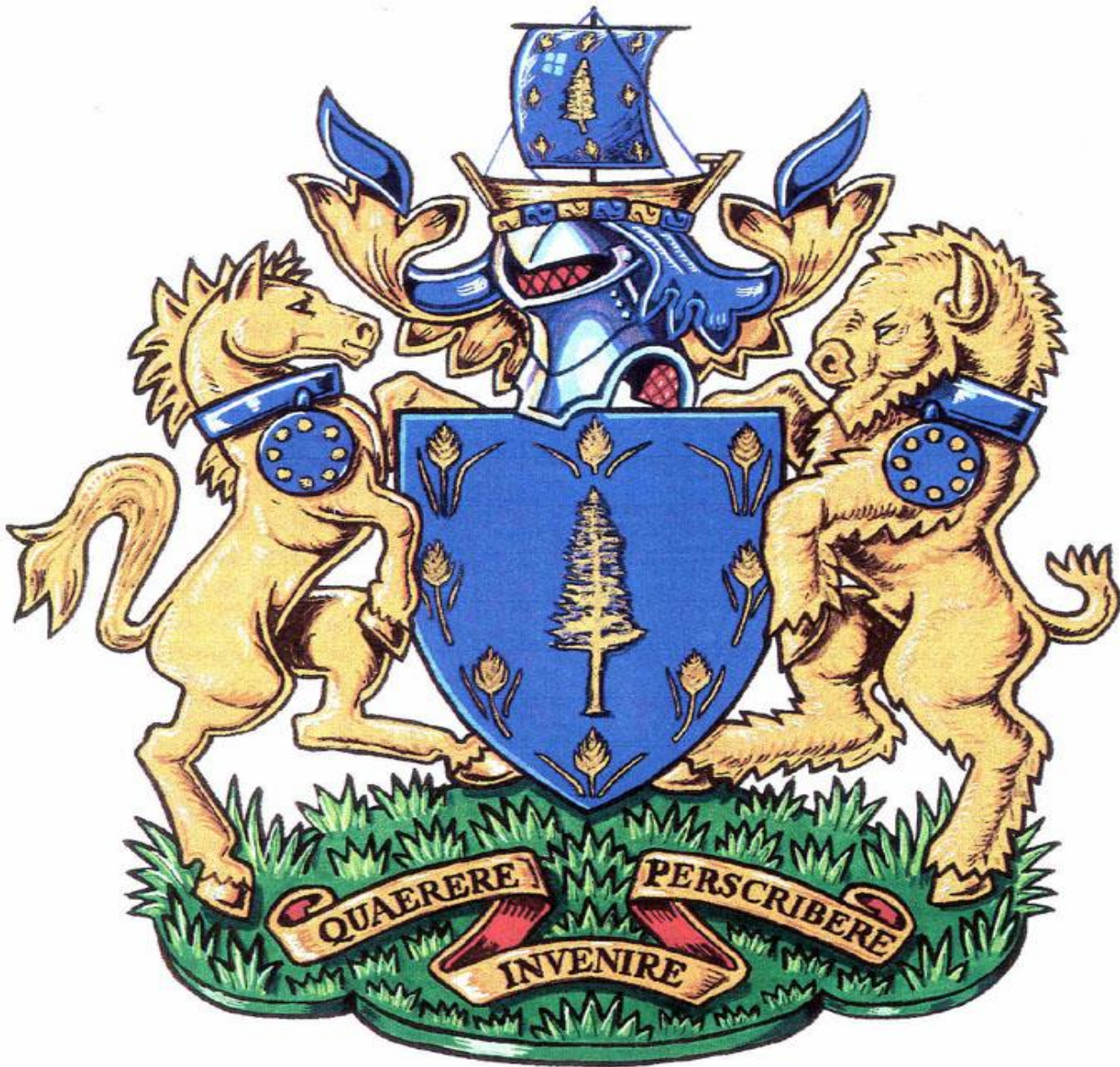


# Alberta Genealogical Society



## 2020 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

24 April 2021

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Dec. 31, 2020

### Officers

President	Lynne Duigou
Past President	Jock Howard
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Sheila Genaille
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Marion Rex
Secretary of the Society	Doug McLeod

### Directors

Brooks	Maurice Landry
Camrose	Deb Trout
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Les Campbell
Fort McMurray	Tammy Grantham
Grande Prairie	Al Bromling
Lethbridge	Marilyn Astle
Medicine Hat	Dwight Brown
Red Deer	Lianne Kruger
Wetaskiwin	Alice Hoyle

### Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Marion Rex
Nominations (Chair)	Jock Howard
Policies & Procedures/Bylaws (Chair)	Sheila Genaille

### Other Committees and Appointments

AGS Surname Database	Lianne Kruger
Archivist	Norma Wolowyk
Communications	Vacant
Electronic Services	Vacant
Facilities	Wayne Harker
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
GenFair 2021	Alice Hoyle
GenFair 2022	Jock Howard
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Historian	Vacant
Legal Advisor	Randy Simpson
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Janine Carroll
Parliamentarian	Patrick Reid
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking	Editorial Team
Relatively Speaking Mailing	Jo Nuthack
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster(s)	Lianne Kruger Deb & Bruce Boelstler

### AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Linda Winski
	Jackie Pearson
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
Sincere Thanks for Donations in Memoriam .....	6
Volunteer Hours for 2020.....	6
Agenda for the 48 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society .....	7
Minutes of the 47 <sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting .....	8
Awards Presented at the 2019 AGM .....	11
Executive Reports.....	15
President .....	15
Past President.....	16
First Vice President .....	17
Second Vice President (Vacant) .....	17
Treasurer .....	17
Secretary .....	19
Branch Annual Reports.....	20
Brooks & District.....	20
Camrose .....	21
Drayton Valley.....	22
Edmonton.....	22
Fort McMurray .....	25
Grande Prairie & District.....	26
Lethbridge & District.....	27
Medicine Hat & District .....	28
Red Deer & District.....	29
Wetaskiwin .....	30
Committee Reports .....	33
Gaming .....	33
GenFair .....	33
Grants & Other Funding .....	34
Genealogy for Children and Youth.....	35
Library and Resource Centre .....	35
Membership .....	35
Policies & Procedures/Bylaws.....	36
Relatively Speaking.....	36
Research Services .....	36
Retreat.....	37
Webmaster(s).....	38
Appendix A: Membership Statistics.....	41
2020-2022 Strategic Plan.....	42
2021 Branch Contact Information .....	43
Audited Financial Statements .....	Insert
Budget 2018 .....	Insert
Highlights .....	Back Cover

**Heartfelt  
Thanks**

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

***Historic Resources Management Branch***

***for \$14,750 in funding  
received through the Government of Alberta.***

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

*Alberta* 

**Our  
Sincere  
Gratitude**

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

***Edmonton Heritage Council***

***for \$22,276 in funding  
received through the City of Edmonton.***

The sponsorship received from EHC helps  
to provide operational support.



## WITH SINCERE THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Alberta Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges those who donated \$10.00 or more to AGS and/or its branches in 2020 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged.

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

### \$501-1,000

Edmonton Community Fdn.

### \$251-\$500

Benevity Community Impact Fund

### \$101-\$250

Bender, Melvin  
Brown, Helen D.  
Friesen, Margaret

### \$76-\$100

Canada Helps.Org  
Edmunds, Liz  
Gibson, Robert Colin  
Javorsky, Larry W.  
Kuntz, Shannon  
Losie, Frances  
Lowing, Raymond  
Maher, John  
McKelvie, Edna

### \$51-\$75

Friedel, Catherine  
Pape, Alfred  
Parasynchuk, Teresa  
Perry, Anna  
Phipps, Anne  
Rex, Marion  
Roth, M. Grace  
Snyder, Robert  
Wasylik, Eugene

### \$26-\$50

Andrus, Christine  
Borgstede, Arlene  
Buchko, Sandy  
Caldwell, Darlene  
Chalabi, Eli  
Cooper, Janet  
Crozier, Jean  
de Bruin, Jackie & Rudy  
Doke, Pamela  
Dyck, Margaret  
Edgar, Peg  
Edwards, Susan May  
Graumann, Joyce  
Harasewich, Tillie  
Hoeft, Karen  
Kreznoski, Irvin  
Lowe, Graham  
Luman, Dianne  
McInall, Margaret  
Nelson, Alora Lynne  
Nicol, Herbert Grant  
Pohranychny, Edward  
Roberts, Ronald Neal  
Rosa, Nestor  
Ross, Carolynne E.  
Simpson, Linda  
Splett, Marion  
Todd, Judy  
Trumpour, Ivy  
Watson, Bob & Marg  
Williams, John

### \$11-\$25

Adams, Donald  
Allen, Joanne  
Avery, Arthur & Sylvia  
Browse, Jeanne  
Clamp, Bernice  
Edwards, Natalie

Evans, Lois  
Forsyth, Pamela  
Manning, Roslyn  
Nicolson, Noel  
Perkins, Louise  
Philips, Sue  
Stefaniuk, Nick  
Wegert, Joan P.  
Wilson, Maureen  
Workman, Martina  
Woychuk, John K. & Iris  
Yakymyshyn, Mike

### \$10

Barkley, Shelley  
Easton, Francis (Frank)  
Harker, Wayne  
Kreiser, Eleanor  
Mailer, Cindy  
Mallett, Ken  
Maynard, Bob  
McNamee, Patricia E.  
Murray, Barbara  
Ost, Barbara  
Pasay, David S.  
Patrick, Louise  
Redford, Marcia  
Rolls, David

*We also give out sincere thanks to 14 donors who wished to remain anonymous.*

WITH SINCERE THANKS FOR  
DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

*In memory of Mary Burkholder*

Andrus, Christine  
Friesen, Margaret

*In memory of Cathy Schiiler*

Rex. Marion

*In memory of John Rocheleau*

Parasynchuk, Teresa

*In memory of Brent Slobodin*

Parasynchuk, Teresa

VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2020

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten Branches of the AGS realized a total of 17,559 volunteer hours that were reported in 2020

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

**ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**48<sup>th</sup>Annual General Meeting – Saturday, 24 April, 2021**  
**Via ZOOM virtual meeting**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Call to Order – President Lynne Duigou
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting, 25th April 2020
4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and Directors of the Board:
  - a) President – Lynne Duigou
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Sheila Genaille
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Vacant
  - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
  - e) Secretary – Doug McLeod
  - f) Past President – Jock Howard
  - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
    - Brooks – Maurice Landry
    - Camrose – Deb Trout / Janine Carroll (Board Representative)
    - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
    - Edmonton – Les Campbell
    - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
    - Grande Prairie – Al Bromling
    - Lethbridge – Marilyn Astle
    - Medicine Hat – Dwight Brown
    - Red Deer – Lianne Kruger
    - 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 – Treasurer – Marion Rex
  - a) 2020 Audited Financial Statement
  - b) Adoption of Financial Statements
  - c) Budget 2021
  - d) Approval of Budget
  - e) Appointment of Auditor for 2021
7. Election and Bylaw Results – Jock Howard, Past President
8. Introduction of New Executive – Jock Howard, Past President
9. Resolution of Respect – Frank Easton
10. Presentation of Awards –Lynne Duigou
11. Adjournment

**Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS)**  
**47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – 25 April 2020 – Draft Minutes**  
**Via BlueJeans Virtual Meeting**

Attendance at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Sharon Aney	Susan Haga	Judy Nuthack
Marilyn Astle	Jock Howard	Kurt Paterson
Al Bromling	Alice Hoyle	Sue Philips
Dwight Brown	Carol Koop	Patricia Proskurniak
Angus Campbell	Leroy Koop	Patrick Reid
Janine Carroll	Liane Kruger	Marion Rex
Gloria Cathcart	Shannon Kuntz	Nestor Rosa
Janice Duffy	Maurice Landry	Doreen Schank
Lou Duigou	Nestor Martinez	Connie Stuhl
Lynne Duigou	Doug McLeod	Deb Trout
Robert Franz	Brendan McLoughlin	Ivy Trumpour
Sheila Genaille	Claudine Nelson	Laura Turnbull
Ellen Glinka	Jo Nuthack	Norma Wolowyk

39 members in attendance

1. Welcome and call to order: The 47<sup>th</sup> AGS Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm by Jock Howard, President. Jock welcomed all to the virtual AGM.

2. Approval of Agenda:

**MOVED** by Nestor Martinez that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the 2019 Annual Report with the following amendments

Item 11 Resolution of Respect changed to Jo Nuthack

Last item on agenda changed to 13

**SECONDED** by Claudine Nelson                      **CARRIED**

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**MOVED** by Doug McLeod that the minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented in the 2019 Annual Report.

**SECONDED** by Patricia Proskurniak                      **CARRIED**

4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors 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 – 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 the Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports.

**MOVED** by Janice Duffy that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the 2019 Annual Report.

**SECONDED** by Maurice Landry **CARRIED**

6. Financial Reports – Marion Rex, Treasurer

Marion Rex thanked Office Coordinator Linda Winski for compilation of the 2019 Annual Report.

Following the presentation and discussion by Marion Rex of the 2019 Audited Statements and the 2020 Budget, the following motions were made.

1. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2019 showing an income \$258,775, expenses of \$253,780 and excess of revenue over expenses of \$4,995 be adopted as presented.

**SECONDED** by Al Bromling **CARRIED**

2. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Notice to Reader for AGS Provincial Office 2019 with an income of \$168,773, expenses of \$167,939 and excess of revenue over expenses of \$834 be adopted as presented.

**SECONDED** by Dwight Brown **CARRIED**

3. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the AGS 2020-2021 budget be adopted as presented.

**SECONDED** by Sheila Genaille **CARRIED**

4. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs (KBH) Chartered Accountants be retained for 2020.

**SECONDED** by Gloria Cathcart **CARRIED**

7. Election and Bylaw Results – Robert Franz – Past President.

As there was only one nomination for each of the three positions, the following were declared by acclamation.

Treasurer – Marion Rex

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Sheila Genaille

President – Lynne Duigou

We have a vacancy for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position.

There were no Bylaw changes this year.

8. Announcements – Jock Howard, President

- Discussed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position
- Discussed the *Relatively Speaking* Editor position
- A 2022 Conference Coordinator needed ASAP

9. Introduction of the new Executive

- President – Lynne Duigou
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Sheila Genaille
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Vacant
- Treasurer – Marion Rex
- Secretary – Doug McLeod
- Past President – Jock Howard

10. Courtesy Motions – Kurt Paterson

**MOVED** by Kurt Paterson that to all who serve the Society so willingly and selflessly with their gifts of time, energy, enthusiasm and expertise, we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten branches of the AGS for contributing 34,132 volunteer hours in 2019.

**SECONDED** by Connie Stuhl

**CARRIED**

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

**SECONDED** by Connie Stuhl

**CARRIED**

11. Resolution of Respect – Jo Nuthack

**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, as 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:

Patricia Lundie	#4415	Edmonton	Jun 13, 2018
Margaret Eykelbosh	#3439	Edmonton	Feb 22, 2019
John Rocheleau	#4608	Medicine Hat	Feb 24, 2019
Lynda Sallis	#3667	Edmonton	Mar 21, 2019
Jack Layton	#1192	Red Deer	Mar 30, 2019
Ivy Stead	#4428	Edmonton	Mar 31, 2019
Merna Nelson	#533	Drayton Valley	May17, 2019
Victor Willoughby	#4220	Red Deer	Jun 13, 2019
Kevin McKinney	#3558	Edmonton	July 7, 2019
Fern Muirhead	#3474	Medicine Hat	Oct 13, 2019
Donald Schau	#3148	Grande Prairie	Oct 25, 2019

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

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

Thank you.

**MOVED** by: Jo Nuthack

**SECONDED** by Norma Wolowyk                      **CARRIED**

12. Presentation of Awards – Jock Howard, President

**Long Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five Years**

J. Stewart Boyd	#207	Edmonton Branch
Cheryl Donnachie	#3211	Edmonton Branch
Eileen & Ron Stahl	#3226	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Sandra D. (San-Dee) Lyons	#3240	Edmonton Branch
Sharon Grace Dyer	#3265	Edmonton Branch
Joanne (Jo) Allen	#3287	Red Deer & District Branch
Beth & Melvin Fenske	#3293	Edmonton Branch
Marilyn Hindmarch	#3295	Edmonton Branch
Dennis Ross Mackenzie	#3327	Edmonton Branch
Diane Lehr	#3345	Red Deer & District Branch
Brenda Courtier	#3378	Edmonton Branch

**Long Term Membership Certificates – Forty+ Years 1979-2019 (not current members)**

Evelyn Brown	#503	1977 – 44	AGS Only
Mary Louise Hartley	#506	1977 – 44	Edmonton Branch
Carol Thomson	#445	1977 – 44	Grande Prairie & District Branch
Florence Denning	#201	1974 – 43	AGS Only

**Long Term Membership Certificates – Forty+ Years 1979-2019**

R. Joan Bowman	#1108	1979	Grande Prairie & District Branch
Joan Clark	#1088	1979	Edmonton Branch
Rose Goutbeck	#1006	1979	Edmonton Branch
Ellen Glinka	#861	1979	Edmonton Branch
Margery Ensminger	#854	1979	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Anola Laing	#965	1979	AGS Only
Beverly A. Hagen	#945	1979	Brooks & District Branch
E. Carol Anderson	#943	1979	Brooks & District Branch
M. Grace Roth	#933	1979	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Richard Hugh Nash	#659	1978	Fort McMurray Branch
Laura Turnbull	#555	1978	Edmonton Branch
Paulette Hrychiw	#534	1977	Grande Prairie & District Branch
Raymond A. Lowing	#337	1976	AGS Only
Bernadette M. Stolte	#319	1976	Edmonton Branch
Jo & Judy Nuthack	#305	1975	Edmonton Branch
Arlene Borgstede	#244	1975	Edmonton Branch

Norma Wolowyk	#243	1975	Edmonton Branch
Bob & Anne Baines	#229	1975	Lethbridge & District Branch
Marika Alexandra Brenneis	#206	1974	Edmonton Branch
Louise Croft	#152	1974	Edmonton Branch
Carin Routledge	#125	1973	Edmonton Branch
James Eagleson	#120	1973	Red Deer & District Branch
D'Arcy Hande	#110	1973	Edmonton Branch
Frank & Doreen Easton	#103	1973	Edmonton Branch

**Life Membership – Award given for outstanding contribution to the Society to Robert Franz, #5741**

- In recognition of years of dedicated service to the AGS Board and Executive including President of Brooks & District Branch (2013-2018), Brooks & District Branch Board Rep (2013-2019), AGS President (2016-2018) and AGS Past President (2018-2020). Over the last six years, Bob's vision has been one of improved wellness within the society, services provided to members of the society, and connections to like-minded agencies. We give a special thanks to Bob because we are a much stronger organization because of the work he has done during his term.

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

- **Certificate for Best Original Article** – *“Using Newspapers”* by Sharon Aney, #4148, *Roots & Branches*, April 2019, pp. 10-12, Wetaskiwin Branch
- **Certificate for Best Local Content** – *“Our Stories: 100 Year Family Celebration”* by Joan Bowman, #1108, *Heritage Seekers*, Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 4-5, Grande Prairie & District Branch
- **Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter & Certificate for the editor to keep**  
*Heritage Seekers*, Spring 2019, Vol. 41, No. 1, Grande Prairie & District Branch Editor: Al Bromling, #5493

*Thanks to the Judging Committee:  
Marilyn Astle, Jock Howard, and Connie Stuhl*

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

- **Name on Peter Staveley plaque & Certificate for best article**  
*“Cemetery Bankruptcy Leads to Exhumation”* by Leroy (Lee) Koop, #2031, *Relatively Speaking*, February 2019, Vol. 47, No. 1, Page 13

*Thanks to the Judging Committee:  
Lynn Fogwill, Marilyn Hindmarch, and Marilyn Wales*

**Certificates of Appreciation**

- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Historic Resources Management Branch** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for funding of Genealogical Resources and Programming 2019 (\$33,300)
- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Edmonton Heritage Council** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for Operational Funding for Genealogical Resources and Programming 2019 (\$17,396.25)

- Certificate in appreciation to **Fort McMurray Branch** for their generous donation from casino funds to AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time* in the amount of \$1,000
- Certificate in appreciation to **Grande Prairie & District Branch** for their generous donation from casino funds to AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time* in the amount of \$1,000
- Certificate in appreciation to **Wetaskiwin Branch** for their generous donation to AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time* in the amount of \$500
- Certificate in appreciation to **Ellen Thompson Jennings** for her generous donation of \$750 to AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time*
- Certificate in appreciation to **Karen Saunders** for her generous donation of \$250 to AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time*
- Certificate in appreciation to **Jennifer Karami** for her generous donation of \$100 to AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time*
- Certificate in appreciation of the dedication of the **AGS Research Services Team** who earned \$3,188.96 for AGS through their efforts in assisting family history researchers

### Special Mention Awards

- **Special Mention Award – Lyn Meehan, #5312**  
In recognition of over 500 hours of dedicated volunteer work per year to create a world class website, compile an extensive syllabus, create an online registration form, organize the DNA schedule and sell DNA kits for the AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time*.
- **Special Mention Award – Kurt Paterson, #5962**  
In recognition of his dedicated work to organize the conference budget, manage conference registration, report statistical analysis, track numbers for each session, track numbers for meals, review speaker contracts, as well as ratify the expenses with Shirley Keller, AGS Bookkeeper, for the AGS Conference 2019 *Images Through Time*. He spent over 300 hours over 9 months working to make the conference a success. His volunteer efforts were very much appreciated.

### President's Award

- **Lynne Duigou, #5510** - In recognition of exceptional volunteerism in time of need. Since becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Lynne has never needed to be asked to take on challenging projects. With the absence of an editor for *Relatively Speaking*, she took on the additional responsibility of guiding an editorial committee and mentoring aspiring editors. She has rewritten the New Members' package, as well worked on the lease committee. She has also done substantial work chairing the Policies and Procedures Committee. She has taken on all of these additional roles with a smile.
- **Lianne Kruger, #5789** - In recognition of exceptional volunteerism in time of need. Lianne has been 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the past six years: 2014-2020. She chaired a very successful joint GenFair with the Family History Society 2012 *Find Your Tree in the Forest*, as well as two very successful AGS conferences: 2017 *Ye Olde Genealogy Faire* and 2019 *Images Through Time*.

She has also helped to solve issues on the AGS Homestead Database to improve effectiveness. She has laid the groundwork to provide extra services to our members, and worked on difficult situations with a positive and collaborative mindset.

At this time, I would like to thank both women for their outstanding contribution. As President, I was always ever so grateful that you were both on my team.

**Retiring Members of the Executive**

- Bob Franz, #5741, and
- Lianne Kruger, #5789

13. Adjournment

**MOVED** by Patrick Reid to adjourn – Jock Howard declared the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

---

Doug McLeod, AGS Secretary

---

Jock Howard, AGS President

# EXECUTIVE REPORTS

## President – Lynne Duigou



Volunteer Hours: 580

**Virtual Meetings** - I represented AGS at a number of virtual meetings with the Minister of Culture and the Historical Resources Branch discussing COVID-19 protocols and

concerns, the impact of the pandemic, and the cut to grant funding. In a meeting with Canadian Genealogy Society Presidents, we discussed mutual concerns and the possibility of collaboration on the purchase of a booth for RootsTech 2021. Nothing more was heard after the initial meeting.

**Board Meetings** – We had nine Executive meetings and three Board of Directors meetings in 2020. I also chaired one of four committees on Strategic Planning for 2020-2022. As well I have attended and participated in several meetings regarding updating the website, membership and the digitizing of AGS Cemetery Records books by the Edmonton Public Library.

**Facilities Management** – During the summer, I collaborated with Nestor Martinez to find, interview and hire a janitorial service (Cerase Cleaners Inc.) for the joint AGS/Edmonton Branch library. They are currently on a pause since December 14 during the lockdown but will resume cleaning once the lockdown on libraries is lifted. I also arranged to have the ductwork cleaned and supervised the crew that did the work on a Friday while we were closed.

**COVID-19** – Working with the Executive we developed a set of Guidelines for Branches regarding reopening with COVID-19 protocols

and signage in place to assist the Branches in reopening.

**Office Coordinator** - In July, I advertised for a new Office Coordinator and received the applications. Jock Howard, Marion Rex, and I reviewed the applications, interviewed three candidates and offered the position to Jackie Pearson to begin in August. In November, I asked a number of members to do an interim evaluation of Jackie's work and I collated the findings and discussed them with her. She is still learning but doing an excellent job. At Christmas, she was presented with a bonus cheque and a Christmas planter. Our bookkeeper, Shirley Keller, was also given a bonus cheque and a Christmas planter.

**Linda's Retirement** – In August and September, I mass emailed the AGS membership announcing Linda Winski's retirement and asked for members to send me any emails with good wishes to pass along. I collected the emailed good wishes for Linda's retirement and arranged all the wishes and letters in a bound album which was presented to her along with a cheque and an orchid at the September 26, 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

**Canada Volunteer Award** – In August, with the help of Marion Rex, I put together an application for a Canada-wide Volunteer Award. The ten-page application was submitted but, unfortunately, was unsuccessful. We were encouraged to try again in 2021.

**Strategic Planning** – In September, I met with my group of Board members to work on Goal 4 - Collaboration of the Strategic Plan. At the September and November Board meetings we finalized the 2020-2022 Vision, Mission, Values and Goals for AGS. The goals were printed in *Relatively Speaking* in February 2021.

**AGS Webinar** – In October, I presented a webinar titled "*Finding Ancestors – Where to Begin? What AGS has to Offer the Researcher*"

as part of the AGS webinar series “*Discovering Our Roots, Sharing Our Stories*” chaired by Sheila Genaille our First Vice President. The series is held the fourth Monday of each Month and has been a very popular benefit provided to our members. I have enjoyed the varied topics presented.

**Webinar Survey** – In December, I circulated the Webinar Survey discussed at the November Board meeting to determine the wishes of the Branches concerning attendance, cost, recording and paid speakers. The results were tabulated and the conclusions reported to the Branch Presidents. The consensus reached was that AGS should subsidize paid webinar speakers and recorded webinars should be saved for a limited time. All AGS members can attend a webinar but non-members may be asked to pay.

**Casinos** – On behalf of AGS, I wrote a letter to the Alberta Gaming Commission as they had asked for input on two proposed changes to casinos. We are opposed to the suggested pooling of casino proceeds across the province as it would severely decrease the amount of money we receive following a casino thus decreasing our ability to provide programs and services. We also opposed the suggestion that paid workers replace the current volunteers who work for free at casinos. Our other costs to have casino dates would increase as we are still required to hire casino consultants/managers. The increased costs of paid staff plus managers would further deplete the money received from the casino dates and again impact our ability to provide programs and services to communities across Alberta.

**Edmonton Public Library** – In December, AGS was approached by the Edmonton Public Library to allow for the digitization of a number of books of AGS Cemetery Recordings in their Historical Collection. The books were produced from records collected beginning in the 1970s by various branches. The Executive has given provisional approval to the project under certain conditions. The matter will be brought to the Board of Directors because many of the Branches and their members contributed to the original project.

## Past President – Jock Howard



Volunteer Hours 192

The primary role of the Past President focusses on ensuring positions on the Executive Committee and Board Committee Chairs are occupied, attending Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings, and being responsible for gathering award nominees. Other roles may be taken on as directed by either the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board.

**Vacancies** – Vacancies on the AGS Executive Committee were filled by acclamation at the AGM 24 April 2020:

1. President – Lynne Duigou
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Sheila Genaille
3. The position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President remains vacant.

An executive meeting was held in the weeks following the AGM to assign responsibilities for the various chairs to each of the executive members.

**Committee Chairs** – Following the AGM, Chairs for all AGS committees were contacted to determine who wanted to stay in their positions. Vacancies were filled (some by acting chairs), except the Conference Chair. Due to COVID-19, the Conference will not be held until 2023. Committee Chairs were ratified by the Board at the May Board Meeting.

**Fall Retreat** – The Fall Retreat for 2020, originally scheduled to take place at Providence Centre, was cancelled. Committees were struck to itemize strategies to implement the four main goals of the Strategic Plan being developed. In September, I met with the group of Board members who volunteered to work on Goal 3 - Research of the Strategic Plan. These were discussed at virtual board meetings in September and November held via BlueJeans in place of the Fall Retreat. Plans for the Retreat for 2021 are still in flux due to the uncertainties of COVID-19.



**FamilySearch Affiliated Network** – A request was received for AGS branches to be part of the FamilySearch Affiliated Libraries network. This will move forward in 2021.

## 1st Vice President – Sheila Genaille



2020 was a stressful year with the pandemic spreading across the world, major adjustments to the operation of AGS were made. Duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President included setting up the Webinars, chairing the Policies and Bylaw Committee.

**Webinars** – were held the fourth Monday of each month with an average of 80 registrants.

- June 29 *“Finding My Ancestors: From the Plains of Western Canada, to New France, British Isles and France”* by Sheila Genaille
- July 27 *“A Beginner's Guide to DNA: The What, Why, Who, Where, and How with stories and examples”* by Lianne Kruger
- Aug. 27 *“Organize your Printed Photos”* by Ellen Thompson-Jennings
- Sept. 28 *“Research and Share: the Social Media Way”* by Lianne Kruger
- Oct. 26 *“Finding Ancestors, Where to Begin: What AGS has to offer the researcher”* by Lynne Duigou
- Nov. 23 *“The Copper Printing Plate: How a copper printing plate used for my parents wedding invitations led to information about Granddaddy's WWII service”* by Jock Howard

## 2nd Vice President – Vacant

## Treasurer – Marion Rex



Volunteer Hours 467

### Audit 2020

In the 2020 audit, AGS Provincial, Edmonton Branch, Fort McMurray Branch and Lethbridge & District Branch were audited by KBH Chartered Professional Accountants. They also reviewed the finances of the other eight branches. Thanks to Louise Chauvet, CPA, CA, and her team at KBH for a great working relationship during the audit process. AGS Provincial finished the 2020 year with a surplus of **\$4,962.20**. This is due, in large part, to the following:

### Income **\$107,451.10**

Variations made up, in large part, to (only major variations shown):

- Lower than expected membership income (1,794.95)
- Higher than anticipated donations 1,809.50
- Lower than budgeted casino income\* (2,684.63)
- Lower than anticipated HRMB Grant (15,250.00)

### Expense **102,488.90**

Variations made up, in large part, to (only major variations shown):

- Lower than anticipated Grants & Other Funding expenses (no presentation due to COVID-19) 532.14
- Lower than anticipated board travel and accommodation 10,578.90
- Lower than anticipated equipment and furniture costs 744.40
- Lower than anticipated administration costs 4,827.75
- Lower than anticipated wages and benefits 1,053.73

### Excess of revenue over expenses **\$4,962.20**

The level of materiality in the audit was based on a percentage of expenditures is unchanged from last year at \$6,000. This figure represents 1% of the consolidated assets.

\*When it became evident that we didn't need to pay 2020 insurance costs from casino income, we brought less casino funding into the income stream. That will leave us more of our dwindling casino funding available for next year. We were scheduled to have a casino in May 2021; when we actually have our next casino will depend on COVID-19 restrictions. Reduced casino funding will be a budget issue for 2022.

\*\*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 was the sixth 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 Canada Revenue Agency. She also completes the GST and charity returns. In 2020, she demonstrated an excellent working relationship with our Office Coordinator Linda Winski, until she retired, and then with Jackie Pearson, in balancing funding raised through memberships, registration, and donations. 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 Canada Revenue Agency, which used to be done by the auditors at much greater expense.

### **Grants & Other Funding**

The Alberta Genealogical Society (provincial) is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Historic Resources Management Branch (HRMB) **\$14,750.00** (\$33,300.00 from the now defunct Alberta Historical Resources Foundation in 2019) and the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) **\$22,276.00** (\$17,396.25 in 2019). The sponsorship received

from HRMB is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration. AGS metrics and annual report were submitted to the HRMB Board of Directors, but no presentation was scheduled due to COVID-19. Funding received from EHC helps provide both staffing and operational support. The application process occurs in the fall of each year.

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS Provincial (\$3,809.50) and its branches (\$3,854.87) received \$7,664.37 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 2020, AGS consolidated raised a total of \$7,716.39 by answering research queries, as follows:

Provincial Office	\$2,974.72
Edmonton	2,348.90
Grande Prairie	670.00
Lethbridge	1,584.64
Medicine Hat	138.13
TOTAL	<u>\$7,716.39</u>
- As noted above, AGS provincial raised \$2,974.72 by answering 146 research queries for the most part by providing answers to family research questions, as well as providing copies of Alberta Homestead 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 Services report for more information.*

### **Lease**

Our two-year lease ends November 30, 2021.

### **Finance Committee**

My thanks to the Finance Committee: Claudine Nelson (Library & Resource Centre Chair),

Laura Turnbull (Gaming Chair), Norma Wolowyk (Research Services Chair), Les Campbell (Edmonton Branch President), Tammy Grantham (Fort McMurray Branch President), and Kurt Paterson (Conference 2019 Treasurer) for helping to guide the financial decisions for the Alberta Genealogical Society. This would be a hard job to do without their wisdom and experience.

### **Strategic Plan**

In September, I met with the group of Board members who volunteered to work on Goal 2 Membership of the Strategic Plan. We finalized the 2020-2022 Vision, Mission, Values and Goals for AGS at the September and November Board meetings. This material was printed in the February 2021 issue of *Relatively Speaking*.

### **Secretary – Doug McLeod**

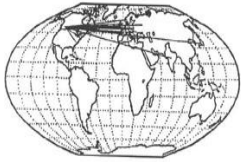


Volunteer Hours 117

As Secretary, I attended nine Executive committee meetings, four Board of Directors meetings and the AGM. At those meetings, I recorded the minutes and sent out the draft and final approved versions of the minutes. I also maintained the official record of the minutes and the record of the motions made at the meetings.

# BRANCH ANNUAL REPORTS

## Brooks and District Branch



Maurice Landry



Volunteer Hours 459

### Executive Committee

President	Maurice Landry
Vice President	Eileen French
Treasurer	Karyn Norden
Secretary	Henry Najda

Well, it goes without saying, 2020 was an interesting and challenging year for our organization. The year started out normal, then in March things changed dramatically with the COVID-19 pandemic which affected our lives in many ways. We were not able to hold any programs for our members after February. In addition, community contact such as Canada Day celebrations were not possible this year. We hope to see more opportunities in 2021.

### Meetings

**January:** Six volunteers spent several hours to insert magnetic strips into the books in the

library. This will allow the general public to use our material for reference but will also ensure that no materials leave the library as an alarm will sound. Our newest member Shelley Barkley came to the general meeting and was given an orientation tour of our library plus resources available to her to conduct research. Thanks to Clara, Lee, Eileen and Bob for their help.

**February:** Jacob Eckert gave an interesting talk on his journey from Russia and China to Canada. Volunteers finished putting magnetic strips into library books. The AGM was held and the Executive remained the same as it did for 2019 – Maurice Landry President, Eileen French Vice President, Karyn Norden Treasurer and Henry Najda Secretary. Branch inventory was completed and forwarded to AGS Edmonton. Maurice Landry labelled cemetery pictures so they can be uploaded to the web page.

**March:** In March, our local library was closed due to COVID-19. The room we lease for our library and office is located in the public library so we were not able to access our premises until September.

We did have an Executive meeting in early March prior to the library closing. At this meeting, we discussed some options for the 40 Year Celebration of our Branch which is in 2021. It was suggested that as we are limited in volunteers, any programs should not require a lot of time and work.

**April:** Even though we were not able to access our room in the library, the spring edition of our B&D Heir Lines Newsletter was completed and digital copies sent to our members thanks to Bob Franz.

**May:** No activity to report – meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19.

**June:** Members and their partners attended an outdoor supper at the Par 3 golf course to connect and share.

**July/August:** No activity to report.

**September:** In September we were allowed limited access to the library and held an in-person Executive meeting (masks, social distancing etc.) At our meeting we discussed possible ways to celebrate our 40 Years as an AGS Branch in 2021 and possible programs for our members in the future. We received the laptop computer from AGS and wish to thank those who made this possible.

**October:** In commemoration of Mary Burkholder, Clara Iwaasa and Eileen French donated a copy of each of the obituary and birth indexes that Mary compiled to the Duchess Public Library with the notation in each book reading: “Donated in memory of Mary Burkholder for her many years of dedication to the Brooks & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society”. Clara also wrote a letter to the family on behalf of the Branch. Bob Franz completed the fall issue of B&D Heir Lines which was distributed to the membership.

**November:** Planning continued for 2021 celebrations. A tentative date of June 12 was discussed.

**December:** Our Library was again shut down due the COVID-19 pandemic so no activity to report.

Maurice Landry, President



## Camrose Branch

Deb Trout



Volunteer Hours 996

### Executive Committee

President	Deb Trout
Vice President	Janine Carroll
Secretary	Lilvon Lundy
Treasurer	Alora Nelson
Librarian	Bev Webster
Newsletter Editor	Joan Conley
Webmaster	Deb Trout
Membership Chair	Wendy Roth

### Camrose SIGS:

**Writing Your Family History** – Every Monday at 10 am.

**Organizing Your Genealogy** – 1st Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

### Some of Our Meeting Topics:

Christmas Magic, Stories from the 1918 Flu Epidemic, Viewing the University of Calgary Digital Collection, Ancestry Q & A's. The format of our meetings changed slightly over the past few months in response to member input.

We start meetings with a member (or visitor) led info session, followed by sharing.

**Ongoing Member Project:**

Charlotte Curtis of Heisler has been collecting every obituary, birth, wedding and anniversary announcements for the past six years from papers across the region.

**Upcoming Branch Project:** We will be digitizing the Camrose Booster, a local newspaper, which started publishing in the mid-1950s.

**Other Branch Activities:**

Members of the Branch participated with a display at the annual Célébration de la Francophonie at the Augustana Campus in March 2020.

**Annual Workshops:**

We have a Zoom information session planned for community members on February 13, 2021. Topic: Benefits of belonging to AGS.

Deb Trout, President  
Janine Carroll, Vice President

## Drayton Valley Branch

Connie Stuhl



Volunteer Hours 208

2020 was a difficult year for the Drayton Valley Branch, as we have not been able to meet this year. The cold weather in January prevented us from holding our meeting and February

was not well-attended. In March, libraries were closed due to COVID-19 and when they were allowed to reopen, the Municipal Library where

we meet reduced their hours and the number of people allowed to attend to 10 which severely limited our ability to meet in person. Checking with members at that time, they were uncomfortable meeting in person due to the threat of COVID-19.

We have members (including our Secretary/Treasurer) who are unable to gain Internet access, so even online meetings were difficult. The platform that AGS was using at the time allowed only one Branch to hold a meeting at a time and our meetings are the same night as another Branch. Thanks to the new platform Zoom capability, we will be trying to hold Branch meetings in 2021.

We continue to collect obituaries from our local newspapers to add to our database and collection. Research requests have come in and we were able to share information thanks to our copies at home of local histories and access to our obituaries and local newspapers.

Connie Stuhl, President

## Edmonton Branch



Les Campbell



Volunteer Hours 7089

The year 2020 was a tumultuous year for the Edmonton Branch.

Several months ago, the son of a politician asked his father, "When will we get back to normal?" The father answered,

“There is no normal there is a new normal.” Due to COVID-19 the Branch is adjusting to the new normal. We have changed how we do things and have embraced virtual technology to accomplish our goals. Thank you for our members continued support during this most challenging time.

### **Vice President**

The Vice President shall perform the functions of the Branch in the absence of the President. The President was unable to attend the AGS November meeting. Judy Bradley, Vice President attended the AGS Board Meeting on November 2020 and reported back to the Executive the highlights of the meeting.

Judy reviewed the mail list (MailChimp) and provided a report to the webmaster which will help with maintenance of the mail list.

### **Library**

The Library Committee consists of five members: Leanne Templeton, Kate Binder, Armande Jones, Arlene Borgstede and Heather Harper. The library committee maintains the library holdings which includes local resources, family histories, maps, periodicals, and resources from other countries.

The library was closed March 15 and reopened September 1. Thank you to those volunteers who manned the library after the re-opening. The library was again closed in December 2020 and remains closed due to COVID-19.

### **Archivist/Historian**

The Archivist/Historian is to collect and preserve the records and documents of the Branch. Louise Perkins has done an excellent job of recording this information during the period of March to December 31, 2020. Her detailed report can be viewed in the Edmonton Branch Annual Report.

### **Clandigger**

The Clandigger Newsletter was issued five times in 2020: February, May, July, September, and December.

### **Research Services**

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.

171 queries (187 in 2019) were processed by Edmonton Branch AGS during 2020. As AGS processed 146 (250 in 2019), the total queries handled by the Committee during the year was 317 (437 during 2019). This substantial decrease in queries received might be due to family history researchers thinking that AGS was closed and not providing assistance with research.

Committee members working on research queries during 2020 were Gordon Berdahl, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, Louise Perkins and Norma Wolowyk. Shannon Cherkowski gave incredible support to the team during 2020 by searching her numerous genealogical indexes when requested.

Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, and Carol Martyniuk, three long-time members of the committee, retired from the Research Services Committee.

### **Membership**

Membership renewals for 2020 started to come in during the last 2 months of 2019. At the beginning of March, a 2020 membership form with a reminder letter was sent to 110 members that had not renewed for 2020. This did bring in 23 renewals.

### **Programs**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions monthly general meetings ceased from March to October. General Meetings resumed in November using virtual technology and will continue in 2021.

Guest speakers:

January 2020 *“Facebook for Genealogy”* - Shannon Cherkowski.

November 2020 *"A Mystery from Norway"* - Christine Prokop from the Edmonton Historical Society. This was a virtual presentation that was well attended with 51 individuals including members and visitors.

### **Courses and Outreach Chair**

Due to the pandemic, all Tracing Your Family Tree (TYFT) courses scheduled for March through June were cancelled and refunds issued. With the purchase of Zoom, we were able to begin delivering content online. Two free webinars were held in October and November to aid in becoming familiar with the technology. Feedback was extremely positive, therefore a webinar schedule was developed for winter/spring 2021.

### **Online Meeting Coordinator**

This position was created in January 2021. Liz Edmunds is the Online Meeting Coordinator who created and developed this position and hosted several SIG and TYFT webinars.

### **Publicity and Facebook**

Sharon Dyer, the Publicity Director has sent about 50 monthly meeting notices and course notices to various public libraries, seniors centres, archives and other organizations via email. These were also included in the Edmonton Journal and on the City of Edmonton website. However, when COVID-19 arrived in March these monthly postings were discontinued. Some postings restarted in September 2020.

Sharon is the Editor of the Edmonton Branch Facebook Page. The Alberta Genealogical Society posted 1-3 items almost every day throughout the year. This also included some meeting notices sent every two months for the Special Interest Groups. She also started posting on the Historic Edmonton & Northern Alberta Facebook page as well.

Sharon researched and shared numerous other items regarding history and genealogy.

### **Correspondence Secretary**

Bev Wardell prepared and mailed or delivered 29 cards on behalf of the Edmonton Branch in 2020. This consisted of 8 sympathy cards, 4 get well / thinking of you cards, 17 thank you cards for retiring and continuing Branch Executive Members; Linda Winski on her retirement as Office Administrator; General Meeting speakers; retiring library volunteers and SIG leaders.

### **Webmaster**

4Web.ca is the Internet provider for the Edmonton branch website and email. Website Statistics:

Top 5 web pages --

- 1) Contact Us
- 2) View Post Queries
- 3) ANI (Alberta Name Index)
- 4) Calendar
- 5) Research Services.

Top 6 Locales: Canada, United States, Albania, France, Great Britain, and Russia. Note: The statistical software included Albania which must be an error.

Busiest days of the week: Wednesday and Thursday.

Top Downloads:

Probate Indexes for Hanna, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Drumheller, Grande Prairie, TYFT, Workshop registration form and the Clandigger Newsletter for the months of March 2017, September 2018, and November 2019. Website backups for the months of October 2020 and February 2021.

Mail List:

The Edmonton Branch uses MailChimp to deliver the mail list which enables the Branch to broadcast e-mail messages to its members. Currently there are 323 subscribers. In preparing this report I found that there was no data prior to August 2020. From August 2020 to January 2021, there are 31 email broadcasts sent and 67% of these broadcasts were opened.

Les Campbell, President



## Fort McMurray Branch

Tammy Grantham



Volunteer Hours 248

### Executive Committee

President	Tammy Grantham
Vice President	Laverne Cormier
Treasurer	Cathy Marriott
Secretary	Dick Nash (until his passing in May 2020) now vacant

Well, this has been a year that I, among most everyone else I know, would like to not have to repeat in 2021! Due to COVID-19, our library has been closed more than it has been open, and the times it was opened were generally times that in a normal year, we would have been closed. We started out the year normal enough. January and February can have some very cold days, and we do not expect our volunteers to have to go out when temperatures go below -30. We had a couple of days that the library was closed due to low temperatures, but that is our norm. Then we had COVID-19 happen and many things closed down due to Government orders. So we closed and we waited, and waited...

In June, the Government gave permission for libraries to open. Our Provincial AGS Board supported the individual branch's decision of whether to open or to stay closed. Our Branch decided to open with strict protocols in place for visiting patrons. We further made the decision that, although we normally close for the months of July and August, we would open one day a

week to give members the opportunity to access our resources that they had not been able to access for all the months while we were closed. Fall then came, and we remained with our schedule of one day a week, until complete shutdown came once again in December.

So very little has happened over 2020. We did not have any monthly meetings; our aim was to have our door open to researchers as much as we could. We did have three research queries come into the library. One by post mail, and two from our web page that is hosted on the AGS website. We helped as much as we could. Executive members went in to pay bills and keep up the administration duties that had to be done. Personally, I kept up with my presidential duties for the Fort McMurray Branch, and as a member of the AGS Board, I served on the membership and Family History Library (FHS) affiliate library committee and joined the finance committee late in the year.

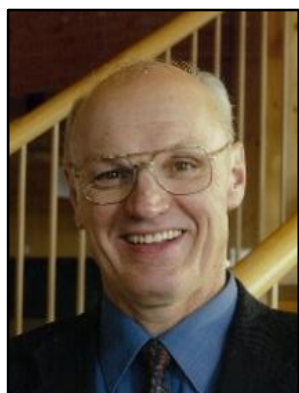
On a very sad note, our branch experienced the loss of a current member and of a past member. Dick Nash, who was our Secretary, passed away in May, and then a former President of our Branch, Sandy Payne passed away in July. Though Sandy moved back to his home province, he would always come and visit our library when he was back in town. Both of these men will be greatly missed.

Tammy Grantham, President

# Grande Prairie & District Branch



Al Bromling



Volunteer Hours 830

## Executive Committee

President	Al Bromling
Vice President	Rilla Websdale
Treasurer	Gail Prette
Secretary	Maxine Maxwell
Past President	Ed Hall

At our Annual General Meeting, we brought three new members to the Executive Team. Our new Vice President is Rilla Websdale, our Treasurer is Gail Prette and our Director-at-Large is Jay Sydoruk. We welcomed these new folks with their ideas and energy. Continuing from the previous Executive are Ed Hall, Past President; Maxine Maxwell, Secretary; and Al Bromling, President. We convey a special thanks to Jean Gray who has stepped back from Executive work this year after several years of great contributions.

The only major outreach event for our Branch was our participation in an information and display activity at the Mighty Peace Teachers Convention in early March. After that date, the pandemic health regulations shut down public operations. Our Executive Committee continued to function using virtual platforms for decision making. Members took advantage of

opportunities to join Special Interest Groups and other presentations, also using virtual platforms.

There were some notable achievements in 2020: During the virtual AGM Annual Awards presentation in April, Grande Prairie and District Branch publication, *Heritage Seekers Newsletter* was recognized in the Best Overall Branch Newsletter category for 2019. As well, the award for the Best Local Content category went to our Member, Joan Bowman for her item – “*Our Stories: 100 Year Family Celebration*”. Our thanks to the AGS Executive and the Review Committees for their efforts in offering the Kenneth Young Awards.

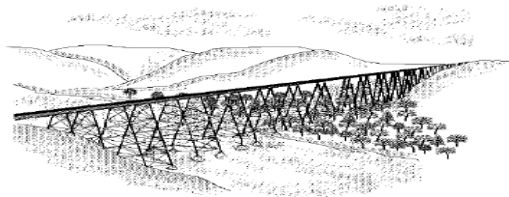
Our Branch awarded genealogical study bursaries to two worthy individuals in 2020, valued at five hundred dollars each.

We increased our unique ‘members only’ website services by providing three new services:

- Members only access to the DNA Boot Camp webinar series (the MacEntee and Eberle digital production)
- Members only subscription access to the great search engines at MyHeritage Super Search and Newspapers.com.

Al Bromling, President

## Lethbridge & District Branch



### Marilyn Astle



Volunteer Hours 2113

#### Executive Committee

President	Marilyn Astle
Vice President	Barry Simmonds
Secretary	Julie Miller
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Past President	John Squarek

#### Meetings

**January:** Member Henning Muendel presented *“Memoirs and memory - a Muendel family history from World War II revisited in 2019”*.

**February:** We held our AGM. It was not an election year. Guest speaker Rod McLeod addressed the topic *“What do we find behind the names?”*

**March, April and May:** no meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**June:** We held our first Branch video conference meeting. At this meeting we agreed to participate in the Affiliate Library Program from the Family History Library. There was no speaker.

**September:** We met by video conference and member Susan Haga spoke on *“Reading Old*

*Handwriting”*, a presentation originally scheduled for a face-to-face meeting in March.

**October:** no meeting.

**November:** After the business meeting, members gave updates on their pandemic activities.

#### Projects & Activities

We maintained our regular office hours for the public with volunteer staffing three afternoons per week from January 7 to March 12., then closed the centre on March 13 due to the pandemic. It has not reopened to the public since.

Our Monday Legacy group met regularly from January 6 to March 9 for continuing education and assistance with members’ research. The group met June 22<sup>nd</sup> to mark the reopening of our centre for members only with increased spacing, sign in sheets and provision for sanitizing in place. The group resumed weekly meetings from September 14<sup>th</sup> continuing to November 2<sup>nd</sup>. With an increase in COVID-19 case numbers in the Lethbridge area, as well as the whole province, the Resource Centre was again closed and had not reopened by year end. Our newsletter “Yesterday’s Footprints” was published three times as usual and is publicly available on our website.

Our Facebook group “Lethbridge Genealogy” increased to 89 members from 50 at the end of 2019.

Research queries continued to be answered. Eleanor McMurchy responded to 26 requests for help with family research and earned approximately \$1800 for the Branch from research. Subscriptions have been paid and extended and the Resource Centre has a new subscription source for military records in the United States.

We added about \$1000 to our book inventory with purchased and donated books. We will receive 14 local history books that the Wetaskiwin Branch salvaged from discard by

their local public library (not yet included in our inventory). Eleanor made a DVD of the free German-Russian Handbook from the North Dakota State Archives.

Our ongoing project of collecting and digitizing obituaries and funeral cards has continued. We continue to work with the Cemetery Office on updating St. Patrick's Cemetery Records as well as assisting them with requests.

A casino scheduled for May and our annual October International Dinner were both cancelled due to the pandemic.

### **Miscellaneous**

Bob and Anne Baines, membership #229, have been members of AGS Lethbridge Branch since 1975 and received the new award for members with more than 40 years of membership. Congratulations Bob and Anne and thank you for your support over all these years.

A number of our members participated in the AGS webinars. We have been pleased to have members residing at a distance taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in the video conference Branch meetings.

In December, we packed up our library materials and put them into storage so the landlord could replace the carpet in our centre. By the time the carpet was replaced in early January, more stringent public health measures meant we were unable as of late January to have a work bee to set up the centre again.

Thank you to all who have helped us meet the challenges of 2020.

Marilyn Astle, President

## **Medicine Hat & District Branch**

Web: <http://mhdgs.ca/>  
E-mail: [mhgs@shaw.ca](mailto:mhgs@shaw.ca)



### **Dwight Brown**



Volunteer Hours 1896

### **Executive Committee**

President	Dwight Brown
Vice President	Donald Zimmer
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Debra Wickham
Past President	Doreen Schank

### **Meetings**

Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month; we start with our business meeting followed by a genealogical program. Our AGM is the first Wednesday of February. No meetings are held in July or August.

At our February AGM 2020 the new Executive (as above) was voted into office. No meetings were held April through August due to COVID-19. Monthly meetings via Zoom were held September through December.

### **Certificates Received**

25 Year Certificate for Eileen & Ron Stahl.

### **Computer**

2 computers + 1 monitor were received via Computers for Schools Program as requested.

## Library

The library was open on Wednesday afternoons to the public with volunteers to answer questions and help members and the public.

Due to COVID-19 the library was closed from March through August, then opened in September on Wednesdays and Thursdays for two hours in the evening through November 10. The library has been closed since then due to COVID-19.

There are four members volunteering to help look up requests from their home through our subscriptions to the Genealogybank, Newspaper Archive and Ancestry Newspapers.

## Projects

Cemetery Database: Consists of local area cemeteries. They are being photographed and we hope to link to the cemetery database.

Obituary Database: Consists of scanning in obits from the Medicine Hat News. They are filed by year, month and date of publication. This will also include obituary cards collected from the time our branch began.

TELUS/AGT Phone Book: Continued scanning these phone books. The White Pages are online as are a lot of the Yellow Pages. This project as well as others have slowed down due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Yearbooks: Continued scanning school yearbooks.

Programs and Community events participation: These were canceled due to COVID-19.

## Queries

We are still handling queries as before but the number of requests is reduced.

## Sammis Seeker

Three issues of Saamis Seeker Newsletter were published this year. Many of our members contributed feature articles to Saamis Seeker. Submissions are welcome at any time from any

of AGS Branches and which our Editor will keep on file for future Saamis Seeker issues.

## Social Media Accounts

At present, we have 221 followers on Facebook and 102 followers on Twitter. These accounts provide a platform for members to keep up to date on upcoming events, genealogical resources and stories.

## Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Computer, Germans from Russia and Genealogy Family Tree are not meeting but are keeping in touch with others on the committees.

## Website

We have had 8,911 new users with a total of 9,794 users in 15,329 sessions.

Dwight Brown, President

## Red Deer & District Branch



Lianne Kruger



Volunteer Hours 461

## Executive Committee

President	Vacant
Vice President	Lianne Kruger
Secretary	Judith Machtans
Past President	Linda Darby
Treasurer	Raymond Cyr
Membership	Judith Machtans
Library	Vacant
Publicity	Joan Schmelke
Cemetery	Vacant
Genealogy Queries	Betty Barnhill
Newsletter	Larry Johnstone

January meeting was cancelled due to extreme cold weather.

February was our AGM and a short meeting. Michael Dawe, City Archivist for 30 years was the speaker. He spoke about his family arriving in Red Deer in 1901 and cemeteries in Central Alberta. We are looking for a librarian for the branch. The rest of the executive remained in place.

There was no meeting planned for March because there was a Family History Fair planned for the end of the month. The branch volunteers helping with the Family History Fair and members come. It is a free event. The event was moved to online as a webinar with only four presentations. Only a few of the members attended. COVID-19 was still very new and many felt too stressed to concentrate on listening to speakers.

We did not plan for a meeting in April because of the GenFair. That was cancelled and no other meeting was planned.

Our branch meets in the LDS Church in the room beside the Family History Library. The church and the FHL was closed for the rest of the year. We began planning to do webinars in the fall for 2021. Raymond Cyr practiced and then presented a good session on FamilyTreeMaker 2019 which he was going to give in April until everything was shut down.

Lianne Kruger  
VP of Red Deer Branch

## Wetaskiwin Branch



Alice Hoyle



Volunteer Hours 1407

### Executive Committee

President	Alice Hoyle
Vice-President	Lorraine McKay
Secretary	Patty Caputo
Treasurer	Lee Koop

### Projects

Archives – While not exactly a “project”, we have once again felt the necessity of trying to impress on the City of Wetaskiwin Administration the importance of the Archives and the need to preserve the historical documents, photos, newspapers, books, etc. that are housed within. At the end of November 2020, the City of Wetaskiwin closed the City Archives for at least a year so they could “evaluate the collection” and “determine long term sustainability of the Archives”.

All the items contained within the Archives have been moved to locked rooms so the public no longer has access to the resources. For our branch volunteer researchers, it has been a major setback as we no longer have access to information that is invaluable to us when we are responding to research requests from around the world.

In December 2020, several branch members had a Zoom meeting with the City official overseeing the Archives, at which time we expressed our concerns and told him how irreplaceable the historical items housed in the Archives are to us. We spoke of the importance of the Archives and the need to preserve the historical documents, photos, newspapers, books, etc. that are housed within.

We have been advised that he will set up another meeting with us in early 2021 in order that we can be kept informed about the City's intentions as it relates to the archival items, the Archives location, etc.

We intend to be as involved in discussions and decision making as much as possible. We are hopeful that we will be heard and that the Archives will open again as stated.

The premises are now used by the Open-Door Agency to provide services to the homeless.

Branch Library – currently closed as it is housed within the City Archives.

### **Community Outreach**

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic meant the reduction of personal visitations with members of the public who may have been interested in starting or progressing on their genealogical research. The closure of the Family History Centre (FHC) due to the pandemic reduced the opportunities for the public to access databases and use the assistance of consultants at the FHC.

### **Education & Training**

While in-person meetings and presentations were non-existent, many of our branch members took part in the wide variety of webinars offered by genealogical societies across Canada, the USA, and the UK. For the most part, these were free and it meant our time in isolation was time well spent on updating our knowledge about technology, research opportunities, new sources of information, etc.

A big thank you to those, including AGS members, who shared their knowledge and gave us new information to assist us with our research.

### **Monthly Meeting Presentations**

**January:** *“Simple Ways that you can Make or Meet Family History Goals”* – Claudia Malloch gave us some tips and suggestions on how to use simple methods to keep our intended research goals in 2020.

**February:** *“What’s New on Family Search?”* – Claudia Malloch gave us an overview of the new and exciting additions to the research possibilities available on FamilySearch.org. As always, we were amazed at how rapidly this site changes in such a short time.

**March, April and May:** No meetings held due to the pandemic restrictions.

**June:** Sharing Session – *“What have you been doing during the COVID-19 Isolation?”* A virtual meeting via Blue Jeans – those attending shared what they had been doing and how their lives had changed.

**September:** *“What I will share with my descendants about the COVID-19 pandemic”* – another virtual meeting. We shared how we have been recording and preserving the information about what is happening in our lives during the pandemic and the isolation. We were encouraged to keep records of our thoughts, the news about what was happening locally and globally etc. in order that future generations will know what happened, and how this affected us.

**October:** No meeting.

**November:** *“Share one of your Memorable Christmas Memories”* or *“Tell how Christmas 2020 will be celebrated at your home”*. Lots of lovely memories of Christmases past were shared. We all agreed that Christmas 2020 will not be the same, but we are thankful we have memories of those past Christmas celebrations.

### **Volunteerism**

Our branch members still volunteer their time doing research for the requests that are sent to us via the AGS website, phone calls, or emails. As well, several members do volunteer research for those who contact them personally.

### **Branch Members' Contribution to our Branch Newsletter and to Relatively Speaking (RS)**

In 2020, our branch members wrote 7 articles for our branch newsletters; 9 articles that appeared in RS were written by Wetaskiwin Branch members.

### **GENFAIR 2020**

GenFair 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic. This has been rescheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with a reduced format via Zoom.

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

Alice Hoyle, President



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Gaming

Laura Turnbull



Volunteer Hours: 45

### AGS Casino Event:

Our last casino event was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 with proceeds of \$74,290.87 received.

We were initially slotted to have our next event in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021.

This was then changed to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021. The pandemic threatening all the world has resulted in casinos in Alberta being closed or cancelled. At this point, we do not have any definite news on our next casino event other than it most likely will not be before the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021.

In conjunction with our President and Treasurer, we have responded to Alberta Gaming calls for feedback on possible plans going forward but have no further information at this time.

### Branch Casino Events:

Branches that were scheduled for a casino event in 2020 had those cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no word yet on when any casinos in Alberta will be held.

## GenFair 2020

Alice Hoyle



Volunteer Hours: 93

Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS volunteered to host GenFair 2020. The year 2020 was our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so we were excited to share our milestone Anniversary with GenFair attendees.

Our committee worked diligently to solicit knowledgeable presenters; obtain a venue; work on advertising, etc. Door prizes were obtained, handouts were obtained, registrations were being received and it looked like all was proceeding as planned.

Then, COVID-19 hit. Our event was cancelled due to Government guidelines and the concern for the well-being of the participants.

We issued refunds for all who had already registered and paid their fees to attend.

Wetaskiwin Branch volunteered to host GenFair 2021 – second attempt. This will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. At the time of writing, due to the ongoing concerns about the pandemic, GenFair 2021 will be a Virtual Event.

# Grants/Other Funding Committee

Marion Rex



Volunteer Hours: 151

## Sponsorship

The Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) is forever grateful for the funding received through sponsorship from the Government of Alberta and the Edmonton Heritage Council. AGS also relies on membership fees, casino funding, general donations, research income, and conference registrations to help fund the services provided by our organization.

## Meetings Held

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

## Volunteer Contribution

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers who donate their time and expertise to support our organization and our programs. This year, our volunteers donated 17,559 hours of volunteer time. At \$20.00/hour, which is the suggested rate for grant applications, this amounts to \$351,180 and is a valuable asset to our Society.

## Grants

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

- **Historic Resources Management Branch (HRMB) Sponsorship**—In 2019, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF) was dissolved under the new funding model

developed by the Alberta Government. The Provincial Heritage Organizations, once funded by AHRF, are now under the umbrella of the Historic Resources Management Branch, funded by the Government of Alberta through the Heritage Division of Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women. In 2020, AGS received **\$14,750.00** (\$33,300.00 in 2019) which was applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations, and general administration.

- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2020, AGS received **\$22,276.00** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (\$17,396.25 in 2019). This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support.

## General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses, and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$7,664.37 in donations. It was also decided by the Board to list donations given in memoriam in the annual report; this is being done for the first time in this publication.

• Provincial Office	\$3,809.50
• Brooks	285.00
• Camrose	125.00
• Drayton Valley	-
• Edmonton	1,893.55
• Fort McMurray	-
• Grande Prairie	50.00
• Lethbridge	45.00
• Medicine Hat	1,101.32
• Red Deer	330.00
• Wetaskiwin	25.00
TOTAL	<u>\$7,664.37</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.

## Computers for Schools

AGS made an application to Computers for Schools for computer equipment. It arrived once meetings had been cancelled due to COVID-19. Thanks to Doug McLeod who was in Edmonton

and took the computers, monitors and printer back to Brooks, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. The following equipment was acquired:

- **Brooks & District Branch** – one (1) laptop
- **Lethbridge & District Branch** – one (1) network printer and one (1) 24” monitor
- **Medicine Hat & District Branch** – two (2) laptops and one (1) 24” monitor

Thanks to the Government of Canada for funding Computers for Schools so we can obtain these resources.

## Genealogy for Children & Youth

Edmonton Branch continued their work with youth. Certificates were awarded to 197 students for Social Studies posters created about either their First Nations history or their immigrant family’s journey to Canada. As well, 25 certificates were given to students who completed a Language Arts project documenting the history of a family heirloom. Seven of the above projects were published as articles in the Youth Write-On column of the *Relatively Speaking* journal.

## Library & Resource Centre

Claudine Nelson



The year of COVID-19 was operating as normal, with patrons coming in during the day and SIG Groups were meeting, until March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 when all Libraries were not to be opened to patrons. This closure was used as an opportunity for three of

us, including Linda Winski the Office Coordinator, to give everything a proper sorting and cleaning. We moved into the facility 12 years ago so it was a great opportunity for us to meet once or twice a week to accomplish this and order needed products that was required to safely open September 1st. The Library Volunteers were contacted by Edmonton Branch library committee about volunteering during this pandemic, and

many were not willing to. In September, several volunteers worked extra shifts to explain to each volunteer what protocols were in place: hand sanitizer 6 feet inside the door with another 6 feet before signing in. The bathroom door was propped open to make it easy to wash hands. There are special cleaning products for the computers, table cleaning and hand sanitizers throughout. Masks were available but every patrons wore masks and sanitized appropriately = no problems. New cleaners were hired with increased attention to COVID-19 protocols. The ceiling ducts were cleaned - very dirty.

The library closed December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 expecting to reopen January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 but due to increase of COVID-19 it did not happen.

## Membership

Janine Carroll



At the last Board meeting it was requested that the membership committee add a note to the proposed **Branch Membership Committee Representative** document regarding number of annual meetings. The committee discussed and this has been added.

The membership committee met on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Notes from that meeting include:

- Branch reps are happy with the AGS membership renewal options and ease. (There was a suggestion that email addresses be dropped from the AGS database after a certain time)
- Discussion about how Branches can become more visible in their community
- Discussion about how distant Branches can better utilize the AGS library
- Setting membership goals - this is very individual to each Branch
- Creating a membership renewal strategic plan.

## Policies & Procedures/Bylaws

Sheila Genaille



### Policy & Procedures

1.Changes to policies were made concerning the dates of the Convention and GenFair.

2.It was recommended that a policy be developed concerning filing a complaint.

### Bylaws

Nine bylaw amendments were recommended to the Board of Directors; the proposed changes were made to clarify the governance of the Society.

## Relatively Speaking

Lynne Duigou



Volunteer Hours: 207

I continue to act as the Editor of *Relatively Speaking* as we have not yet found an experienced volunteer to take on the position. We produced four issues this year on the following themes:

February – Success and Love, May – Royalty, August – Immigration, November – Stories from WWI and WWII. My thanks to the Editing Team -- Denise Daubert, Marilyn Wales, Janet Cooper and Suzanne Maynard, Layout - Marie Vieira, the MailingTeam – Jo and Judy Nuthack and the library volunteers who stuff the envelopes for each issue. The pandemic has been challenging as it has meant that everything is done online. With the current lockdown there are no volunteers to stuff envelopes ready for mailing as no meetings are allowed. My husband, Lou, and I will continue to stuff the envelopes ready to mail until the lockdown ends.

Thanks to the Editing Team – Denise Daubert, Suzanne Maynard, Janet Cooper and Marilyn Wales. Thanks also to Maria Vieira who is our Layout and Production Team Member.



Jo Nuthack continues to do the pickup and mailing.

We are looking for a volunteer(s) to take over the mail as Jo would like to retire. He will train the new person.

## Research Services

Norma Wolowyk



The Research Services Committee for both AGS and Edmonton Branch began meeting each Friday at the AGS Library in 1999 and has continued to do so since that year. In 2020, this 20 plus year record was sadly interrupted due to COVID-19 restrictions

beginning in March. The committee was unable to meet on Fridays until November 2020 only to have restrictions renewed in December 2020. The library lockdown time was used by three members of the Research Committee to give all surfaces in the library space a deep cleaning, something that was hard to accomplish when the library had daily use.

Participating during 2020 were Gordon Berdahl, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, and Norma Wolowyk. Shannon Cherkowski, again, gave incredible support to the team during 2020 by searching her numerous genealogical indexes when requested.

Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards and Carol Martyniuk, three long time members of the

committee, have retired from the Research Committee. All three dedicated many hours to researching queries for Edmonton Branch and AGS over many years. We will miss them. Louise Perkins, an active member of Edmonton Branch, joined the Committee in 2020.

During COVID-19 queries were forwarded to researchers who then responded by e-mail from their home computers. 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 (eg. AGS submission form, Edmonton Branch email, phone call to Library, etc.).

146 queries (250 in 2019) were processed by AGS during 2020; Edmonton Branch processed 171 (187 in 2019). The total queries handled by the Committee during 2020 was 317 (437 during 2019). This substantial decrease in queries received might be due to family history researchers thinking that AGS was closed and not providing assistance with research. Hopefully during 2021 we will return to more normal times.

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 (PAA). 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. It became difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic to supply copies of homestead records in a timely manner. The Provincial Archives was closed to the public from the March 18<sup>th</sup> to the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Upon reopening in June restrictions were placed on accessing the PAA. The microfilm reader/printer was available for use by scheduling a two-hour appointment on Tuesdays and Fridays. On the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the PAA again was closed to the public due to further pandemic restrictions.

Thank you to Linda Winski and Jackie Pearson, AGS Office Coordinators, for handling the mail and phone calls for the Research Committee and

collecting credit card payment information. Their prompt and efficient attention to these matters during a difficult 2020 is very much appreciated.

## Retreat

Susan Haga



Volunteer Hours: 10

Our Retreat Committee for the past year has consisted of Co-Chairs Susan Haga and Jock Howard (Past President). This past year has been quite unusual because of the pandemic and our September Retreat was

not held. We held our usual board meeting in September virtually via Blue Jeans. Because we usually have a Strategic Planning Workshop included with our September Retreat, we then decided to include that as part of our virtual board meeting. This virtual workshop was held as part of the September board meeting and Goal 4 of our Strategic Planning Workshop was pushed forward to our November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 board meeting in order to cover all the parts of that workshop. There were 4 committees that organized their own groups to cover the discussions.

### Strategic Planning Committees:

1. **Education** -- Sheila Genaille, Tammy Grantham and Bob Franz.
2. **Membership** -- Marion Rex, Susan Haga, Lianne Kruger, and Janine Carroll.
3. **Research** -- Deb Trout, Dwight Brown and Lianne Kruger.
4. **Collaboration** -- Lynne Duigou, Marilyn Astle, Alice Hoyle, Connie Stuhl, Al Bromling and Doug McLeod.

Marion Rex led the discussion for our Strategic Planning Workshop. Due to the time constraints, it was agreed that we would discuss Goal 4— Collaboration at the November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 virtual board meeting via Blue Jeans. It was a successful virtual board meeting in September in place of our Retreat and Strategic Planning Workshop.

Previously in the past board meetings, there has been a lot of discussion on the Retreat and what

its focus should be. It was agreed that the Retreat was beneficial to our Executive and Board members and that we needed to continue holding it and to focus on having training workshops for our Executive and our Board members. This is the reason that we included our Strategic Planning Workshop in our September virtual board meeting.

Our next Retreat may be held September 17-19, 2021 providing our pandemic situation has been resolved by then. Otherwise, we may hold another virtual September Board meeting in place of it.

## Webmaster

Lianne Kruger



Volunteer Hours: 300

### Monthly Webinars

As BlueJeans coordinator, Sheila Genaille asked me to help her with the monthly webinars. I helped by doing the following for each webinar:

- I created a registration form in Google Forms for the registration.
- I did a mass email to all our members with the information, poster and link to register.
- I copied the emails from those that registered and emailed them all the BlueJeans link to attend the webinar. When we switched to Zoom in November it was the Zoom link.
- I then cleaned out the list of registrants for one month to prepare for the next month.
- I met with the speaker prior to the webinar to ensure they knew and felt comfortable with presenting online.
- During the session, I monitored the attendees and the speaker. I acted as host after the sessions while the speaker answers questions asked by attendees.
- I have kept the statistics for each of these webinars.

I have created a YouTube channel for AGS. It is a private channel, free channel, free storage

closed captioning can be added to videos. We have not yet made a contract for the speakers to record them and to have them on the YouTube channel for members to access as a members only benefit.

### BlueJeans / Zoom Coordinator

As BlueJeans coordinator

- I create a meeting in BlueJeans for the executive meetings, branch board meetings, financial group, board meetings and other organizational meetings as needed.
- Sent out the link to the coordinator or the individuals to attend the BlueJeans meeting.

In December, we switched to Zoom. I continued the job but now using Zoom.

### Membership Benefits

I have tried to find genealogical benefits for all who become a member of AGS. One was a \$5 discount with other provincial genealogical societies which Lynne then coordinated. Others are JSTOR, National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Stop the Hound, Vivid-Pix and Your DNA Guide. More benefits are needed and I will continue to work on them.

### FamilySearch Affiliated Library

In 2019, I introduced the idea of branch's library computers having access to FamilySearch's Affiliated Library. The contract was reviewed by our lawyer and they had questions as well as some board members. In the fall, I coordinated a meeting with a friend from Ontario who is a librarian in Oakville. She has had FamilySearch Affiliated Library on the computers in her library. Elise was able to answer board members who were concerned about the contract because she had been using it for a few years.

With the work needed to run RootsTech Connect 2020; FamilySearch was not accepting any more library review and process our contract starting in April. Once the contract is done, Les with Edmonton library, and I with Red Deer, will be the test sites. Once they are up and running, then other branches will be able to join.

## **WEBMASTER CHAIR**

### **Website Emails**

Deb Boelster has and continues to do a great job monitoring the emails that come into the website and forward them to the appropriate volunteers, and emails that come into the webmaster email. Deb also adds the board meeting reports onto the website for the current board meeting. In the fall, Deb helped train Jackie Pearson to upload the files. Deb continues to add the last-minute reports so they are all there for the weekend meetings. Deb has also made changes to the website with names and email addresses for the branches. Thank you, Deb and Bruce Boelster, for all of your help with the website.

### **Website Calendar**

Deb Trout took on the job of updating and maintaining the calendar on the website in 2020. She adds board meetings, webinars and SIG meetings to the calendar. If you have anything you would like to add to the calendar, please email Deb at: [abgenealogycalendar@gmail.com](mailto:abgenealogycalendar@gmail.com). Thank you Deb for your work on the calendar.

### **Webpages**

Nik Henke also joined the Web team in 2020. She is helping me with updating and maintaining the webpages. Deb Trout, Nik, Jackie and I went through the website to find broken links, duplicate pages and pages that could be combined or repeated information. We are working on the list created. Nik is going to work on ensuring the site works well on tablets and phones. Thank you Nik for your help.

Thank you again to all members of the website team. This makes this huge job so much easier. There is still much to do on the website and we will work on it as we can.

I took over as Webmaster in April after fulfilling six years as AGS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. The following are some of the items that I did in 2020:

- Trained Jackie Pearson to add new registrations in Shout and Access.
- Uploaded the current Operations Manual.
- Fixed the membership list for executive.

- Uploaded the registration form for 2021 and setup website for registration for 2021.
- Uploaded *Relatively Speaking* as they came out along with the content description and article list.
- Sent out mass emails when needed.
- Moved items in the research area so that the research team is on the top row.
- Fixed heading issues and logo and menus.
- Fixed spacing on multiple pages.
- Added buttons on front page and made it easier to get to the registration page.
- Removed multiple old webpages.
- Wrote instructions on how to make changes for those helping with the website.
- Cleared out current reports folder for each board meeting so that Jackie and Deb B could upload the new reports.
- Added the 2019 Member in Memoriam page.
- Moved link to brochure - become a member.
- New member kit uploaded.
- Updated logos on society sponsors.
- Changed the footer on library being closed and opened and closed.

We are compiling old RS, board minutes and AGM reports to add to the website.

### **Membership**

Donna Parker, Shirley Keller, Linda Winski and I had a meeting to discuss how Shout and membership and duties will go forward in August. Donna has been a great help because of her experience with Shout but is currently not available. If you are interested in helping, please email me.

After the meeting, it was determined that the first priority would be to move everything from Access to Shout. It was also noted:

- This would be done slowly.
- Shout would be tested well with all exceptions before the Access database would be completely eliminated.
- One item would be worked on at a time.

First step is to gather information. Next step, the information will be compared to the Shout version

to ensure the same data is being recorded. Then create the Access reports in Shout.

### **DATABASE CHAIR**

There is a lot of work needed here.

Thank you for the branches who have forwarded updated information! We will get this coordinated and available as soon as we can. If you would like to help with this, please email me.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR / COORDINATOR**

Social media chairs for the branches and AGS are doing well! A request was made that the social media volunteers, in all the branches, should post and tweet about the resources using links to either AGS or branch resources. Please also mention our wonderful research team. Include their email address to identify who they are. Thank you!!  
[research@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:research@abgenealogy.ca)



Alberta Genealogical Society																			
Membership Statistics																			
for the year 2020																			
Branch	Primary Branch	Other branches added	Added branches	Total Branch Members	2020 New Members	Membership Type										RS E	RS P	Total Members	
						I	F	S	S+	L	L+	ST	YD	K	S				
AGS Only	37	2	0	37	6	11	1	23	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	15	37
Brooks	16	0	3	19	2	3	1	7	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	9	7	16	
Camrose	27	5	4	31	2	5	3	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	8	27	
Drayton Valley	7	0	1	8	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	7	
Edmonton	365	25	8	373	34	76	11	217	39	16	5	0	1	0	200	165	365		
Ft. McMurray	16	1	3	19	4	6	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	16		
Grande Prairie	34	3	8	42	3	7	0	21	3	3	0	0	0	0	20	14	34		
Lethbridge	42	1	5	47	5	6	0	23	11	1	2	0	0	0	28	14	42		
Medicine Hat	65	0	4	69	8	17	3	34	11	0	0	0	0	0	45	20	65		
Red Deer	49	6	4	53	3	7	0	40	2	0	0	0	0	0	33	16	49		
Wetaskiwin	23	0	3	26	1	2	0	13	6	1	0	0	0	0	14	9	23		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>681</b>		

LEGEND			
Primary Branch	Memberships purchased with just one branch (Home branch)		
Added Branches	Number of branches added by branches members (\$10 each)		
Branch added	Members who have added this branch to their membership		
Total Members	Total Branch members (Primary + branches added)		
	Note: By adding Branch plus Home plus Associate equals Total Memberships	# bought	Cost per
I	Individual Membership	143	50
F	Family Membership (additional members in the household)		
S	Senior Membership	405	45
S+	Senior Plus Membership (Additional members in the household)		
L	Life Membership	25	-
L+	Life Plus Membership (Additional members in the household)	7	-
ST	Student Membership	1	5
YD	Young Adult Membership	1	15
MKS	Margaret Kay Scholarship recipient	0	-
RS E	the number of members in that branch preferring a electronic copy of RS	407	-
RS P	the number of members in that branch preferring a print copy of RS	274	10
	Other branches added to membership	43	10
	<b>Membership Purchased</b>		<b>\$ 25,825</b>
	Membership	681	
	Life & Life + Members	32	
	<b>Total Paid memberships</b>	<b>649</b>	
	(Membership - (Life & Life +) = Memberships purchased)		

# 2020–2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

**Vision:** AGS supports and motivates people to engage in accurate genealogical research that enhances family connections and stories.

**Mission:** To be the trusted source of genealogical resources and to provide proven genealogical methods through education, assistance, promotion, resource development, and collaboration.

**Values:**

1. **Initiative:** We celebrate and support people who are curious and take the initiative to research their family history.
2. **Research:** We recognize and value proven methods in effective genealogical research process.
3. **Community:** We support one another in the pursuit of genealogical research.
4. **Respect:** We welcome diversity and seek to find ways to support family roots from all cultures.

**Strategic Goals 2019-2022:**

1. **Educational Opportunities:** Provide educational opportunities that motivate and support genealogical research
2. **Membership:** Support current membership and attract new members to Alberta Genealogical Society
3. **Research:** Develop and maintain trusted sources for genealogical research
4. **Collaboration:** Establish province-wide collaborative efforts of our common goals

*Bringing the past, to the present, for the future.*

# Alberta Genealogical Society

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

Phone: (780) 423-8902 Fax: (780) 423-8980

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

## 2021 Branch Contact Information

### Brooks & District Branch

President: Vacant

Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4

Phone: (403) 362-8819

Website: [www.AGSBrooks.com](http://www.AGSBrooks.com)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month,  
1:30 p.m. 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:

[www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com](http://www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month,  
7:00 p.m. Camrose Public Library  
Downstairs Boardroom

### Drayton Valley Branch

President: Connie Stuhl

P.O. Box 115

Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0

Phone: (780) 542-2787

Email: [ags.dvbranch@gmail.com](mailto:ags.dvbranch@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch)

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month,  
6:30 p.m. Drayton Valley Library,  
5121 - 52 Street, Drayton Valley

### Edmonton Branch

President: Les Campbell

Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6

Phone: (780) 424-4429

Fax: (780) 423-8980

Email:

[president@edmontongenealogy.ca](mailto:president@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  
Avenue, 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: [www.abgenealogy.ca/ft.-mcmurray-branch](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/ft.-mcmurray-branch)

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month,  
7:00 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) 512-4463

Email: [gpagspresident@gmail.com](mailto:gpagspresident@gmail.com)

Website:

[www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch)

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month,  
meeting time TBA, 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,  
7:00 p.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: [mhdgs.ca](http://mhdgs.ca)

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month,  
7:00 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental  
Co. Ltd., 974 – 13<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Medicine  
Hat

### Red Deer & District Branch

President: Lauranne Hemmingway

5612 – 49 Street Close

Innisfail, AB T4G 1Y7

Email: [rdbags@gmail.com](mailto:rdbags@gmail.com)

Website: [www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch)

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month,  
7:00 p.m. LDS Church  
3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer

### Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Alice Hoyle

R.R. #3, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 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)  
7:00 p.m. LDS Church, Wetaskiwin  
(Use NE Door)



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

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

- Active since 1973, 2020 was our 48<sup>th</sup> year of providing genealogical services to the community.
- COVID-19 challenged AGS and branches to stay connected to meetings and webinars via BlueJeans and Zoom. Members were successful in using the isolation to expand our knowledge using technology for research and finding new resources.
- Membership for 2020 totalled 681 compared to 678 in 2019, 678 in 2018, and 692 in 2017.
- Members reported 17,559 volunteer hours in 2020, compared to 34,132 in 2019.
- We held three Board of Directors meetings and nine Executive meetings virtually this year.
- The Annual Fall Retreat was cancelled due to COVID-19. Work on the Strategic Plan was done in online committee meetings, then reported to the Board and the virtual September board meeting.
- The biennial GenFair was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- We finalized the 2020-2022 Vision, Mission, Values and Goals for AGS. Our goals include:
  - Provide educational opportunities that motivate and support genealogical research
  - Support current membership and attract new members to Alberta Genealogical Society
  - Develop and maintain trusted sources for genealogical research
  - Establish province-wide collaborative efforts of our common goals
- Our virtual meeting software was upgraded from BlueJeans to Zoom to accommodate more meetings.
- We instituted a very popular new series of webinars entitled “Discovering Our Roots, Sharing Our Stories” held the fourth Monday of each month to members and non-members.
- The total number signing into the AGS Library and Resource Centre in Edmonton including daytime visits and evening meetings was 1,306, with 28 of those being non-members, compared to 2,972 the previous year. Numbers were down because the library was closed 12 March 2020-1 September 2020 and again 11 December 2020 to 8 March 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- The Research Committee responded to 317 research queries from around the world (437 in 2019).
- We published four issues of *Relatively Speaking* and had 23 first-time authors.
- 222 certificates were presented to elementary youth for successfully completing a youth genealogy report. Seven articles were features in *Relatively Speaking* as part of the Youth Write-On section.
- The Policies and Procedures/Bylaws committee continued their work, updating policies and bylaws.
- Branches across Alberta continue to work on genealogical resources. Medicine Hat & District Branch continues to digitize 100 years of TELUS/AGT phone books. A member of Camrose Branch donated 2,400 County of Flagstaff cemetery and obituary records for the AGS Surname Database.
- Seventeen Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in Camrose (2), Edmonton (11), Lethbridge (1) and Medicine Hat (3) provide valuable research and discussion groups for attendees.
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, gaming events, research queries, and grants from the Edmonton Heritage Council and Heritage Resources Management Branch of the Department of Alberta Culture and Tourism. We are hoping that the casinos will resume in 2021.
- The Society continued to employ one part-time office coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper.
- AGS membership follows the calendar year so RENEW your Membership in November/December.

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

