

Roots and Branches

President's Message

Special points of interest:

MEETINGS -

3rd Tuesday of the month, except December, July & Aug 7:00 pm at City Archives: 4904 – 50 Street, Wetaskiwin, AB

LIBRARY – located at City Archives
Hrs. of Operation – Tuesday 1 – 3 pm
(Branch volunteers at library)
Library resources available during regular Archives hours
Contacts:

Alice Hoyle – 780-352-2150 Syl Gauvreau – 780-352-5509 Ken Campbell – 780-361-1914 Marlene Scheffler – 780-352-6931 Terry Milne – 780-352-7983 Bill Hughes – 780-352-4549

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE

President:

Don Brosius 780-352-0069 **Vice President:**

Syl Gauvreau 780-352-5509

Past President:

Alice Hoyle - 780-352-2150

Secretary:

Anne Wildcat 780-585-3772

Treasurer:

Ken Campbell 780-361-1914

Newsletter Editor:

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President's Report:

About 8 years ago Sharon Aney approached me about becoming President of the WGS. This opened my life to a whole new world of genealogy, adventure, and friends. I will never forget how Betty stepped down from the AGS as Vice President, leaving our club with a difficult decision: to host the GenFair or to step aside. We went for it and had a super conference. I have to give a big thank you to Ken Campbell and Donna Garvey who both stepped in to help me organize a great conference. One of the new speakers we introduced was Anne Wildcat.

Over the years, I also had the pleasure and opportunity to work with Alice Hoyle and Claudia Malloch. Their dedication and knowledge of genealogy is unbelievable and our club is very lucky to have members like this. They have also been a pillar of strength in helping me through many of my life trials. Thank you very much.

As I finish my term as President, I would also like to thank everyone else who has helped me throughout the years. I look forward to continue working with the club doing cemetery records and assisting in any way I can.

I am confident that the club will rally behind the new President to improve the program. Many hands working together will lighten the load and increase the fun and knowledge we share. Together We Can.

Don Brosius

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Claudia Malloch, who will be undergoing her second hip replacement surgery the week of Feb. 15/10! We hope your recovery will be swift and we look forward to seeing you at our meetings in the near future! Editor, and all the Wet. Branch members

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

Feb: Creative Memories – Bring a Project to work on! Also our AGM and Elections!

Wetaskiwin Alberta Family History Center

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin, AB Hours:

Wed: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm Thurs: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

<u>Dates to Remember:</u>
Mar. 6th: Beginner's Gen.
Course in Camrose.
12:30-3:30. Course is free:
pre-register by phoning
780.672-4214. (Camrose
Library)

Sat. Mar. 13: Drayton Valley Gen. Workshop 9:00-3:15 Guest Speaker: Deanna Bullock (see more info. In this newsletter)

IF:

You could have overheard a specific conversation between any two people, which people would it be?

You were to add a thirteenth month to the year, where would you insert it?

You could have said one thing to Harry Truman the day before he decided to drop the atomic bomb, what would you have said?

FROM THE BOOK "LIVE AND LEARN AND PASS IT ON" -

- I've learned that most of the things I worry about never happen.
- I've learned that couples without children always know just how you should raise yours.
- I've learned that trust is the single most important factor in both personal and professional relationships.
- I've learned that it's not what happens to people that's important. It's what they do about it!

Editor's Corner

By Alice Hoyle

My Uncle married an English woman in 1944, while he was serving overseas in England during WWII!

Not an 'uncommon' occurrence......there were numerous War Brides brought back to Canada, several in our own community. As a child growing up, my siblings and I knew of this marriage. We also knew that she didn't ever come to Canada, and in the end our Uncle and she were divorced and our Uncle re-married to the only woman we ever knew as his wife, our Aunty Arlene.

For me, there was always something curious and mysterious about this unknown woman in our Uncle's life. When my Uncle was in his 80's, I had the opportunity to talk to him about his time overseas and about his marriage and he was very honest about what happened and how the fact that she refused to come to Canada had affected his life. In our conversations, he told me her name (which I had never known prior to this) and I kept it in my memory bank (as well as my computer's genealogy records!). Her surname was the same as a very famous British Rock 'n Roll person and of course I wondered if perhaps it could be another *Eric Clapton* revelation!! Probably many or most of you know that Eric Clapton's biological father was a Canadian serving in England during WWII.

After my Uncle died, and out of curiosity (there goes that curious genealogy gene again!) I tried to find a record of his marriage on ancestry.com to no avail. Last week for some unknown reason, I plunked in my Uncle's name again on the BMD search section of ancestry.com and 'jackpot!' - there it was!! This gave me her full name and the location of the marriage. Naturally, I handed over the money and ordered the Marriage Certificate.

Then, of course, my curiosity got the better of me, and I started to search for information on her. I found out that she had re-married as well. By some little quirk of fate, both she and my Uncle remarried in the same year.

So now I wait for the documentation to arrive – I am anxious to see who her parents were, and where she was born. Some of you may wonder why I am bothering to research this person I never knew and who is surely deceased by now. In my saner moments, I wonder the same thing!! I find it hard to explain my "need to know" instincts, but those of you who have the same genetic makeup will understand totally.

If there is one thing this experience has taught me, it's that we should never give up on our research! If I had given up after not finding any record of the marriage last year, I wouldn't have known the information I now know about this event in my Uncle's life.

KEEP TRYING, AND NEVER GIVE UP!! ©
Hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's Day and Family Day!

Your Newsletter Editor

Alice Hoyle

Chinese New Year began February 14th. It is the Year of the Tiger. The year 2010 is Year 4707 in the Chinese Calendar.

Library Update: Additions to our collection

ADDITIONS TO WETASKIWIN BRANCH LIBRARY, JANUARY, 2010:

971.2SAS SASK.GEN.SOCIETY WOMEN PIONEERS OF SASKATCHEWAN

Thanks to all our members who continue to donate items to the Wetaskiwin Branch Library – these donations are always welcome.

Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society: Recap Of Meeting Presentations

November, 2009:

At our November meeting we didn't have a formal presentation. In keeping with President Don's agenda and his questions to the membership regarding our thoughts on meeting format, we had a round table discussion. Branch members gave their suggestions on how to make the meetings more interesting, and also gave their input on what they wanted to get from our meetings. Most members felt that they wanted more time spent on presentations and learning opportunities rather than on the administrative aspects of the branch.

January, 2010:

What did you do over the holidays with respect to genealogy??

Our Branch members told of their successes and surprises since our last meeting in November. One aspect that kept coming up was the fact that we need to keep trying websites; keep in contact with family members who may assist us in our research; and in general keep our options open regarding research possibilities!

Donna Garvey gave us a demonstration of Creative Memories products and the various ways we can use their products to preserve our photos, etc. Donna has volunteered to donate to our branch, a percentage of all items purchased in January by the membership, which in turn will be used to add items needed by our Club Historian for her work on our scrapbook(s). Thanks to Donna for her presentation and for her generous donation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Germans From Russia Heritage Society (GRHS):

Some updates from late last year:

Volunteer work continues with regard to translating and indexing Lutheran Church records (1900-1915) which came to GRHS from the Nikolaev Archives. These pertain to German colonies in the Taurien and Crimean regions. Many of these spreadsheets are already on the GRHS website at: http://www.grhs.org/vr/ch/StPete-crimea.htm

Family Search.org:

Work is continuing fast and furiously, on the indexing of millions of records from around the world. A visit to their website: http://www.familysearch.org may very well result in new information for you.

2010 IS A U.S.A. CENSUS YEAR:

The Census Count began in the Inupiat Eskimo village of Noorvik in Alaska in January, although census day for most Americans is April 1st. It is projected that it will end with the news that the resident population stands at 311,349,543 at year-end, give or take a few hundred thousand!

Quirks in the U.S. Census law can have curious results. Though servicemen abroad are assigned to the states where they were most recently living, soldiers of God similarly deployed are granted no domestic abode! This gave North Carolina, with 18,000 troops and

diplomats overseas, an extra House seat after the 2000 census, to the chagrin of Utah, deemed to have 856 fewer inhabitants despite its thousands of Mormon missionaries abroad.

from The Economist – The World in 2010 issue.

"Who Do You Think You Are?"

This hit BBC television show will be broadcast by the American Network NBC, beginning March 5^{th} , 2010 (Friday) at 8:00 pm Eastern. Check your local listings for details. The new series will feature some well known personalities, and Ancestry.com will be a major sponsor of the program.

GPS Replaces Headstones in Calgary Cemeteries:

The City of Calgary has a new strategy for the city's soon-to-be-full cemeteries: green burials and GPS locators for finding the dead.

Four of Calgary's five municipal cemeteries are full, and officials estimate the Queen's Park burial lands which opened in 1940, will run out of space within 10 years. A council committee has approved a strategy that incorporates technology, including GPS units and environmentally friendly techniques to make the most use of new cemetery land.

Two new cemeteries approved for the SE and the north of the city will have sections for green burials, where there won't be any grave markers, according to Archie Lang, the city's Manager of Cemeteries. A family visiting the cemetery will be given a hand-held GPS unit to find loved ones.

** thanks to Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter dated January 31, 2010.

440 Years of London's History Online at Ancestry.ca

In case you missed it, in the Fall of 2009, Ancestry.ca announced that 18 million parish records from over 1000 London parishes went online. The records detail baptisms, marriages and burials from more than 1000 London parishes between 1538 and 1980 and reveal the names and stories of those who lived through major events in the city's history – including the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London. The collection pre-dates Civil Registration – the British government's system established in 1837 to keep accurate records of citizens' lives. The only way to trace a baptism, marriage or burial before the 19th century is through parish records.

**thanks to Ancestry.ca and to Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter dated Sept. 22, 2009.

From the book "Lovell's Gazetteer of British North America, 1873":

Edmonton:

A fortified village in the North West Territories. It is built of red earth, enclosed by high pickets and entered by battlemented gateways. Its vicinity is rich in coal and gold, and other minerals.

Winnipeg or Fort Garry:

The seat of government of the province of Manitoba, situated at the junction of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, 40 miles S. of Lake Winnipeg, 65 miles from Pembina, U.S., 250 miles from Fort Abercrombie, 1180 miles from Montreal, via proposed Canada Pacific railway, or 1843 miles via Chicago and St. Paul. The city contains about 25 stores, several saw mills, 4 printing offices, a telegraph office, a theatre, a Church of England cathedral, Presbyterian and Wesleyan churches, two colleges, several schools, a bank and branch bank, government house, legislative buildings, many good dwellings and a strong and regular fortification. Winnipeg is the seat of the See of the Metropolitan of the North West. Opposite the town is St. Boniface, the seat of the See of Archbishop Tache. Total value of imports for 1872: \$942,247; exports: \$85,541. Population: 3,000.

Places Not Listed:

Regina, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Fort MacLeod, or even Wetaskiwin!

Research Reminders and Information:

Edmonton Branch, AGS, is soliciting suggestions for the 2011 AGS Conference. They would like to know:

- Which speakers are you interested in hearing?
- What topics would you like to see offered?
- What are your thoughts about the past conferences?
- What aspects of past conference did you like or dislike?
- Are there tips and techniques that you would like to see used in future conferences?

Please submit your suggestions by February 28th, 2010 to:

Shannon at AGSConference2011@shaw.ca

Adele at afgoa@telus.net

A reminder, and once again I nag you about the resources available with your Public Library card!!!

With your library membership card in hand – log on to http://www.yrl.ab.ca

This is the Yellowhead Regional Library website, of which Wetaskiwin (and Millet) are members! Once at their website, click on "Search", then E-Resources. You will now find listed a whopping 44 databases from which to choose, including Genealogy. On the Genealogy section, you can search HeritageQuest Online. You will be required to log in with your membership number and your password (your phone number).

HeritageQuest Online allows you to search and view the US census records from 1790 to 1930; as well there are 20,000 book titles you can search, 8000 family histories, 12000 local histories, 250 other Primary Source documents including Tax Lists, City Directories, Probate Records and more!!!

If this doesn't convince you to get a library card, I don't know what will!!! ©

(As a matter of interest, this is where I found all the information for my niece: her ancestors were in Massachusetts in the early 1600's and they fought in the American Revolution. The original documents can be viewed and printed.)

Library and Archives Canada:

This site http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca is continually evolving. Just when I think I have the difficult website conquered, they go and change it! It is, however, worth the effort you put in to figure it out as they are also adding new information regularly. Patience is a virtue (so someone once said!).



WETASKIWIN'S FAMILYHISTORYCENTER:

THE WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY CENTER has a new Director: she is Patty Caputo. Patty has joined the Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS, and we look forward to seeing her at our meetings.

As a reminder, there are numerous resources available at the Family History Center (see information on days/times of operation on page 2) as well as knowledgeable volunteers who are willing and able to assist you with your research.

The following was submitted by Carole Koop. This information appeared in the "Perth County Profiles", Vol. 23 No. 4, Nov. 2005, P.58

Did You Know that the 1851 census was actually taken on 12 January 1852? The enumerator asked the informant, "How old will you be at your NEXT birthday?" The 1861 census was taken on 14 January, 1861. The person was asked, "How old will you be at your NEXT birthday?" The 1871 census was taken on 2 April 1871. The question this time was "How old are you on Census Day?" The 1881 census was taken on 4 April 1881 and the question was the same. The 1891 census was taken on 6 April 1891 and again the question about age was the same. The 1901 census was taken on 31 March 1901. This time the actual birth date was requested.

Very important information to keep in mind when trying to determine your ancestors' birth years, if you are referring to the census records of either 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, or 1891!

Thanks, Carole for the above information.

The items on this page were also submitted by Carole:

GENEALOGICAL CODICIL TO MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

The following was circulated in the Maritimes on the internet. The implication is that our genealogical materials will be in some order so that someone can do something with them.

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories.

(If you know whom, within your family or friends, are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: "I suggest that the person(s) contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to" and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known.)

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. (List the organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom: include local chapters/branches with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available, as well as state/provincial/national contact information and addresses.)

Please remember that my genealogical endeavours consumed a great deal of time, travel and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavours be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature	Date
Witness	Date
Witness	Date
^^^^^	^^^^^

2 PARENTS
4 GRANDPARENTS
8 GREAT GRANDPARENTS
16 GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS
32 GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS
64 GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS
128 GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS
256 GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS
512 GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS
1024 GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

KUDOS – THANKS A BUNCH!!

EXECUTIVE: Thanks to everyone who has served on the Executive for the past 2 years. Our February meeting will be our AGM, and elections will be held to replace the current Executive. The term of office will not begin until Sept. 1, 2010, as we have traditionally operated on a September to August year.

To those who have allowed their names to stand for the 2010/2012 Executive, a big thank you from all of us. It is hoped that at our February AGM we will be successful in acquiring a full slate of officers without too much arm wrestling! \odot

Thanks to Don for stepping into the President's position last year when it became apparent that Claudia's health would not allow her to continue with the Presidency of our Branch.

ARCHIVES STAFF: Thanks to Carolyn and Angela for their assistance in opening the building for our meetings. We also appreciate their input and knowledge as presenters at our workshops!

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: Once again, your Editor thanks you very much for your contributions to this newsletter. I certainly welcome any and all contributions to the newsletter, so please contact me with information you feel our branch members would be interested in reading.

REMINDERS:

VOLUNTEER HOURS: Please remember to submit your volunteer hours to Ken. Our hours assist AGS with applying for grants that will assist us all. Email Ken at kwayne1@telus.net.

DRAYTON VALLEY WORKSHOP, Mar.13: Speaker – Deanna Bullock

Fee: \$15 if a member of Drayton Valley Branch, AGS/\$20 for all others.

Topics: I Have Family Papers, Where Do I Start/Mapping For Genealogists/Using Google in Your Family History Research/Google Books and PERSI.

For more information, contact Miriam at 780-542-2215 or email meiriona@telus.net

Tickle Your Funny Bone



(Thanks to Claudia for the following)

- Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
- ~ I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.
- ~ Can a first cousin, once removed, ever return?
- ~ Searching for lost relatives? Win the lottery!
- ~ Do I even WANT ancestors?
- ~ Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.
- Every family tree has some sap in it.
- ~ Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.
- Genealogists never die, they just lose their roots.
- ~ Genealogy: A haystack full of needles. It's the threads I need!
- ~ Heredity: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools.
- ~ I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.
- ~ Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related.

Until next time, may your genealogical challenges be little ones; may your brick walls come tumbling down; may your ancestors finally come out of their hiding spots; and may you enjoy your time researching all these wonderful ancestors! Alice Hoyle Editor