



**Wetaskiwin Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society**

Website:

www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch

Email: wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca.

Roots & Branches

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EXECUTIVE

President: Alice Hoyle

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Lorraine McKay

Treasurer: Leroy Koop

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BRANCH MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of the month,
except July, Aug & Dec

7:00 pm at LDS CHURCH
5410 – 36 Ave

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BRANCH LIBRARY

At City of Wetaskiwin Archives
4904 – 51 Street

Tues. Wed. Thur.

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alice Hoyle

Before I start my rambling, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year. I hope that 2019 proves to be a good one for you and your loved ones. Some of you have suffered the loss of family members in 2018 – I hope that the pain will lessen for you in 2019, and that the memories of your loved one will help you through the grieving process.

Memories: these are truly a gift that we can keep in our minds and our hearts forever. It's so important to keep these memories alive – we all need to make an effort to pass on the memories of our childhood to those in our family who didn't have the opportunity to experience the events we remember.

I found several opportunities during the holiday season to reminisce with family members about a wide variety of topics: the annual trek to cut down a Christmas tree, vacations taken, and the odd and unusual events that happened during those vacations, Christmas traditions, etc. While we remember these well, the younger generations in our family possibly don't even know about them.

Continued on page 3.....

COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter**
Sharon Aney
sharonaney@gmail.com
- **Library**
Robin Sheehan
- **Webmasters**
Leroy Koop
Lyn Meehan
- **Volunteer Research**
Alice Hoyle
Leroy Koop
- **Membership**
Leroy Koop
- **Programs**
Claudia Malloch
- **Publicity**
Alice Hoyle
- **Historian**
Rosella Plaquin
- **Youth**
Patti Caputo

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FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER

5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin
Wednesdays:
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
& 6:15 – 8:15 pm
For extensive information, Google:
Wetaskiwin Family History Centre

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ROOTS & BRANCHES

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Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS. It is
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EDITOR'S CORNER

Sharon Aney

Recently I spoke with a friend who had to have a "wound specialist" apply a charcoal bandage to an injury that was resistant to healing. That reminded me of the story my Dad told of his injury that occurred on the prairie homestead when he was about 7 years old in about 1920.

He had been asked by his older sister to bring her an axe. On the way he tripped and fell. The axe somehow landed on his hand, cutting off his little finger and injuring the one next to it.

His 12 year old sister (parents being away from home for the afternoon) took a cloth, charred it in the wood stove fire, and bandaged the two wounds. They healed without infection. His stub of a little finger and crooked ring finger fascinated his grandchildren and gave him no problems for the 92 years of his life.

I find it interesting that this old folk method of treating wounds seems to be practiced only by wound specialists these days.

Also, my grandmother was credited locally with delivering over 50 babies...without losing a mother or child. Even when doctors eventually came to the community in later years, she was called upon to assist in delivering babies.

I am interested to hear if our members have stories of medical events and practices that your families used, and home remedies may still be used in your families. If you care to share any, I would like to include them in future issues.

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CALL FOR ARTICLES! Please submit to me by April 1st. Remember the membership survey telling us that our own stories were the most popular items? Read Amy Johnson Crowe's comment on page 9 about writing our research.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS CONTINUED from page 1

Pass it on!! Passing along stories, allows the younger members of our family to share in the family history. Take every opportunity to start a conversation with "Did you know.....".

Resolutions: at this time of year we hear a lot about New Year's Resolutions. I personally don't make them but I do have some goals. I think it's a good idea to think about what we want to accomplish in the next month, 6 months, or even a year. The goals don't have to be monumental: in fact, the smaller goals are probably easier to attain. Remember the line about 'the longest journey starts with just one step'.

We have an opportunity this year to attend the AGS Conference in Edmonton. It is being held April 26th to 28th and the conference theme is "Images Through Time". There are some excellent speakers lined up – you can view the information on the AGS website.

In keeping with the AGS outreach goals set in September 2018, Wetaskiwin Branch will be presenting 2 sessions at the Wetaskiwin Public Library in March. The sessions will be titled "Getting to Know Ancestry" and will involve our branch volunteers instructing the public on how to search the ancestry database, which is new to the Wetaskiwin Public Library. The sessions' dates will be: Thursday, March 21, 6:30 – 7:30 pm and Saturday, March 23, 10:30 – 11:30 am. Hopefully this will add to our public exposure and create more interest in genealogy within our community.

Happy researching! Alice

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**WATCH FOR:** John Althouse's upcoming book for the Genealogy for Youth program. He asked our member **Mavis Nelson** for permission to use information from her article in the August 2014 issue of *Relatively Speaking*, titled "The Sinking of the Empress of Ireland 100 Years Ago." Kudos to Mavis!

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PROGRAM: JANUARY 15, 2019

BRINGING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY SAFELY INTO THE FUTURE.

A new year is a good time to review our family history files to be sure that in later years they will remain accessible and available in current formats. Will we be able to use current programs to access our photos and genealogy files? Do we have VHS tapes of movies that should be converted and moved onto a more modern format? Even CDs and DVD's may need to be copied to a safer place. Do our audio and video files still work well on our present computer? Perhaps it's time to do some housecleaning to be sure we don't lose valuable items because time (and technology) has made them obsolete.

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*Those who do not look upon themselves as a link, connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world.*

*Daniel Webster*

## MEETING PROGRAMS

### SEPTEMBER 2018

**Dan deWolf** demonstrated several actions to improve and save our genealogical records.

**Home movies** can be digitized. He stressed that we should do a Google search to find and become familiar with a YouTube video on how to do the task at hand. In essence, while the movie is projected onto a white surface, one would make a video of it with our digital camera.

**Photos** can be converted from .jpg to .png in order to save the quality while we edit them. There is free software online, such as "openshot videoeditor" and "Xn convert". Here again we should find You Tube videos to watch and learn from.

**Fixing damaged photos.** here again, watch a You tube video on how to clone photos. Scan the photo at high resolution (1200 dpi) and repair it using Gimp, a free editing program.

**Digitizing VHS tapes**...VHS converters are for sale at reasonable prices online. Read descriptions and reviews carefully. Once again, watch a You Tube video on "digitizing VHS".

**Moving photos from phone to computer** ... connect your charging cord into the USB port on the computer. When it is plugged in, DCIM folder will appear on the phone. Save pictures to your computer's picture folder. Hint: when you view them on your computer, sort by date and caption them for future reference.

Dan also offered his time and expertise to us if we have any issues, problems or questions with our computers, or programs that we are using. Thank you, Dan for sharing your knowledge.

### OCTOBER 2018

**Claudia** presented a video from Family Search on **Immigration and Canadian Border Crossings**. The handout she emailed ahead of time provided comprehensive notes and supplementary information Thank you for that, Claudia! Research specialist, Carol Smith gave us many ideas as to where to look for information on our ancestors' origins and arrivals in North America, such as family documents, census records, obituaries, land entry records, etc. Hints from sources such as these can lead to passenger and immigration lists. Check Family Search Research wiki for more ideas.

### NOVEMBER 2018

**"Share the Wealth"..... Carole** spoke at length of her research into families of New France. **Lee** described his methods of organizing and recording Carole's research results. **Pam** reported on her planned presentation in support of naming a new school in Maskwacis after her mother-in-law, Theresa (Minde) Wildcat. **Bob** reported on the unusual results of research he had done into old photos that were discovered by owners who were remodelling a Millet business. He was able to surprise our fellow member Patti Caputo with news that that the pictures were of her ancestors. **Claudia** was happy to announce that the family history she and family members have been working on is complete. **Rosella** had completely forgotten about the name she had submitted for assistance to consultants at the local FHC many months ago. One of the consultants did not give up, and was able to provide Rosella with considerable information.

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Yellowhead Regional Library System now has Ancestry Library Edition (ALE)

Yellowhead Regional Library System now has Ancestry Library Edition (ALE) starting 1 October 2018. The subscription will be on a trial basis for three-years. If the statistics prove the subscription gets used, the library system will keep it.

For those individuals living in the Yellowhead Region who do not have a personal Ancestry subscription to view at home, here is your chance to visit and use Ancestry at your public library. Individuals do not need a library card to use it but they may ask for a piece of identification.

From ProQuest: What Is The Difference Between Ancestry.com And Ancestry Library Edition (2017) <https://support.proquest.com/articledetail?id=kA140000000GwOBCA0>

To view if your public library belongs to the Yellowhead Regional Library System, The Alberta Library (TAL) website has a list, visit <http://thealbertalibrary.ca/members/1256>

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## RESEARCH REQUESTS

Alice Hoyle

**KLING** The day after our September 2018 branch meeting I heard a message on our home answering machine – it was from a woman who came from Washington state to research her Kling ancestors. She was at the City of Wetaskiwin Archives, and she wondered if the Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society had any more information that she could access.

This was quite a surprising request for me: when my great-grandparents emigrated from the Odessa, Black Sea region in 1904 my great-grandfather had stated for the ship's manifest information that they were going to Wetaskiwin, to a friend – Otto Kling!

I phoned the researcher back, and asked "would this be Otto Kling?" and she confirmed that Otto Kling was her great-grandfather! Wow – small world. I gathered up all my information and drove into Wetaskiwin to the Archives.

We spent a couple of hours comparing notes and marvelling at the fact that our great-grandparents knew each other. I was able to show her the land location where her ancestors farmed as well as the location of the church they attended. She drove to the locations to see first hand the historical sites.

Rachel, the City of Wetaskiwin Archivist, was able to give the researcher a lot of information on her ancestors, including some photos that the Kling descendants had never seen. The researcher spent 3 days researching at the City Archives; she drove to the Provincial Archives in Edmonton to research there as well.

We have continued to be in touch with each other and hope one day to find out 'how' our great-grandparents knew each other. She and her sister are talking about returning to Wetaskiwin in 2019 to do further research.

You just never know where a research question is going to lead you!

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FROM THE SASKATOON STAR PHOENIX.....November, 2018

The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan will close its Saskatoon office next month and move its entire collection, long housed on the University of Saskatchewan campus, to Regina.

The Saskatoon office will be closed to the public on Dec. 21, 2018. The records and other items it contains will not be available again until August 2019. The change is part of the provincial organization's plan to consolidate its entire collection, which is currently housed at five sites — Saskatoon, Regina and off-site locations — into one central location.

The records won't be moved right away after the office closes to the public. They'll remain in place until they're moved in the period between late December and August. McIntyre said that during this time, reference services through the Regina location will be available. Access to records from Saskatoon will be limited until they are permanently transferred

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## **FAMILY STORIES DON'T ALL HAVE TO BE LITERARY MASTERPIECES**

Sharon Aney

Do we delay writing our family stories because it is too big a job? Or because we don't have "sourced documentation"? Or because "my family is just ordinary people"? None of that matters. Our stories just have to be about our family.

My first effort at a family "book" was planned as a gift for our parents, so I insisted on participation from my seven siblings. They all objected, mostly arguing that they were not writers. But as the oldest one, I soon had them in line, and as it turned out, some of them really were writers!

The ploy that I used was that they did not have to write a whole story.... just a snapshot of an experience or situation. They bought into that idea and the results of their efforts covered 15 pages. Our childhood memories were treasured by our parents for the rest of their lives.

I recently came upon a well-researched and scholarly book about how early farming families really needed their children to do important work, laying "heavy burdens on small shoulders", (*\*see footnote*) in order that the farm would survive and prosper.

But our family "snapshots", albeit from the 1950s, provided some additional perspectives on these required chores. Our involvement in our farm (hopefully) helped our parents. But we also gained pride in accomplishing the tasks assigned to us.

Various of the eight of us remembered:

*There was always a very big garden on the farm, and that meant lots of work for us kids. It seemed like we would have to pick*

*peas all morning (maybe we did). In the afternoon though, Mom would let us spread out some sheets on the floor in front of the TV, so we could watch the afternoon movie while we did all that shelling.*

When I was still quite young, Dad would use Sandy (by then our last remaining horse), hooked to the stone boat to do chores during the winter, I'd sometimes ride along on a Saturday morning - standing and holding on to Dad's leg. I can still hear the jingling of the harness, the swish of runners in the snow, the sounds of clomping hooves and snorting nostrils as we headed out across the field.

*I was not fond of the chickens that we raised on the farm. One summer evening it was my turn to take the bowl of table scraps (including cucumbers in cream) to them. When I got to the chicken coop, they were going nuts, as usual; I didn't want to go inside and have them flapping all around me, so I tried to just throw the stuff over the fence. It didn't work out too well for me because most of it ended up on my head. I heard about this from my sisters for a long time.*

I would help Dad with haying or hauling bales. I remember being about ten years old, being on top of the hay rack while Dad and Ralph would throw loose hay up with the pitch forks and I would stomp down the hay to make room for more. I loved that ride home on top of the hay! Then I'd help secure the sling and scramble off before the load was lifted to the loft. In later years Dad used the truck to haul bales; I got pretty good at stacking them

on the truck or on the stack at home after Dad tossed them up.

When I was about twelve, I decided that I'd like to learn how to milk cows (They had some unusual names: Gonzola, Big Ella,..) I enjoyed getting up early on summer mornings and helping Mom and Dad in the barn. I also helped with the evening milkings when they were busy. Then one of the cows, Lucy, kicked and knocked me flat on my back – that was the end of my career as a milkmaid.

Going to the bush with Dad in winter and chopping a sleigh full of wood (tree length). Woodcutting bees with Uncle Mike and cousins the following fall to accumulate fuel for the furnaces.

The oldest child being me, not a son, I was called to do some harvesting work until Ralph got old enough. One of my favourite memories was operating the binder to make bundles as the oats was cut. I got to be pretty good, I thought. However, in the next step of the harvest process, I just could not place the bundles so that my stooks stood up for very long. Dad patiently rebuilt them.

*Mom liked to spend time outside, working in the garden, etc., so when I expressed an interest in cooking and baking, she gave me free rein in the kitchen. I made my first cake from a recipe when I was in grade 2, in a few years I graduated to cookies, then casseroles and buns.*

One summer Mom and the younger kids went to Fishing Lake for a few days. I stayed home to help Dad rake the hay. That meant sitting on the rake while he was on the tractor! I think that there were some levers that I was supposed to pull or push, but I was concentrating on survival, and holding on for dear life! We must have got it done, and I didn't get "heck", but I never asked how well I did.

Dad expected us to help out with picking stones. Marj, Theresa and I would head out on the wagon, with Dad driving the tractor. We would be out on the field most of the day. The best time was eating lunch; we started bugging Dad about 10 o'clock if it was time to eat. When Jim was old enough to join us for this job, it didn't get any easier for us girls. Somehow he was able to convince Dad that he should stay on the tractor and drive really slow while we picked the stones.

Threshing oats, at Uncle Mike's and our place for the last time: bundles being hauled from the field by horses and hay rack, tossed onto the threshing machine, and the big straw piles forming behind the machine.



Riding horses to round up loose cattle after harvest, Gerald on the soft, smooth-backed Pepper, and me on razor-backed Diamond.

*Every day, except in winter, at about 4:00 o'clock, until the job fell to younger ones, it was my job to bring in the cows for milking. Depending upon where they were sent to graze, I often came home with fuzzy, purple crocus blossoms, orange cow-slips, saskatoon berries, etc. Once I got the oldest cow headed towards the barn, all others fell into line behind her, making the job very easy for me.*

There are other pages full of memories about the games we played, family traditions and celebrations, school experiences, etc. Any one of the above "snapshots" could be expanded into something longer and more informative. But for our own family reflections and enjoyment, they were and are perfect.

If I was to do this project now, twenty years later, and with more computer skills... I might consider adding in actual pictures from the old photo albums. But I do like the verbal snapshots.

Think about it. And then do it!

**Note:** "Heavy Burdens on Small Shoulders" The Labour of Pioneer Children on Canadian Prairies. By: Sandra Rollings-Magnusson

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ABOUT ME:

I'm Amy Johnson Crow. I'm a Certified Genealogist with more than 20 years of experience helping people discover their family's history. I look forward to helping you discover yours.

From her newsletter Dec. 27, 2018:

We talk a lot about researching, but what about *after* we research? What do we do with it? I think that one of the most overlooked areas of genealogy is writing.

Are we leaving all of your discoveries in your genealogy software? If so, I can almost guarantee you that your research will not outlive you. Taking those conclusions and stories and writing about them will get them into a format that others can more easily use.

Writing about your ancestors is not only a way to preserve your research, it's also a good research aid. There's nothing quite like spelling out what you know about someone to show what you *don't* know about someone! It doesn't have to be dozens and dozens of pages. How about a couple of paragraphs explaining a probate file or how the land passed through several generations of the family.

Tell the stories. Share the discoveries.

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## RESEARCH REQUEST

Alice Hoyle

**GIBBONS** We received a request for information about Isaac & Elizabeth Gibbons – specifically, information on the location of their graves in the Sacred Heart Cemetery. I forwarded this request to Sharon. She quickly replied to the researcher. Sadly, she had to advise the researcher that although she could confirm that they were buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery, there is no extant map, and thus aren't any confirmed burial locations for his ancestors. She was able to send him copies of their obituaries. The researcher sent a lovely thank you for her information and the immediate response.

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A New Year's Wish

*Health enough to make work a pleasure.
Wealth enough to support your necessities.
Strength enough to battle difficulties and
overcome them.
Patience enough to toil until some good is
accomplished.
Charity enough to see some good in your
neighbour.
Love enough to move you to be useful.
Faith enough to make real the things of God.
Hope enough to remove all fears concerning the
future.*

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# Alberta Genealogical Society

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[www.abgenealogy.ca](http://www.abgenealogy.ca)

Since 1973

## NOMINATIONS FOR AGS OFFICERS (2019)

As prescribed by our bylaws, the AGS Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee invite members to nominate themselves and/or other members for the following elected positions:

**Second Vice President** - 2019-2021 (two year term)  
**Secretary of the Society  
& Recording Secretary** - 2019-2021 (two year term)

These Officers have important roles on the Board of Directors, the body charged with the governance, direction and policy for the Society. Outlines of the duties of these positions are given overleaf.

For more information please contact your branch president or the AGS Nominating Committee by phone at (780) 424-4429 (AGS Office) or by email: [agsoffice@abgensoc.ca](mailto:agsoffice@abgensoc.ca)

Candidates for office will be asked to provide a biographical outline and acceptance of nomination by signature. An election shall be conducted prior to the Annual General Meeting for positions attracting more than one candidate.

Nominations shall close 31 January 2019. Please forward all nominations by then to:

The AGS Nominating Committee  
c/o The Alberta Genealogical Society  
#162, 14315 – 118 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 4A6

Sincerely,  
Bob Franz  
Past President and Chair of the 2018/19 Nominating Committee