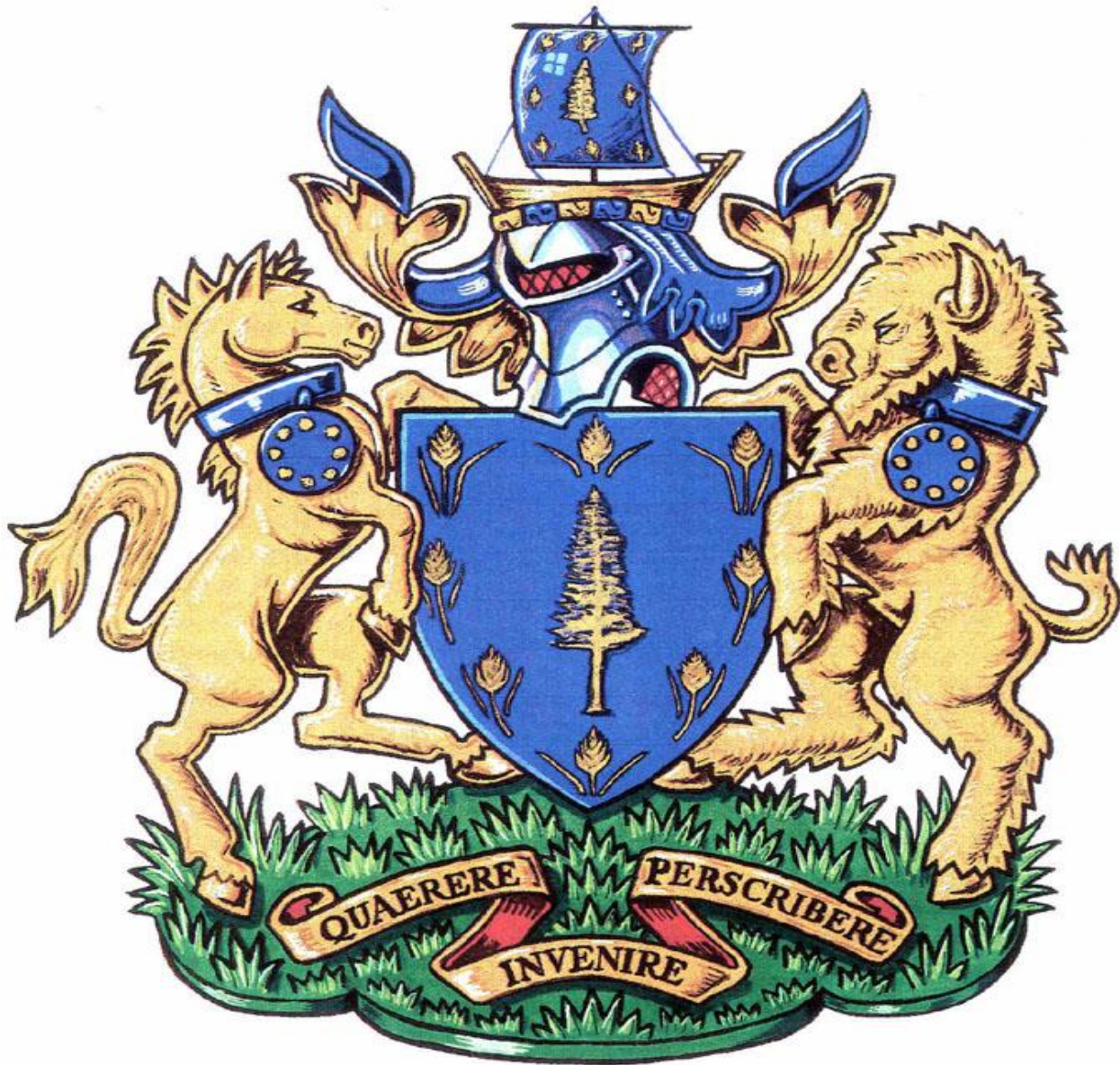


# Alberta Genealogical Society



## 2019 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

25 April 2020

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Dec. 31, 2019

### Officers

President	Jock Howard
Past President	Robert Franz
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lianne Kruger
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Lynne Duigou
Treasurer	Marion Rex
Secretary of the Society	Doug McLeod

### Directors

Brooks	Maurice Landry
Camrose	Deb Trout
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Sheila Genaille
Fort McMurray	Tammy Grantham
Grande Prairie	Ed Hall
Lethbridge	Marilyn Astle
Medicine Hat	Doreen Schank
Red Deer	Janice Duffy
Wetaskiwin	Alice Hoyle

### Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Marion Rex
Nominations (Chair)	Robert Franz
Policies & Procedures/Bylaws (Chair)	Lynne Duigou

### Other Committees and Appointments

AGS Surname Database	Lianne Kruger
Archivist	Norma Wolowyk
Communications	Vacant
Conference 2021 Chair	vacant
Electronic Services	John Hazelwood
Facilities	Wayne Harker
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
GenFair 2020	Alice Hoyle
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Historian	Vacant
Legal Advisor	Sharon Roberts
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Lynne Duigou
Parliamentarian	Patrick Reid
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking	Editorial Team
Relatively Speaking Mailing	Jo Nuthack
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
	Robert Franz
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster(s)	Lyn Meehan, 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

## Table of Contents

Thanks to our Benefactors .....	4
Thanks to our Donors .....	5
Agenda for the 47 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society .....	7
Minutes of the 46 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting .....	8
Awards Presented at the 2018 AGM .....	11
Executive Reports .....	14
President .....	14
Past President.....	15
First Vice President .....	16
Second Vice President .....	17
Treasurer .....	17
Volunteer Hours for 2019.....	19
Branch Annual Reports.....	20
Brooks & District.....	20
Camrose .....	21
Drayton Valley.....	22
Edmonton.....	23
Fort McMurray .....	25
Grande Prairie & District.....	27
Lethbridge & District.....	28
Medicine Hat & District .....	29
Red Deer & District .....	32
Wetaskiwin .....	33
Committee Reports .....	36
Conference.....	36
Gaming .....	36
Grants & Other Funding .....	37
Library and Resource Centre .....	38
Membership .....	38
Policies& Procedures/Bylaws.....	38
Relatively Speaking .....	39
Research Services .....	39
Retreat.....	40
Webmaster(s).....	41
Appendix A: Membership Statistics.....	43
Notes .....	44
2020 Branch Contact Information .....	45
Audited Financial Statements .....	Insert
Budget 2020 .....	Insert
Highlights .....	Back Cover

**Heartfelt  
Thanks**

**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
gratefully acknowledges the support of the

***Government of Alberta***

***for \$33,300.00 in funding  
received through the  
Historic Resources Management Branch***

The sponsorship received from the  
Department of Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women  
Is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs,  
professional consultations and general administration.

*Alberta* 

**Our  
Sincere  
Gratitude**

**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
gratefully acknowledges the support of the

***City of Edmonton***

***for \$17,396.25 in funding  
received through the  
Edmonton Heritage Council***

The sponsorship received from Edmonton Heritage Council  
Helps to provide staffing and operational support.

**THE CITY OF  
Edmonton**

**EDMONTON  
HERITAGE COUNCIL**



## 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 2019 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged.

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

### \$501-1,000

Benevity Community Impact  
Fund  
Edmonton Community Fdn.  
Estate of Vic Willoughby

### \$251-\$500

#### \$101-\$250

Blackley, Barbara  
Rex, Marion  
Smith Gray, Jean  
Tichkowsky, Roy  
Touchmark at Wedgewood  
Walton, Ellen

#### \$76-\$100

Doberstein, Evelyn  
Edwards, Susan  
Javorsky, Larry  
Johnson, Marilyn  
Losie, Fran  
Lowing, Raymond  
Moore, Frances  
Scott, David  
Vaneldik, Fred & Sandra  
Wales, Marilyn  
Wolanski, Laurel  
Wright, Wayne

#### \$51-\$75

Cooper, Janet  
Hagen, Beverly  
Nex, Margaret  
Pape, Alfred  
Rogers, Robert  
Snyder, Robert  
Watson, Robert  
Yurkiw, Ceres

### \$26-\$50

Akgungor, Allison  
Ayre-Jaschke, Leslie  
Bird, Patricia  
Brown, Helen  
Buchko, Sandy  
Chambers, Doug  
Dawson, Leo & Martha  
Easton, Frank  
Edmunds, Liz  
Ensminger, Margery  
Gibson, Robert  
Goodwin, William  
McNiven, Myrna  
P & T Farms  
Phipps, Anne  
Pohranychny, Ed  
Rolls, David  
Ross, Carolynne  
Sarango, Annemarie  
Trumpour, Ivy  
Websdale, Rilla  
Wegert, Joan  
Williams, John  
Wolowyk, Norma  
Woychuk, John

#### \$11-\$25

Browse, Jean  
Evans, Lois  
Forsyth, Pamela  
Iwaasa, Clara  
Jenkins, Frank  
Kuzmak, Susan  
Mort, Michael  
Nelson, Alora  
Perkins, Louise  
Redford, Marcia  
Rusnack, M. Elaine

Saunders, Marlene  
Serink, Linda  
Sim, E. Marion  
Stefaniuk, Nick  
Wright, John  
Youngman, Shirley

### \$10

Adams, Donald  
Bilawchuk, Nellie  
Courtier, Brenda  
Cyr, Raymond  
Dyck, Margaret  
Hancock, Cyndy  
Houston, C. Lorraine  
Jensen, Paulette  
Lucas, Danny  
Manning, Roslyn  
Nye, George  
Peterson, Marvin  
Rabinovitch, Mariann  
Schmelke, Joan  
Washington, RONALDA

*Sincere thanks to 18 donors  
who wished to remain  
anonymous.*

WITH SINCERE THANKS FOR  
CASINO FUND TRANSFERS

The Alberta Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges transfers of casino funds within the organization. These funding allocations help the AGS fulfill its mission: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

Fort McMurray – \$1,000 for provincial 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*”

Grande Prairie & District Branch – \$1,000 for provincial 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*”

WITH SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP

The Alberta Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges sponsorship to Conference 2019. These funding allocations help AGS to fulfill its mission: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

Jennings, Ellen Thompson – \$750 for 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*”

Karami, Jennifer – \$100 for 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*”

Saunders, Karen – \$250 for 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*”

Wetaskiwin – \$500 for 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*”

**ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting– Saturday, 25 April 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans at 3:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Jock Howard, President
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, 27 April 2019
4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors:
  - a) President – Jock Howard
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lianne Kruger
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Lynne Duigou
  - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
  - e) Secretary – Doug McLeod
  - f) Past President – Robert Franz
  - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
    - Brooks – Maurice Landry
    - Camrose – Janine Carroll (Board Representative) / Deb Trout (President)
    - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
    - Edmonton – outgoing Sheila Genaille; incoming Nestor Martinez
    - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
    - Grande Prairie – outgoing Ed Hall; incoming Al Bromling
    - Lethbridge – Marilyn Astle
    - Medicine Hat – outgoing Doreen Schank; incoming Dwight Brown
    - Red Deer – Janice Duffy
    - Wetaskiwin – Alice Hoyle
  - h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the Annual Report
5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports
6. Financial Reports – Marion Rex, Treasurer
  - a) 2019 Audited Financial Statements
  - b) Adoption of Financial Statements
  - c) Budget 2020
  - d) Adoption of Budget
  - e) Appointment of Auditor for 2020
7. Election and Bylaw Results – Robert Franz, Past President
8. Announcement – Jock Howard, President
9. Introduction of New Executive – Robert Franz, Past President
10. Courtesy Motions – Kurt Paterson
11. Resolution of Respect – Frank Easton
12. Presentation of Awards – Jock Howard
13. Adjournment

**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – 27th April 2019 - Draft Minutes**  
**Radisson Hotel and Conference Center**  
**4520 – 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Edmonton AB**

Attendance at the 46th AGS Annual General Meeting:

Gail Anderson	Lauranne Hemmingway	Kurt Paterson
Sharon Aney	Karen Hoeft	Rosella Plaquin
Nancy Archibald	Jock Howard	Marion Rex
Marilyn Astle	Alice Hoyle	Carolynne Ross
Bob Barclay	Clara Iwassa	Sue Schroder
Al Bromling	Pat Jabusch	John Squarek
Janine Carroll	Eleanor Kreiser	Connie Stuhl
Gloria Cathcart	Diane Lehr	Marjorie Tanner
Belinda Choban	Graham Lowe	Blanche Thomson
Janice Duffy	Claudia Malloch	Deb Trout
Lynne Duigou	Margaret McInall	Laura Turnbull
Frank Easton	Susan McKeen	Marie-Louise Vieira
Liz Edmunds	Wayne McKeen	Marilyn Wales
Ken Fearnley	Doug McLeod	Norma Wolowyk
Laurel Fitzsimonds	Mavis Nelson	
Robert Franz	Janet Nichols	
Eileen French	Karyn Norden	52 members in attendance
Fran Galbraith	Joachim Nuthack	
Ed Hall	Judy Nuthack	

1. Welcome and Call to Order: The 46<sup>th</sup> AGS Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm by Jock Howard, President. Jock welcomed members to the AGM.
2. Approval of Agenda:  
**MOVED** by Liz Edmunds that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.  
**SECONDED** by Kurt Paterson **CARRIED**
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018:  
**MOVED** by Frank Easton that the minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.  
**SECONDED** by Robert Franz . **CARRIED**
4. Introduction of Executive Committee and Directors of the Board by Jock Howard:
  - a) President – Jock Howard
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lianne Kruger
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Lynne Duigou
  - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
  - e) Secretary – Norma Wolowyk
  - f) Past President – Robert Franz
  - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
    - Brooks – Maurice Landry
    - Camrose – Janine Carroll
    - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl



- Edmonton – Sheila Genaille
- Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
- Grande Prairie – Ed Hall
- Lethbridge – Marilyn Astle
- Medicine Hat – Doreen Schank
- Red Deer – Janice Duffy
- Wetaskiwin – Alice Hoyle

h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the 2018 Annual Report

5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee 2018 Annual Reports:

**MOVED** by Doug McLeod that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the 2018 Annual Report.

**SECONDED** by Marilyn Astle

**CARRIED**

6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Marion Rex:

Marion Rex thanked Office Coordinator Linda Winski for compilation of the 2018 Annual Report.

Following the presentation and discussion by Marion Rex of the 2018 financial reports the following motions were made:

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the audited Consolidated Financial Statements for 2018 be adopted as presented.

**Seconded** by Liz Edmunds

**CARRIED**

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Provincial Office for AGS Financial Statements for 2018 be adopted as presented.

**Seconded** by Ed Hall

**CARRIED**

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the budget for 2019 - 2020 be adopted as presented.

**Seconded** by Laura Turnbull

**CARRIED**

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the firm of Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs Chartered Accountants be retained for 2019.

**Seconded** by Doug McLeod

**CARRIED**

A round of applause was given to Marion Rex for all the dedication and hard work she contributed in preparing the AGS 2018 financial reports.

7. Election Results/Bylaw Changes:

1. **Election Results** – announced by Jock Howard

**Installed by Acclamation:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Lynne Duigou for a two-year term
- Secretary: Doug McLeod for a two-year term

## 2. Proposed 2019 Bylaw Changes and Voting Results – Lynne Duigou

### Article 4.5.2

#### Present:

Any person who by a vote of no less than two thirds of the Board is guilty of unethical practice of genealogy may be refused membership, or have their membership terminated by the Board. Such refusal or termination may be appealed to the Annual General Meeting with written notice of the appeal to be in the hands of the Secretary of the Society not less than ten days prior to said meeting.

#### Proposed change: Replace entire paragraph with:

Any person who by a vote of no less than two thirds of the Executive Committee of the Board is believed or been found to have engaged in conduct detrimental to the good reputation of the Society may be refused membership, or have their membership terminated by the Executive Committee of the Board. Such refusal or termination may be appealed to the next regular Board of Directors Meeting with written notice of the appeal to be in the hands of the Secretary of the Society not less than ten days prior to said meeting.

**Rationale:** To clarify what may be considered unethical practice of genealogy and also to allow for an appeal process without having to bring it before the entire membership of the Society.

**VOTE: YES - 216/596    NO - 6/596    Spoiled - 3/596    Blank – 1**

---

### Article 6.1.2

#### Present:

The Board shall consist of:

- The Executive Committee as defined in 6.2.
- one elected Director from the governing committee of each Branch
- if deemed necessary by the Board, not more than one Director at Large whose duties shall be assigned by the Board.

#### Proposed: Add bullet before last bullet to read:

- Any Executive committee officer may hold more than one Society position concurrently, but shall have only one vote

**Rationale:** To ensure that no member of the Board has an unfair advantage of having more than one vote at any meeting by being a Branch Representative and an Executive Committee officer.

**VOTE: YES – 221/596    NO - 2/596    Spoiled – 3/596**

### Scrutineers – Lynne Duigou, Louise Perkins, Colleen Murray

Ballots printed - 650

Mailed – Canada 586, USA 5, International 3, Hand delivered 2 = Total 596

On hand – unused 54

Returned – 226 = 37.9%

8. Introduction of New Executive:  
 Jock Howard introduced the AGS executive for 2019-2020:
- a) President – Jock Howard
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lianne Kruger
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Lynne Duigou
  - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
  - e) Secretary – Doug McLeod
  - f) Past President – Robert Franz

9. Resolution of Respect 2018 – Frank Easton:  
**WHEREAS:**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

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

Ronald Anderson	#943	Brooks	Jan 10, 2018
Carol Berdahl	#3138	Edmonton	Jan 22, 2018
Joseph Yurkiw	#4278	Edmonton	Feb 20, 2018
Slavy Dimitroff	#2673	Edmonton	Feb 21, 2018
Jack Fitzsimonds	#113	Edmonton	Apr 18, 2018
Ron Arnison	#2629	Edmonton	Jun 5, 2018
Glen McRae	#3139	Edmonton	Jun 14, 2018
William Rowat	#6268	Red Deer	Jul 9, 2018
Peter Darby	#4816	Red Deer	Jul 10, 2018
Verne Charles Jones	#5198	Edmonton	Jul 12, 2018
Eileen Tanner	#4184	Edmonton	Jul 20, 2018
Jim Schnepf	#5595	Camrose	Jul 26, 2018
Elizabeth (Betty) Barnhill	#566	Red Deer	Nov 27, 2018
Clarence Janke	#5411	Medicine Hat	Dec 5, 2018
Joan May Parker	#2644	Edmonton	Dec 18, 2018

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

**Moved** by Frank Easton and **Seconded** by Jo Nuthack **CARRIED**

10. Presentation of Awards – Jock Howard, President (See attached list for complete details of awards)

**Long Term Membership Certificates** – Twenty-five years 1994 – 2018

Judy Bradley	#2688	Grande Prairie
Pamela K Farmer	#3062	Edmonton

William & Sandra MacDonald	#3076	Edmonton
David S Pasay	#3105	Edmonton
Winnifred Evans	#3108	Lethbridge
Mervin C & Barbara Hamblin	#3118	Medicine Hat & District
Ardis Kamra	#3132	Edmonton
Gordon Berdahl	#3138	Edmonton
Lucy McRae	#3139	Edmonton
Gail Schau	#3148	Grande Prairie & District
Hazel Elborne	#3181	Edmonton
Walter & Gwen Meyer	#3184	Edmonton
Wendy A Rogers	#3196	Grande Prairie & District

**Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards** – Excellence in Branch Newsletters

- **Certificate for Best Original Article** “**Skeletons in the Closet – The Tale of Two Brothers**” by Arlene Johnson, *Clandigger*, October 2018, Edmonton Branch
- **Certificate for Best Local Content** “**What Happened to Dad?**” by Joan Bowman *Heritage Seekers*, Spring 2018, Grande Prairie & District Branch
- **Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter** (*plaque & certificate for the editor to keep*) “**Remembrance**” - *Saamis Seeker*, November 2018, Medicine Hat & District Branch  
Editor: Madeline Fischer

*Thanks to the Judging Committee: Madeline Fischer, Connie Stuhl, and Jock Howard*

**Peter Staveley Memorial Award** – *Relatively Speaking* Article

- **Name on Peter Staveley plaque & certificate for best article:**  
Marilyn Astle for “Exploring Our Norwegian Heritage”, August 2018, Vol. 46, No. 3  
  
Lorna Astle-Fox for “Connecting With Our Scottish Roots, August 2018, Vol. 46, No. 3

*Thanks to the Judging committee Marilyn Hindmarch, Denise Daubert, Brenda Nugent*

**Certificates of Appreciation**

- Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
- Edmonton Heritage Council
- AGS Research Services Committee
- Grande Prairie & District Branch

**Special Mention Award – Forty Years**

- Red Deer & District Branch, 1978-2018
- Medicine Hat & District Branch, 1978-2018

**Special Mention Awards**

- Denise Daubert

**Life Membership Award**

- Janet Gosior, joined AGS in 1984

**President's Award**

- Clark Lang

**Thank you to Retiring Executive**

- Norma Wolowyk

**11. Courtesy Motions:**

**MOVED** by Kurt Paterson that we express our sincere appreciation for the support provided by the dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced AGS support staff: Linda Winski and Shirley Keller.

**SECONDED** by Connie Stuhl

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Kurt Paterson that we express sincere appreciation for the combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten branches of the AGS for contributing 32,510 volunteer hours in 2018.

**SECONDED** by Connie Stuhl

**CARRIED**

**12. Adjournment**

Jock Howard, President declared the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Respectively submitted,

---

Norma Wolowyk, AGS Secretary

---

Jock Howard, AGS President

# EXECUTIVE REPORTS

## **President Jock Howard**

Volunteer Hours: 229

Active since 1973, 2019 was our 47<sup>th</sup> year of providing genealogical services to our 678 members and to the community. It was the second year of my term as President of AGS. It's been a great two years; I can't believe that my term as President is nearing an end.

Throughout the 2019 year, there was a fair amount of work in several areas being done behind the scenes. Virtual executive meetings were held via BlueJeans February 8, February 20, March 18, April 20, April 23, May 10, June 26, July 25, September 4, November 2 and November 30. As well, I chaired the four Board of Directors meetings: February 23, May 25, September 21-22, and November 23. We offered a blended approach to attending the provincial Board meetings. Some people attended in person while others connected from a distance online through BlueJeans. One of my priorities during my term of office has been to increase our capacity to do seamless videoconferencing. We investigated a variety of videoconferencing providers but elected to continue with the BlueJeans platform. It offers videoconferencing, as well as phone-in capabilities for those with poor internet connections. After much trial and error, we were able to solve the last of the technical difficulties with sound and picture quality when a room full of people share one access point. This paves the way for Branches to be able to share excellent speakers and workshop sessions across the province.

February and May saw newly elected Directors at the AGS Board table. Thanks to all those who have agreed to represent their branch. Together we are stronger.

In March/April, I had the privilege of sitting on a committee with Connie Stuhl and Madeline

Fischer to review branch newsletters with the goal of determining the winners of the Ken Young Newsletter awards. What a pleasure it was to read such quality work being done throughout the province. The committee had some suggestions to improve the judging task, making it simpler and easier in years to come. The Board agreed and policy changes were made.

The highlight of the year was the biennial 2019 AGS Conference "*Images Through Time*" held 26-28 April 2019 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre in Edmonton. I had the distinct pleasure of being Master of Ceremonies for the event. My sincere thanks to Lianne Kruger and her team for organizing an excellent conference with a wide variety of in-person and virtual sessions held throughout the weekend. The AGM was held on the Saturday with 52 in attendance. Many deserving people were recognized for their generous gift of time and talents to our organization. It was my privilege to present the awards, including the 2019 President's Award to Clark Lang, Medicine Hat Branch. Clark is diligently scanning 100 years of AGT/TELUS telephone books and making them available online – what an amazing resource!

On 6 September 2019, along with our Treasurer, Marion Rex, I had the privilege of representing the AGS at a meeting with the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. We shared what AGS has been doing across the province as well as the metrics AHRF requested. It was also very interesting to listen to the presentations of the other heritage organizations, including their challenges and the great work they are doing. Our message was very positive, and it was well-received. The AGS was commended for the great work we are doing with astonishing volunteer participation and contribution. That work includes answering research requests, providing courses for blossoming genealogists, providing support to people in special interest groups on like-minded topics, sponsoring outreach events and

collaborative events with other organizations. Those AHRF Board members who had attended our conference spoke to the quality of our event. In short, it was a real privilege to share our news and I pass on the accolades we received. In fact, they congratulated us for doing as much work as we do with the funding we get from them. How disheartening it was when we heard that the AHRF was disbanded after the budget was presented by the Alberta government on 24 October 2019. We have worked with AHRF from 1994 to 2019. With funding from the Government of Alberta reduced, we were barely able to finish 2019 with a positive balance.

Our retreat in September was successful in that we continued the work of updating our long-term Strategic Plan. We discussed the various strategic planning priorities that we had established at the 2018 retreat. At the 2019 retreat, we worked on Vision and Mission Statements as well as four strategic goals to guide our plans going forward 2019-2022. We agreed to the tagline, *Alberta Genealogical Society: Bringing the past to the present for the future!* Thanks to Wetaskiwin Branch for the wonderful suggestion.

At the November Board meeting, we looked at various ways of providing benefits to our members including reciprocal discounts to other provincial genealogical societies for members. We are in the process of looking at other benefits that we could also provide.

At this point, I'd like to give a special thanks to Linda Winski, our Office Coordinator, and Shirley Keller, our Bookkeeper, for the work they do to make the business of the society run smoothly. Their knowledge and expertise are valuable assets as they manage our day-to-day business. Early in the year, I chaired a small group who represented the Board when doing a performance evaluation for Linda. In collecting information for her review, I received accolades from many people across the province. Her assessment was outstanding, and I offer her our thanks for the work she does to keep our organization on track. On a similar note, our auditors were pleased with the ease with which they were able to conduct their work, thanks to the excellent preparatory work done by Shirley.

As my Presidency nears its close, I would also like to thank all Board members, Branch Executives, Committee Chairs and Committee Members for being so willing to share their time and talents with the AGS. I extend my thanks to all the friendly helpers – Library Volunteers, Course Instructors, and SIG Leaders – who provide that human touch. Many hands make light work as is evidenced by the incredible number of volunteer hours that are contributed each year. The Alberta Genealogical Society is a strong entity because of its people. Thanks for all you do so that people in Alberta and from around the world can trace their family tree and find their roots. It's been my privilege to work with you for the past two years.

## **Past President Robert Franz**

Volunteer Hours: 204

The year 2019 has been busy and productive, maintaining past practices under the oversight of this position and modifying and updating procedures to meet the times. The year began seeking nominations for Secretary and for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for elections at the April AGM. Both were filled by acclamation. The names of Committee Chairs were also sought for terms to begin May 1. At the same time, in coordination with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, current policies regarding committee chair positions were sent out to each individual for their input. A call for judges for the Kenneth Young Awards was sent out and Madeline Fischer (Medicine Hat Branch), Connie Stuhl (Drayton Valley Branch), and Jock Howard (Edmonton and Fort McMurray Branches) were selected. Allowing judges from branches submitting newsletters this year opened up the judging opportunity to all branches. Notices were sent to the membership in general through mass email, through Branch Presidents, the AGS website, and *Relatively Speaking* reminding everyone of awards available and seeking nominations. Many thanks to the judges for the Peter Staveley Award (Marilyn Hindmarch, Denise Daubert and Brenda Nugent) for their time and efforts.

The Newsletter Judging Committee recommended only one newsletter per branch be submitted and that each branch select a single article for each of the categories Best Local Content and for Best Original Article. These recommendations were accepted and implemented for 2019 newsletters. Recommendations were also made by this office to simplify and streamline the Awards process for the 2020 AGM.

The third weekend of September, I chaired the annual retreat, as Chair Susan Haga had an accident and was unable to attend. This responsibility included chairing the Friday night session in which members brought an heirloom and talked about it (a most enjoyable exercise that I would highly recommend as a Branch activity), and chairing the workshop on Saturday. The Saturday presenter, Shari Hanson, from Community Development, Alberta Culture and Tourism, did a great job addressing where we are and the trends affecting where we want to be. She then guided us through our Vision and Mission Statements. Our goals were reviewed and updated resulting in four strategic goals accompanied by action plans for 2019-2022. The summary of the workshop by Shari Hanson and the evaluation summary consolidated by this office were accepted by the Board in September.

Forms and notices for the 2020 Nominations and Election were revised in 2019 and updated by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lynne Duigou in time to be included in the November issue of *Relatively Speaking* and posted online. Nominations for President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President were due January 31, 2020. I also began preliminary work on notices and forms for the 2019 awards with Office Coordinator Linda Winski and seeking and confirming Chair positions for 2020.

As Past President, I attended two virtual executive meetings and the Board of Directors meeting in February, the AGM in April, the virtual executive meetings of March 17, June 26, July 25, September 4, and November 2, and the virtual Directors Meeting in November. One of the pillars of my Presidency was to address the issue of wellness in our Society and particularly at the Provincial level. This past year, I have continued

to unofficially address that issue behind the scenes through phone, email and personal contact. As I prepare now to leave this office, I caution the incoming executive and Board to continue to exercise due diligence in this matter. The responsibilities of Past President are to a large extent supportive of traditional services provided by the Provincial Body and it has been a joy being able to engage in such pleasurable activities.

## **First-Vice President Lianne Kruger**

### ***Conference and AGM 2019***

I was the chair for the 2019 conference held in Edmonton in April. (See Conference report for more information.) A binder of all items and suggestions for the conference is at the AGS office. Thank you to all those who helped make the conference great and for those who supported the conference by attending. Good attendance helps make the event a success. It also makes the committee feel like all their work was worthwhile.

At the AGM, Wetaskiwin Branch volunteered to host the GenFair in April 2020. Thank you, Wetaskiwin Branch. (Unfortunately, GenFair has been postponed a year because of COVID-19.) My continued attempts, since before April 2019, to find volunteers to chair or co-chair a committee to organize the 2021 conference have been unsuccessful. At this point, the idea is to postpone the conference to 2022 which gives people more chance to volunteer for the organizing committee. The GenFair is tentatively scheduled for 2021.

### ***Website***

Late in the year, we re-organized the website team. I became the chair with Lyn, Deb and Bruce Boelstler as team members. Lyn makes the changes to the website and sends out the bulk email to all the members. Deb and Bruce upload the reports for the quarterly Board meetings.

### ***Social Media***

The branches are doing a great job on Facebook to promote their branches and they support each other well. A few branches are also on Twitter and doing a great job there as well.



### ***Affiliated Library***

As soon as the lawyer has approved the contract, I will work with the branches to make this available to as many of the branches who want it and who have the ability to do it.

### ***Member Benefits***

I have tried this year to find benefits that AGS can afford, that will attract new members and encourage our current members to renew their membership. One idea was to find genealogical groups/individuals who would provide discounts to our members in exchange for advertising.

It appeared that this could be a difficult task because of the existing AGS policy on Advertising. The policy was changed in November and now provides opportunities for Advertising with certain guidelines.

### ***My Last AGM***

This is my last AGM report as I have served for six years as 1<sup>st</sup> VP which is the longest a person can serve on the executive consecutively. I have worked with many wonderful people on the Board and the executives and I feel privileged.

## **Second Vice President Lynne Duigou**

Volunteer hours: 631

### ***Membership***

Memberships 2019 = 678

In 2019, with feedback from the Branches, I revised the membership form for 2020. We added a new membership benefit which is a \$5 discount for those members who also belong to the Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, or British Columbia Genealogical Societies. Other member benefits such as Webinars have been approved by the Board of Directors to be implemented in 2020.

### ***Policies and Procedures/By-Laws Committee***

met four times to create, update and bring forward numerous policy changes and two Bylaw changes. My thanks to the committee comprised of Sandra Vaneldik, Jo Nuthack, Janine Carroll, John Squarek, Doreen Schank, and Laura Turnbull.

***Relatively Speaking*** – The Relatively Speaking Editorial and Production Committee produced four issues of the Journal in 2019. Thanks to Denise Daubert, Suzanne Maynard, Janet Cooper, Marilyn Wales and Marie Viera for their dedication to the Journal and contribution of 538 volunteer hours.

## **Treasurer Marion Rex**

Volunteer Hours: 429

### ***Audit 2019***

In the 2019 audit, AGS Provincial, Edmonton Branch, and Grande Prairie Branch were audited by KBH Chartered Professional Accountants. All other branches were reviewed. Thanks to Louise Chauvet, CPA, CA, and her team at KBH for a great working relationship during the audit process. AGS Provincial finished the 2019 year with a surplus of **\$834.48**. This is due, in large part, to a combination of the following:

**Income** **\$168,774**

Variations made up in part due to:

- Higher than expected membership income 754
- Higher than anticipated donations 3,185
- Lower than anticipated AHRF Grant (2,870)
- Lower than budgeted casino income\* (8,102)
- Lower than anticipated conference income (4,347)
- Higher than anticipated library income 825
- Lower than anticipated research income(911)
- Higher than anticipated interest\*\* 482

**Expense** **\$167,939**

Variations made up in part due to:

- Lower than anticipated Relatively Speaking costs (5,150)
- Higher than anticipated Conference costs 659
- Lower than anticipated board travel and accommodation (1,344)
- Lower than anticipated administration costs (6,398)

**Excess of revenue over expenses** **\$834**

\*When it became evident that we didn't need to pay this year's insurance costs from casino income, we brought less casino funding into the

income stream. That will leave us more casino funding available for next year.

\*\*We have started to buy \$7,000 GICs each month for a one-year term. That means that at any time, we will be less than 30 days from a GIC coming due for renewal should we need to access the funds. GICs give us a higher interest income than the savings account did.

### ***Bookkeeping***

This year was the fifth 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, including completing the charity status reports for Revenue Canada, which used to be done by the auditors at much greater expense.

### ***Gaming***

AGS members worked a casino on 11-12 April 2019 at Century Casino in Edmonton. The proceeds from that casino were \$74,290.87 and will help fund our rent and insurance for the next two years. 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) **\$33,300** (\$36,170 in 2019) and the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) **\$17,396.25** (\$18,075.62 in 2019). The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to

expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration. The AGS metrics and annual report were presented to the AHRF Board of Directors on 6 September 2019. Funding received from EHC helps provide both staffing and operational support. The application process occurs in the fall each year. When the provincial government's fall budget came down 24 October 2019, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation was dissolved. Our sincere thanks to the AHRF who has been a major contributor to Alberta Genealogical Society for 26 years, 1994-2019. We now fall under the jurisdiction of Historic Resources Management, Government of Alberta.

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS provincial (\$3,480.00) and its branches (\$3,613.96) received \$7,093.96 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 2019, AGS consolidated raised a total of \$5,539.78 by answering research queries, as follows:

Provincial Office	\$3,188.96
Drayton Valley	10.00
Edmonton	1,740.32
Grande Prairie	185.25
Lethbridge	410.25
Medicine Hat	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$5,539.78</u>

As noted above, AGS provincial raised \$3,188.96 by answering 250 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. Please see Norma Wolowyk's Research report for more information.

***Lease***

Our two-year lease with Nearctic ended in November. We signed a new two-year lease for the period 2019-2021 at a reasonable rate.

***Finance Committee***

My thanks to the Finance Committee: Sheila Genaille (Edmonton Branch President), 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. Thanks to Kurt Patterson joined us this year in his role as Conference Treasurer. This would be a hard job to do without their wisdom and experience.

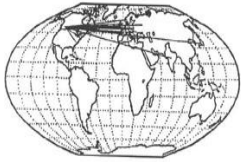
## VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2019

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten Branches of the AGS realized a total of **34,132** volunteer hours that were reported for 2019

*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



2019 Membership                    19  
2019 Volunteer Hours        1,228

**January:** Bob Franz presented an exercise for the executive and branch members to participate in by answering the four questions listed below. The exercise was designed to take a look at what we have done as a society (our successes), what we are currently doing that we want to keep doing (because we are enjoying it), what we want to stop doing (because it is not working/is hindering us), and what we want to do in the future (so we can live long and prosper). We were asked to consider each of the following:

1. What issues (concerns, problems, or difficulties) are we presently facing?
2. What is the source (cause or reason) for each of the above issues?
3. What are alternative solutions to resolving each issue (how can we nullify the cause or solve the problem)?
4. Selection of a course of action and development of an action plan. (WHAT is WHO going to do? WHEN and HOW will we know we are there?)

Bob Franz agreed to tabulate the results for the March meeting.

At our general meeting, a video titled *Introduction to Genealogy* was presented with 11 people in attendance followed by a question and answer session.

**February:** The AGM was cancelled due to poor weather and was held in March. At our general meeting, Lisa Patton, Head Librarian at Brooks Public Library, gave a presentation on the genealogical resources available on their shelves as well as resources available on the library computers including Ancestry and Canadiana.

**March:** The AGM was held in March and the executive positions of: Vice-President – Eileen French, Treasurer – Karyn Norden and Secretary – Henry Najda were acclaimed and the position of President was accepted by Maurice Landry. Leona Ferguson gave a presentation on searching her Norwegian roots on a trip with her brother and sisters to Norway. It was discovered after the presentation that one of the people in attendance was a lost relative of the family.

Jamie Nesbitt of the *Brooks Bulletin* set up a database on the branch computer so we have digital access to the *Brooks Bulletin* from 2006 onwards. Bob presented the summary of the exercise on what the future direction of the branch should be and the executive will assess and proceed with an action plan.

**April:** Tony Rommens gave a presentation on his book *A Life Fulfilled* which is about his experiences during WWII in the Netherlands and his journey to Canada. Over 35 people attended this talk. Seven members attended the AGS Conference in Edmonton.

**May:** Mary Burkholder gave a detailed and interesting presentation on the use of Resource Mate to help branch members catalogue and retrieve information from our branch holdings. The general meeting was a discussion of two

videos: *Genealogy Online – Gems & Junk*, and *The Library – Shelves Full of Family History*. The Brooks and District Museum had a grand opening for the interactive display of the street names of Brooks which first appeared as a series of articles in the *Brooks Bulletin*.

**June:** There were no activities this month as members had other commitments so the annual field trip was cancelled this year.

**July:** Maurice Landry and Henry Najda were on hand at the Brooks and District Museum Canada Day celebrations to showcase genealogical books for children interested in discovering their ancestry.

**August:** No activities this month other than some administrative volunteer time.

**September:** The Branch's traditional September meeting has been a sharing of personal research or other events members have engaged in. Members continued to improve the library by labelling shelves and inserting magnetic tape into research books so the material can be accessed by the general public.

**October:** Jonathan Koch spoke on the Taylor Cemetery located on the Ketchmark Ranch near Bow City. A video on ghost towns was also shown. Bob Franz presented research on the 4 X 4 grid used for the locations of early school districts. Each school would be located 4 miles from any other school. There were over 30 schools in the County of Newell. The 2009-2018 *Index on Obituaries* has been printed.

**November:** Gordon Krinke gave an excellent presentation on seven people from Brooks who volunteered to fight during World War I. The information he presented was gathered from a visit to Europe to find the grave sites, if known, of these brave men. Their stories and others will now be included in a series of articles in the *Brooks Bulletin* over the next year. Bob Franz spoke to over 100 people at the Newbrook Senior's Lodge about the branch activities and benefits of membership.

**December:** Once again members of the Brooks and District Branch gathered with their spouses at a local eatery for their annual evening of good cheer and fellowship.

Throughout 2019, the Website committee has continued compiling and consolidating information that the committee has collected, spending many hours in the library sorting through our files and updating our website. Members also spent many hours sorting through our library books and hanging pictures to make the space more inviting and comfortable

Maurice Landry, President



2019 memberships	26
2019 volunteer hours	1,200+

**Some of our meeting topics:**

- “Let’s catch up on the genealogy research or trips we made over the summer!”
- “Military Searches”
- “Show & Tell: Heirlooms and Photos along with Stories”
- “Writing your Family History”

Those attending meetings, members and guests, have the opportunity to contribute to our theme (or bring up other topics).

**Ongoing member project:**

“Charlotte Curtis of Heisler is a woman on a mission; she has been dedicated to collecting every obituary, birth, wedding and anniversary announcement for the past six years from papers across the region.” Until recently, the hours that Charlotte puts into her project were not counted in our Branch volunteer hours.

### **Other Branch Activities:**

We participated once again in the annual Community Registration Night in September. About 900 members of the public attended plus about 100 displayers.

The Annual Gathering of the Clans Festival, held in Sedgewick, was attended by CGS President Deb Trout, her daughter and granddaughter. Also helping with the booth was member Larry Gregorwich, who assisted Deb in enlisting 2 new members.

Members of the Branch participated with a display at the annual Célébration de la Francophonie at the Augustana Campus and we are invited to do so again. It is so enjoyable to see a variety of cultural activities.

Several members attended the AGS Conference in Edmonton, learning a great deal and meeting new people.

### **Annual Workshops!**

Our Branch hosted 2 guest speakers in 2019. Lianne Kruger visited for a Saturday workshop with 2 compelling topics: “Using Family Search” and “Using Google Maps in Genealogical Research”. Attendance: 28.

Marion Rex visited one of our regular meetings with a masterful presentation about the use of the Canadian Census in research. She provided an extremely useful handout and her presentation included artifacts and intriguing story. Attendance: 10 in person

### **Special Interest Groups**

The Camrose Branch struggled with our 2 Special Interest Groups, “Writing Family History” and “Organizing your Genealogy”. The room at our library wasn’t ideal so we took a break and have reconvened the SIGs using the Centennial Museum.

### **Summer Social**

Our annual summer social was cancelled in 2019 due to weather. We will try again in 2020 to visit the Vang Cemetery for an afternoon of storytelling, community history and potluck

snacks. A gentleman named Ole Bakken is buried in this cemetery. It is on his homestead that much of Camrose is situated.

### **Executive**

The Branch continues with the same people in the executive positions for 2019. Additionally, we are very happy that we have filled a long-time vacant membership position with Wendy Roth. We anticipate growth.

Our meetings and workshops begin with a Statement of Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory on which we meet.

Janine Carroll, Camrose Branch Representative to AGS

## **Drayton Valley Branch**



Memberships: 9 memberships,  
11 members  
Volunteer Hours: 324

Drayton Valley Branch continued to assist members with research and promote genealogy in our community in 2019.

### **Meetings, Speakers and Presentations**

**January:** For our January meeting, we had a round table discussion, sharing where we are in research. We also offered research assistance with Ancestry.com Library edition.

**February:** Our Annual General Meeting in February did not result in any changes to our Executive. As requested by members, we offered research assistance with Ancestry.com.

**March:** We again offered research assistance with Ancestry and other resources in the Library.

**April:** Members wanted more time with Ancestry.com Library Edition.

**May:** We asked members to bring any questions that others may be able to assist with and offered research assistance and brainstorming with possible solutions.

**June:** We did not have a meeting as many members were away. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Connie Stuhl presented as part of the Speaker Series at the Drayton Valley Museum on Drayton Valley's first murder which occurred in May 1922. There was also a short presentation on her family tree and how she broke through a brick wall. As well, she shared how her family is connected with every building at the Museum site.

**September:** We had a webinar on *Verifying Information You Find Online*. This was well received with great feedback and suggestions of possible topics for future webinars.

**October:** We checked some of our books in the Library about vital records available and where to look for them.

**November:** We traveled to the Family History Centre to conduct research there.

**December:** We do not hold a meeting in December as it is too 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.

### Outreach

We continue to reach out to assist those researching their family tree. Sometimes this happens at one of our meetings or by meeting one on one as time permits.

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.

We have a good working relationship with our local Museum. They forward any queries they receive to us for investigation.

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

Connie Stuhl, President



2019 Memberships	389
2019 Volunteer Hours	9,095

The past year has been a busy one, and without the volunteers who work tirelessly every month, we would not be so successful. On behalf of the Edmonton Board of Directors, we thank those members.

As the Branch was not successful in filling some positions, the President took on additional duties including editor of *Clandigger*, co-ordinating *Tracing Your Family Tree* and responding to *Outreach* requests.

Edmonton Branch is interested in becoming an affiliate of the Family Research Library. The provincial body of AGS have referred the relevant agreement to their legal advisor for review and Edmonton Branch is awaiting a decision. Since the Bonnie Doon Family History Centre has closed, this would allow Edmonton Branch to provide access on the branch computers to databases and resources that normally are available only at Family History Centres.

**Inventory:** Inventory of Edmonton Branch holdings was done by members and a digital copy was generated. A special thank you to our Treasurer, Ken Fearnley; Research Committee members Norma Wolowyk, Claudine Nelson,

and John Hazelwood; and the AGS Office Coordinator, Linda Winski.

**Open Doors:** For more than twenty years, the Edmonton and District Historical Society has proudly presented the annual *Historic Festival & Doors Open Edmonton*. During the festival, they partner with community arts and heritage organizations. Edmonton Branch again participated and held an Open House the first week of July with free access to all. Members and visitors alike were assisted and learned of our library holdings and resources. Webinars for Beginners were offered between 10:00 a.m. and noon daily.

**Alberta Name Index (ANI):** A simple unified search of Alberta residents named in various sources. The Alberta Name Index (ANI), an Edmonton Branch AGS project, was launched 1 September 2019 on the Edmonton Branch website. The development of the project for online searching was completed by OTHERMACHINES under the supervision of Dwayne Holmberg with assistance from Norma Wolowyk and the Board of Directors. The Edmonton Branch webmaster completed all of the tasks necessary on the website to make the launch go smoothly. At launch date, there were 487,106 records in the index. More records will be added as they become available.

**Vice-President Activities:**

The role of the Vice-President is to provide support to the branch President as required. The Vice-President was involved in functions where there was no incumbent in the specific position. Some of the extra duties included: recruiting and arranging for speakers for the monthly general meetings; chairing the Nominations Committee and actively recruiting members for vacant positions; assisting in *Tracing Your Family Tree (TYFT)* and presenting one of the workshop sessions on 9 November 2019. Plans for the 2020 TYFT series of workshops was also begun.

**Special Interest Groups (SIGs):** Edmonton Branch has 11 SIGs that meet on a regular basis

to provide information and support to members doing research in specific areas.

**Library:** There is a Library Committee of four members: Leanne Templeton, Kate Binder, Arlene Borgstede and Heather Harper. They oversee the function of the library which is 'staffed' by Edmonton Branch volunteers. The library holdings include resources from many countries, local and family histories, maps and periodicals. There are computers available with subscriptions to Ancestry.ca, Genealogy Québec, and Find My Past. The Committee meets on a regular basis, purchases books and catalogues each purchase.

**Programs:** Our Vice-President coordinated programs for our monthly general meetings. There were programs in February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November. In December, an appreciation luncheon was held for all volunteers and a certificate of recognition was given to Ellen Glinka for her 40 years of exemplary volunteer services.

**Tracing Your Family Tree and Outreach:** In 2019, the Branch received a few requests for speakers to present at retirement homes. *Tracing Your Family Tree Course* – The President, in conjunction with the Vice-President and the instructors, set up the courses for the 2019/2020 with seven workshops in the series.

**Research Services:** The Research Services Committee meets each Friday at the AGS/Edmonton Branch Library. Members in 2019 included Gordon Berdahl, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, and Norma Wolowyk. Shannon Cherkowski gave incredible support to the team during 2019 by searching her numerous genealogical indexes when requested.

187 queries (159 in 2018) were processed by Edmonton Branch during 2019. As AGS processed 250 (276 in 2018), the total number of



queries handled by the Committee was 437 during the year.

**Clandigger:** In the absence of an editor for our newsletter, I became guest editor and produced 5 issues: February, May, September, November (Remembrance) and a special Christmas issue.

**Publicity:** Each month, Sharon Dyer, our publicity chairperson, sent about 50 monthly meeting and course notices to various public libraries, seniors' centers, archives and other organizations including the Edmonton Journal and the City of Edmonton. As the Edmonton Branch Facebook Page editor, she posted 1-3 items almost every day throughout the year. The postings also included the meeting notices sent every two months for the Special Interest Groups that focus on specific areas of genealogical interest. She also started posting on the Historic Edmonton and Northern Alberta Facebook pages as well.

**Correspondence:** Our correspondence secretary, Bev Wardell, prepared and mailed 31 cards in 2019: 3 Sympathy Cards; 9 Get Well / Thinking of You cards; 19 Thank You cards (5 to Edmonton Executive members at the conclusion of their Executive terms, 1 to the Elections Chair; 8 cards to Speakers/ Presenters at Branch General Meetings; 3 to TYFT Speakers; 1 to member for long-term service to Branch; and 1 Appreciation/Christmas Greeting Card to Linda Winski for her support to the Edmonton Branch throughout 2019).

**Website:**

- Our Annual Maintenance plan with 4WEB was renewed. It provides: Domain, Hosting, Databases, Monthly maintenance, and Webmaster Training. The following tasks are included in the plan: website support; up to 4 hours per month of changes/updates to current website pages and content; regularly scheduled phone consultations; updates to the software (WordPress) running our site; site backups; and training videos and manuals.

- A new webpage was designed to host our new research tool called Alberta Name Index "ANI" and we implemented the new functionality, developed by Dwayne Holmberg of OTHERMACHINES.
- User traffic to our website was improved with link-worthy site improvements since the old domain [agsedm.edmonton.ca] was released.
- Traffic to our website has increased by implementing a Contact Us webpage to capture visitor's email addresses, with their permission; have received several inquiries through our website.
- Throughout the year, five Edmonton Branch membership distribution lists were provided to the webmaster with an average of 364 members per list; issues of members missing from the lists were resolved.
- The Edmonton Branch brochure was revised to announce the new ANI website functionality, and redesigned *Tracing Your Family Tree* 2019 event posters and registration forms were developed.
- In 2019, we issued approximately 130 email campaigns (summary of branch mail out statistics following); the Clandigger Newsletter consistently tops the readership chart with an average 70.987% unique opens, while the DNA SIG, TYFT Workshops and General Meeting notices run closely behind at about 60.0%. Twelve members chose to Unsubscribe from the mailing lists.
- ANI, completed all of the tasks necessary on the website to make the launch go smoothly. At launch date there were 487,106 records in the index.

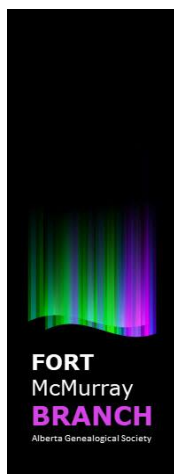
Sheila Genaille, President

## Fort McMurray Branch

2019 Membership 15  
(9 in town, 6 out of town)  
2019 Volunteer Hours 606

### *2019 Executive:*

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



Well, we have survived another year. In this time of volunteer burnout, and declining incomes, for all non-profits, not just our own, it is a good thing to have survived. Our membership number did drop down two from last year, so our goal is to try to regain two memberships to bring the number up again. More than two memberships would be fantastic, but we like to set our bar low so we can feel extra special when we surpass it! Our volunteer hours have remained very consistent which makes sense as it is the same people doing the same work year after year.

**January:** We had an information request come from our website. We were able to fulfill this request quite quickly as it was a Cemetery lookup and we have all the older records for our cemeteries in house.

**February:** We had our AGM in February. All people stayed in the same positions as the previous year. Even with a few extra new members, it seems we cannot get anyone who would like to participate and be on our executive. We also had a large donation of local history books from one of our members (Cathy Marriott and husband Tom Sutherland). As there were some duplicate books, we passed the extras onto other branches. Finally, since we made a \$1,000.00 donation to the AGS conference, we were given two passes for attendance to the conference. We sent out an

email to all our members (in and out of town members) and asked if they were planning to attend the conference. Everyone who responded with a 'yes' were then entered into the draw and we picked two names. One member was from out of town, and the other was an in-town member. Both members enjoyed the conference immensely. Boy, February was a busy month!

**March:** Our member, Pat Marlowe, gave a presentation on how to transcribe old documents. She had a lot of tips and great ideas on how to make the process go a bit smoother. We had another request for help come through our webpage, but we were unable to help with that one.

**April & May:** April and May were quiet months. We kept the library open two days a week and helped both members and non-members with their research.

**June:** We had two requests come in from the website. We were able to offer a bit of information to one request, and not able to help on the other, which was a shame as it came from a Legion that had some medals they were looking to match up to a family. The last they had heard the family was in Fort McMurray, but after putting out calls on various Facebook pages, and looking in old phonebooks, we could not find any relatives of that family.

**Summer:** We were closed for July and August

**September:** We got back into business in September. We were approached by the Wood Buffalo Regional Library and asked to do a program on Ancestry for their Seniors Leading Seniors program. Our public library offers Ancestry's services on the computers located in the library only, so Lavern and I came up with a session that started with just one document, a record from a funeral home, and by the end of the session, using only Ancestry, we were able to fill out a family group sheet and extend the pedigree by one generation. It was well-received and we had two people sign up for a membership to our library as a result. As these people did not actually sign up until October, as

per AGS policy, they will not show up until the 2020 membership lists go out. So there..., we have already reached our goal of getting two new memberships for the New Year of 2020!

**October:** We had our Casino (20<sup>th</sup>& 21<sup>st</sup>). As we were starting to gather up volunteers, we were approached by the Fort McMurray Ski Patrol with an offer to supply some volunteers in return for a donation. We agreed on a number of volunteers and we made a donation to their Society from our General Account. Our next casino is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, and at the time of writing this report, we still have not received the funds from our October casino which are expected in mid-February 2020.

**November:** November was quiet with just keeping our regular Library hours.

**December:** We finished off our year, as always, with a Christmas supper celebration. It is always a nice time to sit back, share stories and have a relaxing evening with friends both old and new.

Tammy Grantham, President

## Grande Prairie & District Branch

Membership	44
Volunteer hours	3,321



### 2019 Branch Executive

President	Ed Hall
Vice President	Fern Dyck
Treasurer	Jean Gray
Secretary	Maxine Maxwell
Past President	Al Bromling

### Monthly Programs:

**January:** We discussed the declining membership and ways we could involve members by providing meaningful activities. We decided to try an evening whereby members and the public interested in the same research

area could meet to talk about their successes and roadblocks.

**February:** We held our AGM and elected the same executive. We didn't have a program but rather a bit of a social get together.

**March:** Following the regular business meeting, Jean Gray led a discussion on Show and Tell. Members brought an object of significance to their ancestors and talked about it.

**April:** Following the regular business meeting, Josephine Sallis from the Archives gave a presentation on keeping records safe from fire, water and natural disasters.

**May:** Following the regular business meeting, Al Bromling and Ed Hall presented a verbal report on the session they attended at the Provincial Conference held in April.

**June:** Normally for our June meeting we have some outing to a place in our area that has some genealogical significance. This year, Josephine Sallis from the Archives hosted a visit to the local cemetery where graves of some of the significant pioneers and significant persons in the history of Grande Prairie were visited. Josephine gave a history of the contributions of the people whose graves were visited.

**July:** No meeting in July

**August:** No meeting in August

**September:** After our regular business meeting, Josephine Sallis from the Archives gave a presentation on organizing genealogical records.

**October:** Following our regular business meeting, Ed Hall presented a fun genealogical quiz to members.

**November:** Following the regular business meeting, Wanda Zenner from Bezanson gave a very interesting presentation on the Veterans Wall in the Bezanson Legion. She also presented her research on soldiers from Bezanson who served in WW1. She focused

particularly on one soldier and explained how she discovered so much information about him.

**December:** No meeting in December.

#### **ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS:**

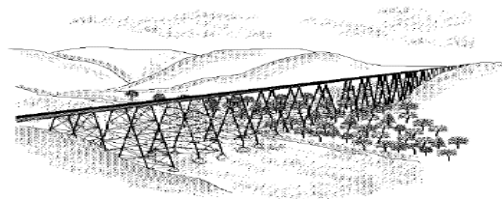
- **Publicity:** Meetings and activities are published in local newspapers and sent to libraries within our area by Maxine Maxwell. Gwen Richards informs members of meetings and programming by email.
- **Heritage Seekers:** Al Bromling took the lead in producing two excellent editions of this newsletter.
- **Library and Research Centre:** Thanks to Gail Schau, we continue to have an excellent working relationship with the local Library.
- **Cemeteries/Newspaper Obituaries:** We continue to collect obituaries from the whole region. Jean ensures this information is forwarded to Lyn Meehan for database updates.
- **Genie Services:** We have members available on 2 Wednesdays per month to help people seeking assistance with their genealogical research.
- **Research:** Joan Bowman responds to requests for information and either answers the questions or passes them on to person best qualified to respond.
- **Outreach:** The branch manned tables at the teacher's convention and retired teachers/retiree's convention. We also attended the Grande Prairie Heritage Fair and presented a prize to students for the best project with a genealogical focus. Members went to De Bolt and Valhalla to help people with their research.
- **SIG:** We continued to attempt to provide SIG opportunities during the year. We were not as successful as we would have wished, but did manage a couple.
- **Casino:** We had a very successful casino in May of this year. Our next scheduled casino is in 3 years' time.
- **Workshop:** We held a very successful workshop for members and the public in general in October. The workshop was

entitled "Family Connections" and was free for members and the public.

- **Book/Document Scanner:** We purchased a scanner for members and public to use. When operational, the scanner will be in the library for all to use.
- **Memberships to "Newspapers.com" and My Heritage.com.** We have purchased memberships to these two sites for use by our members.
- **Bootcamp:** We have purchased the DNA webinars for our members use.
- **South Peace Regional Archives Society:** We donated a new archives worthy book and document scanner to the Archives.

Ed Hall, President

## **Lethbridge & District Branch**



Membership: 45 memberships/58 members  
Volunteer Hours: 3428, up from 3042 in 2018

#### ***Executive Committee:***

February 2019 to February 2020  
President: Marilyn Astle  
Vice President: Barry Simmonds  
Secretary: Julie Miller  
Treasurer: Pat Barry  
Past President: John Squarek

#### ***Monthly Programs:***

**January:** Member Belinda Crowson spoke on life in Hardieville, a former hamlet now part of Lethbridge.

**February:** At our AGM, the above listed executive was elected. Members socialized in lieu of a speaker.

**March:** Presentation was the documentary film *We are the Roots: Black Settlers and Their Experiences of Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies*.

**April:** David Tyler from the Raymond Family History Center spoke about Alberta research records. Several members attended the AGS conference and AGM in Edmonton.

**May:** Win Evans was presented with a 25-year AGS membership certificate. A Facebook group for our branch was approved. Stephanie Hamilton spoke on Lethbridge Brewing and the Lethbridge Sick Family.

**June:** Our June meeting was to be a field trip to historic Fort MacLeod. Due to weather conditions, it was rescheduled to September.

**July and August:** Meetings were not held and the resource centre was closed for the summer.

**September:** Guest speakers Francis and Cybele Noronha spoke about their family history and their immigration to Canada from Kenya. Our Fort MacLeod field trip, rescheduled from June, went ahead.

**October:** We collaborated with a school in Nobleford on a 3-day genealogy project with several of our members travelling out each day to assist students in their research. AGS president Jock Howard was guest speaker for our annual International Dinner. Two work bees were held to tidy and reorganize our resource centre and member Len Ross built and installed an additional set of shelves in the centre.

**November:** At our general meeting, the branch affirmed our commitment to participate in a casino on May 18 and 19, 2020. Glenn Miller from the Royal Canadian Legion spoke on military records.

**December:** The branch does not hold a general meeting in December. The weekly Legacy group had its last 2019 meeting December 9. The resource centre closed December 13 for the holiday season.

Branch members continue to collect and preserve family and genealogical information. Obituaries and funeral cards are being collected

and digitized. Research volunteers continue to respond to information requests.

We continue our Monday afternoon Legacy Family Tree sessions where we focus on using the Legacy program, member's DNA test results and other genealogical topics. Membership in the Facebook group Lethbridge Genealogy has risen to 50 and most days see several postings.

Marilyn Astle, President

## Medicine Hat & District Branch

Web: <http://mhdgs.ca/>

Email: [mhgs@telus.net](mailto:mhgs@telus.net)



2019 Membership	73
2019 Volunteer Hours	4,358

We had a busy and successful 2019 year. Our society is lucky to have a group of long-term members that bring stability and knowledge and new members that bring new ideas to revitalize our society. Long-term members may have completely different concerns and interests than the next generation who are just getting started or have only been at it for a few years, but with everyone working together we can meet everyone's needs. The success of our Society depends on our members and I have great faith our Society will continue to evolve because of our diverse membership of both experience and those just beginning.

### 2019 Branch Executive

President:	Doreen Schank
Vice President:	Dwight Brown
Secretary:	Leanne Balfour
Treasurer:	Deb Wickham
Past President:	Melvin Bender

### Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month, with the format being the business

meeting followed by a genealogical program. Our AGM is the first Wednesday in February (weather permitting). No Meetings in July & August.

### ***Certificates Received***

10 year certificates to Leanne Balfour, Clark & Heather Lang, Lorine Marshall, and Gordon & Linda Willis

25 year certificate to Merv & Barb Hamblin

30 year certificate to Jean Schattle

40 year certificate to Marge Ensminger and Grace Roth

### ***Computer***

The mother board on the laptop being used with the Fujitsu Image Scanner for the Phone Book Project had to be replaced. However, instead of replacing it, we purchased a new laptop.

Our Windows XP laptop is now only used with our slide viewer, which is still being used by members. The Resource Mate program for the library was updated.

Through Marion Rex's liaison with Computers for Schools program, we requested one desktop computer, two laptops and two monitors which won't be available until 2020.

### ***Library***

Our Library is open on Wednesday afternoons for the public to ask questions, seek help and view our resources. We have three members available on Wednesday. Members are able to access our library Tuesday to Thursday. There are two computers as well as a photocopier, laserjet printer and slide viewer in the library for member's use.

Our Librarian is busy digitizing Newsletters that are available on our main library computer for viewing once digitized. This will free up shelf space needed for books. We have more shelving in storage but no space in the library to set them up.

The library added 284 books this year through donations. The largest donation was 119 area family histories from the estate of a local

genealogist. There are now 1,818 books/resources in our library inventory. We purchased memberships in the following societies; American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (Calgary Branch), Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, various branches of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Nova Scotia Genealogical Association.

### ***Fundraiser***

We have a 50/50 draw at each of our meetings. It generated \$162.00 profit for the year. Christmas Cheer Raffle Basket generated a profit of \$1500.00. Proceeds from the fundraiser raffle were designated for a new laptop and Quicken Desktop Pro 2020 for the treasurer to use.

### ***Grants***

Two grants were applied for in 2019. The first grant application was to the Medicine Hat Realtors Charitable Foundation. Due to the large volume of requests submitted, we were not successful. The second grant, Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP), was a lengthy and time-consuming application. We will not know the outcome of this grant until the spring of 2020.

### ***Membership/Publicity***

Membership increased by 9 new members: 13 of our members are from out of town, 12 from various places in Alberta and 1 from Texas. Executive reports prior to monthly meetings are sent to members. A number of articles & pictures have been sent to the Medicine Hat News and were published. Members continue to receive genealogy related articles and the MHDGS newsletter *Saamis Seeker*.

### ***Projects***

*Canadian Soldiers from Alberta*: A member of the MHDGS took part in a project to track down living family members of Canadian Soldiers from Alberta who were buried in the Canadian War Cemetery in Netherlands.

*Cemetery Database*: Local and area cemeteries are being photographed and we hope to link to the cemetery database.

*Obituary Database:* This consists of an index to obituaries published by Medicine Hat news, which has turned into a scanning project of obits, filed by year, month, and date of publication. We will also begin scanning the obituary card files that were collected from the time our branch began.

*Scrapbooks:* We finished digitizing the 38 scrapbooks (collection of genealogical interest) collected by a branch member over the last 40 years. The digitized copies will be available on our branch library.

*TELUS/AGT Phone books:* This project was and still is an extremely large undertaking and requires an enormous number of volunteer and paid employee hours. Most of the white pages and half the yellow pages have been scanned and are online. Phase 5 will continue with the scanning of the yellow pages which we hope to have completed in two years.

*Yearbooks:* School yearbooks are an overlooked source for information. They provide valuable information, tracking ancestors as students and teachers/support staff who attended or worked in the school. Our mandate for this project is to obtain yearbooks from Medicine Hat and District area and once this project is completed, they will be available on our branch library computer. To date, we have digitized approximately 100 yearbooks, most been lent to us from the community and a few have been donated to our library. We have Junior & Senior High Schools both public and separate, College and the Medicine Hat General Hospital School of Nursing Yearbooks. This information helps place people in historical context as well as provides details that helps turn individuals, sometimes only known by names and dates, into actual people. We will continue to solicit yearbooks to add to our collection.

### ***Programs***

“St. Theresa’s Academy-Historical Monument” presentation by Tony Giesinger  
“The Ukrainian Holodomor” presentation by Lloyd Robinson  
“German from Russia Ancestry” presentation by Clark Lang

“Brick Walls and Success” sharing among members

“Genealogy Finds Over the Summer” sharing among members

“Steps to Becoming a Good Ancestor” Webinar

“Christmas Memories” sharing among members

### ***Queries***

Money earned from Queries is down from last year, we had only one obituary look up. More queries have been coming through *Facebook* and are answered by various people at no cost.

### ***Research Trip***

A research trip is planned to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for May 24-31, 2020 in conjunction with Saskatchewan Genealogical Society.

### ***Newsletter***

Three issues of *Saamis Seeker* were produced this year and many of our members contributed feature articles. Submissions are welcome at any time from any AGS branch. These will be kept by our editor for future issues.

### ***Seminars and Community Events Attended***

*Canada Day:* Information table set up at the city celebrations.

*National Seniors Week:* Information table set up at Seniors Veiner Center Community Resource Fair June 3rd.

*Seniors Week:* A presentation “Tracing your Ancestors” in conjunction with the Medicine Hat Esplanade Archives June 4<sup>th</sup> at Seniors Veiner Center.

*Medicine Hat Public Library:* Presentation of a Beginners Genealogy Class was held in May.

*Remembrance Day:* Donation to Medicine Hat Branch Canadian Legion and a wreath was laid at the Riverside Veterans Memorial Park at Remembrance Day events.

*MHDGS Seminar:* Beyond the Basics seminar was held for the public at our MHDGS library in November.

*VS Mulder & Victim Assistance Garage Sale:* lent our tables for them to use at garage sale.

**Social Media Accounts:** At the present we have 182 members in our *Facebook* group and 125 followers on Twitter. We provide a platform for members to keep up to date on upcoming events, genealogical resources and stories.

**Special Interest Groups (SIG)**

Computer: Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month to assist members with computer challenges.

Germans from Russia: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month to help Germans from Russia researchers. Besides helping research family lines for people, the German/Russia library binders/files are been updated. We have an extensive selection of German from Russia resources. Indexing of Koblenz – Deutsches Rusland Institute files which is relevant to Bessarabian researchers is ongoing.

Genealogy Family Tree: This group meets twice a month to give members a chance to work on their own genealogy. Members are able to work with other genealogists in a small group setting to work on their personal family tree, receive assistance with researching, using programs in the library and are able to seek assistance with their genealogy computer software.

**Website**

Since we switched to the new website and website location, we have had 13,813 visitors. Webmaster is busy updating and reprogramming the website to make it more efficient. The 3 highest times for visitors were October, April and November. The lowest time for visitors was September, and October saw the highest number of new users.

Doreen Schank, President

**Red Deer & District Branch**



2019 Membership 42  
2019 Volunteer Hours 1,689.5

**Executive for 2019**

President	Janice Duffy
Vice President	Lianne Kruger
Secretary	Judith Machtans
Treasurer	Ray Cyr
Membership/Queries	Judith Machtans
Library	Joanne Allen
Publicity	Joan Schmelke
Newsletter	vacant

**Program Committee**

Diane Lehr, Mary Joan Cornett, Lianne Kruger

Red Deer Branch faced challenges in 2019. The President’s position remained unfilled carrying over for several months from the previous year until May. The Newsletter committee continues to be non-functional.

**Concerns:** Our membership has several members from as far away as Calgary and Edmonton as well as out of province. Many of our members “go South” for the winter and attend few meetings. We have a high percentage of older members who are not inclined to volunteer for committee work. Most of our Executive have served for several years and have indicated that they do not wish to continue after the next year. For these reasons, the Red Deer Branch is in a situation of challenge to say the least unless we can convince the membership to step forward.

We did manage to avert initial concerns that we might have to dissolve the Library and, with volunteers and our retiring Librarian, revamped it. The personal library of our long-term member Betty Barnhill, who passed away, was dispersed through sale to members and some donations. The monies collected will be donated to the Red Deer Hospice in memory of Betty. Discussions took place about what we might accomplish with the resource of Children’s Library books. No definite plans were decided, so they were initially loaned to the Innisfail Schools and we will continue to seek ideas in the next year.



We “went green” this year, requesting members to bring agendas and minutes to meetings on their tablets or to print their own.

We developed a questionnaire/survey for all members and plan to develop a class for new members requiring assistance.

Seven members attended and enjoyed the AGS Spring Conference and were proud to have our own Lianne Kruger as Chairperson.

### ***Educational Sessions***

The following topics were presented following our monthly meetings:

*Webinar – Intro to DNA* – Blaine Bettinger PhD

*Google Maps* – Lianne Kruger

*Webinar – Y DNA* – Blaine Bettinger PhD

*DNA Options of Different Companies* – Deanna Bullock

*History, Houses & Holy Harassment* (Impact of events and religious turmoil on forbears) – Janice Duffy

*Top 10 Genealogy Websites* – Lianne Kruger

*Founding Mothers of New France* – Ray Cyr

*Irish Genealogy* – Mary Joan Cornett

Janice Duffy, President

## **Wetaskiwin Branch**



**WETASKIWIN  
BRANCH**  
Alberta Genealogical Society

2019 Membership: 28 members, representing 31 people

2019 Total Volunteer Hours: 2,849.75

### ***2019 Executive:***

President – Alice Hoyle

Vice-President – Position Vacant

Secretary – Lorraine McKay

Treasurer – Lee Koop

### ***Projects:***

**New Logo** – After being contacted by the City of Wetaskiwin advising that we were no longer able to display the “Water Tower” logo on our website, Lyn Meehan created a new logo for our branch. This reflects the early designation of Wetaskiwin as “Siding 16” when the CPR rail line was built north from Calgary to Edmonton.

**Archives Preservation** – We were advised that the City Archives is now under the Wetaskiwin Public Library umbrella within the City network. We are hopeful that this is a positive step.

### ***Community Outreach:***

In February, Claudia and Alice gave a presentation at Seasons Retirement Facility in Wetaskiwin. The topic was “Beginner’s Genealogy” – how to record your data, the importance of recording your personal and family history stories. Several residents were in attendance and were keen to record their ‘stories’ for their descendants.

Wetaskiwin branch gave 2 presentations at the Wetaskiwin Public Library in March of 2019. Wetaskiwin Public Library gained access to Ancestry, Library edition, thanks to the Yellowhead Regional Library. As our library hadn’t previously offered Ancestry.com to its patrons, we felt that we could put on a course, outlining how to use the website. Claudia Malloch and Alice Hoyle gave the presentations, which were well received.

In March, Claudia and Alice also made a presentation at the Ma-Me-O Beach Public Library. The topic was “Beginning Your Genealogy” – we had a very receptive audience, eager to begin or continue with recording and researching their family history.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Patty Caputo, our Genealogy for Youth Coordinator, spearheaded a program at the Wetaskiwin Public Library called “Genealogy Escape Room – Ice Cream and Cookies with Nana Vera” – participants used clues hidden in the Program Room at the library

to figure out the family history of a fictitious character. Patty was pleased that the event attracted 12 young people between the ages of 12 and 18. Ice Cream and Cookies were served at the end of the event.

Outreach Initiative to Royal Canadian Legion, Wetaskiwin Branch – our branch member, Lee Koop has contacted the Legion President, advising that he would be willing to digitize to MP3 and MP4 format, all the VHS tapes, CD's and DVD's they have in their collection of recorded memories of the area's Veterans. He awaits word back from the Legion on his suggestion. In the interim, he has already converted to MP3 format – 20 audio tapes of Veterans' memories that are stored at the City Archives.

#### ***Monthly Meeting Presentations:***

**January:** “Looking Forward, Reaching Back” – This presentation stressed the importance of reviewing all our past saved data: photos, files, movies, etc. to make sure that we can still access the information stored on the various ‘older’ forms of technology. Suggestions were given on how to convert older data storage systems to updated versions.

**February:** Family History Guide – February's program introduced a wonderful resource called “The Family History Guide” <https://www.thefhguide.com/>. Their web page says it is the world-class family history learning system used by learners in over 150 countries and approved by FamilySearch. Learn what's there for you. That's what many of the members attending this meeting were able to do.

**March:** “Perilous Assumptions” – Revisiting those First Finds: a RootsTech presentation by Kris Rzepczynski – this was a very good presentation. Kris urged us to look back at some of the research we did years ago – sometimes we miss clues in the research we previously did. This was a very useful reminder for all of us.

**April:** “How to Write Your Story in 5 Minutes or Less – an Allison Taylor presentation from

RootsTech. She suggested that you begin by choosing to write about an event that you experienced, perhaps an interaction with someone else. Start at the beginning of the experience and follow it through to the end. Make and edit several drafts, as necessary.

**May** – 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*”: our branch members who attended the AGS Conference spoke on their favourite sessions and what they liked (or didn't like) about the conference.

**June:** “The Genealogy Cloud: Which Online Storage Program is Right for You?” – this presentation outlined the various options for cloud storage; how much they cost, what the storage capacity is for each option.

**September:** “Sharing your Genealogical Discoveries from the Summer” – members of the branch shared their research success stories. Some of the members also utilized the information given at our March presentation by re-examining their earlier research data.

**October:** “The Escape Room” – based on the success of Patty Caputo's presentation at the Wetaskiwin Public Library, she decided to test our skills with the same research clues. Both teams managed to find the clues, but there was a hint given that the youth at the library were a bit quicker than us! We need to sharpen our detective skills, apparently. 😊

**November:** “Preserving and Sharing Family History in Fun and Modern ways” – webinar presentation by Olivia Jewell. Numerous suggestions were given on how to preserve our documents, data, etc. as well as ways in which we can share the information with others.

#### ***Volunteering:***

Our branch members volunteer at the Family History Center located in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Wetaskiwin; some members volunteer at the City Archives. Our branch members volunteer their time doing research for the requests that are sent to us via

the AGS website, phone calls, or emails. At our branch level, we do not use research requests as money making projects.

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

In 2019, our branch members wrote 6 articles for our branch newsletters: as well, in 2019 – 7 articles that appeared in RS were written by Wetaskiwin branch members. That's creativity!

***GenFair 2020:*** In 2019 our branch volunteered to host GenFair 2020. Our committee is busy with planning what we anticipate will be a very interesting and informative GenFair. The date is April 25, 2020 at the Seniors Centre in Wetaskiwin 5216 – 54 Street. Detailed information available on our website. Registration information will be on the website as of January 15, 2020. Lyn Meehan has created an attractive poster than can be printed and displayed.

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

***Bringing the Past to the Present for the Future***

Alice Hoyle, President

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Conference 2019

Lianne Kruger

2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*” was held April 26-28, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 4520 – 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Edmonton AB. The major speakers for this event included:

Lesley Anderson	Lynn Palermo
Ruth Blair	Dylan Reid
Mary Eberle	Tara Shymanski
Johanne Gervais	Sylvia Valentine
Kirsty Gray	Ging Wei Wong
Melanie McComb	

A member/non-member pricing structure was introduced. There were 258 paid participants (vs. 274 in 2017 and 251 in 2015). 74.8% of the attendees who attended were members. Registration was a combination of both online and paper registration with 55.4% (vs. 57% in 2017 and 27% in 2015) so online registration is definitely becoming more popular, though it did have some glitches. 95% of the attendees were from Alberta (245/258) so we are serving Albertans, as well as a wider community.

Total Revenue	\$49,324.40
Total Expense	<u>\$52,320.05</u>
Net Income	\$(2,995.65)

Door prizes, both cash and non-cash exceeded \$10,000. While the conference did not make money, the AGS executive considered the shortfall a good investment in our membership as the conference was the “highlight of the year”.

I felt the conference was a wonderful success overall. This was the third conference I’ve chaired for AGS, and I wouldn’t be able to do it without help. I would like to extend a special thank you to Lyn Meehan who created the conference website

and a terrific syllabus (which was sold in print copy to those who ordered one) and to Kurt Paterson for the work he did with Shirley Keller, the AGS bookkeeper, to organize registration and take care of finances. I would also like to thank all those who helped in any way: the sponsors, speakers, those who introduced speakers, those who worked in the vendor hall, those taking registration, those making table decorations, those who sold 50/50 tickets, and many more. Many hands make light work!

## Gaming

Laura Turnbull

Volunteer Hours: 35.5

AGS members worked a casino event on April 11 & 12, 2019 at Century Casino in Edmonton. Our proceeds from the event totaled \$74,290.87. This was \$1,584.96 lower than the previous casino worked in 2017 so the finance committee did not need to make too many adjustments to the budget.

In past years, we had to staff the casino with two shifts per day. In 2019, we were able to shorten the hours worked per person by going to three shifts per day. In total, 51 volunteers came forward to fill the 46 positions with many offering to work two shifts if required. I reported a total of 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 AGS has been approved for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021 (Apr/May/June) at Century Casino, Edmonton. We will receive actual dates in November of 2020. This event is crucial for our society to raise funds for major operating costs for AGS including rent for our library facility and insurance costs for all branches.

### ***AGS Raffle at Conference:***

Although delayed because of blizzard conditions the first morning, we held a very successful 50/50 raffle as part of the AGS Conference on April 27 & 28, 2019. In total, 1,236 tickets were sold resulting in a net profit for AGS of \$603.95. Thank you to our wonderful ticket sellers for their excellent efforts.

### ***Branch gaming events***

#### **Casino:**

- In 2019, Fort McMurray Branch had a casino on October 20 & 21 and will know the total of proceeds from that in February 2020.
- Grande Prairie Branch had a casino on May 9 & 10, 2019 and received a total of \$35,507.71 in proceeds from that event. Their next casino is slotted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022.
- Brooks and Medicine Hat Branches will share a casino on March 29 & 30, 2020.
- Lethbridge Branch will be working a casino on May 18 & 19, 2020.
- Other branches (except Edmonton) may apply to hold casino events but some need to share with another branch. Each branch must go through the application processes set up by AGLC.

### **Raffle or 50/50**

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

## **Grants / Other Funding Committee**

Marion Rex

Volunteer Hours: 168

### ***Sponsorship***

The Alberta Genealogical Society is forever grateful for the grant funding received. AGS also relies on casino funding, general donations, and research income to help fund activities.

### ***Meetings Held***

I attended the May, September, and November AGS Board meetings, as well as the AGM and Fall Retreat in order to be current with the AGS

Board business. I also met regularly with the bookkeeper and office coordinator, as well as face-to-face meetings held by the Finance Committee.

### ***Grants***

**Alberta Historical Research Foundation (AHRF) Sponsorship**—In 2019, the AGS received **\$33,300** in sponsorship funding from AHRF funded by the Government of Alberta through the Heritage Division of Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women. The sponsorship received from AHRF has been applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration. Jennifer Kirchner and Shabnam Inanloo Dailoo, board representatives from AHRF, were invited to the banquet of 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*” to receive a Certificate of Appreciation from AGS. On 6 September 2019, 2018 metrics presented to the board members of AHRF were very well received. Thanks to all branches for their excellent work in keeping statistics about their branch. When the provincial budget of 24 October 2019 came down, AHRF was dissolved. Matthew Wangler, who had been Executive Director of AHRF, is now Executive Director, Historic Resources Management, which is now our granting body. Our sincere thanks to the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation who has been a major contributor to Alberta Genealogical Society since 1994. We had a wonderful relationship for twenty-six years.



ALBERTA  
HISTORICAL  
RESOURCES  
FOUNDATION

**Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2019, the AGS received **\$17,396.25** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (down \$679.37 from 2018). This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support. The Edmonton Heritage Council also offered a lecture series for

not-for-profit groups. Representatives from AGS attended:

1. Building Financial Capacity – Marion Rex
2. Succession Planning – Marion Rex and Lynne Duigou

### **General Donations**

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$7,093.96 in donations.

• Provincial Office	\$3,480.00
• Brooks	30.00
• Camrose	50.00
• Drayton Valley	-
• Edmonton	1,491.85
• Fort McMurray	100.00
• Grande Prairie	478.75
• Lethbridge	-
• Medicine Hat	1,303.36
• Red Deer	125.00
• Wetaskiwin	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$7,093.96</u>

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2020. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report.

## **Library & Resource Centre**

Claudine Nelson

We saw members and non-members that took the Edmonton Branch *Tracing Your Family Tree* courses come 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.

The AGS webpage promoting the library catalogue makes finding elusive titles easier. <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/library-research-centre>.

Inventory was done in August with the help of Norma Wolowyk.

Contact was made with an Edmonton Public Librarian who attended a one-day AGS workshop in November. Further contact was made with the person who oversees the Local History Books; arrangements have been made to donate some of the donated duplicate books for their collection.

Behind the scene workers: Kate Binder catalogues new acquisitions, donated and purchased; Vivian Etty who processes Periodicals/newsletters; Linda Winski who answers questions for the volunteers and processes walk-in memberships; John Hazelwood for his electronics knowledge; and ALL the library volunteers who assist patrons with their research.

## **Membership**

Lynne Duigou

Memberships in 2019 = 678

In 2019, as the Membership Chair, I contacted all the Branches and asked for feedback on the methods they used to retain members and attract new members. Using the feedback, I revised the membership form for 2020 to make it user friendly and as clear and simple as possible. In November a 2020 membership form was sent to all members with their copy of *Relatively Speaking*. In December, I sent out a poster and a copy of the 2020 membership form to all Branch presidents and AGS webmaster with a request that they send the poster and membership form to all 2019 members who had not renewed as per the information supplied each Branch by the Office Coordinator.

## **Policies & Procedures/Bylaws**

Lynne Duigou

The committee, which was comprised of Sandra Vaneldik and Jo Nuthack (Edmonton branch), Janine Carroll (Camrose Branch), Doreen Schank (Medicine Hat Branch), met five times via *BlueJeans* video conferencing and worked on the

following policies and forms for the Board to consider. These included:

### **Section 3 – Society Organization**

- A6 – Code of Conduct for Volunteers
- C1 – Release of Personal Information
- D1 – Activity Reports
- D2 – Activity Reports – Committee
- D3 – Annual Report
- D6 – Death of a Member

### **Section 4 – Society Office and Staffing**

- A – Human Resources policy - Performance Evaluation
- D – Building Security – II – Procedure for Key Holders

**Section 6 – Committee Responsibilities** – term of office May 1-April 30 for all Society committees except Conference which is two years.

- VI – 70 Committee Chair – Communications
- VI – 160 Chair Library and Resources Centre
- VI – 170 Committee Chair – Cemetery Recording Committee
- VI – 190 Committee Chair – Membership

### **Section 7 – Policies and Procedures**

- VII – 15 Advertising
- VII – 20 Awards – Members
- VII – 30 Awards – Newsletters
- VII – 35 Peter Staveley Memorial Award
- VII – 90 Intellectual Property – sent back to committee
- VII – 100 Grievance Settlement

### **AGS Bylaw Changes 2019**

Article 4.5.2 – Removal of membership - passed  
Article 6.1.2 – Executive Committee - passed  
The changes were submitted to Alberta Registries and were approved.

Ballots printed 650  
Mailed – Canada 586, USA5, International 3,  
hand delivered 2 = Total 596  
On hand – unused 54  
Returned for counting – 226 = 37.9% (Colleen Murray, Louise Perkins, scrutineers)

With Linda Winski and Laura Turnbull's help the ballots were designed, printed, envelopes purchased and address labels printed. The library volunteers and committee members embossed each ballot with the Society seal, folded and stuffed the 596 ballot envelopes. The ballots were then mailed in early March, thirty days prior to the annual meeting.

## **Relatively Speaking**

Lynne Duigou

I acted as chair of the Relatively Speaking Editorial and Production Committees which produced four issues of the Journal in 2019. Thanks to the Editorial team: Denise Daubert, Suzanne Maynard, Janet Cooper, Marilyn Wales and Marie Vieria, Production Editor for their dedication to the Journal.

We are still searching for a *Relatively Speaking* Editor. I have been filling this role on an interim basis since May 2017. We have had four editors since that time and for various reasons, none have been the right fit for RS. We are certain there is a volunteer who would love the challenge of leading this dynamic editorial and production team.

This year the editorial team set four themes, edited the articles and then sent them to the Production Editor. Each Journal takes the team about 100 hours to produce. We want a high-quality product so are very particular about content, clarity, grammar, spelling and layout. Once the layout is complete the entire issue is edited again. Printing is currently done by Edmonton Public Schools Printing Services. Linda Winski, Office Coordinator, prepares all the labels for the envelopes and any inserts. The mailing crew, chaired by Jo Nuthack, stuffs the envelopes for the print edition. The webmasters put the issue on the website and send it out notifying members that it is ready for their reading pleasure.

## 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. In 2019, members of this committee contributed 1,018 volunteer hours of valuable service to the community.

Participating during 2019 were Gordon Berdahl, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, and Norma Wolowyk. Shannon Cherkowski gave incredible support to the team during 2019 by searching her numerous genealogical indexes when requested. Carol Martyniuk raised \$760 for AGS Research through her Telus Volunteer Support hours. Thank you Carol for your many hours of volunteer time which raised funds for the Society.

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. A query database was maintained of surnames researched, submitter's name, locality of inquiry, the ID number assigned to each query and a description of where the query originated (e.g. AGS submission form, Edmonton Branch email, phone call to Library, etc.).

250 queries (276 in 2018) were processed by AGS during 2019. As Edmonton Branch AGS processed 187 (159 in 2018), the total queries handled by the Committee during the year was 437.

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. AGS revenue generated by Research Services is raised mainly through responding to requests for copies of homestead records from microfilms held

at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Researchers first visit the AGS website and use the Alberta homestead index created by AGS volunteers. Then, using the Request for Copies button on the website, an email is sent to the AGS Research Committee. We responded to all these requests for copies and informed the researcher of costs involved in obtaining copies of records from the Society. Many clients choose not to obtain copies, but those that do are very pleased to receive these interesting records.

On 12 June 2019, three members of the committee (Pat Pettitt, John Hazelwood and Norma Wolowyk) volunteered at the Provincial Archives of Alberta to give assistance to members of the Alberta Family Histories Society who had travelled up from Calgary to work on their personal family history research. John Hazelwood also continued to volunteer at the Provincial Archives of Alberta on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month giving tutorials on searching Ancestry.com.

The Alberta Genealogical Society is very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated researchers. Many have been on the team for 20 years. They respond to clients from their home computers, sit patiently at PAA microfilm readers copying land files (some up to over 100 pages), package up materials and deliver to post offices for mailing.

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.

## Retreat

Susan Haga

This past year, my Co-Chair Bob Franz and I worked very hard on preparing for our Annual Retreat held September 20-22. However, just three days before our Retreat was to commence



on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, I took a serious fall and landed in the Lethbridge Regional Hospital for 15 days! Luckily, our planning was fully underway by then and Bob Franz took the reins and was able to go ahead with the Retreat in my absence.

On Friday evening, our social began at 7:00 p.m. and it went until 8:00 p.m. I had asked everyone planning on attending to bring a family heirloom or a picture of one and be prepared to talk about it for 3 minutes. Then at 8:00 p.m. our President, Jock Howard, began our Board meeting discussing the Directors' reports.

Over the summer, Bob Franz and I met by conference call with Shari Hanson, Community Development Officer, Community Development Unit with Alberta Culture and Tourism to discuss the Planning Workshop Agenda for this Retreat which started at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning right after breakfast.

**Our Workshop Purpose** was to inform a robust strategic plan for the Alberta Genealogical Society, including framing statements of Vision and Mission, while also informing an action plan for Strategic Priorities, to strengthen commitment to and follow through with the plan. We felt very confident that Shari would give a great presentation to help us meet our goals as a society and were very excited for what Shari had planned. After lunch, the workshop resumed and went until about 2:30 p.m. After a 15-minute break, our Board met to discuss their feelings about this workshop and then our Board meeting continued at 3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. when we then broke for supper.

For our 2019 Retreat, we had invited an additional member from each Branch to attend and experience the opportunity to mingle with the Executive and Board members and observe the process of our Board meetings. Perhaps having the experience would create a willingness to step forward and volunteer as the next Branch President or accept an Executive position!

For our Saturday evening session, Gloria Cathcart, an Edmonton Branch member, and a

well-versed genealogist and historian had agreed to be our evening speaker. Her presentation was on 'The Boy Scouts and My Filmer Family'. It was an exceptional presentation as I knew it would be having attended a few of her presentations in the past. Afterwards, our refreshments were provided by Drayton Valley (Connie Stuhl) and of course Doug McLeod, our Provincial Secretary, provided cheezies!

On Sunday morning, our Board meeting reconvened after breakfast at 9:00 a.m. finishing at 12:00 noon. After having some lunch, we all headed to our respective homes with our minds bursting with new ideas to share with the members of our Branches. Once again, it was a successful Retreat!

## Webmaster

Lianne Kruger, Lyn Meehan, Deb and Bruce Boelstler

For the web team, work is always non-stop transitioning from one delightful AGS event to another. Preparation for the 2019 AGS Conference started in May of 2018 under the guidance of Lianne Kruger. This included gathering graphic material and developing multiple layouts for syllabus and advertisement by Lyn Meehan; budget and finances massaged by Kurt Paterson; and invitations sent to world-class businesses by Arlene Johnson, Lianne Kruger and AGS Research Committee to support the conference through sponsorships, donating swag and door prizes or simply reserving tables.

There were several paramount changes to designing the AGS Conference for 2019, such as planning for Christmas advertisement and mass emails, large-scaled posters highlighting Sponsors, the Marketplace, door prizes and the new AGS Youth and Genealogy webpage. Friday's enhancement by adding 3-hour workshops and 20-minute DNA sessions by brainchild Ms. Kruger, plus Ancestry DNA kits sold at a reduced rate was a new dimension this conference took to possibly include for future events. Branches were asked to submit a description about their region and specialized

collections they hold for a centerfold in the syllabus hoping they could profit with more publicity.

Everything completed in the latter half of 2018, plus the first three months of 2019 accentuated the conference and we celebrated another successful year with a fabulous team.

Development for the AGS GenFair “Celebrating the Past, the Present and the Future” began in October 2019, with the support of Wetaskiwin members Alice Hoyle and Lee Koop. Over the winter months more growth and refinement to the webpages emerged. New this year, Wetaskiwin was incorporating the celebration of their 20th Anniversary with a new logo along with their ‘locally grown resources’ giving presentations on “Siding 16” by Dr. Karen Aberle; “Caring for Personal Family Documents” by Rene Georgopolis; “Do You Have a Plan?” by Sharon Aney; “Genealogy Through Postcards” by Sandi Ratch; and “The Legacy You Leave” by Claudia Malloch. The primary changes this year to GenFair webpages was offering the online eTransfer registration payment.

Throughout the year, Deb and Bruce Boelstler were loyal in fine-tuning the web by uploading Board reports, updating the AGS Calendar information plus conference dates, webinars, etc.

Basic statistics regarding 2019 Membership and website can be found below. Stats on more technical web applications, members can contact Lyn Meehan. Donation of hours to the web and conference advertising/design, etc. was over 877 hours by two AGS members.

## ***AGS Membership Statistics—2019***

*(developed from Shout)*

- 2019 memberships year-end — 678 members. No change
- RS format preference stats:
  - 61% electronic, 39% print; (410 vs 268 members). Grown by 2%

## ***AGS Website Statistics—2019***

*(Google Analytics)*

- Overall Users: 30K, No change.
- Number of sessions: 47K, No change.
- Bounce rate: 48%, increase of 4%
- Average Session: 3.4 min, increase of 0:40 seconds
- Average active users: 1.8K monthly, 0.5K weekly, 60 daily (active users down by half)
- 70% of our customers came from Canada, 24% from U.S., 1.5% UK

## 2019 Membership Stats --- from Shout as of December 31st (by Lyn Meehan)

	Branch	Multiple Memberships			2019 New Members	Membership Type											P	PDF	
		Primary Branch	Primary Branch plus	Associate to Branch		TOTAL Memberships per BRANCH	I	F	S	S+	L	L+	ST	YD	MKS				
	AGS only	33	0	0	33	9	14	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	21
1	Brooks	16	0	3	19	2	5	2	7	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	10
2	Camrose	22	1	2	25	5	7	2	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	15
3	Drayton Valley	8	0	1	9	0	1	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4
4	Edmonton	350	13	13	376	54	93	13	210	41	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	156	220
5	Ft. McMurray	11	2	2	15	1	8	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	9
6	Grande Prairie	31	6	7	44	4	7	1	27	4	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	19	25
7	Lethbridge	38	1	3	42	2	5	1	20	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	18	24
8	Medicine Hat	65	2	7	74	11	24	5	37	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	49
9	Red Deer	51	4	4	59	8	11	1	42	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	36
10	Wetaskiwin	23	1	2	26	3	5	0	15	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	16
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>		<b>648</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>99</b>	AGS lost 176 members bridging from 2019 to 2020											<b>293</b>	<b>429</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>678</b>	NOTE: Balanced			AGS lost 158 members bridging from 2018 to 2019													
There were 680 memberships minus life memberships purchased in 2019. 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)																			
What does all this mean?																			
Primary Branch = memberships dedicated to one Branch with no associated (\$10) membership to another																			
Primary Branch plus = members dedicated to their "primary or home Branch" plus one or more associate memberships																			
Associate to Branch = members who have an associate (\$10) membership with that Branch, but their Home Branch is elsewhere																			
Total Memberships = having memberships in one or more Branches																			
Note: By adding Branch plus Home plus Associate equals Total Memberships																			
<b>LEGEND</b>	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																			

# 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](mailto:agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca) Website: <http://abgenealogy.ca/>

## 2020 Branch Contact Information

### Brooks & District Branch

President: Maurice Landry  
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4  
Phone: (403) 362-8819  
Website: <http://agsbrooks.com/>  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month,  
1:30 p.m. at JBS Canada Centre in the  
Brooks Public Library,  
323 First Street East, Brooks

### Camrose Branch

President: Deb Trout  
c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue  
Camrose, AB T4V 3B1  
Phone: (780) 781-5100  
Website:  
<https://camrosegenealogy.weebly.com>  
Facebook: Camrose & District Branch  
– Alberta Genealogical Society  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month,  
6 - 8 p.m. Camrose Public Library  
Downstairs Boardroom, Camrose

### Drayton Valley Branch

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

### Edmonton Branch

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

### Fort McMurray Branch

President: Tammy Grantham  
9B, 10019 MacDonald Avenue  
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1S9  
Phone: (780) 743-8904  
Email: [ftmacgen@telus.net](mailto:ftmacgen@telus.net)  
Website:  
<http://www.abgenealogy.ca/ft-mcmurray-branch>  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
7 p.m., 9B, 10019 MacDonald Avenue  
Fort McMurray

### Grande Prairie & District Branch

President: Al Bromling  
P.O. Box 1257  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1  
Phone: (780) 539-7005  
Email: [gp@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:gp@abgenealogy.ca)  
Website:  
<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch>  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month,  
7 p.m. Grande Prairie Public Library  
101, 9839 – 103 Avenue  
Grande Prairie

### Lethbridge & District Branch

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

### Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Dwight Brown  
Box 971,  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8  
Phone: (403) 526-1163  
Email: [mhgs@shaw.ca](mailto:mhgs@shaw.ca)  
Website: <http://mhdgs.ca>  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month,  
7 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental Co.  
Ltd., 974 – 13<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Medicine Hat

### Red Deer & District Branch

President: Janice Duffy  
c/o 38 Hearthstone Drive  
Lacombe, AB T4L 1P6  
Phone: (403) 350-6880  
Email: [rdbags@telus.net](mailto:rdbags@telus.net)  
Website:  
<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch>  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month  
7 p.m. LDS Church  
3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer

### Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Alice Hoyle  
R.R. #3, Wetaskiwin, ABT9A 1X1  
Phone: (780) 352-2150  
Email: [wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca)  
Website:  
[www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch)  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (except July,  
August and December) at 7 p.m.  
LDS Church, Wetaskiwin (Use NE  
Door)



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

## *Alberta Genealogy Society - Bringing the past to the present for the future!*

- Active since 1973, 2019 was our 47<sup>th</sup> year of providing genealogical services to the community.
- Membership for 2019 totalled **678**, compared to 678 in 2018, 692 in 2017 and 743 in 2016.
- Members reported **34,132** volunteer hours in 2019, an increase of 1600 + over 2018.
- The total number signing into the Edmonton Branch library including daytime visits and evening meetings was **2,972**.
- The Research Committee responded to **437** research queries from around the world.
- Our journal, *Relatively Speaking*, resumed publication under a dedicated editorial team publishing four issues in February, May, September and November. AGS continues to offer *Relatively Speaking* in both hard and digital copy (\$10 discount to the membership fee).
- Youth articles continue to be featured in *Relatively Speaking* as an extension of the Genealogy for Youth Project.
- Our 2019 AGS Conference “*Images Through Time*” was held in Edmonton April 26-28, 2019 with 258 attending.
- We held four board meetings: one face-to-face, and three a combination of face-to-face and virtual. We held 8 Executive/committee meetings using videoconferencing and one face-to-face.
- The Annual September Retreat combined the directors’ meeting with a workshop on strategic planning offered by the Alberta Culture & Tourism Community Development.
- A new membership form was created and the New Member kit was updated.
- Seventeen Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in Camrose (2), Edmonton (11), Lethbridge (1) and Medicine Hat (3) continue to meet regularly and provide valuable research and discussion groups for attendees.
- Branches of the Society continued to provide diverse programming, learning opportunities and projects.
  - Medicine Hat & District Branch has been digitizing 100 years of TELUS/AGT phone books
  - Edmonton Branch launched the Alberta Name Index (ANI), a simple unified search of Alberta residents named in various sources. At the time of launch it had 487,106 records.
  - Lethbridge Branch collaborated with Noble Central School on a 3-day genealogy project. Several branch members travelled each day to assist junior and senior high school students with their research.
- AGS held two collaborative TREASURE HUNT sessions in the AGS Library: one in English/French with the Société généalogique du Nord-Ouest and another for the St. Albert Public Library Genealogy group. Participants expressed amazement at the number and variety of resources available and several joined the Society.
- The Policies and Procedures/Bylaws committee continued their work, updating policies and bylaws.
- The AGS webpage saw ~30,000 users in ~47,000 sessions.
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, gaming events, research queries, and grants from the Government of Alberta through Historic Resources Management, and City of Edmonton through the Edmonton Heritage Council. Casino revenue has decreased, placing additional demands on the society.
- The Society continued to employ one part-time office coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper.

*Proud beneficiary of the Province of Alberta  
and the City of Edmonton through the Edmonton Heritage Council.*

