

RELATIVELY SPEAKING
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Volume 43 Number 1 – February 2015

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- Spinning Webs — websites of genealogical interest
- Tech Tips — technical insights on how to surf the net
- From The Branches – branch activities or acquisitions of interest that may benefit other branches or societies
- Queries
- Gleanings – highlights from articles appearing in publications recently received in the library

Feature Articles

- Notations from Diary of a WWI Veterinary Officer by Jane Savage Cowley
Jane gives us some insight, via excerpts from her father's diary, as to the life and fate of war horses. Dr. Alfred Savage was a veterinary officer who cared for the horses that were so important during WWI. She lists the many afflictions these animals suffered and the treatments available at that time. Jane also provides some of her father's comments on the war, his educational background, and his involvement in veterinary medicine post war.
- What Ever Happened To Jeannie McNeilly? by Grant Nicol
Grant recalls having heard about this aunt who had come to Edmonton from County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Due to a set of circumstances with which he was not entirely familiar, she did not reside here when Grant was growing up so he knew nothing about her. His interest, once piqued, Grant sleuthed out the cities she travelled to and lived in across Canada, as well as her reasons for travelling far and wide in this country. He eventually found her and had the opportunity to meet her. This is an endearing account that proved satisfying for the author and fulfilling for Jeannie in her final years.
- A World War I Romance by Richard Nash
Richard questioned, as genealogists so often do, how a particular relative with western Canadian parents had been born elsewhere, in this case, London. As he progressed in his research, Richard uncovered the reasons and resolved the question.
- Using WWI Records to Identify Family Groups in a One-Name Study by Marilyn Astle and Peter Astle
Marilyn and Peter have collaborated to present a comprehensive 'how to' article on the usefulness of these documents to the one-name study research they are conducting. We can all learn from their experience and utilize the same approach in our own family research.

- Preacher Kelly by Gloria Cathcart

In this article Gloria profiles an ancestor who is a well-known Alberta preacher. Gloria provides a timeline of the Kelly family's life in Kansas and their subsequent move to Alberta at the turn of the last century. Gloria is fortunate to have photographic evidence, much of it shown with this article that represents a historic picture of life in a young Alberta.

- A Story Spanning Three Continents by Miriam Roberts

Miriam offers us a glimpse into her Gaelic roots with a tale that begins in Wales, ends in southern Alberta, and with South Africa in between. The article also shows the value of friendship and how friendly conversations can sometimes lead to important genealogical clues.

- The Legend of Jean Cadieux by Sharon Aney

What a Canadian tale this is! What a thrill to have a Legend in the family! In researching her husband's family, Sharon discovered exciting historical roots that date back to 1671 Quebec. Not only is this article of genealogical interest, it is a slice of Canadian history and, as such, will be of broad interest.

- Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day compiled by Gloria Cathcart

This is the second in a series of compilations we have hoped would provide readers with an opportunity to reminisce and write about childhood recollections around particular dates and events – in this case love and/or Irish ancestors. Contributors are: Gloria Cathcart, Denise Daubert, Marilyn Hindmarch, and Lesley O'Neil.

- Visiting Alberta's Past

- 1) Fort Saskatchewan

John Althouse gives us an in depth look at the Heritage Board of Fort Saskatchewan's replica of the NWMP fort, an ideal place to learn about the history of this time and place in Alberta.

- 2) Centennials in Alberta, 2015

Denise Daubert has listed several centennials being celebrated around the province this year, a good page to consult before embarking on a road trip.

- Book Review by John Althouse

Love Letter's of the Great War is a collection of love letters from many countries, written by and to those away at war, a good book for anyone wanting to read about the emotions expressed over time and distance.

- From the Branches

- 1) Drayton Valley

- 2) Medicine Hat

- Library Notes

A listing of 2014 library acquisitions

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Feature Articles

- Lieutenant Addison Lowe of the 47th: Scion of an Irish Military Family by Diane Granger
Addison Lowe, born in Ireland in 1787, like many other young Irishman of the 18th and 19th centuries, joined the army and participated in conflicts far from home. The author shows, after much sleuthing on her part, how his life was intertwined with the events of the Napoleonic era and the expansion of the British Empire as revealed in his military records.
- A Great Romance by Lesley O'Neil
In this one-pager, Lesley O'Neil recounts the endearing tale of how her parents met.
- Entertaining Angels by Mary-Ann Neal
John Patrick Gillese was, in his lifetime, a well-known and much respected Edmonton-based author. His daughter, Mary-Ann Neal, tells of a chance encounter that, although John Patrick considered unremarkable, resonated with her. Through her telling of this event we all have the opportunity to appreciate the personality of this man who contributed much to this city and our province.
- How a Dead Poet Helped Me with My Family History Quest by Allison Akgungor
Allison drew inspiration from a poet who had spent her early years in the same part of Nova Scotia that Allison's ancestors came from and had written about that place. Allison visited Great Village, NS in 2011 to attend an arts festival celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the poet, Elizabeth Bishop. On that trip she uncovered a treasure trove of information about her family and how they lived, showing us the rewards to be gleaned from travelling to our ancestral home.
- Walk Down The Aisle With Me by Denise Daubert
Denise recalled her daughter's recent wedding, as a tribute to Father's Day, describing the bridal bouquet that contained small framed photos of her deceased grandfathers; these are also pictured for anyone wanting to replicate this idea.

- Discover Your Roots; Share Your Stories Conference 2015 coverage by Carolynne Ross & Pam Forsyth, conference co-chairs

As is our usual practice, we have again devoted the centre spread to the AGS bi-annual conference. The co-chairs prepared the text, with photos by Lesley O'Neil and George Cathcart.

- A Ten-Day Sergeant by Marilyn (Hanson) Lappi

At the end of WWII, LAC Alton Hanson was given an unexpected overseas posting to India, with the elevation of rank to sergeant for the duration of this 10-day posting. Marilyn has transcribed some of his letters home during that time. These shed light on a different sort of war experience, his excitement and observations throughout, but also his longing to be home with his wife and young son.

- Rolling Pins and Pastry Delights – un patissier on my family tree by Denise Daubert

One of the author's great uncles was a pastry chef who worked in the kitchens of several CP hotels in the west, including the iconic Banff Springs Hotel. Denise remembers this man from her childhood and has put together the story of his life from diligent research through records, photos, and memorabilia now in her possession.

- Book Review

The Munro Family from Longlac, reviewed by Grant Nicol

Dr. Kenneth Munro, a professor emeritus of history at the University of Alberta tells the reader of the trials and tribulations of his father's immigrant family with interesting accounts of the lives of many descendants in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. This 536-page family history is enhanced with photos from his own collection and from other relatives.

- Visiting Alberta's Past

1) The Churches of Lamont County

The 47 churches of this county can be visited as a self-guided tour. These and a number of other sites and museums chronicle the history of this part of the Northeast Settlement Block.

2) Fort Saskatchewan Mural a Historic Showcase

Just 16 km northeast of Edmonton, this city was incorporated in 1985. Its rich history includes the fur trade, aboriginal peoples, NWMP, and homesteaders. Murals in the downtown showcase this historic past.

- From the Branches

News from the following branches:

- Drayton Valley
- Edmonton
- Wetaskiwin

- Library Notes

Claudine Nelson lists the publications of major societies currently in the library. She asks for feedback from readers on local histories that the AGS does not have.

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Volume 43, Number 3 – August 2015

Regular Features

- Announcements
- Call for Articles
- Editorial by Marilyn Hindmarch & Wayne Shephard
- From the Branches – Salt Lake City Bound
- Letters to the Editor
- Library Notes by Claudine Nelson
- President's Message by Susan Haga
- Queries
- Spinning Webs by Denise Daubert
- Tech Tips by Les Campbell

Special Items

- Thank You, Lesley O'Neil by *Relatively Speaking* committee members
- Tribute to Peter Staveley by Marilyn Hindmarch
- Book Review - Snowing in June: Remembering the victims and survivors of the Hillcrest mine disaster by John Althouse
- AGS Awards for the Year 2014
- Results of the 2015 *Relatively Speaking* Survey by Wayne Shephard
- Visiting Alberta's Past: From Celebration to Oblivion (Alderson, Alberta) by John Althouse
- Looking Forward: The AGS Website by Lyn Meehan

Feature Articles

- **Step Away From the Computer: Using archives, academic libraries and museums for your research** by Gena Philibert-Ortega
Gena reminds us that not everything is on the Internet and that family historians also need to expand their searches. A great deal of pertinent information is available in other important, brick-and-mortar repositories: in genealogical society libraries; in public, private, government, academic and organizational libraries; on the shelves of regional, occupational and religious archives; and in local, occupational and religious museums.
- **Being a Child Wasn't All Fun and Games** by Belinda Crowson
Belinda comments that in the past many children entered the workforce and child labour was common. It was not considered unusual for children of families going through difficult times to help out by earning wages in regular jobs to help out. She describes many occupations in which children were found active in Alberta.
- **The Forgotten History of the Chinese in Canada** by Ging Wei Wong
Wei recounts the history of his own family and points out the hardships and contributions made to communities by Chinese immigrants. In many instances the first individuals to

come to Canada often supported relatives back home in China in addition to their families here. The author's father was one of those ambitious and hard-working people who built a successful market-garden business in Edmonton in the early 1900s.

- **A Wooden Cross at Windy Corner** by Marilyn Astle & Roger Blinks
Marilyn and Roger recount the search for information about John Pirie, a casualty of the Great War, from just a photo of a cross on his grave preserved in her grandfather's family album. As part of their research they sifted through records of: Scottish BMD registration; the Black Watch Museum in Perth, Scotland; the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; The National Archives; and distant relatives of Pirie.
- **Inspector Maigret; Hercule Poirot – Step Aside!** by Alice Hoyle
Alice was inspired by the curiosity of her grandson to begin a detailed genealogical investigation about her ancestors, just like fictional detectives in the novels. She recounts how she learned about how to do family history research online and through information provided by relatives.
- **Give My Love to Johnnie Wattie** by Margaret Bendickson
This is a delightful story about how Margaret found information about a young man starting with just a casual mention of his name on a postcard sent from one ancestor to another in 1901. Through a diligent effort she found direct descendants of Johnnie Wattie and pieced together the story of his short life. The crowning evidence of who he was and what his relationship was to her family was in finally seeing two sketches made of the man in uniform during WWI.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING
Summary of Contents
Volume 43, Number 4 – November 2015

Regular Features

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- Call for Papers
- Editorial by Wayne Shephard
- From the Branches – Edmonton, Ft. McMurray, Grand Prairie, Peace River, Medicine hat, Wetaskiwin
- Letters to the Editor
- President's Message by Susan Haga
- Spinning Webs by Denise Daubert

Special Items

- Applying for AGS Membership or Renewing Made Easy by Lyn Meehan
- Book Review – *My Family Tree and Me* by Dušan Petričić, review by Bernie Goedhart
- Book Review – *Grandmothers Have Already Earned Their Wings: A Record Book* by Amy Spitler, review by Gloria Cathcart
- Book Review – *Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends* by Richard Hite, review by John Althouse
- For Family Time Reading
- RS Thanks Grant Nicol
- RS Thanks Les Campbell
- Visiting Alberta's Past: What was it like when you were my age? by John Althouse

Feature Articles

- **Sowing Winter Wheat: Introducing genealogy and family history to children and youth** by John Althouse
John comments on the value of introducing children to the exciting adventure of family history research and introduces the new AGS project, **Genealogy for Youth**, which offers many resources to help teach children about their current and extended family.
- **Family Adhesive: The value of family history for children** by Janet Hovorka
In this article we are shown how involving children in family history pursuits actually helps to teach them discipline, foster self-esteem and create strong relationships within the family.
- **The Search for Captain Roy Brown** by John J. N. Chalmers
John relates his search for information, in particular the grave site of WWI war hero Roy Brown. At the same time a young student, Nadine Carter, was also in pursuit of the same information, and uncovered important facts about Captain Brown. This story is about her achievements as well.

- **Is Family History for Children and Youth?** by Helen Gwilliam
 Helen offers commentary and advice in having children participate in genealogical activities in which they can gain experiences and practice valuable skills that will help them in the future.
- **Mystery** by Anne Baines
 Anne's grandson was invited to help research an ancestor and ended up finding new information that helped answer questions about the relationship between two branches of their family.
- **Emergency Triage: Genealogy and family history ideas for children and youth for a snowy day or any other time** by John Althouse
 This article is introduced in the November issue of *Relatively Speaking* but actually published on the AGS website. It offers many ideas for children's activities concerning family history.
- **Immigrants to Canada: A family history project in Grade 5 Social Studies** by Marion Rex
 Marion introduces several student authors who put together stories of their own families for a Grade 5 class project. Their contributions are also published in the November issue:

 - **Our Acker Family's Journey to Canada** by Colin Acker and Allison Martens
 - **Escape From Czechoslovakia: The Bouz Journey** by Leah Kinahan and John Bouz
 - **Isley Family Descendants** by Andrew Kennedy
- **Let Them Contribute: How today's youth are engaging in the genealogy space** by Amanda Terry and Devin Ashby
 Amanda and Devin describe many programs and activities available to children and youth that help them learn about genealogical research. They also offer advice to parents and others about directly involving young people in genealogy.