

## **Discover Your Ancestors – an afternoon at the Heritage Museum**

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, four members of the Wetaskiwin branch of Alberta Genealogical Society gathered at the Heritage Museum in Wetaskiwin for a free walk-in event that would allow the public to attend and ask our members questions about genealogy and how to research ancestors.

This event was a collaboration between the Heritage Museum and the Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society. The suggested time of 1:00-4:00 seemed best suited for the Museum and the branch members who volunteered to assist those wanting help with their research.

Branch members supplied their laptops, research material, charts, etc. Advertising was supplied by the Heritage Museum by way of Facebook and their website.

As this was a walk-in event, we didn't know what to expect for attendance. We were pleasantly surprised when 11 people came to the Museum and during the 3 hours of the event, all 4 tables hosting branch members were kept busy with enquiries. The areas being researched contained an interesting variety: Switzerland, The Netherlands, Scotland, Russia/Ukraine, and various areas of Canada. One person was interested in researching the history of the land where she and her husband lived.

The level of experience in researching family also varied, from those who had researched for years to those who were just starting their researching journey.

Branch member Nelda Layton brought brochures and information about researching at the Family Search Centre in Wetaskiwin and that was well-received by those who were just starting out and appreciated being able to access information on the Family Search website without paying for subscriptions to databases.

The members of our branch who volunteered (Lee, Carole, Nelda, Alice) all felt it was a very enjoyable and productive afternoon. The Heritage Museum suggested that they would be interested in hosting another similar event in the Spring of 2026. At the October meeting of our branch, we passed a motion to collaborate with the Heritage Museum next year for a similar walk-in event.