

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

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Summary of Feature Articles

“Hillcrest Mine Disaster” by Anne Knight

This one page article commemorates the 100th anniversary of this devastating event in southern Alberta that resulted in the death of 189 of the 235 men who went to work at Hillcrest Mine on June 19, 1914. Anne's paternal grandfather was one fortunate survivor; her account of his personal ordeal, then his return to help with rescue speaks to the dedication of these brave men.

“The “AMavis” Race” by Mavis Nelson and Sharon Aney

The two authors present a unique activity to spark interest in family history research. They offer, in this story, a fun way to engage the entire family that all of us can use as a model to devise our own family research quest.

“How To Get Started [in Genealogy]” by Lianne Kruger

This is a very useful article for those who are embarking, or thinking of embarking, on a genealogical search. Lianne lists how to document what the budding genealogist may already have and how to proceed from that point. Accompanying the information are illustrations of useful charts to assist beginners.

“One Day, One Man, One Mill, One Million Memories” by Gloria Cathcart

Gloria, who has extensively researched the many branches of her family, chronicles how she uncovered the very interesting life of her grandfather and his ancestors. She considers herself lucky with the personal connections and discoveries she made but, as we all know, such good fortune only comes at the end of a lot of concerted effort. This story should inspire readers to travel and seek out descendants who might very well share their treasures and impart their recollections.

“A Little Walk in a Cemetery” by John Althouse, Gloria (Kennett) Cathcart, Marilyn Hindmarch, Lesley (Dalrymple) O’Neil, and Peter Staveley

Four members of our RS editorial committee have authored brief personal cemetery tales that are interesting and/or inspirational, an encouraging compilation to read for anyone planning to explore cemeteries this summer.

GenFair

Pictorial centre spread coverage of the Edmonton Branch hosted genealogical ‘mini-conference’.

“Find a Grave Exploration” by Gloria Cathcart

In her article, Gloria describes this free website pointing out how it works and what you can expect to find. She indicates that, while it is most useful to those residing in Canada and the US, many other countries are also included. She also cautions that, once tried, this website can be addictive.

“Addictive Indeed” by Lesley O’Neil

Lesley gives a brief enthusiastic account of some of her Find-a-Grave explorations, further supporting Gloria’s helpful article.

“Keepers of History – Seasonal Museums Around Alberta” by Denise (Juchli) Daubert

Denise has compiled a list of small to medium sized museums that are located in towns, villages, and rural districts around Alberta and are only open during summer months. This is a very useful tool for anyone planning to visit the area their ancestors came from to learn about the culture and view artifacts.

“Legion of Frontiersmen Enters the Fray” by Peter Staveley

Following an article he wrote about this group for the February 2006 issue of RS, Peter here gives us some informative insight into the group’s unfortunate thwarted attempt to participate in WWI.

“AGS Memory – Rug Rats” by Frank Easton

After last year’s series of recollections from the early days of the AGS, founding member Frank Easton returns once more with a heartwarming tale of John Hughes who was also a founding member and longtime editor of RS. A poignant tale, well worth taking the time to read.

Book Review

The Devil’s Breath, reviewed by John Althouse

This book compliments our opening article on the Hillcrest Mining Disaster of 1914. It is a comprehensive history of the event including chronology of events that place it in context. John writes that there are graphics, a glossary and several appendices to help readers full appreciate the magnitude of this occurrence.

Visiting Alberta’s Past

- Sexsmith

This community has retained its small town legacy and is a place to consider visiting to experience what much of Alberta was like many years ago.

From the Branches

News from the following branches:

- Drayton Valley
- Lethbridge
- Grande Prairie and District
- Wetaskiwin
- Edmonton

“Late Dispatches from the Trenches” by John Althouse

John presents a synopsis of three books about WWI that focus attention on:

- 1) boy soldiers,
- 2) animals in war, and
- 3) battlefield maps.

For anyone with an interest in WWI or who has an ancestor who was associated with any of these areas, these snippets could be of help in providing ‘meat on the bones’.

Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors – Relatively Speaking