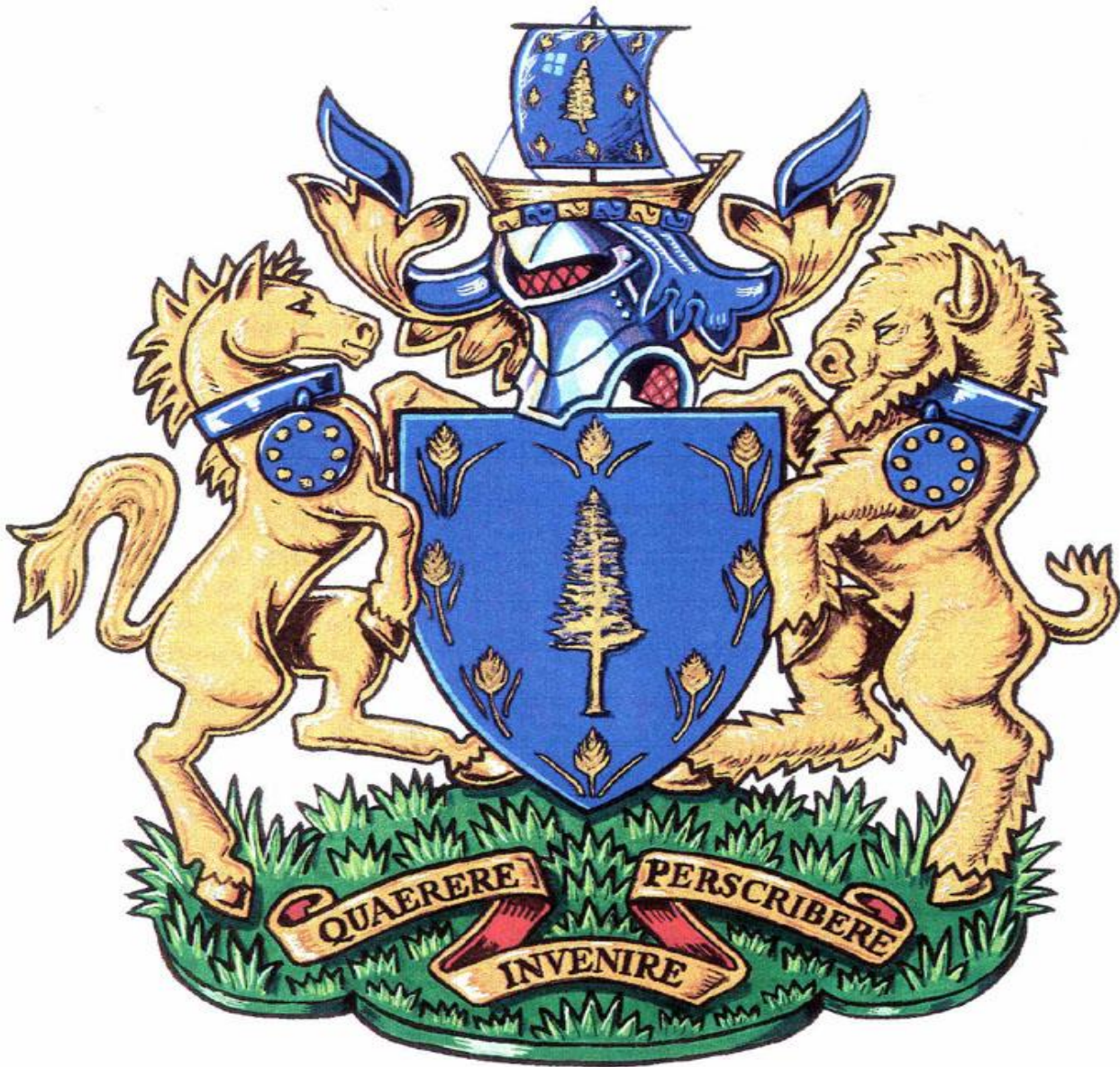


Alberta Genealogical Society



2017 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

21 April 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Dec. 31, 2017

Officers

President	Robert Franz
Past President	Susan Haga
1 st Vice President	Lianne Kruger
2 nd Vice President	Lynne Duigou
Treasurer	Marion Rex
Secretary of the Society	Norma Wolowyk

Directors

Brooks	Robert Franz
Camrose	Janine Carroll
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Sheila Genaille
Fort McMurray	Tammy Grantham
Grande Prairie	Ed Hall
Lethbridge	John Squarek
Medicine Hat	Melvin Bender
Red Deer	Sonya Miller
Wetaskiwin (acting)	Alice Hoyle

Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Marion Rex
Nominations (Chair)	Susan Haga
Policies & Procedures/Bylaws (Chair)	Lynne Duigou

Other Committees and Appointments

Archivist	Mary Ann Legris
Communications & Web Content Manager	Lyn Meehan

Conference 2017 Co-Chairs

	Lianne Kruger
	Susan Haga
Electronic Services	John Hazelwood
Facilities	Wayne Harker
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Historian	Vacant
Legal Advisor	Sharon Roberts
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Master Surname Database	Shannon Cherkowski

Membership

Parliamentarian	Lynne Duigou
Publications	Al Bromling
Relatively Speaking	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking Mailing	Editorial Team
Research Services	George Shreeves
Retreat	Norma Wolowyk
	Susan Haga
	Maxine Maxwell
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster(s)	Deb & Bruce Boelstler

AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Linda Winski
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

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

***for \$36,170 in funding
received through the Alberta Lottery Fund.***

The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration.



**Our
Sincere
Gratitude**

Alberta Genealogical Society
gratefully acknowledges the support of the

Edmonton Heritage Council

***for \$31,638.50 in funding
received through the City of Edmonton.***

The sponsorship received from EHC helps to provide staffing and 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 2017 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged.

Your donation helps AGS to fulfill its mission: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

\$1001-2,000

AGS—Grande Prairie
Branch
McKelvie, Edna

\$501-\$1,000

Fitzsimonds, Jack
Squarek, John

\$251-\$500

Blackley, Barbara
Edmonton Community Fdn.
Royal Bank of Canada

\$101-\$250

Easton, Frank
Hemsing, Connie
Rex, Marion
Scott, David
Sehn, Ed & Sally
Sutton, Hannah

\$76-\$100

AGS—Camrose Branch
Anderson, Ruth
Brown, Helen
Carroll, Janine
Edmunds, Liz
Hollands, Dorothy
Javorsky, Larry
Losie, Frances
Lowing, Raymond
Morgan, David T.
Routledge, Carin
Svederus, Carole
Wales, Marilyn
Wolowyk, Norma

\$51-\$75

Dawson, Leo
Ervin, Joyce

Hagen, Beverly
Kolmatycki, Larry
McNiven, Myrna
Nex, Margaret
Pape, Alfred
Watson, Robert

\$26-\$50

Akgungor, Allison
Bell, William
Bender, Melvin
Buchko, Sandy
Dawson, Martha
Doberstein, Evelyn
Gibson, Robert
Hanowski, Laura
Hergot, William & Barbara
Hindmarch, Marilyn
Lockhart, Dorothy
Pohranychny, Edward &
Paulette
Purin, Barbara
Ross, Carolynne
Serink, Linda
Wasylik, Eugene
Williams, John

\$11-\$25

Allen, Joanne
Brown, Laura
Browse, Jean
Chalmers, John
Cooper, Janet
Edwards, Susan
Ensminger, Marilyn
Evans, Lois
Forsyth, Pam
Gibeault, Constance
Harasewich, Tillie
Harker, Wayne

Jensen, Paulette
Landry, Maurice
Millson, Mary
Perkins, Louise
Roth, Grace
Rusnack, Elaine
Stefaniuk, Nick
Schwering, Marilyn
Worman, Thomas

\$10

Adams, Don
Anhorn, William
Betzler, Joanne
Binder, Kate
Bunning, Al
Chambers, Doug
Charles, Allan
Dolan, Mona
Dunlop, Brian
Greig, Ruth
Houston, Charlotte
Jenkins, Franklin
Kober, Phyllis
Kuzmak, Susan
Lucas, Danny
Mallett, Ken
McEwan, Sara
Ost, Barbara
Pasay, David
Polutranko, John
Redford, Marcia
Rosser, Myrick
Schau, Gail
Short, Marilyn
Simonson, Leanne
Wegert, Joan
Willis, Gordon K.
*Sincere thanks to 17 donors
who wished to remain
anonymous.*

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
45th Annual General Meeting – Saturday, 21 April, 2018
Camrose Masonic Hall, 5021 – 48 Street, Camrose, Alberta

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order – President Robert (Bob) Franz
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting, 22nd April 2017
4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and Directors of the Board:
 - a) President – Robert Franz
 - b) 1st Vice President – Lianne Kruger
 - c) 2nd Vice President – Lynne Duigou
 - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
 - e) Secretary – Norma Wolowyk
 - f) Past President – Susan Haga
 - g) Directors –
 - Brooks – Glenn Michell
 - Camrose – Janine Carroll
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Sheila Genaille
 - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
 - Grande Prairie – Ed Hall
 - Lethbridge – John Squarek
 - Medicine Hat – Melvin Bender
 - Red Deer – Sonya Miller
 - Wetaskiwin– vacant
 - h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the Annual Report
5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports
6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Marion Rex
 - a) 2017 Audited Financial Statement
 - b) Adoption of Financial Statements
 - c) Budget 2018
 - d) Approval of Budget
 - e) Appointment of Auditor for 2018
7. Election and Bylaw results – Susan Haga, Past President
8. Introduction of New Executive
9. Resolution of Respect – Frank Easton
10. Presentation of Awards – Robert Franz
11. Adjournment

**Alberta Genealogical Society
Annual General Meeting - 22nd April 2017 - Draft Minutes
Edmonton Alberta**

Attendance at the 44th AGS Annual General Meeting:

John Althouse	Laurel Fitzsimonds	Louise Perkins
Sharon Aney	Bob Franz	Barbara Purin
Bob Atcheson	Jean Gray	Marion Rex
Leslie Ayre-Jaschke	Patricia Greber	Robert J Rogers
Melvin Bender	Joan Green	Dan Rooks
Barbara Blackley	Susan Haga	Carolynne Ross
Marika Brenneis	Ed Hall	Lynda Shopka
Charles Buckley	John Hazelwood	Marion Sim
Janine Carroll	Arlene Hedlund	John Squarek
Gloria Cathcart	Kale Liam Hobbes	Connie Stuhl
Linda Cherepanik	Jock Howard	John Tedder
Shannon Cherkowski	Alice Hoyle	Lynne Tedder
Janet Cooper	Clara Iwaasa	Laureen Tetzloff
Laverne Cormier	Arlene Johnson	Blanche Thomson
Bonita Couper	Carole Koop	Shirley Tomlinson
Gisele Cyr	Lianne Kruger	Ivy Trumpour
Ray Cyr	Tony Locock	Laura Turnbull
Linda Darby	Judith Machtans	Bev Wardell
Peter Darby	Claudia Malloch	Shona Wards
Denise Daubert	Carol Martyniuk	Victor Willoughby
Cheryl Donnachie	Maxine Maxwell	Norma Wolowyk
Lynne Duigou	Suzanne Maynard	Katherine Wood
Iris Dunham	Doug McLeod	Dennis Worobec
Frank Easton	Lyn Meehan	
Liz Edmunds	Sonya Miller	
Jackie Ewanchuk	Claudine Nelson	Guests:
Winnifred Evans	Janet Nichols	Jane Staveley
Ken Fearnley	Jo Nuthack	Angie Staveley Trink
Neal Finn	Judy Nuthack	Ron Trink
Lorraine Fiske	Kurt Paterson	

Members 83 Guests 3 Total in attendance 86

1. Welcome and Call to Order: The 44th AGS Annual Meeting was called to order at 3:13 p.m. by Robert Franz, President.
2. Approval of Agenda:
MOVED by Denise Daubert that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

SECONDED by Jo Nuthack **CARRIED** **1 Opposed**
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting:
MOVED by Doug McLeod that the minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.
SECONDED by Connie Stuhl. **CARRIED**

4. Introduction of Executive Committee and Directors of the Board by Robert Franz:

- a) President – Robert Franz
- b) 1st Vice President – Lianne Kruger
- c) 2nd Vice President – Jean Gray
- d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
- e) Secretary – Norma Wolowyk
- f) Past President – Susan Haga
- g) Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks – Robert Franz
 - Camrose – Janine Carroll
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Sheila Genaille
 - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
 - Grande Prairie – Ed Hall
 - Lethbridge – John Squarek
 - Medicine Hat – Melvin Bender
 - Red Deer – Sonya Miller
 - Wetaskiwin – Alice Hoyle (Representative)
- h) Committee Chairs – as listed in 2016 Annual Report

5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee 2016 Annual Reports:

MOVED by Connie Stuhl that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

SECONDED by Denise Daubert **CARRIED**

6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Marion Rex:

Following the presentation and discussion by Marion Rex of the 2016 financial reports the following motions were made:

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the audited Consolidated Financial Statements for 2016 be accepted as presented.
Seconded by Lianne Kruger **CARRIED**
- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Provincial Office Financial Statements for 2016 be accepted as presented.
Seconded by Lynne Duigou **CARRIED**
- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the budget for 2017 be accepted as presented.
Seconded by Kurt Paterson **CARRIED**
- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the firm of Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs Chartered Accountants be retained for 2017.
Seconded by Denise Daubert **CARRIED**

Thanks were expressed to Marion Rex for all the dedication and hard work she contributed in preparing the AGS 2016 financial reports.

7. Election Results – Susan Haga, Past President:

Installed by Acclamation:

- 2nd Vice President: Lynne Duigou for a two-year term
- Secretary: Norma Wolowyk for a two-year term

8. Introduction of New Executive:

Robert Franz introduced Lynne Duigou (2nd Vice President) and Norma Wolowyk (Secretary).

9. Resolution of Respect 2016 – Frank Easton:

Whereas: The success of our Society has been, 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, 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:

Lorraine Yackulic	#5965	Edmonton	Mar 1, 2016
Richard Cooper	#5438	Edmonton	Mar 8, 2016
Claudette Vague	#4950	Edmonton	Mar 21, 2016
Norris Tomlinson	#4440	Edmonton	Mar 31, 2016
John Bradley	#2688	Grande Prairie (Edm)	Apr 14, 2016
Lyle Kloth	#5548	Brooks	Jun 11, 2016
Lucille Horne	#2943	Edmonton	Aug 10, 2016
Edith Hesson	#5259	Edmonton	Aug 29, 2016
Mitsuo Iwaasa	#1150	Brooks	Oct 9, 2016
Peter Goutbeck	#1006	Edmonton	Nov 23, 2016
Marcel Venne	#4970	Edmonton	Dec 22, 2016
Lorran (Larry) Clark	#1088	Edmonton	Dec 26, 2016

And do stand in silent tribute to their memory and that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the meeting.

Moved by Frank Easton and Seconded by Jo Nuthack

10. Presentation of Awards – Robert Franz, President

- **Long Term Membership Certificates** – Twenty-five years 1992 – 2016
 - Mary Ann & Maurice Legris #2837 Drayton Valley Branch
 - Frances Losie #2796 Edmonton Branch
 - Shirley Machan #2855 Edmonton Branch
 - Noel Mary Nicholson #2829 Edmonton Branch
 - Barbara Ost #2848 Red Deer Branch
- **Life Membership** – Award given for outstanding contribution to the Society
 - Arlene Borgstede # 244 joined 1975 – Edmonton Branch
 - Terry & Shirley Gregory #3209 joined 1994 – Edmonton Branch
 - Marilyn Hindmarch #3295 joined 1995 – Edmonton Branch
- **Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards** – Excellence in Branch Newsletters
 - Certificate for Best Original Article** Lee Koop
 - “The Pedigree of a Book”**
 - Roots and Branches*, 14, 2 (May 2016), 4-8. – Wetaskiwin Branch

Certificate for Best Local Content Patricia Greber
“Who Do You Think You Are? A Research Project”
Heritage Seekers, 38, 2 (June 2016), 4-5 – Grande Prairie Branch

Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter (*plaque & certificate for the editor to keep*)
Roots & Branches – Wetaskiwin Branch
Editor: Sharon Aney

- **Special Mention Award – Forty Years**
Lethbridge & District Branch, 1977-2017
- **Certificates of Appreciation**
 - **Connie Stuhl** – in recognition of her leadership in coordinating AGS GenFair 2016 – Drayton Valley
 - **Drayton Valley Branch and the 2016 GenFair Planning Committee** – in recognition and appreciation of their hours of dedicated work organizing and hosting the AGS GenFair 2016
 - **Wayne Shephard** – in recognition of his work as editor of *Relatively Speaking* (2015-2016).
 - **Jock Howard** – in appreciation of his work as VP Finance (2011-2016) for the work he did including hiring a bookkeeper and developing a Chart of Accounts enabling AGS to consolidate financial statements which in turn facilitated grant applications.
 - **Grande Prairie & District Branch AGS** – in appreciation of their \$300 donation to AGS.
 - **Cold Lake Genealogy Club** – in appreciation of their \$2,075.35 donation to AGS.
 - **AGS Research Services Team** – for earning \$3,507.44 for AGS during 2016.
- **President’s Award**
Jean Gray in recognition and appreciation for serving as 2nd Vice-President (2015-2017) taking on roles of Membership Chair, Chair of Policies and Procedures Committee, and her work overseeing *Relatively Speaking*.
- **Peter Staveley Memorial Award** – Presented by Jane Staveley, introduced by Denise Daubert. In recognition of a significant and valuable contribution to *Relatively Speaking*.
Suzanne Maynard – for best article **Quiet Defiance**, *Relatively Speaking*, Vol 44 Number 2 (May 2016).
- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Alberta Historical Resources Foundation** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for Funding Support for Genealogical Resources and Programming in the amount of \$36,170 – 2016. (Presented at Conference Banquet by Robert Franz, President and Marion Rex, Grants & Other Funding)
- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Edmonton Heritage Council** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for Operational Funding Support for Genealogical Resources and Programming 2016 (\$23,029.00). (Presented at Conference Banquet by Robert Franz, President and Marion Rex, Grants & Other Funding)

11. Announcements

- Bob Franz announced that AGS GenFair will be hosted by the Camrose Branch AGS on the 21st April 2018.

- Doug McLeod announced that Lethbridge & District Branch will host a 40th Anniversary celebration on the 13th May 2017. Also they will hold a one-day workshop on 3rd June 2017, speaker will be Pat Ryan.
- Marion Rex expressed thanks to Robert Franz for his contributions as AGS President during the past year.

12. Adjournment

Bob Franz, President declared the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Society adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Norma Wolowyk, AGS Secretary

Robert Franz, AGS President

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President – Robert Franz

Upon acclamation as President in April, 2016, I identified three pillars of this society which I intended to examine during my two year term. The first pillar involved the matter of wellness. This concern was discussed at the May, 2016 board of directors meeting and addressed at the September Retreat with a workshop on governance presented by a representative from Culture and Tourism. A follow-up discussion on that workshop was held at the November 2016 board meeting. At the February, 2017 board meeting, there were a number of new faces around the table as branches elected new officers. This provided an opportunity to remind directors of their dual role in speaking on behalf of their branch and members while also speaking for the Society and the board as a whole as part of the ongoing wellness program for the board. The importance of responsibility, reply and respect were addressed in the May “Let’s Talk” President’s message on our website. At the November board of directors’ meeting, one of the directors had cause to remind everyone that though we need not like another person, we are expected to speak with respect. Much time has been spent over the past twenty months in individual counselling. Much progress has been made, but our work is not yet done on this pillar.

The second pillar involved the services that the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) is providing or could be providing. Feedback was requested from the branches and from individual members in May. Discussions with committee chairs, directors and executive members were also held regarding current services and addressed on the “Let’s Talk” feature on the website. Feedback received was consolidated and presented to the board at the September Retreat. Following the presentation of that feedback, sections of the report were sent to the committee chairs and/or executive members having oversight of the area for reaction and reporting at the November

meeting. Responses were also requested from the directors and executive regarding feedback received on the administration and operation of AGS. A report summarizing these responses with recommendations was presented at the November board of directors’ meeting. Overall it was deemed the society is operating with fiscal responsibility and providing many valuable services with some adjustments suggested. Many thanks are extended to everyone who has assisted in this project. It now remains for these recommendations to be implemented over the upcoming months.

One of those services deemed of high value was the provision of conferences and workshops. In April, the 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the biennial conference of the AGS took place in Edmonton. Held in a new venue, the conference “Ye Olde Genealogy Faire” was a great success. Feedback was very positive and a huge congratulation is extended to 1st vice president Lianne Kruger and the conference committee. To plan and run a conference of this size is a tremendous achievement and a service greatly appreciated by all members.

Individual branches have had a wide range of workshops throughout the year. Summaries of these workshops and ongoing activities of the branches have been presented at the directors’ meetings throughout the year. Reporting of these activities at the board table is deemed very important and valuable by both directors and executive.

This office was invited by the Grande Prairie Branch to speak to their membership February 21 of this year but the flight was grounded due to fog. The intended presentation “Bringing Dead People to Life” focuses on sources and techniques to add character to ancestors using examples from my own family research into my maternal grandmother’s homesteading family in Nebraska and southern Alberta and my paternal

grandfather's mining family in the Crowsnest Pass during the Hillcrest Mining Disaster. This presentation was made in Grande Prairie in March. Many thanks to the branch for their kind welcome and reception.

The presentation made to Grande Prairie Branch was also made to the Brooks and District Branch in May. This office was also invited to the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Lethbridge and District Branch. Unfortunately, their guest speaker cancelled at the last moment but the branch managed to come up with an alternative program and the show went on. Congratulations to the Lethbridge and District Branch in reaching this milestone.

Also in May, the executive learned of the opportunity of a new lease for our office and of a probable decrease in our grant revenue. I struck an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility of relocating our office. This committee, under the leadership of 2nd vice president Lynne Duigou, reported their findings in November and we renewed our lease with the present landlord.

Another service provided by the AGS and deemed to be of high value is the publication of the quarterly journal *Relatively Speaking*. At the November, 2016 board of directors' meeting, I struck an advisory committee to look into the production of our journal and provided a set of guiding questions to aid the committee in their research. The committee was chaired by Jean Gray, 2016 2nd vice president, and included Norma Wolowyk, Marion Rex and Jo Nuthack. A submission was also made by the Communications Chair, Lyn Meehan and the report and recommendations were discussed at the May meeting. A compromise between digital and print distribution was reached.

Due to unforeseen difficulties, we were unable to publish the February and May issues of *Relatively Speaking* resulting in a loss of memberships and subscriptions. Under the leadership of 2nd Vice President Lynne Duigou, an interim committee put together the August and November 2017 issues and committed to working into 2018. This has been a major effort

for these volunteers and their work has been gratefully appreciated. Their hard work serves as an inspiration for us all.

Treasurer Marion Rex was successful in securing a Canada 150 Project grant which allowed us to hold a youth-oriented workshop with branch representatives during the September Retreat. With the resources developed by John Althouse and the additional books purchased with the grant money, each branch received a box of resources to help plan and promote Genealogy for Youth in their branch. Accolades to Marion Rex and Gloria Cathcart for spearheading this project. Branch representatives who attended this training session have been very busy implementing this initiative. From reports received, this has been an extremely successful project for engaging our youth and, hopefully, we all will reap the benefits of the hard work of these youth coordinators at the branches.

In response to a call for individuals to fill the positions of Editor, Communications, and Webmaster, several individuals have responded. Working with the executive members having oversight of these positions, each query was followed up and individuals selected where appropriate.

Over the summer, the Operations Manual had a complete review and has been posted on the AGS website. Many thanks to the committee of dedicated individuals from this and the previous Policy and Procedures Committee who have spent countless hours in making this possible.

A proposal to move forward with the Cemetery Database was also presented in November. With the resignation of the Cemetery Chair in December, this initiative has been delayed.

During 2017, a considerable amount of my time has been given to serving as a sounding board, acting as liaison and mediating where conflicts arose between members in leadership positions. Also, with almost half of the board of directors being new, a considerable amount of time has been spent answering emails and conferencing with these individuals to provide the background required for sound decision-making.

The “Let’s Talk” column on the website was initiated in 2016 after I became president and has been valuable in reaching those individuals who are not actively involved at the branch level. In October, I struck a committee to conduct an evaluation of the AGS Office Coordinator. Much of the success of AGS is due to the behind the scenes work of the person in this position.

The last pillar identified concerns making connections with other societies and groups with whom we have a common interest. A call for suggestions as to which agencies we might contact and feedback on what connections already exist at the branch level was made at the November board meeting. Feedback was to be provided for the February meeting. This will be my last project as AGS President and one which hopefully I can assist in following through as past president.

The year 2017 was the Year of the Fire Rooster, a powerful year with no middle of the road when it came to moving forward. Rooster traits of loyalty, commitment, hard work, family values, clarity in intentions, and top-notch appearances were in high demand to meet the challenges of 2017. The year 2018 is the Year of the Brown Earth Dog. The Dog is an ethical and idealistic sign marked by the dog traits of generosity, selflessness, and loyalty. Imbued with the Dog’s keen sense of right and wrong, we head into the year with great expectations to resolve those issues still plaguing this Society and to follow through on the recommendations made these past two years under the pillars of wellness, service, and connection.

Volunteer Hours 482

Past President – Susan Haga

In writing this report, a lot of feelings and memories come to mind as I conclude my term as past president. I joined the AGS in February 2005 and had no idea of the journey that I was about to begin. I’ve served eight years on the executive and it has been a rewarding and challenging experience. When I think back on these years, it will be with fondest memories for

the wonderful people that I’ve met and rubbed shoulders with.

In 2017, I was part of the Policies & Procedures Committee (P&P) under the direction of Jean Gray. I participated in a number of P&P video conferences via Blue Jeans network as we reviewed the updated policies to present to the board. We covered a lot of ground and numerous policies were upgraded this year.

Over the past six years, I’ve been on a few of the conference committees in charge of arranging for speakers. This has been a great learning experience for me and I enjoyed very much my association with other committee members. It takes a lot of hours from many people to put on a conference. In particular, I would like to thank Lianne Kruger and Lyn Meehan for the many hours they spent working on our AGS Conference “Ye Olde Genealogy Faire” held in April, 2017. The conference was a great success and a good experience for all who attended.

This past year, I’ve spent a number of hours working on the Retreat Committee with Maxine Maxwell planning the annual retreat under the direction of Bob Franz our president. Maxine spent a lot of time working with Maria at Providence Centre ensuring that all of the rooms were booked and meals were provided for all of the AGS members who attended. I have a lot of fond memories of the retreat having started working on it when Vic Willoughby was president. Vic had asked me to take charge of the Friday evening social when I was 2nd vice president. Through the years, it was an enjoyable experience as I organized the social on Friday evening and arranged the speaker presentations for Saturday evenings utilizing the “Successful Speakers List”. This speaker’s list was first started when Liam Hobbes was president. He had asked me to start creating it when I first joined the provincial executive. Over the years, I’ve continued updating the list by contacting the branches asking them to send me a list of all of their presentations or special programs. I sent a similar request in 2017 and when I hear back from the branches and update the list, it will be placed on our AGS website. Branches will be able to see who all the presenters were across the

province and then use the information to bring in a presenter in person or via Blue Jeans for their monthly meetings.

At the 2017 September Retreat, we held a Youth Workshop in addition to the regular board meeting. Each branch had been asked to appoint a youth coordinator to represent their branch at this workshop. Gloria Cathcart gave a few presentations to the youth representatives in attendance since John Althouse was not able to attend. Her presentations were exceptional and we all went home with great ideas to promote genealogy for youth in our branches. This was due to the *Genealogy for Youth* book resources put together by John Althouse and Marion Rex's efforts in applying for a Canada 150 Project grant of \$15,219. I was particularly thrilled since my focus during my term as president was youth involvement and increasing youth memberships and during my presidency two youth membership categories were added to our bylaws.

In the past few months, I have been part of the adhoc committee reviewing the articles and ideas put forth in *Relatively Speaking* (R/S). I want to thank Lynne Duigou for heading up this committee and for Gloria Cathcart, Denise Daubert and Suzanne Maynard who worked so diligently in making sure that *Relatively Speaking* could resume publication. There are some great articles that will be part of future issues and I encourage all of you to consider submitting articles to RS.

First Vice President – Lianne Kruger

Conference 2017

I have compiled a report on the 2017 conference. The binder includes budget, job descriptions of the various positions needed to organize a conference, evaluation results, registration, website and syllabus information and reports from each of the organizers.

We changed locations for the 2017 conference because we had outgrown the Chateau Louis Conference Centre and the price at the Radisson

was less. A deposit of \$1,500 had been given to the Chateau to hold the dates for the 2017 conference. Unfortunately, that was nonrefundable and came out of the conference budget. The cost of PayPal was not included in the budget and was almost \$500.00, which AGS covered.

Conference 2019

The organization of the 2019 conference is underway. Titled *Back to the Future*, it is scheduled for April 26-28, 2019, at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Edmonton. The cost for non-members will be more than for AGS members. Volunteers for the 2019 conference are needed, so please email me if you are interested in helping in any way.

Social Media

Social media continues to be a great public relations medium to inform others of what the AGS does. The posts instruct and inform. Most branches are involved with *Facebook* and the AGS and another branch are also involved in *Twitter*. The AGS also has a *Pinterest* page. To further develop this means of communication, a Social Media committee was created.

Website

Lyn Meehan resigned from editing the website. Deb and Bruce Boelstler have volunteered to maintain and update the site. Lyn is training them in the different areas of the site and will continue to train them through 2018. Lyn is still maintaining the branches websites which are hosted on the AGS website.

The job descriptions for Web master(s) and Communications are being revised by the Policies and Procedure Committee to reflect the new positions.

Databases

Shannon Cherkowski asked that the name of the *Cemetery Database* be changed to *Master Surname Database* because the database contains more than just cemetery records; for example, it contains marriage records, surname records, books and more. The motion to change the name was passed at a board meeting. Shannon has resigned as cemetery database

chair. I am filling in until someone else volunteers. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please email me.

The search engine for the *Homestead* database is being edited. Once that is completed, the same design will be applied to the *Surname* database.

A group has been formed to discuss the *Surname* database. This group will go over the process of putting the database on the website.

Communications

Lyn Meehan resigned as communication chair. This position is still vacant. Anyone interested in finding out more about this job, please email me. This job description is also under review.

Volunteer hours 724

Second Vice President – Lynne Duigou

I began the first year of my two-year term after the Annual General Meeting in April 2017. My assigned responsibilities included:

- Ad Hoc Facility Lease Committee
- Membership Committee
- Policies and Procedures Committee
- Bylaws Committee
- Relatively Speaking Journal
- Translations Committee

Ad Hoc Facility Lease Committee

The committee consisted of Marion Rex, Jock Howard, Mary Ann Legris, Claudine Nelson and myself as Chair. We made a RFP (Request for Proposal) to the City of Edmonton to be considered for not-for-profit lease space at the former Grant MacEwan Facility. We also met with the current landlord and told them that we could no longer afford the current leasing costs as our income from the May 2017 casino would be down by 20-25% for the coming two years. We would like to stay in the current location but may be forced to move due to finances. We were offered space in Grant MacEwan at a specific price. We then took the offer to Nearctic, our landlord, for consideration. After discussion, the landlord agreed to match the

price for a two-year lease. I notified Nearctic that we were interested in signing a lease for two years at our current location at the agreed price. The lease was signed and delivered to the landlord and a copy returned to us. We signed documents for the City of Edmonton indicating that we are a not-for-profit society so the landlord is able to obtain a lower property tax rate on our portion of the building. I notified the City of Edmonton by letter that we had signed a lease with our current landlord and would no longer require space in the Grant MacEwan location. I notified the realtor who assisted us that we had successfully completed negotiations for the lease and would remain at our current location.

Membership Committee

The membership campaign for 2018 began October 31. To facilitate the campaign, I worked with Lyn Meehan and Linda Winski to update the membership form to reflect the new membership fees and the request from the branches that we include volunteer sign-up on the form. Several of the other areas were reworded for additional clarity. I composed a renewal letter to our current members and Lyn Meehan sent it out to all members via the AGS mass email and posted it on the website.

I also sent out President Bob Franz's request for feedback on membership services and compiled a report from the responses received.

Relatively Speaking featured a centre pull out section that included my letter, a letter from our President, Bob Franz, and a membership application form. We hope that this will encourage all members to renew. We sent letters to all (187) 2016 members who did not renew in 2017 encouraging them to join AGS again. A number have renewed so I consider this initiative successful. January 27, 2018 we sent an email reminder to all 2017 members who had not yet renewed that their memberships were expiring and they would not be receiving *Relatively Speaking* in any format for February unless they renewed their membership.

RS format preference stats:

- 52% electronic, 48% print (31 Dec 2017)
- 45% electronic, 55% print (19 May 2017)

Policies and Procedures Committee

Our thanks to Jean Gray and Mary Ann Legris who completed the revision of the Operations Manual in May 2017 and Lyn Meehan who put it on the AGS website.

I convened a committee consisting of Sandra Vaneldik, Jo Nuthack, Janine Carroll, Laura Turnbull, Linda Winski, John Squarek and myself as Chair. The committee has met a number of times and brought a number of revised policies to the board for ratification. To date, ten policies have received approval for revision and updating and five more will be considered in February, 2018. In all cases, I asked the committee chairs involved in the policies to review them and suggest any revisions they felt appropriate. I thank them for their insights and suggestions.

Policies Updated in 2017

- III C.1 Permission for use of Personal Information to Third Parties
- III C.2 Consent to Release Personal Information to Third Parties Form
- III C.3 Consent to Release Personal Information, Branch Form
- IV B.3 Annual Performance Evaluation Guidelines
- IV B.4 Annual Performance Evaluation – Office Coordinator
- IV C.1 Bookkeeper Duties & Responsibilities
- IV C.2 Bookkeeper Contract Form
- VI 250 Research Services
- VI 260 Retreat
- VIII 70 Expenses

Bylaws

A Bylaws committee consisting of Laura Turnbull, Linda Winski, Sandra Vaneldik and myself met October 5th, 2017. Since we had to amend the bylaws to include those items missed in 2016, we felt we should look at all the bylaws for any other required updates. The committee proposed revisions to the bylaws in regard to: Student Membership, Young Adult Membership, Rights and Privileges of Members, Membership Termination, Honorary Members and Student Membership Voting Rights, Committees, Elections, Vice President Finance, Finance

Committee, Policies and Procedures Committee, Branch Dissolution, VP Finance to Treasurer.

A ballot has been prepared to be sent to all members prior to the Annual General Meeting for their votes on these updates. My thanks to Laura Turnbull for her expertise and for taking the lead on this committee.

Relatively Speaking Ad Hoc Committee

The committee, Gloria Cathcart, Denise Daubert, Susan Haga and I have met numerous times to search for an editor. I took on the task of the production to put together the August and November issues with the Editorial assistance of Gloria Cathcart and Denise Daubert who helped plan, assemble and edit the content of the journal. A new member of the committee Suzanne Maynard has taken over the production aspect of *Relatively Speaking* under the mentorship of the committee and has done an excellent job for her first publication. I thank all the committee for their dedication and professional work on *Relatively Speaking* so that it continues its world-class reputation.

February and May issues of *Relatively Speaking* will focus on the Canada 150 “Youth in Genealogy” project submissions from children and branch reports of their project. August 2018 will feature “Genealogical Journeys”.

Translations Committee – VI – 270

This committee has been disbanded by the Board of Directors as it was no longer required.
Volunteer Hours 916

Treasurer - Marion Rex

Audit 2017

In the 2017 audit, AGS Provincial, Edmonton Branch, Lethbridge Branch and Medicine Hat Branch were audited. All other branches were reviewed. AGS Provincial finished the 2017 year with a surplus of **\$17,417**. This is due, in part, to the following:

Revenue

- Higher than anticipated AHRF grant (+**\$3,170**)
- Higher than expected rent income transferred from casino account (+**\$2,661.43**)
- Unanticipated rent rebate (+**\$3008.68**)
- Unanticipated at the time of budget Canada 150 grant (+**15,219**)

Expenses

- Lower costs for publishing *Relatively Speaking* because we published **2 issues, rather than 4**
- Lower than anticipated board travel and accommodation because some members joined Board meeting via BlueJeans, our videoconferencing interface (\$1,610 AGM travel, \$495 Board meeting travel, \$763 accommodation = -**\$2,868**)
- At year-end, the intent was to set aside at least **\$3,000** for the changes to the homestead database. While it was passed by the board as a motion at the November meeting, this needed an itemized quote to be called a prepaid expense.

Bookkeeping

This year was the third full year that Shirley Keller, our bookkeeper, has provided bookkeeping services for Alberta Genealogical Society. She does all the AGS provincial bookkeeping and helps to coordinate and consolidate all financial information provided by the branches so we can report to Revenue Canada. She also completes the GST and charity returns. She has developed an excellent working relationship with Linda Winski, our Office Coordinator in balancing funding raised through memberships, donations and conference registrations. Her help is invaluable in providing the data required for grant applications and working with the auditors. She has also developed many processes that have helped to improve efficiencies for AGS.

Gaming

AGS members worked a casino on May 15&16, 2017 at Century Casino in Edmonton. Our proceeds from the event totaled **\$75,875.83**. This was \$9,085.53 lower than the previous casino worked in 2015 so the finance committee needed

to work extra hard to determine how to cover ongoing expenses. My thanks to Laura Turnbull for chairing this important revenue stream and to all the volunteers who make this event possible.

Please see Laura Turnbull's Gaming report for more information.

Grants & Other Funding

The Alberta Genealogical Society (provincial) is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF) (**\$36,170**) and the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) (**\$31,638.50**). The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration. Funding received from EHC helps provide both staffing and operational support.

The remaining portion (**\$540**) of a Community Initiatives Program grant received in 2016 through Alberta Culture and Tourism for technology upgrades was spent on videoconferencing equipment (table speaker and webcam).

This year AGS was able to access funding from Alberta Canada 150, Community Initiatives Program through Alberta Culture and Tourism for a project entitled: *Youth Workshops for Canada 150: In Search of My Family's Past* in the amount of **\$15,219**. \$11,758 was spent in 2017, with the remainder being carried forward to 2018. Congratulations to the 424 students who received certificates for completing a family history project in 2017.

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS provincial (\$3,252.00) and its branches (\$9,121.00) received \$12,373 in donations. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report.

Please see the Grants & Other Funding report for more information.

Research

In 2017, AGS consolidated raised a total of \$7,348 by answering research queries.

- AGS provincial raised \$4,089 by answering 192 research queries for the most part by providing answers to family research questions, as well as hard copies of Alberta Homestead Records, Alberta Land records, cemetery records and obituaries as a result of finding aids that we have online. Thanks to the members of Edmonton Branch for answering the questions directed to the provincial office. My sincere gratitude to Norma Wolowyk and her team for their efforts in providing genealogical research and support for those who make queries to AGS.
- The branches raised \$3,259 at the local level. Please see Norma Wolowyk's Research report for more information.

Lease

As our 5-year lease (2012-2017) came to an end, a lease renewal committee was struck to look for office space for our society. After much comparative study, we were able to renegotiate our lease for two years (2017-2019) at a rate that we can afford. The two-year lease will match the timing for our casino funding. Thanks to Lynne Duigou and her committee for their efforts.

Finance Committee

My thanks to the Finance Committee: Edmonton Branch Presidents, Donna Shanks (Jan.- Feb.) and Sheila Genaille (March-Dec.), Claudine Nelson (Library & Resource Centre Chair), Laura Turnbull (Gaming Chair), and Norma Wolowyk (Research Services Chair) for helping to guide the financial decisions for the Alberta Genealogical Society. This would be a hard job to do without their wisdom and experience.

Volunteer Hours 382

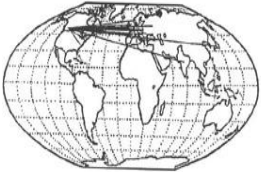
VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2017

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten Branches of the AGS realized a total of **31,443** volunteer hours that were reported in 2017

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

BRANCH ANNUAL REPORTS

Brooks and District Branch



Membership 20
Volunteer hours 2523

Monthly Public Programs

January: The year began with members sharing their latest personal research. A new committee was struck to update our website.

February: Members carpooled to travel to Medicine Hat to work the Casino. Revenue generated is used to cover our rent. Keileigh Acker from the local detachment of the RCMP spoke on the local history of the RCMP in Brooks and District and provided anecdotes on some well-known and some not so well-known local criminals of the past. Once again, the entire 2016 executive was re-elected at the 2017 AGM. Members were surveyed and the executive received very definitive answers regarding what members would like to see in the Branch Newsletter *Heir Lines*. A combined fall/spring issue was published in April.

March: Carol Viher provided a very interesting presentation on the history of the Acadians and her personal family research.

April: To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, the Branch invited back a former speaker, Gerry Girolodi, to describe more of his experiences during the Viet Nam War. He brought a personal scrapbook of his experiences and compared his experiences with

the conditions World War I soldiers, giving a very personal touch to his presentation and to the anniversary of Vimy Ridge. Five members travelled to Edmonton to attend the AGS conference.

May: President Robert Franz presented “Bringing the Dead to Life” which featured his research into two branches of his family to provide illustrations of alternative sources to add personal information about one’s ancestors.

June: The Brooks and District Branch organizes one field trip a year for members and guests. This year the group went to the former site of the town of Retlaw where they were met by members of the Retlaw Historical Society who gave an overview of their society and the work they have done to preserve the town’s history. Their renovated church and the town site were toured with the tour guide supplementing the information posted about each of the buildings which were once there. This was followed by a tour of their cemetery with the guide providing information on some past residents interred there. The outing concluded with a delicious lunch prepared by members of the Retlaw Historical Society.

August: In surveying the branch membership as to their wishes regarding negotiations with the Public Library, an interesting, and frightening, statistic was revealed. Brooks and District Branch has 20 members but of those 20 members only 14 live in the area and 5 of these are unable to attend our events on a regular basis or to hold executive positions. This is placing a very high demand on the remaining members. The executive had a special meeting in August to discuss the survey results and to

address the request from the AGS President to advise on the services being provided by AGS.

September: The traditional September meeting has been a sharing of personal research or other events in which members have been engaged. Bob Franz discussed a commemorative book he produced on his mother's life for her 90th birthday in January of this year. Eileen French reported on her findings about the drowning of her grandfather and the brutal murder and drowning of one of his sons. Maurice Landry reported on research into a family connection with the Riel Rebellion. Others reported on attending 100 year celebrations of communities in our area (Duchess and Scandia) and meeting family members from as far away as Texas.

October: One of our members, Iris Dunham, gave an interesting and informative presentation to the group about the commemorative book she wrote for her family. Also in October, the City declared Family History Week and we hosted two open houses.

November: Michelle Geitz, former Economic Development Officer for the City of Brooks, presented the two-year research she did on the economic development of the nearby town of Bassano from the time it became a town to 2016. She included a detailed itemization of businesses, when they began, when ownership changed, and when they closed. Graphs representing her findings and recommendations including a time graph that stretched from one wall to the opposite of our meeting room were shown. Of significant interest, she indicated the major source of her information came from Local Family History Books.

The fall issue of our newsletter under interim editor Bob Franz was published. In the spring, our researcher Clara Iwaasa compiled research on street names in the city of Brooks and the individuals these streets were named after. These will be reported on in upcoming issues of our newsletter. An ongoing column based on research will be compiled by Bob Franz for

publication in the local newspaper, the *Brooks Bulletin*.

December: Iris Dunham stepped forward as the branch youth coordinator for the Canada 150 Youth project, *In Search of My Family's Past* and put in many hours from October to December meeting with local Scouts, Girl Guides and Cadets. This was a very successful program and submissions have been forwarded to AGS.

Also in December, members of the Brooks and District Branch gathered with their spouses at a local eatery for their annual evening of good cheer and fellowship and once again we had a gift draw with the proceeds donated to the local foodbank. We also took the opportunity to recognize the research done by Clara Iwaasa and to present a plaque to Iwaasa Industries for the support we have received over the years in the publishing of our newsletter.

Throughout 2017, the branch cemetery committee has been very busy compiling and consolidating information that the committee has collected, spending many hours in the library sorting through our files. Negotiations with the Public Library to move into their new facilities resumed in January with a meeting with their building committee and culminated in November with an agreement approved by the AGS lawyer and signed by the AGS president. Weeding of our collection has begun and resources we do not wish to pack to the new facility were advertised. A huge response was received and we can happily say almost all of those resources have found a cherished new home. We anticipate the physical move to be in early 2018.

Sadly several of our members have been experiencing health problems this year and have had to step back in their involvement. Fortunately, other members have stepped forward to carry on. Henry Najda stepped in as secretary and Karyn Norden has taken on the position of financial chair in addition to her duties as treasurer. Bob Franz stepped in as

interim newsletter editor. Our website committee has been working on getting a new website up but has had several setbacks. In 2017, some of our members have suffered the loss of loved ones: Gail Anderson's husband passed away in October, Karyn Norden's mother and Bob Franz's aunt and a cousin in November. Despite the challenges of this year and a declining and aging membership, branch members continue to contribute their time and energy to the achievement of the Society's goals.

- Robert Franz, President

Camrose Branch

Membership 25
Volunteer hours 738 hours

2017 Executive

Co-Presidents: Deb Trout/Janine Carroll
Vice President: Fay Carlson
Secretary: Lilyan Lundy
Treasurer: Alora Nelson
Librarian: Bev Webster
Newsletter: Joan Conley
Website: Deb Trout

Projects

During 2017, branch members worked on the following projects:

- Bashaw Cemetery project. While we worked transcribing and photographing, we had some humorous experiences with an outhouse. Have you ever tried to explain an outhouse to an eight year old?
- Printed the 3rd edition of our Camrose Canadian BMD 1940 – 1945.
- Responded to 6 email inquiries.
- Created a branch website and remained active on Facebook.

2017 Meeting Topics

- “What to do with those Old Photos – Preserving the Memories”

- “Canada 150: Where was your family in 1867? In 1967? Where were you in 1967? When did your family come to Canada?”
- “Cleaning your Ancestor’s Gravestone with Care”
- “Using Land Records” presented by Rosella Peterman
- “Writing your Family History”
- “Computer Genealogy”
- “Using Facebook in Genealogy”

In addition, the Camrose Branch hosted a well-attended June workshop with speaker John Althouse. Topics covered were “Introducing Genealogy and Family History to Children and Youth?” and “What they don’t tell you on Ancestry.com and Who do you Think you are...”

The Camrose Branch will be hosting the 2018 GenFair on Saturday, April 21. We look forward to welcoming many AGS members to this event! Speakers will include Rosella Peterman on “Using Land Records” and Glynys Hohmann, Team Lead for Government Records at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). The day will conclude with the Annual General Meeting for the AGS.

- Deb Trout



Drayton Valley Branch

Membership 12
Volunteer hours 271

In 2017, Drayton Valley continued to assist members with research and promote genealogy in our community.

Meetings, Speakers and Presentations

In **January**, we went to the Family History Centre in Drayton Valley to do some research.

February was our annual general meeting with no change in the executive. We also had a presentation on wills.

In **March**, we held a session where members helped members. Unfortunately, due to low registration, we had to cancel our planned workshop.

In **April**, we had a session on photos from the 1800's and 1900's which was very interesting.

For **May**, we had two members share what they learned at the AGS Conference held in April.

In **June**, members helped to pack up the library for our planned move to the Municipal Library.

On **July 31**, we moved all of our books and cabinets to the Drayton Valley Municipal Library. We were able to sell most of the furniture and items we no longer needed, with only a few small pieces being put in storage.

In **August**, the executive met to review what records we had that could be sent to the archives. This is ongoing.

In **September**, we highlighted what research resources were in our local library.

In **October**, we held a "Genies in the Library" session.

In **November**, keeping with our usual military theme, we had a talk on Prisoners of War in Winfield which was quite interesting. Marion Rex also made a trip to Drayton Valley to share the *Genealogy for Youth Canada 150* resources.

We did not have a meeting in December as it would have been very close to Christmas.

Projects

Drayton Valley Branch continues to collect obituaries and place them on index cards for research. We also maintain a Facebook page.

Two members are involved with the Legacy Project with other community groups for Drayton Valley and area. This project is to preserve the oral, written and photographic history of Drayton Valley and area. We felt this was a good fit with what we promote.

Outreach

In October, we held a "Genies in the Library" session, with a few people in attendance.

Two of our members are members of the Drayton Valley and Area Legacy Project. The Town recognizes that history is a resource that requires careful stewardship. The plan is to archive video, audio, photographs and text to record the history of the community. By preserving the past, we can build a strong sense of community and deeper engagement with visitors to Drayton Valley. I feel that our branch is a good fit with this project.

As president of the Drayton Valley Branch, I am a member of an Inter Agency Group. Through this group we can share activities that get fanned out to members of the community.

Members are available if the library receives any questions about genealogy. Also, our local historical society and museum sends any queries our way.

Our goal remains to continue to offer programs that may entice new members to join our branch.

- Connie Stuhl, President



Membership	389
Volunteer hours	12,010

It is with much appreciation that I acknowledge colleagues for their assistance in my year as branch president. I thank the Edmonton Branch executive for their dedication and hard work, the library volunteers who make everyone's visit to the library a positive one, and the special interest group (SIG) leaders and members who attend these groups who help break down many brick walls.

I especially thank Jock Howard, past vice president whose technical and historical experience helped immensely and I wish him success in future endeavours. I am grateful, as well, to Donna Shanks, past president who diligently read all the reports and was always there when needed.

AGS Board Meetings

As branch president, I attended my first AGS meeting on February 25, 2017 held at the AGS library. I was accompanied by Donna Shanks specifically to follow up on some on-going branch concerns. A second meeting, which I was unable to attend, was held in May. At the annual September Retreat, a one and a half day session held at the Providence Centre in Edmonton, representatives from each Branch attended a workshop on the Canada 150 project. A final board meeting was in November. It was a virtual meeting via BlueJeans.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

A new special interest group focusing on French ancestors began in March and sessions were held March-June and September-December. The sessions were facilitated by various people and focused on the following areas: Sheila Genaille (France and New France), Donna Shanks (Acadia), and Suzanne Maynard (Quebec).

Other SIGs include: Canada-US, Computers in Genealogy, DNA, Germany, England/Wales, Ireland, Postscripts, Reunion for Mac computers, Scotland, and Ukraine. Each month there is at least one SIG held at the AGS library and, as president, I tried to attend them all.

Volunteers

In March, Liz Edmunds, agreed to fill the position of secretary and Arlene Johnson, the position of editor of *Clandigger*, the Edmonton branch newsletter. Edmonton Branch continues to recruit new volunteers for all areas particularly library volunteers for the monthly roster. A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held at the AGS library in December and an enjoyable time was had by all. We sincerely thank all the volunteers for their dedication since without them we could not exist.

Volunteers hosted an information table at an open house held by the City of Edmonton Archives on September 24th and in December at the Provincial Archives of Alberta celebration of the 50th birthday of the Archives. Thank you to those members who go above and beyond to bring the AGS to the public.

Canada 150 Youth Project

Edmonton Branch members volunteered to do workshops with students and a workshop with Girl Guides was held.

Vice-President

Our vice president, Jock Howard, undertook two tasks: how do we use BlueJeans Network (BJN) for outreach, and how to maintain control of the information. BJN provides a way for groups and individuals to communicate from many different platforms: individual computers, tablets, cell phones; groups using separate webcams, conference phone and projector or large screen TV. Time was spent researching how the Branch could offer SIG seminars to the AGS membership using this network. A limitation with group use is finding a computer, preferably a laptop, with very narrow specs to connect the hardware and the efforts continue to find a solution. Jock also participated on the lease committee to determine the best location (financially) for AGS and Edmonton Branch. Jock resigned his position in December to pursue other leadership opportunities.

Treasurer

The computerized accounting system was utilized for the full year and incorporated consistent accounting codes to facilitate easier consolidation of financial statements. The Edmonton Branch is audited each year.

Membership

In September of 2017, there were 461 members comprising 405 memberships and 56 families. Two members reached the 25 year mark and will be honoured at the annual meeting. Those qualifying are John Hazelwood and Henry Stephens.

Library Committee

The committee researched numerous genealogical database companies and are looking to increase database offerings at the Library in a substantial way. The committee was successful in acquiring an affordable subscription to *Genealogy Quebec*, which reflects branch interest in the new French SIG.

In response to suggestions voiced by branch members in the *AGS–Edmonton Branch Library, The Next Ten Years* report presented at the branch meeting in March, the following activities occurred:

- The table arrangement in the library was changed to give the place a different look.
- Two community history books were indexed.
- Spine labels and call numbers are being re-examined to increase legibility and decrease shelving errors.
- The online library catalogue search function is being examined and is slated for improvement.

Clandigger

A new editor, Arlene Johnson, began her duties in September, 2017 with the past editor offering support during the transition period. The editor reports that membership feedback has been very positive and encouraging. She is recruiting “reporters” from the SIGs and the

general meetings to submit reports and photos from presentations. All 2017 issues of the *Clandigger* were submitted for consideration for the Kenneth Young award. All AGS branches receive monthly copy of the *Clandigger* for their use and information.

Research Committee

The Research Services Committee for both AGS and Edmonton Branch meets every Friday at the library to work on queries that come in. In 2017, 196 queries were processed for Edmonton branch. Team members were Gordon Berdahl, Shannon Cherkowski, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, and Norma Wolowyk. The Research Committee report (in Committee Reports) has additional information on this valuable service provided by the AGS.

Genealogy Courses

A French Canadian genealogy workshop was organized for March 11 and attracted fifteen participants. It was taught by Sheila Genaille and Suzanne Maynard, with Denise Kent helping with translations. There was an introduction to useful websites and new ways to look at using them, as well as one-on-one help with French Canadian research and document translation. Registration for all workshops/classes this year was \$25 for AGS members, \$45 for non-members.

On March 25, 2017, we held a workshop on The Charles Denney Collection and Méris Research. The instructor was Sheila Genaille and there were seventeen participants. The event generated very positive comments and a few new members as well.

An introductory genealogy course, *Tracing Your Family Tree – Kickstart*, was planned for May 6 but was cancelled due to low enrolment. After consultation with the *Tracing Your Family Tree* teachers, the course was divided into four one-day sessions which turned out to be a more popular arrangement. The first two sessions took place in the fall of 2017:

- September 30th - “Organizing your Genealogy” on paper and on computer, presented by Margaret Bendickson, Gloria Cathcart and Neal Finn.. Despite several last-minute cancellations, there were twenty participants.
- November 4 - “Introduction to Research” (library, archival, online & census research). Participants learned how to conduct genealogy research, both in libraries, archives and online, and learned how to make the most of census research. The course included an orientation on the resources in the AGS library. The presenters were John Althouse, Claudine Nelson and Marion Rex. Due to poor weather there were some cancellations from out-of-town-students; however, there were still twelve participants.

There are two courses scheduled in 2018.

Outreach

A number of speaker requests were received in 2017 and they were each assigned to volunteer speakers:

February- Leduc Public Library - referred to Janet Cooper

March - St. Albert’s Ironwood Senior’s Association- referred to Lynne Duigou

March - Millwoods Library- Lynne Duigou

November - Old Timers Association – Ruth McConnell and Sheila Genaille

November - Strathcona Senior’s- Janet Cooper (cancelled due to staff change, rescheduled for 2018).

Programs

The following are the topics presented at the monthly meetings of the Edmonton branch:

January “Finding My Ancestors” – Sheila Genaille

March “AGS – Edmonton Branch Library – the Next 10 Years” – Library Committee.

April “3 Authors, 3 Books and 3 Approaches to Family History” – Janet Cooper, Elaine Cust, Janet Gosier

May “Get Me Out of Here! The King Who Was Buried in the Carpark” – Louise Perkins

June “Stories All Around You!” – John Althouse

September Glynys Hohmann, Provincial Archives of Alberta Researching at the Archives.

October “A King in My Family” – Gloria Cathcart

November “Canadians Served in Siberia in WWI” – Suzanne Maynard

Public Relations

Sharon Dyer, committee chair, reported that she sent about 50 monthly meeting and course notices to various public libraries, senior centers, archives and other organizations in the past year. This also included to the Edmonton Journal, the City of Edmonton website and Seniors Magazine.

Sharon also provided information on the AGS Edmonton Branch Facebook page, shared numerous historical facts, researched and took photos for and other items regarding history and genealogy.

Facebook Likes – 446

Average Daily Total Reach – 306

Average Weekly Total Reach – 1,112

Weekly Logged in Page Views – 95

Total Followers as at 31 Dec 2017 – 434

Webmaster

Donna Parker volunteered as the webmaster for Edmonton branch and has been busy transitioning information to the new website. Past digitized issues of *Clandigger* will be added to the new website as well as indexes and databases.

Prior to the appointment of the webmaster in November 2016, the Edmonton Branch embarked upon the development of a new website [www.edmontongenealogy.ca] with 4WEB. They have been instrumental in

providing the webmaster with ongoing training and support. The new website was launched in February, 2017.

Standardized email addresses [@edmontongenealogy.ca] and mailboxes were created and are hosted on 4WEB for the executive committee.

In conclusion, I thank all the membership for their continued support of Alberta Genealogical Society and Edmonton Branch. I hope that each of you will consider volunteering: the rewards are immeasurable.

- Dr. Sheila D. Genaille, LL.D.

Fort McMurray Branch

Memberships: 14
4 out of town and 10 in town
Volunteer hours 473

Executive Officers:

President	Tammy Grantham
Vice President	Laverne Cormier
Treasurer	Cathy Marriott
Secretary	Vacant

Another year has passed and we have kept our little library open and operational. Although we are not open near the hours we would like to be, we have very limited volunteer bodies to fulfill this role, and the last thing we want to do is have any of them suffer 'burn out'. We are open on Wednesdays (noon to 2 p.m.) and Saturdays (1 p.m. to 4 p.m.).

The first half of the year was pretty quiet. We continued to work on updating our library catalogue. With over 5000 lines of data to reformat, it is a long slow process. We made a commitment to ourselves to keep our Facebook page active and, to a lesser extent, our twitter and Instagram accounts. We did pretty well with our Facebook. Our stats for that page are up over the last year's stats....but we failed at our Twitter and Instagram. With Twitter

limiting the number of characters we can send out, and Instagram requiring a photo, we just found them to be more difficult to post to. So we are going to continue concentrating on the Facebook posts.

Webpage

At the May board meeting, I had discussed with Lyn Meehan the issue of Fort McMurray's current website and where we would like to go with it. The gist of that conversation was that our current website was very old, not updated at all, and no one even knew how to access it anymore to make any changes, so we wanted to delete it and create a new one under the AGS website umbrella. It was confirmed that all could be done.

Summer happens and many of us enjoyed extended summer holidays (that is what you can do when all are retired!), and so it wasn't until August that we were able to get started on this project. With huge guidance from Lyn, we assembled the information required and passed this over to Lyn who then created a wonderful webpage for us. Very few tweaks were needed, but Lyn was very prompt in making any necessary changes. We definitely could not have done the website we have without Lyn's guidance, expertise and design knowledge, and we thank her for the many hours she put into our cause.

DNA Course

After having many family members do DNA testing (from at least 3 of the various DNA companies), managing these kits, comparing results, and being able to sort out all the information; attending the AGS conference sessions on DNA; and lastly, running a trial beginners DNA course in Newfoundland while on vacation, Laverne Cormier was feeling confident enough in her knowledge to put on a DNA course in our library. We advertised it on our Facebook account and advertised it on the AGS and branch webpages. We had 5 people attend: three were current Fort McMurray members and the other two joined our library after hearing of the course and stopping by to

see what our library had to offer. Laverne has since run two more courses where it was mainly current members who attended, though we did gain one more member from among the participants.

Canada 150 Youth Project

At the September retreat, the branches were given the resources and some wonderful ideas of how to complete the Canada 150 Youth project. Our branch executive got together and discussed the various projects that could be done. As Remembrance Day was approaching, we decided to approach some schools to see if there was any interest in having us come into their classrooms and work with students to honour any military soldier of their choosing.

As Laverne knew a 4th grade teacher, she got in contact with her, briefly explained the project and waited for a reply. It did not take long. The reply came back with a resounding ‘yes’ but also with the information that, not only would she like her class to participate, but the two other 4 grade teachers would like their classes to participate as well! So, we set up a meeting with all three teachers, had a discussion about how the program would best work and decided the following:

a) The children could choose a format for their project from various options ie. electronic, a poster board, a memory box, a written report. However they wanted to present their research was fine with us.

b) The children could pick their own soldier. If they had someone from their past, or presently serving, it was their choice. For anyone who did not know of a soldier we would help them find a Canadian Soldier using the WW1 records on the Library & Archives Canada website.

c) Laverne and I would come into the classroom to initially explain the project to the children (all three classes were present at once for this, and show the sample projects that we - Laverne, myself, and the teachers - had done.

d) We would then come into each classroom, individually and help the children do research

on their chosen soldier. The teachers had reserved little ‘notebook’ type computers that allowed the children to do research on the internet.

e) And finally, we would come back to see the results of all the hard work done by the students.

The teachers wanted to provide the opportunity for others to see the project results so they had the projects displayed in the main atrium of the school and invited other classes, parents and guests to see their students’ work. I must say the teachers went above and beyond in setting up all the projects and the students were excited to tell us about their chosen soldier (or soldiers in some cases). Examples of the presentations will appear in an issue of *Relatively Speaking* dedicated to the Canada 150 Youth Project. A certificate was created for each participating student and the teachers judged the top three projects in each class and those students also received an AGS pin.

There were a few other youths who were not in the school but who wanted to do a project, so Laverne met with them in our library and worked with them individually.

Overall, we considered the Canada 150 Youth Project to be very successful. A most grateful THANK YOU goes out to Laverne Cormier for taking this bull by the horns and making it the success it was!

We finished off our year with our annual Christmas supper, a time to sit back, eat too much, and share so many wonderful stories with each other.

- Tammy Grantham



Grande Prairie & District Branch

Membership 49
Volunteer hours 2513

2017 Branch Executive

President Ed Hall
Vice President Patricia Greber
Treasurer Jean Gray
Secretary Maxine Maxwell
Past President Al Bromling

Monthly Public Programs

January: We had a presentation entitled “Travel and Research – What I Learned”. Three of our members shared their preparation, research methods and their learning as they travelled across Canada and Europe.

February: We had our annual general meeting and elected a new executive committee. We also appointed a tentative list of chairpersons for standing committees. Bob Franz was scheduled to present “Bringing Dead People to Life” but was unable to make it to Grande Prairie because of bad weather. He is rescheduled for next month.

March: Bob Franz, President of the Alberta Genealogical Society, presented a program entitled “Bringing Dead People Back to Life – Putting Meat Back on the Bones”. Bob described his journey and processes in tracking part of his family tree in the United States. He not only described the ancestors he discovered, but also how they lived and their journey into Canada. It was a very interesting and informative presentation.

April: At April’s meeting, Patricia hosted a very interesting webinar entitled “The Who (DNA) of Genetic Genealogy” This

presentation was very well-received and people had a lot of questions which were answered to their satisfaction.

May: This meeting featured a presentation prepared by Patricia Greber, Mary Nutting and Gail Schau entitled “Real Lives, Fascinating Stories”. This was a presentation of the family history and DNA test results for Diana Rinne, City Editor for the Grande Prairie *Daily Herald Tribune*. Diana was accompanied by many of her family members and was presented with an album containing the information collected for this presentation.

June: This meeting was scheduled to be a picnic lunch meeting at the Kleskun Hills Park. Due to severe thunderstorms in the area, only six members attended. We toured the museum buildings with a guide who explained the origin and purposes of the buildings. The idea of having a special interest group night was floated at this meeting. It was suggested that we set aside one evening a week where people with the same interest could meet and work on common themes. This idea will be explored at future meetings.

July: No meeting in July

August: No meeting in August

September: As a follow up to the idea regarding a Special Interest Night, we had a round table discussion on the kinds of topics members present would like to see be part of this process. Lots of suggestions were put forward and we decided to meet on the second Wednesday of the month and have a specific topic for each meeting. Patricia volunteered to lead the first session on Wednesday, October 11, on the topic of “Interpreting Your DNA Results”.

October: This was a busy meeting with lots to discuss. We spent more time on possible topics for the special interest group. We also talked about the Canada 150 Youth Project as adopted

by the Provincial board. A lot of good ideas were generated.

November: A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a display depicting the places from which her ancestors left to come to Canada. This young lady, the granddaughter of one our members, completed this project as part of the Youth Genealogy Project. We were also treated to an informative presentation by Josephine Sallis, archivist at the South Peace Regional Archives (SPRA). Her presentation was on the "South Peace Soldiers' Memorial Website "developed by the SPRA. The site has information on approximately 1000 soldiers from WWI and 2000 soldiers from WWII. It is an excellent site for researching information on soldiers from the Peace Country who served in the two World Wars.

December: No meeting in December.

Larger Public Events

As mentioned above, at our May meeting we presented our version of "Who do you think you are" to Diana Renne. This was a well attended meeting with representatives from the Renne family as well as community members. Also in May, Al and Ed participated in the judging at the Youth Heritage Fair in Grande Prairie. We presented a prize for the project with the best Genealogical Content at this Fair.

Publicity

Patricia looked after the publicity for the monthly meetings. Members were informed of the presentations by emails sent out by Gwen Richards.

Cemeteries

Work continued on photographing graves and updating grave information. Needless to say, this is an ongoing project.

Newspaper Obituaries

We continued to clip and post obituaries from the Grande Prairie *Daily Heard Tribune* and the various papers from the Peace Country communities. Unfortunately, Lynda Shopka

who looked after the obits from the county has moved to Ontario. She did an excellent job and we will miss her and have a difficult time replacing her.

Heritage Seekers Newsletter

We have had three editions of *Heritage Seekers* in the past year. Freddi Bromling was our editor and has done an incredible job. Unfortunately, she will not be doing this task in the future. We thank her for an excellent job and she, too, will be hard to replace.

Margaret Kay Scholarship

Unfortunately, there were no applications this year. Hopefully there will be some in 2018.

Library and Research Centre

We have an excellent formal and informal relationship with the Library which enables us to host an excellent library and research centre. One of our members, Gail Schau works closely with the Library and is responsible for a lot of the good work that goes on because of this relationship. The Library also provided a computer with an institutional subscription to Ancestry.com.

Wednesday Evening Genie Service

We continue to provide this service on a regular basis. Although we are not over run with customers, the genies have been faithful in attending and have helped a number of people with their research.

Youth Genealogy Project in celebration of Canada's 150 birthday

Maxine Maxwell, Gail Schau and Jean Gray have done a huge amount of work to develop projects in support of this initiative.

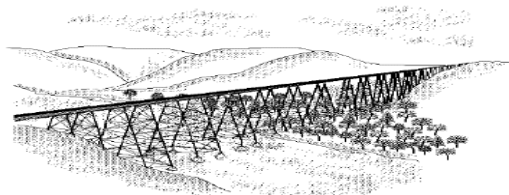
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

We have held two SIG gatherings since we decided to adopt the idea. The first was in October and was hosted by Patricia who led us in a discussion and introduction to DNA as used in researching ancestors. Patricia also led the second session in November where the goal was to help people become more familiar with

computers and the various sites that could be used in researching ancestors. The Library was kind enough to allow us to use their computer lab complete with computers for the session. Both sessions were very well-received and helped attendees to be better researchers. We intend to continue these sessions in 2018.

- Ed Hall, President

Lethbridge & District Branch



Membership	51
Volunteer hours	3427

The Branch had a successful 2017 year. Membership at the end of year was 51 - an increase of 5 over 2016. Volunteer hours for 2017 were 3427 hours – slightly down from 3679 hours in 2016.

We had the 40th Anniversary Celebration and a Genealogical Workshop both of which were well attended and quite successful. New shelves for the resource library were purchased, along with new tables. The computers were upgraded and a new large monitor was purchased to replace the old one.

Monthly Meetings

January: Our meeting was held at the Gault Museum, featuring Trish Purkis speaking about “Signs of the Times”.

March: George Kush- spoke about “The history of the Mounted Police Cemeteries in Southern Alberta”.

April: Belinda Crowson spoke about “Southern Alberta's Sugar-Coated History”.

May: John Squarek spoke about “Getting started with DNA”.

June: John Squarek continued with the presentation “Getting started with DNA Testing.”

September: David Tyler spoke about “Genealogical Research in Ireland”.

October: At the International dinner, John Althouse was the guest speaker.

November: A Webinar was presented by Lisa Louise Cooke on “How to Use Google Earth for Genealogy”.

The cemetery database is ongoing. We continue to work with Yvonne Sugimoto at the cemetery office and we are working on improving the two databases for the big cemeteries.

Legacy sessions on Monday afternoons continue to be well attended as well as the all-day session on the second Monday of each month.

- John Squarek



Medicine Hat & District Branch

Website: mhdgs.ca

E-mail: mhgs@shaw.ca

Membership	66
Volunteer hours	2566

2017 Branch Executive

President	Melvin Bender
Vice President	Doreen Schank
Secretary	Leanne Balfour
Treasurer	Deb Wickham
Past President	Lloyd Robinson

Meetings

Meetings were scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of the month, January-June & September-December.

Programs

Photo Identification - Philip Pye
Kartenmeister.com - Uwe Krickhahn
German Village Locations - Dennis Bender
Honouring a Commitment: Part Two - A Soldier Brought Home - Lawrence Gordon
Photographic Odyssey of S. Alberta and Saskatchewan - Ty Carnelli
St. Barnabus Anglican Church Tour - Doug Heine & Barb Hamblin
A Letter from King Frederick - Dr. Daniel Schnee
Webinar - Copyrights

Projects

TELUS/AGS phone book project:

Thanks to Clark Lang's many volunteer hours with assistance from Leanne Balfour about 40% of the books have been digitized and are on our website. Thanks to the Alberta Genealogical Society, Lethbridge Branch, and our branch member, Edna McKelvie, for their generous donations to this project.

Obituary and cemetery records are being updated by Eileen Stahl, Norm Collard, Uwe Krickhahn, and Marge Ensminger.

Other Branch Activities

Scanning has begun on Branch scrapbooks. Our Branch Facebook and Twitter groups administered by Doreen Schank and Leanne Balfour have been a great source of genealogical information.

Saamis Seeker – Thanks to Madeline Fischer for restarting our Branch newsletter.

Events

February	Casino
June	Salt Lake City research trip
July	Canada Day display
October	Open House

November	Remembrance Day: Wreath laying & donation
December	Potluck dinner
-	Melvin Bender

Red Deer & District Branch

Membership	69
Volunteer hours	1900

The **Executive Committee** from February 2017 to February 2018 was as follows:

President	Sonya Miller
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Judith Machtans
Past President	Linda Darby
Treasurer	Ray Cyr

Meetings and Programs

Red Deer Branch meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at the LDS Church, 3002 – 47 Ave. in Red Deer. We do not meet in July, August or December. This is a summary of our meetings in 2017:

January: Michael Dawe presentation on “Post First World War Immigration”

February: Annual Meeting followed by Peter Darby presentation on “Finding Birth, Marriage and Death records for your Canadian Ancestors”

March: Lorraine Cathro presentation on “Writing family history with others”

April: No regular meeting. Many members attended and helped with the Red Deer Family History Fair

May: John Althouse presentation on “A Tale of Two Cities.... Well Not Quite” – a look at two settlements along with the record that tell the story of each

June: Annual Pot Luck. Each member shared a story.

September: Google Drive & photos with Lianne Kruger

October: Ray Cyr presentation on his family history and their journey

November: Members sharing night

Research Support Available

The hour before each branch meeting, Peter Darby opens the Family History Library and helps members solve their genealogical problems. Betty Barnhill answers queries received via email.

Library Support

Numerous genealogical books, including many local histories, are located in the Archive section of the Red Deer Museum. A computer is also available to aid in research and provides free access to Ancestry.

- Sonya Miller

Wetaskiwin Branch

Membership 25

Volunteer hours 1032.75

President Position vacant during 2017

Projects

Canada 150 Youth Project

As a follow-up to our special project in 2016 - a "School Days Memories" booklet - which was a compilation of the school memories of some of our branch members, our newsletter editor, Sharon Aney, suggested that we once again showcase our creative talents by recording our "Memories of Christmas". Our submissions were compiled in a booklet similar to the "School Days Memories" booklet. These two 'memories' projects are our personal contribution to the Canada 150 celebrations and we are very thankful that Sharon's initiative

resulted in some wonderful memories being recorded for future reference. Thank you to AGS Past-President Susan Haga for her suggestion that the branches work on a project to commemorate Canada's 150th!

Canada 150 Youth Project

Our Youth Coordinator, Patty Caputo, attended the AGS Retreat in September and came back with an enormous amount of information and ideas on how to introduce young people to family history research and genealogical studies.

Patty introduced this project to a youth group in Wetaskiwin and the result was amazing. There were nine young people who enthusiastically researched their ancestors, created elaborate posters, and took part in a Christmas gathering on December 9th, which showcased the posters and all the hard work done by these young people. In addition, food from various countries was brought to the Christmas gathering so that we could all share in the Christmas foods reminiscent of the participant's ancestral heritage. An added bonus: twelve adults became so interested in Patty's project that they also researched their ancestors and created posters/display boards for all to see.

Our branch is so fortunate to have Patty Caputo as our youth coordinator. She is already formulating ideas for continuing the promotion of family history research with young people during 2018.

Genealogy in the Morning

Besides being our newsletter editor, Sharon Aney has a talent for coming up with new ideas! This year she suggested a project aimed at introducing genealogy to people in the Wetaskiwin area. **Genealogy in the Morning** was a non-fundraising idea with several topics to be covered in two morning sessions. Four branch members presented topics and we held the sessions at the local Heritage Museum. The response was very good and we had participants from the Wetaskiwin area as well as the Leduc area.

Awards & Recognition

At the 2017 AGS Conference in Edmonton, two of our branch members were thrilled to accept awards:

- Sharon Aney, our newsletter editor, accepted the Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for the best branch newsletter.
- Lee Koop accepted the Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for the Best Original Article in a branch newsletter. Our newsletters are a tribute to the hard work done by Sharon.

Monthly Programs/Presentations

January: Two topics were presented: the first being “Our Goals for 2017” where each member outlined what they hoped to accomplish with their genealogical research in 2017. Topic #2 was “Photomyne” – a presentation outlining the many uses of this free app.

February: “Organization: Problems and Solutions”. Claudia Malloch gave us her suggestions and ideas about this topic via a PowerPoint presentation; then the members outlined the individual methods they use to organize their genealogy data. A round table discussion followed.

March: Webinar “Answers Hiding in Plain Sight: Using What You Know to Discover What You Don’t Know”. Kathryn Grant offered great ideas about how to use the information we have in a different way, thus enabling us to find information we need.

April: “The Big 4 – Comparing Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage and Find My Past” - a really good webinar that highlighted the “positives” of each of the databases, allowing you to decide which site(s) work(s) best for you.

May and June: DNA Bootcamp, Parts 1 & 2. With the increasing awareness of, and interest

in DNA testing, our program coordinator Claudia Malloch planned a two-part presentation via a webinar hosted by Mary Eberle. This was a very informative webinar, albeit sometimes very detailed and intense.

September: We had two presentations:

1. Carole Koop told about her personal goal to create an album that would be the story of her life. She outlined how she came up with the project; how the project has evolved over the years; and how she determined the format she was going to use. Her enthusiasm for her work on the album she has created was very inspiring.

2. Claudia Malloch gave us a presentation on “FamilySearch – How to Access Information” now that we are no longer able to order microfilms. The webinar presenter gave us very good information on what is available at FamilySearch.org as well as suggesting how to find out what has been digitized and available to us right now.

October: Once again, we had two presentations:

1. Rachel Knudsen, City of Wetaskiwin Archives: Rachel outlined her vision of a proposed project between our branch members and the City of Wetaskiwin Archives. A proposed Volume IV of Siding 16 (Wetaskiwin’s history) would start with events in 1994 and move forward to the present day. This will be a long-term project with branch members researching various topics suggested by Rachel.

2. Patty Caputo, youth coordinator, told the members about the sessions she attended at the AGS Retreat, specifically devoted to introducing youth in each branch’s vicinity to family history and genealogy. Patty’s grandson Jason Dick, also attended and displayed the project he completed for the Genealogy for Youth project and he spoke to us about his family’s history going back to Scotland. Patty provided sheets of information about this project and encouraged the members to

introduce the project to their own grandchildren.

November: With our meeting falling so close to Remembrance Day, Claudia encouraged everyone who had military ancestors to bring memorabilia about that person and tell us about their military history. Several presentations were made by our branch members. A highlight of the evening was a second presentation by a Genealogy for Youth participant, Laythan Koop. He gave a power point presentation with details about his ancestors from Norway and unveiled the large display board he had created to honour his ancestors.

Wetaskiwin Branch Website

Our branch member Lee Koop and AGS member Lyn Meehan continue to add items to our website, updating it periodically. The fact that we post our newsletters on our website and allow public access to them has been a bonus. Our members have been contacted by viewers outside of Canada because of this.

The hard work of our dedicated branch members has resulted in a 'sharing of knowledge' that has benefitted all of us. We look forward to our genealogy journey in 2018!

Alice Hoyle, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archivist – Mary Ann Legris

My objective for 2017 was to gather as many Branch Newsletters as possible for depositing in the Provincial Archives. I contacted the Branch Editors reminding them to send two paper copies to the Society Office; one copy for the Library and one copy for the Archivist. The listing of issues received, in some instances, does not appear to be complete. Do remember that the creation of newsletters often depends upon the health or other life issues that all volunteers encounter. A January issue one year may become the March issue in the following year. Editors move away and new ones appear and on that note, welcome back Medicine Hat.

I understand most branch newsletters are sent to members in digital form – a great way to keep members informed and costs down; however, it is equally important to safeguard that important information. The best method of preservation is to place the information in the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). The Branch Newsletters submitted to the PAA included:

- Brooks Branch Newsletter *B & D Heirlines*:
2007 Fall Issue
2008 Spring and Fall Issues
2009 Spring Issue
2010 Fall Issue
2011 Spring and Fall Issues
2012 Fall Issue
2013 Spring and Fall Issues
2014 Spring and Fall Issues
2015 Spring and Fall Issues
2016 Fall Issue
2017 Spring Issue
- Camrose Branch Newsletter *Roots and Shoots*
2011 Spring Issue
2012 Summer Issue
2014 February, May, August, and November Issues
2015 February Issue
2017 February Issue

- Drayton Valley Branch Newsletter *Past Finder*
2005 November issue
2007 May and November Issues
2008 February, August and November Issues
2009 February, May, August and November Issues
2010 February, May, August and November Issues
2011 February, May and August/November Issues
2012 February Issue
2014 February and August Issues
2015 February and August Issues
2016 February and August Issues
- Fort McMurray Branch Newsletter *Lines of Descent*
2007 March, June and September Issues
- Grande Prairie Branch Newsletter *Heritage Seekers*
2007 Volume 29 1 – 4 through 2016 Volume 38 1-4 (All Issues)
- Lethbridge Branch Newsletter *Yesterday's Footprints*
2011 February, May and November Issues
2014 February, May and November Issues
2015 February, May and November Issues
2016 February, May and November Issues
2017 February and November Issues
- Medicine Hat Branch Newsletter *Saamis Seeker*
2011 February, June and November Issues
2015 January Issue
2017 November Issue
- Red Deer Branch Newsletter *The Tree Climber*
2010 February and October Issues
2012 October and December Issues
2013 December Issue
2014 March and June Issues
- Wetaskiwin Branch Newsletter *Roots and Branches*
2009 May through 2017 September (All Issues)
Other Materials submitted:
- *Relatively Speaking* Volume 44, Number 1 (February 2016)

- *Relatively Speaking* Volume 44, Number 2 (May 2016)
- *Relatively Speaking* Volume 44, Number 3 (August 2016)
- *Relatively Speaking* Volume 45, Number 1 (August 2017)
- *Relatively Speaking* Volume 45, Number 2 (November 2017)
- 2016 Annual Report
- Consolidated Financial Statements – year ending December 31, 2016
- Drayton Valley Branch Minutes of Meetings: 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001
- 2017 Conference Syllabus “Ye Olde Genealogy Faire”
- Membership Statistics 2014, 2015, 2016
- Society Information Brochures Number 1 and 2
- Correspondence: (Library):
April 2002 – Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne Indiana
November 2002 – City of Edmonton Archives, Edmonton, Alberta

Volunteer hours – 55

Communications & Web Content Management –

Lyn Meehan

Highlights for the Year

- 2017 Registration Brochure, Conference webpages, Conference posters, Syllabus designed and distributed
- Assisted with the Conference Report and timelines
- Designed new AGS brochure
- Brooks & District Branch website design
- Webpages for Branch workshops: Edmonton, Drayton Valley, Fort McMurray, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Wetaskiwin
- Maintenance on Drayton Valley, Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Wetaskiwin websites
- Drayton Valley, newsletters online, Sept
- Addendum to RS Delivery Report
- *Survey of Publication Delivery Styles Among Genealogical Societies*, by Lyn Meehan, Sep 2017
- Cemeteries loaded for Grande Prairie

- Reformatted the 2017 AGS Operations Manual, Summer
- Developed a publications page for Wetaskiwin and added their new release *Memories: Childhood Christmases*, Sep
- Uploaded article *Time to Renew* from Membership Chair
- Assisted the Membership Chair to revise the 2018 AGS Membership form
- Developed 2017 Retreat Youth Event webpage with help from Gloria Cathcart
- Created 2018 London Tripper’s webpage
- Created 2019 AGS Conference Planning Committee webpage
- Generated AGS Database Review and Website Services report

January to March — 2017 AGS Conference

The year began by continuing the development for conference web pages and advertising. Pages were first established online 27 October 2016, and over December and January more growth and refinement to the design of the conference web pages emerged. This was the second conference that used online registration. Delegates selected their pre-tour choices, session plan, registration type and options picked (banquet and syllabus) and dietary notification.

April to May — AGS Conference... continued

According to evaluations, the conference committee overall did a fantastic job. These individuals bonded together from multiple AGS Branches throughout the province and ardently worked in unison. Of the 286 or more conference attendees 56% paid online. The syllabus was the first to be delivered in full-colour electronically, with a 162 page printed B&W copy offered near production cost at \$15.

In May, Communications worked with Doug McLeod and John Althouse assisting Lethbridge to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. Several design elements were pulled together to feature a beautiful splash of colour and information for their anniversary party.

One of the tasks of Communications/Web Content Manager is to bring information to the board meetings, and to publish such material on the web. The *RS Delivery Committee Report* provided the board with information on *Relatively Speaking* history, costs and delivery. Additional information was provided to the board for discussion by the *Addendum* compiled and written by communications, past members of the RS editorial team and 2nd vice president. Along with information from John D. Reid, *Anglo-Celtic Connections* article “Society Journal Distribution” and from Dick Eastman “Converting a Society’s Newsletter from Print to Digital” a basic *Survey of Publication Delivery Styles* was compiled. It provided, for board consideration, information concerning the delivery style of society quarterlies and newsletters and observations about the cost of membership associated with them.

May to September — AGS Operations Manual reformatted

For this project, I offered organizational and formatting strategies to compliment the revised *Manual*. In 2017, the project was led by Jean Gray and Mary Ann Legris.

The complete *AGS Operations Manual* is keyword searchable and accessible 24/7 by downloading the 237 page PDF from the AGS Members Only section of the website.

In August, the Fort McMurray Branch moved their website under the AGS web umbrella. What’s important in building an informative website, or even a database, is to know its resources. Their collections feature information on the Hudson Bay Company forts in the Wood Buffalo Region, early parish records, information on the river system to the Mackenzie basin, historic images of the area, records for the Atlantic people who migrated there and more. McMurray was the first of six Branches using an interactive Google map and YouTube video featuring Dick Nash’s story. Launched September 1, you can visit them at <http://www.abgenealogy.ca/ft-mcmurray-branch>

September to December— A review of Web services and databases

Web services were reviewed in the Fall of 2017 and the board of directors moved to split the current Web Content Manager/Communications position into two positions: Web Master and Communications. New web masters, Deb and Bruce Boelstler were appointed. New job descriptions for both positions are being developed by the Policies and Procedures Committee. To date, no one has been appointed to fill the Communication position.

AGS Website Statistics—2017 (Google Analytics)

- Overall Users: 24,714, increase of 2,635
- Number of sessions: 42,962, increase of 5,856
- Pages viewed: 173,251, increase of 22,206
- New Visitors: 56.2%, decrease of 2%
- Returning visitors: 43.8%, increase of 2%
- Bounce rate: 37.06%, decrease of 2%
- Average Session: 3.55 min, decrease of 0:09 seconds
- #page per session: same at 4

The Future of the AGS Website

The Society’s website is in very healthy condition. We have a good partnership with several branches and committee chairs. We hope more branches will bring their inspirational stories, projects and products, and advertise on the website. Our strength is in teamwork and effective communication.

Volunteer hours 765

Gaming – Laura Turnbull

AGS Casino Event

AGS members worked a casino on May 15&16, 2017 at Century Casino in Edmonton. Our proceeds from the event totalled **\$75,875.83**. This was \$9,085.53 lower than the previous casino worked in 2015 so the finance committee needed to work extra hard to determine how to cover ongoing expenses.

We had a total of 42 volunteers to fill the 38 positions and I reported 350 volunteer hours to the AGS office for this event. A **Very Special Thank You** to all who were able to help.

Our next casino event for the AGS has been approved for the **2ndQtr of 2019** (Apr/May/Jun) at Century Casino, Edmonton. We will receive actual dates in November 2018.

This event helps considerably in raising funds for major operating costs for the AGS including rent for our library facility and insurance costs for all branches.

AGS Raffle at Conference

We held a very successful 50/50 raffle as part of the AGS Conference on April 22 & 23, 2017. In total, 1,212 tickets were sold resulting in a net profit for the AGS of \$592.79. Thank you to our wonderful ticket sellers for their excellent efforts.

Branch Gaming Events

Casino:

All Branches (except Edmonton) may apply to hold casino events but some need to share with another branch. Each branch has to go through the application processes set up by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC).

At present, Brooks/Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Lethbridge have held or will hold casinos to help raise funds.

Raffle or 50/50:

Medicine Hat – has been holding 50/50 draws at local meetings to help raise funds.

Grants & Other Funding

– Marion Rex

Sponsorship

The Alberta Genealogical Society is forever grateful for the funding received through sponsorship from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Edmonton Heritage Council. AGS also relies on casino

funding, general donations, and research income to help fund their activities.

Grants

The Alberta Genealogical Society (provincial) is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

- **Alberta Historical Research Foundation (AHRF) Sponsorship**—In 2017, AGS received **\$36,170** in sponsorship funding from AHRF funded through the Alberta Lottery Fund. The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2017, AGS received **\$31,638.50** in operational funding from the EHC funded through the City of Edmonton. This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support.
- **Community Initiative Program Grant (CIP)**—The remaining portion **\$540** of the CIP grant obtained in 2016 for technology equipment was spent on videoconferencing equipment and the necessary final reports were completed.
- **Community Initiatives Program Grant (Canada 150)**—AGS was the happy recipient of an Alberta Canada 150, Community Initiatives Program grant through Alberta Culture and Tourism for a project entitled, “*Youth Workshops for Canada 150: In Search of My Family’s Past*” in the amount of \$15,219 allocated as follows:

○ Workshop	\$3,787.09
○ Transportation	\$2,632.50
○ Resources	\$8,080.32
○ Certificates	\$ 869.20

We are also committed to spend \$150 on this project as well as donate \$7,390 in volunteer time.

Implementation of Canada 150 Project

- 21 July 2017 – We received notification that our application had been successful.

- July-September 2017 – We had copies made for each branch of the youth resources written by John Althouse. We gathered resources and samples of student work for branch coordinators and ordered children’s books for branch libraries. We purchased certificates for each branch to use for successful candidates.
- 21-23 September 2017 – We held a workshop for branch youth coordinators and branch presidents on a variety of youth projects that could be completed. Each branch received a file box of resources to use in the project.
- September-December 2017 – Branches were asked to plan their own youth genealogy project at the local level.

Celebrating the Canada 150 Project

- **Certificates** – In our proposal, we suggested that we might reach 150-300 youth in this project. The results of this project far exceeded our expectations. Congratulations to the **424 students** who successfully completed a youth genealogy project and were awarded a *Canada 150* certificate.
- **Relatively/Speaking** – The February and May 2018 issues of our genealogical journal will be devoted to publishing youth stories arising from the Canada 150 Youth Genealogy Project.
- **Reporting** – Branches are to send their reports in early 2018. It is anticipated that we will publish an anthology of the work done by the branches in 2018. The Canada 150 final report is due by the end of 2018.

Of the \$15,219 received from this grant, \$11,758 was spent in 2017, with the remaining \$3,461 carried forward to 2018. Some of the branch library books were back ordered; an anthology will be created summarizing the work of the branches.

Gaming/Casino

The Alberta Genealogical Society (provincial) worked a casino on May 15&16, 2017 at Century Casino raising **\$75,875.83** (\$9,085.53 lower than the previous casino in 2015). Brooks/Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Lethbridge also rely on casino funding. For more information, see Laura Turnbull's report on Gaming.

General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$12,372.70 in donations.

• Provincial Office	\$3,252.00
• Brooks	645.00
• Camrose	352.00
• Edmonton	3,334.40
• Grande Prairie	175.00
• Lethbridge	1,406.41
• Medicine Hat	2,625.42
• Red Deer	419.61
• Wetaskiwin	<u>162.86</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$12,372.70</u>

As well, AGS Provincial Office gave Medicine Hat branch \$3,000 in branch support for their TELUS Phone Book project. Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2018. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report. Thanks also goes to Edmonton Branch who volunteered to donate \$1,500 to the Conference if needed—this year’s conference was close to breaking even so it was not required.

Research Income

In 2017, AGS consolidated raised \$7,348.34 by answering research queries. AGS (provincial) raised a total of \$4,088.84 by answering research queries, for the most part by providing answers to family research questions, as well as hard copies of Alberta Homestead Records, Alberta Land records, cemetery records and obituaries as a result of finding aids that we have online. Thanks to the members of Edmonton Branch for answering the questions directed to the

provincial office. Funds were also raised by the various branches.

• Provincial Office	\$4,088.84
• Edmonton	2,580.12
• Grande Prairie	81.81
• Lethbridge	240.00
• Medicine Hat	332.57
• Red Deer	<u>25.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$7,348.34</u>

Volunteer Hours: 353

Library & Resource Centre – Claudine Nelson

We saw members and non-members that took the Edmonton Branch *Tracing Your Family Tree* courses coming in to use the resources that the AGS and Edmonton Branch AGS libraries offer: how-to books, local/family histories, and databases found on the Edmonton branch computers.

I had participated in the move 10 years ago and was not looking forward to packing and moving again. I was one of a group that did tour the ‘Orange Hub’ to see if it would be a viable venue and this was followed by meetings to discuss options. Thanks to Lynne Duigou and Marion Rex, we have been granted a two-year lease on our present premises.

One issue that was addressed in 2017 was the question of whether books can be borrowed and mailed to members. Since Local History books can be fragile, old, limited editions, and very heavy/costly to mail it is not a viable option unless the borrower is willing to pay the cost of mailing and insuring the package. A better alternative is to offer to copy and mail the desired pages for members, with the cost coming from the Library budget. This was done for one member in 2017.

The Library and Resource Centre has a number of “behind the scene” workers: Kate Binder catalogues new acquisitions, donated and purchased; Vivian ETTY processes Periodicals & newsletters; Linda Winski answers questions for the volunteers and processes walk-in

memberships; John Hazelwood responds to calls about the computers and offers his electronics knowledge; and ALL the library volunteers assist patrons with their research.

Total number of people signing in to the library during 2017, including daytime and for evening meetings was **3394**.

Membership

– see 2nd VP report

Policies & Procedures/Bylaws

– see 2nd VP report

Relatively Speaking

– see 2nd VP report

Research Services – Norma Wolowyk

The **Research Services Committee** for both AGS and Edmonton Branch AGS began meeting each Friday at the AGS Library in 1999 and has continued to do so since that year.

Participating during 2017 were Gordon Berdahl, Shannon Cherkowski, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, and Norma Wolowyk.

Each Friday, committee members selected queries, did research in the AGS library and at other local institutions and responded by e-mail from their own home or by mailing correspondence to the people initiating the research request. A query database was maintained with surnames researched, submitter’s name, locality of inquiry, the ID number assigned to each query and a description of where the query originated (eg. the AGS submission form, Edmonton Branch email, Office email, phone call to Library, etc.).

Clients were charged for copies of documents and postage if applicable. Also, they were encouraged to send additional monies to the Society in appreciation of the volunteer

commitment given to their queries. These contributions continued to be a valuable source of funding for the Society.

Besides using the resources of the Society's library, committee members used resources at Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA), the Legislature Library, University of Alberta Library, Edmonton Public Library, City of Edmonton Archives, and other sources to thoroughly research a query. They also accessed family history information, on behalf of clients, through their own subscriptions to paid genealogical sites.

In 2017:

192 queries (144 in 2016) were processed by the AGS

196 queries (259 in 2016) were processed by Edmonton branch (AGS)

The total number of queries handled by the Committee in 2017 was **388**.

Although many initial requests arrived because clients had found online references on land files indexes, local history book databases or probate indexes, research often progressed to burial records, local history books, newspaper articles, vital records information and other record sources. Clients have used information that we provided to them to complete family history books they have published. In 2017, two clients donated copies of their publications to the Edmonton branch library. It is very rewarding to see one's name in the acknowledgments.

Research team members were invited to participate in the Provincial Archives of Alberta's 50th birthday celebration held on December 6, 2017. As well as hosting a table promoting the AGS, we were on hand in the reference area to answer family history questions and inform event attendees about the resources held at the PAA that are useful to genealogists.

The Alberta Genealogical Society and Edmonton branch is very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated researchers. These individuals have a commitment to taking up the

research challenge and thus providing Alberta family history information to people from around the world. The committee received numerous comments on the superior research assistance provided, stating results were beyond expectations.

On the 2nd December 2017, Edmonton branch hosted a volunteer appreciation event at the library and members of the research team were able to enjoy a lunch and socialize with fellow AGS volunteers. Thank you Edmonton branch.

Thank you to Linda Winski, AGS Office Coordinator, for handling the mail for the research committee and collecting credit card payment information. Her prompt attention to informing research committee members that payment has arrived is very much appreciated.

She also reported that people calling to make payment often express gratitude for the work done by the Research Committee.

Retreat – Susan Haga & Maxine Maxwell

The Retreat Committee consists of Co-Chairs Maxine Maxwell and Susan Haga. Every year we've tried to invite an additional member from each Branch to attend the Retreat for a special training session. For example, we've held sessions for Treasurers and Secretaries to which treasurers and/or secretaries from each Branch were invited. For the 2017 Retreat, we had a special focus on Genealogy for Youth and held a special youth workshop. Every Branch was asked to appoint a Youth Coordinator to work with the Branch President to implement activities in their communities to encourage youth to become involved in the Society. These youth coordinators were invited to the September Retreat to introduce them to the resources that had been developed by the AGS and purchased with funds received from a Canada 150 grant.

On Saturday morning, Marion Rex did a presentation to the board describing the format of the youth workshop for all the branch youth

representatives scheduled for the afternoon and Sunday morning. The workshop focused on the *Genealogy for Youth* program resources developed by AGS member, John Althouse. Unfortunately, John Althouse was not able to be in attendance. Gloria Cathcart, another AGS member, had been asked to step in and her presentations were exceptional. Attendees all went home with great ideas of how to promote genealogy for youth in our branches.

This year was Canada's 150th birthday as a country and this workshop was made possible due to Canada 150 Project grant that was successfully applied for by Marion Rex, AGS Treasurer. This grant of \$15,219.00 allowed us to purchase resources for each branch and pay for the youth coordinators to attend the workshop at the retreat. Maxine and Susan both attended the workshop and found it to be a very informative and worthwhile. Back in their

branches, youth coordinators immediately began engaging local youth in family history projects.

For our Saturday evening session, Denise Daubert of Edmonton Branch gave a presentation on her paternal great grandparents and their 1912 immigration journey to Canada titled "A New Home in Western Canada." Afterwards all the attendees remained and enjoyed some refreshments.

Over the past year, there has been a lot of discussion on the Retreat and its purpose. It was agreed that having an extended time during which to meet was beneficial to the executive and board and that we needed to continue having training workshops for executive and board members. A change of location has also been discussed to keep the cost down and research still needs to be done on this topic

Appendix A: Membership Statistics

2017 Membership Stats --- from Shout as of December 31st (by Lyn)																		
	Branch	Primary Branch	Multiple Memberships			2017 New Members	Membership Type										P	PDF
			Primary Branch plus	Associate to Branch	TOTAL Memberships per BRANCH		I	F	S	S+	L	L+	ST	YD	MKS			
	AGS only	29	0	0	29	13	14	1	13	1	0	0	1	0	0	11	18	
1	Brooks	16	1	3	20	2	4	1	10	1	4	0	0	0	0	10	10	
2	Camrose	20	1	2	23	5	7	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	14	
3	Drayton Valley	9	1	1	11	1	6	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	
4	Edmonton	362	17	10	389	70	95	15	217	36	14	5	5	1	0	204	185	
5	Ft. McMurray	9	4	1	14	1	5	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	
6	Grande Prairie	38	3	7	48	2	11	3	26	4	4	0	0	0	0	21	27	
7	Lethbridge	35	1	12	48	2	10	2	23	10	1	2	0	0	1	26	22	
8	Medicine Hat	57	3	6	66	11	18	4	36	7	0	0	1	0	0	30	36	
9	Red Deer	62	3	4	69	12	17	0	44	8	0	0	0	0	0	32	37	
10	Wetaskiwin	21	0	4	25	2	5	0	14	5	1	0	0	0	0	13	12	
	SUB-TOTAL	658	34	50	742	121										367	375	
	TOTAL	692	NOTE: Balanced															
<p>There were 692 memberships minus life memberships purchased in 2017. NOTE: this is based on <u>membership types</u> and does not include spouses (e.g. plus) or extended family members (e.g. Family package)</p> <p>What does all this mean?</p> <p>Primary Branch = memberships dedicated to one Branch with no associated (\$10) membership to another</p> <p>Primary Branch plus = members dedicated to their "primary or home Branch" plus one or more associate memberships</p> <p>Associate to Branch = members who have an associate (\$10) membership with that Branch, but their Home Branch is elsewhere</p> <p>Total Memberships = having memberships in one or more Branches</p> <p>Note: By adding Branch plus Home plus Associate equals Total Memberships</p>																		
LEGEND	I = Individual Membership																	
	F = Family Membership (one or more members in the household are members)																	
	S = Senior Membership																	
	S+ = Senior Plus Membership (one or more members in the household are members)																	
	L = Life Membership																	
	L+ = Life Plus Membership (one or more members in the household are members)																	
	ST = Student Membership																	
	YD = Young Adult Membership																	
	MKS = Margaret Kay Scholarship recipient																	
	P = the number of members in that branch preferring a print copy of Relatively Speaking																	
PDF = the number of members in that branch preferring an electronic PDF) copy of Relatively Speaking																		

Appendix B: **Policies Updated in 2017**

- III C.1 Permission for use of Personal Information to Third Parties
- III C.2 Consent to Release Personal Information to Third Parties Form
- III C.3 Consent to Release Personal Information, Branch Form
- IV B.3 Annual Performance Evaluation Guidelines
- IV B.4 Annual Performance Evaluation – Office Coordinator
- IV C.1 Bookkeeper Duties & Responsibilities
- IV C.2 Bookkeeper Contract Form
- VI 250 Research Services
- VI 260 Retreat
- VIII 70 Expenses

NOTES:

Alberta Genealogical Society

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

Phone: (780) 424-4429 Fax: (780) 423-8980

Email: agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca Website: <http://abgenealogy.ca/>

2018 Branch Contact Information

Brooks & District Branch

President: Glenn Michell
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4
Phone: (403) 362-2732
www.abgenealogy.ca/brooks-district-branch
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month,
7:30 p.m. Community Cultural Centre
Main Floor, Room 122
327 Third Street West, Brooks, AB

Camrose Branch

President: Deb Trout
c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue
Camrose, AB T4V 3B1
Phone: (780) 781-5100
<http://camrose.abgenealogy.ca>
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month,
7:00 p.m. Camrose Public Library
Downstairs Boardroom

Drayton Valley Branch

President: Connie Stuhl
P.O. Box 115
Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0
Phone: (780) 542-2787
Email: ags.dvbranch@gmail.com
Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month
6:30 p.m. @ Drayton Valley Library,
5121 - 52 Street, Drayton Valley, AB

Edmonton Branch

President: Sheila Genaille
Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6
Phone: (780) 424-4429
Fax: (780) 423-8980
Email:
edmontonags@edmontongenealogy.ca
Website:
<http://edmontongenealogy.ca/>
Meets 4th Thursday of the month,
7:30 p.m.

Fort McMurray Branch

President: Tammy Grantham
9B, 10019 MacDonald Avenue
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1S9
Phone: (780) 743-8904
Email: ftmacgen@telus.net
Website:
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~
Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month
7 p.m.

Grande Prairie & District Branch

President: Ed Hall
P.O. Box 1257
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1
Phone: (780) 539-7005
Email: gp@abgenealogy.ca
Website: <http://gp.abgenealogy.ca>
Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month,
7 p.m. Grande Prairie Public Library
101, 9839 – 103 Avenue

Lethbridge & District Branch

President: John Squarek
Rm. 128, 909 – 3rd Avenue North
Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5
Phone: (403) 328-9564
Email: lethags@theboss.net
<http://lethbridgeags@theboss.net>
Meets 3rd Thursday of the month,
7:00 p.m. Provincial Admin. Building
909-3rd Avenue North, Lethbridge

Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Melvin Bender
Box 971,
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8
Phone: (403) 526-3794
Email: mhgs@shaw.ca
<http://mhdgs.ca>
Meets 1st Wednesday of the month,
7:00 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental
Co. Ltd. 974 – 13th St. SW

Red Deer & District Branch

President: Lianne Kruger
c/o 38 Hearthstone Drive
Lacombe, AB T4L 1P6
Phone: (403) 350-6880
Email: rdbags@telus.net
Website: www.rdgensoc.ab.ca
Meets 3rd Thursday of the month
7 p.m. LDS Church
3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer, AB

Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Alice Hoyle
R.R. #3, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 1X1
Phone: (780) 387-4978
Email: wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca
<http://abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch>
Meets 3rd Tuesday (except July,
August and December) at 7 p.m.
LDS Church, Wetaskiwin, AB (Use
NE Door)



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

OUR MISSION: To promote the study of genealogy and provide support and services for genealogical research in the province of Alberta

- Active since 1973, 2017 was our 44th year of providing genealogical service to the community
- Membership for 2017 totalled 692 compared to 743 in 2016 and 704 in 2015
- Members reported 31,443 volunteer hours in 2017
- Our journal, *Relatively Speaking*, resumed publication under a dedicated editorial team
- The AGS Board increased membership fees by \$10 and offered a discount of \$10 for those choosing digital delivery only. The number of members choosing digital continues to increase
- All branches of the Society continued to provide diverse programming and learning opportunities for their members
- Eleven Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in Edmonton and Medicine Hat continued to meet regularly and provide valuable research and discussion groups for attendees
- The revision and reformatting of the AGS Operations Manual was completed and posted on the website
- A new brochure for the Alberta Genealogical Society was designed and printed
- The Research Committee responded to 388 research queries from around the world
- The Annual September Retreat combined the directors' meeting with a learning workshop for Branch Youth Coordinators to implement the Canada 150 Youth Project using resources developed and purchased for each branch
- 424 certificates were presented to youth who successfully completed a youth genealogy project for Canada 150
- "Let's Talk" message from AGS President Bob Franz saw 385 hits in 2017
- The AGS webpage saw 24,714 users (an increase of 2,635) viewing 173,251 pages (an increase of 22,206 pages)
- The AGS conference changed its venue to the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Edmonton
- Throughout 2017, the board of directors addressed 3 key pillars of the society as identified by President Robert Franz: wellness within the society, services being provided by AGS including the Board's financial responsibility, and possible connections between AGS and like-minded agencies
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, gaming events, and grants from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, the Edmonton Heritage Council and Alberta Culture and Tourism. Casino revenue has decreased, placing additional demands on the board of directors
- Lethbridge Branch celebrated its 40th anniversary
- The Society continued to employ one part-time office coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper
- The board investigated a possible needed relocation of the AGS Library and Research Centre. A new two-year lease was negotiated with the current landlord

Proud beneficiary of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation through the Alberta Lottery Fund, and the Edmonton Heritage Council through the City of Edmonton.

