

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

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Summary of Feature Articles

“The Great Border War: Swiss Border Patrol” by Denise (Juchli) Daubert

Denise feels she and her paternal grandfather are kindred spirits because of their shared independent natures. Charles Juchli was born in Switzerland and joined the Swiss Border Patrol, military service being mandatory in that country. He also worked in his family's horticultural business which was to prove useful to him after he immigrated to Alberta. Denise provides a glimpse into the interesting life this man lived in Switzerland, England, and Canada.

“Trench Art; Beauty from Death” by Dwayne Kostura

Dwayne is a long time collector of trench art, a passion that began in boyhood and has flourished since. Dwayne provides the history behind some of the items in his collection and what attracted him to them. He has also provided photos to show the decoration on these objects. Anyone interested in militaria and hand-made mementoes, most of them utilitarian, will find this a rewarding article.

“Genealogy Angels” by Joan Conley

Joan recounts how a couple of research friends helped her uncover sought after information on her great uncle who was killed during WWI. Because of help from her two 'genealogy angels' Joan now has the 'meat on the bones' that make all our stories so much more interesting. This is a useful 'how to' article for anyone unsure of how to locate information beyond military records on the lives of ancestors who were killed during wartime.

“Sons of Cornelius Thompson, UEL: Veterans of the War of 1812-1814” by Barbara Purin

Barbara culled information from this family history, published in 1936, of her ancestor to share with other local UEL descendants in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812-1814. She then prepared this written version of the life of Cornelius Thompson and his sons for RS. This account of one UEL family showcases an important part of our Canadian history.

“Fort Garry Horse Regiment Ring” by Susan McKeen

Susan has responded to an article from last November by Marilyn Hindmarch showing a variety of cap badges from her uncle's collection. Susan has a ring showing the same detail as one of these cap badges that she found among her father's effects. She is still no closer to knowing how this Fort Garry Regiment ring came into her father's possession and/or the meaning behind it. However, it is always good policy to keep such items and hope that eventually information will come to light. Seeing a matching cap badge may be a first step in this process. Susan looks forward to hearing from anyone who can shed further light on the meaning of her ring.

“A Vimy Veteran's Last Wishes Granted” by Grant Nicol

Grant recalls the very heartfelt tale of a Vimy Veteran who died without family to pay tribute to him and his service, and to bury his ashes with due respect. This truly speaks to the meaning of 'Remembrance Day'.

“Checklist of Genealogical Research Resources” by Charles Denney

This is our final installment of the genealogical research checklist that founding member, Charles Denney, compiled many years ago and remains so useful to us today. We have enjoyed republishing this list throughout this AGS 40th Anniversary year.

“AGS Memory- Mother Teresa” by Frank Easton

Throughout the AGS 40th Anniversary year, founding member Frank Easton has recounted brief stories from the early days of AGS. This one shares the tale of founding member John Hughes and the caring he had for people, especially other volunteers. (Frank may have another for 2014.)

“Prairie Memories of an RCAF Officer’s Wife” by Lesley (Dalrymple) O’Neil

When Lesley’s parents lived in married officer’s quarters in Dafoe, Saskatchewan, her mother corresponded with other family members and friends. These surviving letters, along with photos from that time, offer a glimpse into the lifestyle, hopes and complaints of a WWII training officer and his young wife.

“100th Anniversary of Stanger Farm” by Martha (Moore) McGivern

George Henry Moore moved, with his wife and young family, from Oregon to Stanger, Alberta in 1913. His brother Harry also relocated to Stanger and the two families flourished as farmers in this area. The author, Harry’s granddaughter, tells their story and of their success. George’s descendants, fourth generation Moore family, continue to reside on the original farm. This location has proven to be a magnet for family gatherings, most recently the 100th anniversary celebration with about 100 family members in attendance. Photos enhance Martha’s account.

Book Review

“The Genealogists Internet” reviewed by Marilyn Spilchen

Reviewed here is the fifth edition of this comprehensive collection of Internet sources. It is a very up to date compendium, most useful to experienced researchers although also providing guidelines to the novice. The UK is the main focus, other countries being dealt with only peripherally.

Visiting Alberta’s Past

- 1) “The First Century of Government House”

A brief history of this historic building with exterior and interior photos to illustrate the architecture and design features.

- 2) “High Level ‘Light the Bridge Campaign’”

A personal account of how this fundraiser to place led lights along the High Level Bridge was incentive to one AGS member as a means to honour a relative’s 100th birthday. Anyone interested in making a donation to this project can go to their website for further information.

From the Branches

- 1) Grande Prairie Genealogy Workshop
- 2) Red Deer Branch Meeting highlights
- 3) AGS and Edmonton Branch library acquisitions

Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors – Relatively Speaking