplicates, and merge them all.

We have entered a booth in the Annual Home and

Trade Show (March 2026) in hopes of gaining new members. It will be interesting to see how the weekend goes.

Another priority project is rebranding our logo, so it better reflects what our society is about.

We are also collaborating with our landlord for improvements, hoping to create three new individual workspaces so our members have more privacy and room.

Research

The committee managed seven research requests in 2025, with a great response time.

Sammis Seeker

The position of editor remains vacant, and no current issues have been published. As president, I compiled a short newsletter (President Musings), featuring our executive, a short story, and some noteworthy items of interest.

Social Media

At present, we have 254 followers on Facebook, our only social media platform. This account is used to inform members about upcoming events, genealogical resources, stories, and current news.

Special Interest Groups

Our Germans from Russia SIG, under the guidance of Melvin Bender, continues to provide valuable information, tips, and assistance for researching ancestors.

Special Presentations

We hosted a Beginner's Genealogy Workshop in the spring of 2025 with six participants. It was a tremendous success, and we plan to offer it again in 2026.

Website

The site recorded 34,604 visits, with visitors from Canada, the USA, Great Britain, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Mexico, and many other countries. Pages viewed were the telephone books and cemeteries.



Red Deer & District Branch

Jessie Dial

Total Volunteer Hours:
1632 hours
Total Members Who
Volunteered: 24
Total members: 48

We are fortunate to have a branch supported by dedicated volunteers who contribute significant time and energy to our work. This year, each volunteer contributed an average of nearly 70 hours, and their commitment continues to be the foundation of our branch's success.

In January, we welcomed a speaker who introduced an engaging way to use AI to help compose family history narratives. Members collaborated by taking turns adding lines to a shared story, resulting in a full page of writing. The session was both informative and enjoyable.

February marked our Annual General Meeting. We were pleased to welcome Louise Ebessen as our new Vice President. She has already been a valuable asset to the branch and will be standing for President at the next AGM. All other executive positions remained unchanged, and we are grateful to those who continue to serve. Following the AGM, Jeannine Powell presented on FamilySearch and its newly implemented features. Her presentation was clear, informative, and well received.

In March, Louise Ebessen delivered a presentation on creating "cousin bait," focusing on the use of family history blogs to connect with others researching the same family lines. Members found the session practical and informative.

April featured a member-led "show and tell" in

place of a formal speaker. Members shared family artifacts and research materials, resulting in a wide variety of interesting and meaningful contributions. The Family History Fair was also held in April and saw strong attendance and positive feedback. A highlight for many was the presentation on Investigative Genetic Genealogy by a speaker from the Calgary RCMP. We look forward to hosting the event again next May.

In May, Jeannine Powell returned to present additional updates and new features on FamilySearch. We continue to appreciate her expertise and willingness to share her knowledge.

June concluded our regular meeting year with a year-end potluck. This year, we surveyed members using a Google Form to determine preferences. Members selected a catered chicken main with shared side dishes, along with a small fee to offset costs. The format was well-received and will likely be repeated next year.

There were no regular meetings in July and August; however, our cemetery recording group remained active. For more than three years, this team has been recording and uploading memorials to Find A Grave, contributing thousands of entries. While work in an active cemetery is never truly complete, the group is nearing a point where records are largely up to date. Their efforts will be of lasting value to future researchers.

Meetings resumed in September with a presentation by Lianne Kruger on Library and Archives Canada. She shared practical guidance on navigating the online database, which members found very helpful.

In October, Jessie Dial presented on researching Canadian military ancestors, covering the War of 1812, the First World War, and the Second World War. The presentation prompted thoughtful discussion and inspired members to further explore their own military connections.

November featured another presentation by Jeannine Powell, this time focusing on using the GRO UK website to locate missing family members, records, and children—particularly those who were born and died between census years.

December is traditionally a month without meetings for our branch.

Throughout the year, the Family History Writers SIG met monthly at the Provincial Archives. The group remains active and has developed a strong sense of community, often gathering socially after meetings and participating in seasonal events together.

From January through June, we co-hosted “*Bring, Brag, or Break*” with the Red Deer Public Library. This monthly group provided a welcoming space for participants to share items of interest and receive help with their research, supported by informal conversation and refreshments.

Beginning in September, “*Bring, Brag, or Break*” was replaced with “Roots and Branches,” a beginner-focused genealogy group aimed at mentoring new researchers and assisting those facing research challenges. Participation has been lower than anticipated, and we plan to return to the previous format in September 2026.

In 2026, the branch plans to resume regular publication of *Tree Climber*, the long-standing branch newsletter, following the appointment of a new editor. The branch also plans to host another Family History Fair and organize a group visit to the Provincial Archives. These initiatives are intended to strengthen member engagement, support retention, and increase awareness of the branch within the community.



Wetaskiwin Branch

Alice Hoyle

2025 Membership: 24 members, representing 28 individuals.

2025 Total Volunteer Hours: 2171.5 These represent the hours

contributed by 18 branch members during the 2025 year.

2025 Executive:

President – Alice Hoyle

Vice-President – Nelda Layton

Secretary – Pam Cooke

Treasurer – Leroy Koop

Projects:

Archives: Wetaskiwin branch members continue to actively support the City of Wetaskiwin Archives. Some of our members are volunteering by assisting with inventory of the Archives' holdings and by entering data onto the spreadsheets created by City of Wetaskiwin staff. Branch members have been able to refer researchers to the Archives, and this is a step forward.

Project: *“Genealogy at the Museum – an afternoon of Fun”*

This event was held Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 1:00-4:00pm. This was a free walk-in event, hosted by the Heritage Museum. Members of the Wetaskiwin branch provided the research, armed with information sheets about how to research in various parts of the world, information

on the Family Search Centre in Wetaskiwin and how to research there, our personal laptops to enable us to demonstrate free websites, etc. The advertising for the event was done by the Heritage Museum. Due to the format, branch members did not know how many people would show up; we were happy to have 10 eager people come to the walk-in event. The attendees ranged from people who had been researching their ancestors but wanted more help, to people who didn't do research but wanted to start working on their family history. Attendees came from local areas, and from an hour's drive away. We were very happy with the day. The Heritage Museum asked if we would be interested in co-hosting this event in 2026, and our branch has agreed to be involved again next year.

Branch Resource Centre: Our resources are now housed in a separate room at the Archives. The resources we have in our collection are available to those researching at the Archives.

Community Outreach: Branch Vice-President Nelda Layton is the Director of the Family Search Center in Wetaskiwin. She and her team provide training sessions and one-on-one assistance for those interested in researching their ancestors.

Battle Lake Ladies' Club: Branch member Olga Reade received special recognition as the historian for this group for over 30 years. Certificates from the County of Wetaskiwin and the Canadian government were presented to Olga. The club has just published *“The 91-year History of the Battle Lake Ladies Club 1934-2025”*.

Curling Alberta: Branch member Rosella Plaquin received the Volunteer of the Year Award from this organization, recognizing her years of volunteer service to the Curling Alberta group.

Education and Training:

Our Program Coordinator, Claudia Malloch, includes an educational and training portion to each of our monthly meetings. Some of the sessions are webinars while others are member-led discussions on various topics.

AGS GenFair and AGM, Red Deer, April 26, 2025: Branch members travelled to Red Deer to attend the above event, while other branch members joined the AGM via Zoom. Our branch received a 25-year Anniversary award in recognition of our 25 years of service to AGS and genealogical research. Branch members, Leroy Koop/Carole Koop were awarded a Life Membership in AGS. The Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for Best Overall Newsletter was awarded to branch member Sharon Aney, our newsletter editor. The Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for Best Local Content was awarded to branch member Lee Koop. The Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for Best Original article was awarded to branch member Alice Hoyle. The President's Award for Exceptional Volunteerism was awarded to Alice Hoyle. Congratulations to all the branch award recipients.

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

January 21, 2025 – Attendance: 11. January's presentation was "*Your Family Stories are Just One Click Away*"; a presentation by Melissa Barker. Melissa emphasized the importance of preserving family stories and traditions by collecting, researching and documenting for future generations. She also reminded us that family stories will contain fact and fiction and very few are 100% accurate.

February 18, 2025 – Attendance: 10. This was our branch AGM. Following the AGM, we held our regular monthly meeting. Presentation: "*Valentine's Day: Love Stories in Family History*". Branch members shared stories about family romance/marriages/and a love story gone bad.

March 18, 2025 – Attendance: 11. Presentation: Roots Tech Favourites. Branch members who virtually attended Roots Tech shared their favourites and outlined the information they learned and explained why they gave those presentations a 'thumbs-up' rating.

April 22, 2025 – Attendance: 12. Presentation: "*Family Search, Full Text Search. Why Aren't You*

Using it?" Branch members convened to the Family Search Centre where we viewed this presentation, conducted by Nelda Layton, Family Search Centre Director, and Claudia Malloch, our branch Program Coordinator.

May 20, 2025 – Attendance: 14. Presentation: "*Cousin Connections – How to Find the Living*". This was a short presentation in the Wetaskiwin Family Search Centre. Our meeting was mostly dedicated to finalizing details about our 25th Anniversary celebration on May 31, 2025. More on this event later in the report.

June 17, 2025 – Attendance: 14. The program was "*Share Something You've Done or Learned this year (Genealogy or Family History Related)*" Due to the length of the June meeting, members who had prepared presentations were asked to submit those to our Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the next branch newsletter.

NO meetings were held in July or August of 2025.

September 16, 2025 – Attendance: 13. A member sharing circle – branch members shared some of the new developments in their genealogical research as it related to family and friends. We had the pleasure of meeting for lunch prior to our afternoon meeting: branch members enjoyed time together over a meal and a bit of 'catching up' on what happened over the summer.

October 21, 2025 – Attendance: 14. Presentation: "*Creating an Ancestor Sketch*" by Thomas MacEntee. This was a very interesting and thought-provoking presentation showing us that we don't have to face writing a 'book' – we can just start bit by bit, and eventually the bits will add up to the information we need to create a family history book.

November 18, 2025 – Attendance: 11. The presentation was "*Who Are You and Where Did You Come From*"? Those in attendance shared their ancestral history as well as sharing some

information about ancestors who were involved in military conflicts.

No meeting in December. All our meetings are open to members and guests. Our meetings in January, February, March, and November were 7:00pm Zoom meetings. Meetings in April, May, June, September and October were in-person meetings beginning at 2:00pm.

Volunteerism

Some of our branch members continue to volunteer at the Family Search Center in Wetaskiwin. As well, there are members of our branch who volunteer to assist members of the public with their research. Our research is done on a volunteer basis: we do not charge a fee.

Branch Members' Contribution to our Branch Newsletter and to RS:

In 2025, our branch members contributed several articles to our branch newsletter as well as to the AGS publication *Relatively Speaking*.

Branch Member, Sharon Aney – Research for Manluk Theatre Society

Sharon Aney was approached in April 2025 to research the history of Wetaskiwin's Electric Light Building which was built in 1904. She has been researching the building's construction, usage and name changes as it housed the City's electricity generators, Calgary Power's water system, the Heritage Museum and other smaller enterprises over 100 years.

The building was purchased by the Manluk Theatre Society in 2006 and renovated to be the local live theatre venue. The Society is documenting the renovations it has made to the building and is researching "live theatre" in Wetaskiwin with plans to publish a book combining both stories.

Branch Member, Leroy Koop – Obituary Initiative

In 2024, Leroy Koop decided to (personally) collect and catalogue obituaries from local sources, and he

continues to do this in 2025. He focuses on Wetaskiwin City and County; creating a system that works for him. Lee has created obituary information in pdf format. A large percentage of the volunteer hours recorded for our branch have been the hours that Lee spends on this massive project.

Wetaskiwin Branch 25th Anniversary in 2025

On May 31, 2025, our branch hosted a memorable event at the Seniors Centre in Wetaskiwin. We booked Bob Layton, well-known TV/Radio broadcaster and an avid historian, to be our guest speaker. Invitations were sent out to all the Past-Presidents and the Charter Members. 4 Charter Members attended; all the Past-Presidents, except one, were in attendance. Approximately 78 people attended the event. The event was free and included a free lunch which was prepared by the Seniors Centre. Advertising was on posters, social media, the *Wetaskiwin Times* newspaper, and mail-outs. Registration was on Google Workspace or by using a burner phone number we bought for the purpose of registering attendees who were not comfortable with the Google option. Display tables were created by the Heritage Museum, the City of Wetaskiwin Archives, our own branch, the Family Search Centre, as well as displays showing Maskwacis history, English research, and all the photo albums that our branch historian, Rosella Plaquin, has artfully created.

Our Newsletter Editor, Sharon Aney, created a special publication for the event. This publication highlighted our 25-year history and reminded us of some of the memorable events in our branch history: events such as the 2 GenFairs we have hosted; the 3 publications our branch members have created, highlighting our memories of School Days, Christmas Memories and lastly our COVID-19 experience. The 25th special publication also reminded us of the special recognition we have received, as a branch and as individual members of our branch – recognition for membership milestones, and recognition for receiving special awards for our contributions to the branch newsletter, to the AGS publication, *Relatively*

Speaking and for our noteworthy volunteerism to AGS.

Branch member, Carole Koop, gathered several door prizes and these were well received by the winners of the individual draws.

As the day concluded, we all felt that the day and the celebration of our 25th Anniversary had been everything we hoped it would be. Some wonderful memories were created for our branch members.

Other AGS branch milestones

We congratulate Camrose branch on their 25th Anniversary this year.

Also celebrating a milestone this year is the Drayton Valley branch – they celebrated their 30th Anniversary in 2025.

Wonderful milestones and may the years ahead bring more great memories.

Thank you to the Wetaskiwin branch members who volunteered to be on the Executive, the Committee Chairs, those who contributed articles to our newsletter, and all our members who continue to share their wisdom and knowledge with the branch members. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Bringing the Past to the Present for the Future©

Tagline created by Wetaskiwin branch member, Sharon Aney.

Special Committee Reports

Google Workspace Steering Committee

Prepared and submitted by Maxine Maxwell and Barry Simmonds

In 2025, Grande Prairie Branch arranged and sponsored Jeannine Younger for monthly training sessions for AGS Members.

In January, Google Workspace role-based gmail accounts were activated for Edmonton, Camrose, Red Deer and Lethbridge. In February, Lethbridge Branch had implemented 5 role-based positions. The Provincial Executive, AGS Office Coordinator, Treasurer and Bookkeeper were invited to participate.

Calgary, Medicine Hat and Wetaskiwin Branches are using forwarding from their role assigned gmails to their original or personal addresses. Brooks and Drayton Valley Branches were planning on activating their role-based address and participating in Google Workspace asap. A number of these branches consequently moved ahead by setting up their folders and files under their respective Shared Drives.

In April, it was reported that the Executive part of Google Workspace was not working because of technical difficulties with Shout. Lianne Kruger was invited to the Google Workspace Team.

In September, Lianne, together with Mike McLuckie from MediaShaker, proposed that switching all Shout emails at once would be the best solution. Lianne will help Al in assisting those with a Shout address prepare for the migration to G. Workspace.

Mike agreed to assume the 2nd Super Administrator Position, along with Kelsey Carlisle. Doug Christian resigned from the Super-Admin.

Position due to work commitments, and helped develop a relevant job description for his successor. Branches were advised to appoint their own 'user-tier' administrator for minor changes like passwords and users. Most reported they had done so as of October 27.

Barry Simmonds agreed to assume a co-chair position with Maxine after Kurt Paterson announced his resignation in June.

An AGS Google Calendar will be the next challenge once everybody is set up in Google Workspace. Mike McLuckie offered to lead a Sub-Committee consisting of Deb Trout, Maxine Maxwell, Deb Boelstler, Shannon Cherkowski, Barry Simmonds and Lianne Kruger.

The objective will be for each branch plus the AGS Office to develop a calendar in addition to a master calendar, possibly using a color-coding system.

newspapers and life events records (births, marriages and deaths). ARNI is a useful tool for the AGS Research Services Committee in responding to queries.

AGS members must create a password to access ARNI. This password requirement is different than the login to the members only part of the AGS website. Once AGS members create a password, they are given access to the complete record information while non-members access limited details. Appreciation is expressed to Shannon Cherkowski (AGS Office Coordinator) who is very familiar with ARNI and is able to help people access the data and understand the process of retrieving information from the index.

In 2025, I participated in the AGS Edmonton Branch *Tracing Your Family Tree* course and demonstrated searching AGS Homestead Index, Alberta Name Index (ANI) and Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI).

AGS member Jock Howard commenced work, in 2025, on an extensive project for ARNI. He is converting data from the book *Index of Births, Marriages and Deaths of Drayton Valley and Surrounding Area in Alberta* published by the AGS Drayton Valley Branch into a format useable by ARNI.

Lorraine From continues to index the Vegreville newspaper obituaries from clippings provided by Blanche Thomson. Susan Laycock updated information from the Leduc Seventh Day Adventist Cemetery. Gail Wabasca has been recording information from various cemeteries in Alberta and providing AGS with copies.

We thank Dwayne and Lara at *OtherMachines* for continued support of ARNI and their patience in responding to our questions and requests.

Committee Reports



Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI)

**Norma
Wolowyk**

Volunteer Hours: 75

AGS members began recording information from grave markers and cemetery written records soon after the formation of the Alberta Genealogical Society in 1973.

The Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) was launched on the AGS website in September of 2022. Note that ARNI has 1,039,779 searchable records. The data originates from cemetery written records, grave markers, local history books,



Archivist

Norma Wolowyk

Volunteer Hours: 150

During 2025 the collection of copies of *Relatively Speaking*, annual reports, financial information, Branch newsletters, board minutes, etc. for eventual deposit at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) continued. Materials have been organized into folders and are stored in two filing cabinet drawers and storage boxes on library shelving. This will facilitate the creation of a spreadsheet, the next task to be completed in preparing for deposit to the PAA.

In 2025, the AGS publication *The History of the Alberta Genealogical Society Volume III, 2013-2023, Achieving Gold, Half a Century of Success* was mailed to Library and Archives Canada. Notice of Legal Deposit has been received.

Facility

Bruce Boelstler

Volunteer hours 96.5

I disposed of old outdated equipment to Eco Station, helped with rearranging of back file area and some minor repairs in the AGS Office. This involved a lot of heavy lifting and the assistance of my wife. I perform many other tasks as required by the request of the AGS Treasurer, AGS Office Coordinator and for the AGS Research team.

Security responsibilities this year included changing the security codes in May 2025. I had to deal with several alarm bypass events this year. I

spent a lot of time emailing during each alarm bypass event to inform the volunteers and outside contractors (i.e. the building cleaners) to be sure that the door is closed prior to arming the library away on the alarm panel. The AGS Treasurer, the AGS Office and I need to be made aware of volunteer/staff/contractor changes so that the proper security protocols can be maintained.

Before the end of December 2025, I provided an updated inventory list for both AGS and Edmonton. I need to be made aware of any new purchases of furnishings and equipment so the inventory list can be updated and appropriate fixed assets tags applied.

I would also like to thank my wife Deb for all of her assistance on the AGS Facility Manager Team.



Gaming

Laura Turnbull

Volunteer Hours: 93

AGS Casino event: AGS members worked a casino event on **September 28 & 29, 2025** at Century Casino

in Edmonton. A total of 43 volunteers were at the casino with 7 of those working both days. As well another 8 volunteers were ready to help if any last-minute changes were needed. A **Very Special Thank You** to all who gave one or both days to help the Society in this way. I would also like to give a **Very Special Thank You** to **Carolynne Ross** and **Shannon Cherkowski** who took on many additional tasks for the casino this year.

Volunteers Hours reported for all workers on September 28 & 29, 2025: 390 hours The proceeds from this event were received December 2, 2025 for a total of \$ 81,737.49.

We received notification that our next casino event is scheduled for the **3rd Quarter (Jul, Aug, Sep) of 2027** so we will be looking for volunteers to fill the positions needed once we know the actual dates, probably in **February, 2027**. Our casino events are a major fundraiser for the Society and help with major operating costs including rent for our library/office facility in Edmonton and insurance costs for all branches.

Branch casino events:

- Grande Prairie Branch held a successful casino on September 18 & 19, 2025 and received the proceeds of \$ 37,394.30 on Nov. 22, 2025. Their next casino will be in the 2nd Quarter (Apr, May, Jun) of 2028.
- Brooks Branch and Medicine Hat Branch held a joint casino on August 19 & 20, 2025 in Medicine Hat and received the proceeds of \$18,167.04 (or \$ 9,083.52 each) in November 2025. Their next casino will be in the 1st Quarter (Jan, Feb, Mar) of 2027.
- Lethbridge Branch had their casino on September 3 & 4, 2024 and received the proceeds in November 2024. Their next casino will be in the 2nd Quarter (Apr, May, Jun) of 2028.



Genealogy4 Youth

Marion Rex Howard

Volunteer Hours: 141

2025 Metrics

1. Membership

- 3 Young Adult (\$25.00) Memberships – 2 in Edmonton, 1 in Grande Prairie
- 2 Student (\$5.00) Memberships – 2 in Edmonton

2. Youth Project Certificates

- 108 Certificates for completion of a youth genealogy project

“Our Family Roots” at the Art Gallery of Alberta

The collaboration between AGS and the Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) continued for a fourth year with 108 students creating posters based on their Indigenous or Immigrant history. 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. 46 posters were put on display in the TD Learning Gallery at the Art Gallery of Alberta “Our Family Roots” exhibition for the month of May 2025. A gala was held May 10, 2025 where the students whose work was being displayed received a certificate. Approximately 200 people were in attendance at this year’s celebration; 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 year’s posters featured 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. Guests certificate presenters included: Fatme Elkadry—Grants Coordinator at Edmonton Heritage Council, Jeri Wilson—Evergreen Catholic Schools Board Trustee, Derek Brown—Principal, St. Thomas Aquinas School. Others involved in the event were Lynne Duigou—Past President AGS who acted as emcee and presented certificates, Lou Duigou who acted as photographer, Jock Howard—Past President AGS who greeted guests and congratulated students, and Marion Rex Howard, project coordinator.

This was the 11th year that students at St. Thomas Aquinas participated in this Genealogy4Youth project; over the years 1,685 students from St. Thomas Aquinas school have received certificates. AGS has presented 1,832 students across Alberta with Genealogy4Youth project certificates. 45 of the students have written their family history stories, becoming 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. This is the last year that Immigration and Indigenous history are part of the Social Studies curriculum in Grade 5.



Indigenous and Immigrant Ancestor posters on display at the Art Gallery of Alberta



Three generations—Taylor Paradis proudly displays her certificate with her mom and grandpa. Taylor's project described her grandfather's journey to Canada and Alberta from Italy.

Drayton Valley Branch

Drayton Valley Branch continues their collaboration with the Drayton Valley Library where home school students can take out a family-themed backpack with resources describing the process to create a family tree and ways to honour family traditions.

Grande Prairie & District Branch

The GP & District Branch showcased their AGS Genealogy for Youth program on March 6-7, 2025 at the South Peace Teachers' Convention.



Genealogy Faire 2025

Lianne Kruger GenFair Chair

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Red Deer Stake and Alberta Genealogical Society

Red Deer Branch held a Family History Fair.

This year, the Gen Fair was held on Saturday April 26, 2025, at the Red Deer Stake Bower Church. The number of attendees was down slightly from last

year with just over 100 participants from all over the province. The AGS AGM was held at the end of the Fair (Session E) as we did in 2024.

The overall evaluations were good. Attendees learned new things, enjoyed some new topics, and broke down some brick walls in their personal research.

Session Schedule

We had the same schedule as last year. The fair was from 9:00am – 3:00pm. We had 4 breakout sessions with 3 session choices for each. After those 4 sessions there were two options.: the AGS AGM or a session for members of the church members.

Our speakers included Gilles Allard, Liz Barbeau, Ken Carriere, Jessie Dial, Lianne Kruger, Tara Shymandski, Jill Stantic, Mark Thompson, and Ellen Thompson-Jennings. We had 10 speakers in 12 sessions.

Mark Thompson was not available to stream live. He lives in Victoria and was not planning on attending in person, but he was not able to do live so his was pre-recorded. He asked people to email him with questions. His session was well-received. Another speaker got sick and could not attend in person. I recorded her session the week before and played those recordings for her sessions. She did join us at the end of both of her sessions via Zoom to answer any questions. The rest of the sessions were in person in 3 different rooms.

FamilySearch Center

The FamilySearch Center was open during the day with at least one volunteer for anyone to go in to get help with what is available at the Center.

Relatives Around Me

The day started with everyone checking out to see if they had relatives around using the FamilySearch Relatives Around Me app.

Registration

Information about the GenFair with session descriptions, speakers photo and bio and schedule were on the website. A link to registration was on the website to a Google Form. A link to the speaker handouts was on the website. The handouts were stored in Google Drive. None of this cost money. The link is the same as past years: <https://rdfamilyhistoryfair.blogspot.com>

Lunch time

Speed Dating Genealogy Style. This is a chance for people to ask questions about an area or topics to someone who has had experience in that area. This has been a big hit each year. Helpers were Ray, Jessie, George, Lianne, Mary Joan, Liz. This was done at the tables in the gym during lunch time. We had the following topics with these people answering the questions.

One-on-One Sessions

We offered one-on-one sessions during registration. A video on the website explained who this would help and what was needed before coming. Registrants did take advantage of this but most of them had specific questions. They didn't need the very beginning. We had three rooms with a volunteer helping individuals or couples. Some registered before hand with the registration form. Others signed up that day or just stopped by. We had a sign on the door with those who had booked and open times for anyone to sign up for. We will do this again next year. Some for beginners and some with specific questions.

Display Tables

We had a few tables in our exhibit room. Not as many as last year but still good exhibit

- AGS-Red Deer Branch had a table with a display registration forms.
- AGS-RDB Geni group and writing SIG had a table.
- AGS gave away books with information and registration forms!
- JustServe had a table and video explaining what they do.

Budget

As we were hosting the AGM, AGS gave us a budget. We did not spend it all.



Grants & Other Funding Committee

Marion Rex Howard

Volunteer Hours: 241

Sponsorship

The Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) is forever grateful for the funding received through sponsorship from the Government of Alberta and the Edmonton Heritage Council. AGS also relies on casino funding, general donations, and research income to help fund their activities.

Meetings Held

I attended the February, May, September, and November AGS board meetings, as well as the AGM in order to be current with AGS board business. I also met regularly with the bookkeeper and office coordinator, as well as virtual meetings held by the Finance Committee.

Grants

The Alberta Genealogical Society is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

- **Historic Resources Management Heritage Division Sponsorship**—The Provincial Heritage Organizations are under the umbrella of the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division, funded by the Department of Arts, Culture, and Status of Women, Government of Alberta. In 2025, AGS received **\$29,000** (\$29,000 in 2024) which was gratefully applied to expenses incurred for our

publications, training programs, professional consultations, and general administration.

- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2025, AGS received **\$28,000** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (\$24,867 in 2024). We are so grateful for this funding which helps provide both staffing and operational support.
- **Edmonton Community Foundation** – In 2025, AGS received an **\$800** grant through the Edmonton Community Foundation as part of their directed donation program.

General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses, and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$12,451.00 in donations, as noted below:

Provincial Office	\$2,210.00
Brooks & District	0.00
Calgary	0.00
Camrose	35.00
Drayton Valley	100.00
Edmonton	5,440.00
Grande Prairie & District	119.00
Lethbridge & District	205.00
Medicine Hat & District	3,902.00
Red Deer & District	310.00
Wetaskiwin	130.00
TOTAL	<u>\$12,451.00</u>

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2026 by the Treasurer. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors and donations made in memorim published in this annual report.



Library & Resource Centre

Claudine Nelson

Volunteer Hours: 150

We continue to get donations dropped off at the library. Each donation is sorted. Local and Family history books are checked against the on-line Catalogue with only a few being processed and catalogued.

Local history books that were duplicates were offered to the Provincial Archives of Alberta. They accepted 11 Alberta local history books - 3 they did not have and the others will be kept as back-up copies.

I sent a list of available Local History books to the Branches.

A book seller on his way back to Ontario purchased extra Local history books for \$775.00 which was added to the AGS coffers.

Our collection of Saskatchewan Local history books have increased thanks to a private donation.

A major portion of the miscellaneous donations are set aside for "Take and Donate" which was set up a couple of times in 2025.



Membership

Janine Carroll

Volunteer Hours: 52

Membership Committee

Brooks – Henry Najda

Camrose – Wendy Roth, Deb Trout

Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl

Edmonton – Bradley Pierson

Lethbridge – Julie Miller

Medicine Hat – Teresa Parasynchuk

Red Deer – Jean Boxer

Wetaskiwin – Lee Koop

Executive & advisory – Lianne Kruger (ex officio, AGS President), Ruth McConnell, Shannon

Cherkowski, (AGS Office Coordinator), Janine

Carroll (AGS Membership Committee Chair)

I took on the role of Chair in mid-2024, and I acknowledge that I am still learning the responsibilities that come with this position. The committee has met several times over the past year. Similar to the previous year, our meetings have focused on sharing ideas, resources and initiatives developed within the branches, exploring ways to enhance promotion, increase our membership numbers, and better serve our members.

A smaller committee—consisting of Bradley Pierson, Ruth McConnell, and me—has been working on a new design for the New Members Kit, initiated by the Edmonton Branch in collaboration with Grant McEwan design students. Additionally, Bradley has been researching a potential membership program.

We were tasked with determining how to consolidate the various membership levels into

fewer options. We proposed a suggestion that has been sent to the board.

During our discussions, we considered creating a subscription membership, similar to those offered by many paid genealogical websites, as well as providing options for automatic monthly donations.

The total number of memberships in 2025 was 632, with 37 Life and Honorary members. The total number of paid memberships in 2025 was 595, down from 622 at the end of 2024. AGS continues to support each branch with a financial contribution of \$750 plus \$22.50 per primary member, based on the previous year's membership numbers, and \$10 per secondary member.

AGS has held its third early-bird renewal contest, offering a complimentary membership as the prize, along with three DNA kits. The committee will evaluate the contest's value over the next few months.



Relatively Speaking

Kate Wilson

Paid Hours for 2025 = 136
Hours at no charge 20
(estimated)

Total editorial payment for 2025 = \$4080

The Themes for 2025 were:

February	Food Traditions
May	Music & Dance
August	Home & Travel
November	Through the Seasons

Over the year, authors continued to submit informative and well-written articles. The theme of food traditions saw the greatest response, however there were some engaging articles about the other themes in which authors took the time to recall their own experiences along with comprehensive research.

I made a small adjustment to the request for articles for each issue – I stressed that the theme is for inspiration, and that any article related to genealogy and family history is welcome. This is in order to welcome any and all articles, as the theme may only relate to a select number of people.

Interactions with AGS branch personnel continued to be fruitful, and five articles from branch newsletters were re-printed with their permission. Celebrations of special anniversaries for the Drayton valley, Wetaskiwin and Camrose branches were highlighted over two *RS* issues.

Two articles about the Sheridan Lawrence family of northwestern Alberta were re-published with permission from an external source, the Peace River Remembers Vol II book published by the Sir Alexander Mackenzie Historical Society of Peace River.

Engaging with authors continues to be a rewarding experience. In 2025, 19 authors contributed articles, several in multiple issues. We had three new authors.

All the volunteers for *Relatively Speaking* continue to make my job a seamless experience. A special thanks to Denise Daubert, who continued contributing ABCs of Genealogy articles, along with fill articles in a couple of issues when empty spots needed filling. Shannon Cherkowski has also been a great support.

The *Relatively Speaking* team consists of

- Copy Editing – Marilyn Astle, Wendy Warren, Lynne Duigou
- Indexing, Spinning Webs, final proofing – Denise Daubert
- Layout – Marie Vieira
- Mailing Team AGS/Library Volunteers who stuff the envelopes
- Terry Terlesky who delivers envelopes to the Post Office
- Lynne Duigou and David Clarke offered valuable advice and assistance over the year

We learned that the desktop publishing software, Publisher, will no longer be supported by Microsoft as of October, 2026. A team consisting of David Clarke, Lynne Duigou, Marie Vieira and Kate Wilson has started looking into alternatives to Publisher.

As it has for many years, the Edmonton Public Schools Printing Department continued to print *RS* for us. The November issue was delayed due to the postal strike and a maintenance issue at the EPSB printer shop.



Research Services

Norma Wolowyk

Volunteer Hours:350

The **AGS Research Services Committee** began meeting each Friday at the AGS

Library in 1999 and has continued to do so since that year.

During the year, 400 researchers requested copies of homestead records by first searching the AGS Homestead Index on the AGS website and then completing the Homestead Request Form. A response was sent back noting the process of ordering copies of the homestead files from AGS and advising that the early homestead files (1870 to 1930) are on Ancestry and can be accessed through that subscription website. Not all researchers move forward and order copies of the homestead files, a total of 163 (142 in 2024) requests were completed in 2025. Cost for copies is \$10 per file and 50 cents per page of copy. Files are scanned at the Provincial Archives of Alberta from the microfilms and sent to clients in PDF format. This meant no PAA copy charges and postage charges for AGS during 2025.

AGS also received 40 family history research queries (non-homestead) in 2025. Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt and Pam Forsyth were the team members who responded to these requests. They also responded to 21 queries received by AGS Edmonton as the Branch no longer supports a Research Services Committee. In responding to queries, the committee uses Alberta Name Index (ANI) on the Edmonton Branch website and Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) on the AGS website. Both indexes provide information that moves the research forward in many of the queries.

Through dedicated efforts AGS Research Services Committee raised just over \$3,700 for AGS in 2025. With AGS offering payment options by e-Transfer and PayPal clients quickly respond to requests for payment.

Research team members also participated in the Tracing Your Family Tree course sponsored by AGS Edmonton Branch, Treasure Hunt Days at the Library organized by Lynne Duigou and the clean up and reorganizing of the back storage area of the Library.

Thank you to Shannon Cherkowski, AGS Office Coordinator, for handling the mail, emails, phone calls and query payments for the AGS Research Committee. Forty-six queries were first received by Shannon at her AGS email address and then forwarded to AGS Research. Her prompt and efficient attention to these matters is very much appreciated.

Webmaster – Deb Boelstler

Volunteer Hours: 172

The AGS website Team consists of the following members: Lianne Kruger(Social Media and Website Liaison), Deb Trout (Zoom), Laura Turnbull (Facebook), Shannon Cherkowski of the AGS Office and Deb Boelstler. News for this year is that Lianne Kruger worked with Media Shaker

to get our Google Analytics up and running again and Deb Trout is working with AGS for a new AGS Google Calendar.

Shannon and I work together to keep the AGS website updated on an ongoing basis.

A reminder to other AGS branches that if there are events in your individual branches that you want advertised in our News and Events Page, to email both the AGS Office and the webmaster@abgenealogy.ca. If you see anything that needs updating, please don't hesitate to let the AGS webmaster team know.

Thank you team for a great 2025.



2023-2025 AGS STRATEGIC PLAN

Bringing the past, to the present, for the future

VISION: AGS supports and encourages people to engage in accurate diverse genealogical research that enhances family connections and records family stories.

MISSION: AGS strives to be the trusted source of diverse genealogical resources and to provide proven genealogical methods through education, assistance, promotion, resource development, and collaboration.

VALUES:

Initiative: We celebrate and support people who are curious and take the initiative to research and record family history.

Research: We recognize and value proven methods and processes in effective genealogical research.

Community: We support one another in the pursuit of genealogical research and family history.

Respect: We welcome diversity and seek to find ways to support family history from all cultures.

STRATEGIC GOALS 2023-2025:

1. STRONG AND HEALTHY ORGANIZATION

- a. Enhance the organizational system of AGS to maintain a strong and healthy provincial organization
- b. Support and effectively engage current membership
- c. Attract and welcome new members to the Alberta Genealogical Society

2. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES – Provide educational opportunities that encourage and support diverse genealogical research

3. RESEARCH – Develop, maintain, and provide access to trusted sources for diverse genealogical research

4. COLLABORATION – Establish local, provincial, and national collaborative efforts to achieve our common goals



Alberta Genealogical Society

Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6

Phone: (780) 423-8902 Email: agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca

Website: <http://abgenealogy.ca/>

2025 Branch Contact Information

Brooks & District Branch President: David Clarke Box 1149, Brooks, AB T1R 1B9 Email: brooksags@gmail.com Website: https://agsbrooks.ca Meets 1st Wed monthly, 1:30 PM Public programs selected Saturdays* Brooks Public Library 323 1st St. East, Brooks, AB *Email for more information	Edmonton Branch President: Karen Wilson Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6 Phone: (780) 424-4429 Email: president@ed-montongenealogy.ca Website: www.edmontongenealogy.ca https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events	Medicine Hat & District Branch President: Deb Wickham Box 971 Stn Main, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8 Email: mhgs@shaw.ca Website: mhdgs.ca Meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental Co. Ltd., 974 – 13th St. SW, Medicine Hat
Calgary Branch President: Susan Haga Email: agscalgarybranch@gmail.com Website: https://www.abgenealogy.ca/calgary Meetings –4th Thursday at 7:00 p.m.	Grande Prairie & District Branch President: Maxine Maxwell P.O. Box 1257 Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1 Phone: (780) 512-6427 Email: president@grpr-abgenealogy.ca Website: www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch	Red Deer & District Branch President: Jessie Dial c/o 26 Piper Drive Red Deer, AB T4P 1H6 Email: president@redd-abgenealogy.ca Website: www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch Meets 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. LDS Church 3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer
Camrose Branch c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue Camrose, AB T4V 3B1 Phone: (780) 781-5100 camrosegeneo@gmail.com www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com Meets 3rd Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Camrose County Agricultural Services Building	Meets 3rd Wednesday in Jan, Mar, May & Oct, 6:00 p.m. Grande Prairie Public Library 101, 9839 – 103 Ave, Grande Prairie	Wetaskiwin Branch President: Alice Hoyle c/o 409, 1 Charis Village Drive Lacombe, Alberta T4L 0K5 Phone: (780) 312-0366 Email: wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca Website: www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch Meets 3rd Tuesday (except July, August and December) 7:00 p.m. LDS Church, Wetaskiwin (Use NE Door)
Drayton Valley Branch President: Connie Stuhl P.O. Box 115 Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0 Phone: (780) 542-2787 Email: ags.dvbranch@gmail.com Website: www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Drayton Valley Library, 5120 - 52 Street, Drayton Valley	Lethbridge & District Branch President: Barry Simmonds Rm. 128, 909 – 3rd Avenue North Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5 Phone: (403) 328-9564 Email: lethagsoffice@gmail.com Website: www.lethbridgeags.theboss.net Meets 3rd Thursday of the month 1:30 p.m. Provincial Admin. Building 909-3rd Avenue North, Lethbridge	

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

Alberta Genealogical Society – *Bringing the past to the present for the future!*

- Active since 1973, 2025 was our 53rd year of providing genealogical services to the community.
- Membership for 2025 totalled 632 compared to 656 in 2024, and 650 in 2023.
- Members reported 32,156 volunteer hours.
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, casino funding, research queries and grants from both the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division and the Edmonton Heritage Council.
- AGS hosted a Casino on September 28 & 29, 2025 with the help of 43 volunteers working 390 hours and earning \$81,737.49.
- We published four issues of *Relatively Speaking*. Themes for the issues were: February—Food Traditions, May—Music & Dance, August—Home & Travel, and November—Through the Seasons.
- AGS continued to offer online access to MyHeritage Library and the ARNI (Alberta Records Name Index) database through the AGS website. The main office is also recognized as a Library Search Affiliate Library.
- Google Workspace Project is progressing with trainings scheduled for board members as the project moves forward.
- The Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI) now has 1,039,779 searchable records including cemetery records, grave markers, local history books, newspapers, and life events records (births, marriages and deaths).
- AGS held four Board of Directors' meetings, and a hybrid AGM April 26, 2025
- AGS held their annual conference April 26, 2025 as a Family History Fair in Red Deer, Alberta with a choice of 12 sessions in four time slots throughout the day. Speed Dating Genealogy Style was held over the lunch hour. Over 100 participants attended the conference.
- The Policies and Procedures/Bylaws Committee continued to update policies, particularly the Code of Conduct policy.
- The Research Committee responded to 163 homestead records requests from 400 researchers.
- 29 Outstanding AGS Volunteers were honored with certificates. This included long-term membership certificates for two members for 50-year years of membership, two members for 40 years of membership and 13 members for 25 years of membership.
- 108 students were presented certificates for completion of Genealogy4Youth projects.
- 108 students had their genealogy posters on display at the Art Gallery of Alberta and received certificates for their work. Celebrating diversity, students reported on family from 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.
- The Society continued to employ one part-time office coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper.

Proud beneficiary of the Historic Resources Management Heritage Division through the Government of Alberta, and the Edmonton Heritage Council through the City of Edmonton.

