



# Roots and Branches

Vol 10 #1 October 2011

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### BRANCH MEETINGS

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** of the month,  
at 7:00 pm  
except December, July & Aug  
at City Archives:  
4904 - 50 Street,  
**Wetaskiwin, AB**

### EXECUTIVE

**President:**  
Anne Wildcat  
**Vice President:**  
Syl Gauvreau 780-352-5509  
**Past President:**  
Don Brosius: 780-352-0069  
**Secretary:**  
Joan Kruger 780-352-2864  
**Treasurer:**  
Elaine Young 780-352-2864  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
Sharon Aney 780-352-2156  
sharonaney@incentre.net

## President's Message

**Thank you, Anne!** for the work and the leadership you have given our organization over the past year. We are sorry to learn that you have had to leave the position of President, and we hope that your work commitments will enable you to continue to participate in our activities in the upcoming months and years.

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## Something to think about:

"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage - to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness." --

**Alex Haley, Roots**

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What passes for identity in America is a series of myths about one's heroic ancestors. It's astounding to me, for example, that so many people really seem to believe that the country was founded by a band of heroes who wanted to be free. That happens not to be true. What happened was that some people left Europe because they couldn't stay there any longer and had to go someplace else to make it. They were hungry, they were poor, they were convicts.

**James Baldwin**

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**LIBRARY**

located at City Archives

**Open:** Tuesdays 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 – 352-6931  
Terry Milne – 780-352-7983  
Bill Hughes – 780-352-4549

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**Dates to Remember:****October 18: Reg mtg****October 29:****Wetaskiwin Branch  
workshop****at Norquest College:****See P 4.****Nov. Reg mtg****Dec. No meeting****AGS Annual Conference****April 13 & 14, 2012****@Red Deer:****"Find Your Tree in the  
Forest"**

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**VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Please remember to submit  
your volunteer hours to  
Elaine. Our hours assist AGS  
with applying for grants that  
will assist us all. Email Elaine  
Young at [elaineyou@telus.net](mailto:elaineyou@telus.net)

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**Editor's Corner**

Sharon Aney

In the spirit of Thanksgiving I am again thankful for the participation of our members. In this issue Rosella Plaquin has shown us one of the pathways of her genealogical research. Claudia Malloch has another "techie" discovery for us to consider using in our research and recording. Carole Koop always has something interesting to share. Alice Hoyle takes good care of our library and research requests. There is not much for me to do! ☺

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The roots my grandfather placed in the Saskatchewan soil are my foundation. He homesteaded near Lanigan in 1905. At his death in 1955 six of his children were raising large families within a 3 mile radius of the original homestead. The local school flourished, a new Ukrainian Catholic parish was established, and there was a very active social life.

By 2005 the country school had been closed for many years, the church was struggling with severely diminished membership and his only descendents farming in the area were two grandsons, neither of whom have children. This summer one of them, my brother, came to an agreement to sell his land and I feel a tug as my roots are loosened. All the more reason to tell the stories of the people, their accomplishments, and the days gone by!

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**A genealogists dream vacation:** driving through an area where every little town and village seems to have a local history society or museum – complete with a genealogy research section, often manned by volunteers. One could find ancestors and their places in the local story in only one stop!! I was on that vacation a few weeks ago in Nova Scotia! Too bad for me – I do not have even one ancestor that settled in Nova Scotia before moving west.

However, noticing this – it seems to me that there is a potential wealth of information available to us if we make direct contact with such organizations in any community where our ancestors have lived.

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In time of test, family is best.

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**9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENEALOGY WORKSHOP OCTOBER 29, 2011**  
*Your Family Tree - Fact or Fiction?*  
**8:30 AM → APPROX 3:00 PM**  
**AT: NORQUEST COLLEGE, WETASKIWIN**  
**(5502 – 49 AVE)**

**4 Presentations:**

- \* **Write Your Life Story:** *How? Why? Guidance & Handout*
- \* **Land Descriptions:** *Just where were those pioneers?*
- \* **Genealogy Websites:** *Where, What, How to Research*
- \* **Genealogy on your Computer:** *Organize it, control it.*

Guest Presenters: *Lianne Kruger & Peter Darby*

**Fee: \$25.00** for non-members of Wetaskiwin Branch of  
**AGS** *Includes Handouts & Lunch*

*\*Please Pre-register by October 22!*

**TO PRE-REGISTER or for MORE INFORMATION:**

**PHONE: Alice @ 780-352-2150**

**Bob @ 780-387-4187**

**Email: [wetaskiwn@abgensoc.ca](mailto:wetaskiwn@abgensoc.ca)**

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**Library Update: Additions to our Research Collection**  
**Thanks to Alice Hoyle**

1. Who Do you Think you Are? – periodical donated to our library by Bob Maynard.
2. 910.9REN Renaud, Anne: "Into the Mist – The Story of the Empress of Ireland" – thank you to Mavis Nelson for this donation.
3. 971.23DEV "Land Among the Lakes – A History of the Deville and North Cooking Lake Area" – thank you to Sharon Aney for this donation.
4. Booklets: Tracing Family History and Tracing Your Criminal Ancestors – thanks to Bob Maynard for these donations.
5. 912.71SAS "Streets and Roads of Saskatoon"; 971.23WES "80 Years of Progress: Westlock"; 929.37SAS "History of the Saskatoon School District". Our thanks to Janice Krull for these welcome donations.

My apologies to Mavis and Neil Nelson – I previously reported that we had received a CD from Don and Judy Brosius – this CD includes the database of burials at the Nashville Cemetery, as well as photos of the headstones. Don has advised that Mavis and Neil Nelson actually did the cemetery data recording – Don typed the information from Mavis and Neil onto a database, and then Don and Judy went to the cemetery to take the photos. We are all grateful to these 4 volunteers for the countless hours they spent recording the information for future generations."

## Recap of Meetings

**May 2011** – The meeting was devoted to receiving reports and to preliminary planning of the annual fall workshop which will be held again at Norquest College on October, 29, 2011. The program was provided by **Claudia Malloch** who spoke on the program “**Drop Box**” as a possibility for safe back-up and use of our genealogy materials. Dropbox is a free service that lets you bring all your photos, docs, and videos anywhere. After you install Dropbox on your computer, any file you save to your Dropbox will automatically save to all your computers, your Android device, and even the Dropbox website, and thus be available to you wherever you are working.

**June 2011** – The meeting received reports and continued planning the October 29 workshop, especially focussing on advertising and promotion. Following tradition, the “final” meeting of the year was devoted to members sharing their genealogical experiences, successes and challenges.

**July & August, 2011** – No meetings. Time off for researching and “making” family history!

**September 2011** – The membership was sorry to receive the resignation of **Anne Wildcat** as President. **Don Brosius** reported that he is working on indexing more cemeteries in the area, and thanked **Mavis & Neil Nelson** for the work they have done with several cemeteries. **Manisha Khetarpal** from the Wetaskiwin Public Library spoke of its resources, including Heritage Quest online, and the hope that the Library could be of good use to genealogy researchers. Don took the several guests on a tour of our library at the Archives.

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## Research Requests

**Alice Hoyle**

Since our last newsletter was published, I have had the following research requests:

1. Mr. Jacobsen from Denmark is looking for information about his **Jensen relatives (Anton and Christine)**. I found them in the Wetaskiwin cemetery database, and I have taken digital photos of the graves as well as the cemetery entrance, and sent this to Mr. Jacobsen. I then researched the obituary records at the City of Wetaskiwin Archives and found quite a long obituary for Anton Jensen, but unfortunately nothing for Christine. This information has been sent to Mr. Jacobsen. An interesting side note is that one of Mr. Jensen’s daughters was married to Fritz Kirstein, a very well-known butcher in Wetaskiwin for over 40 years!
2. Mr. Mitchell from USA contacted us, looking for information about **Matilde Baker Strand and Lawrence Wallace Strand**. I also found their burial information in the Wetaskiwin cemetery database, and took photos as above, and have sent this to Mr. Mitchell. I found an obituary for Lawrence Strand, but nothing for Matilde Baker Strand and this information has been sent to Mr. Mitchell. He asked a very general question: “any information on them or any other Strands would be appreciated”. As there were quite a few Strands in the area, I will ask him for more guidance in order that information sent is relevant.
3. A very new request, just received, is from Germany, requesting information on the **Andrew and Clara Jans** family who lived in the Gwynne/New Norway area. I will begin working on this and let the researcher, Mr. Krieger, know what I find.

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## My First Research Road Trip

by **Rosella Plaquin**

When my husband came home one day and said he would give up a month of his hunting so we could go on an extended holiday I was ecstatic. I had only two requests; since I am a big Elvis Presley fan I wanted to go to see Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee and with the interest I have in my heritage I wanted to go to Kansas to research my paternal Grandmother's family. Well, guess what? He agreed to both!!

I had some information that had led me to Kansas so I began compiling the information I had so as to be better prepared when I arrived in Kansas. As luck would have it, a couple of months before our departure I received an email from a gal in Kansas who turned out to be my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin and she did much of the leg work for me before we arrived.

November 3, 2010: After an early breakfast we set out to find some family information on my Grandmother, Lucy May Reynolds, born in Peterborough Co., Ontario. Her father was one of 5 children born to Samuel Devlin Reynolds and Mary Kirkpatrick all in Ontario. Mary died in 1858, leaving Samuel with 5 young children. On the 1861 Canadian Census I found Samuel and one of his sons living with his parents: Jesse & Mary Reynolds. At this point I'm not sure who was looking after the other children.

Samuel was a blacksmith and he chose to go to Kansas to work on the railroad, taking 4 of his 5 children with him. My Great Grandfather, Joseph Edward Reynolds stayed in Canada. Samuel shows up on the USA 1870 Census in Leavenworth Co., Kansas, along with his 2 eldest sons from his first marriage and his daughter from his second marriage. This is where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Our first stop was in Springdale, Kansas where my Great Great Grandfather wed his second wife: Esther Wilson in 1867. They had 2 children, but I was unable to find any information in this little town. We then headed for Oskaloosa, Kansas where we spent several hours in the Jefferson Co. Courthouse searching old records. I was very lucky at this point as the lady working in the courthouse turned out to be another relative. She was the Great Great Granddaughter of my Great Grand Uncle, Henry Milton Reynolds. Not only was I able to get a copy of the will of Henry M. Reynolds but the marriage certificate of Samuel's 4<sup>th</sup> marriage to Margaret Wray in 1888. She also sent us to see the Reynolds general store, now in the "Old Jefferson Town" Museum as well as the Reynolds house in McLouth, Kansas. I was very excited as I now have another contact person in Kansas.

After visiting the Reynolds store we headed for Lawrence, Kansas to try to find the grave of Orsella Reynolds Hurd, youngest daughter of Samuel & Mary. Unfortunately the office was closed and since it was a huge cemetery, we were unable to find her grave.

From there we drove to McLouth, Kansas where the majority of my Reynolds relatives are buried. Some of the headstones were very old and difficult to read but I did find my Great Great Grandfather's as well as his 2 sons; Henry and Robert, and other family members.



This is a picture of the Reynolds store, Samuel D. Reynolds headstone, and the big Reynolds headstone for the entire family.

We also went to see the original Reynolds house that is still being used in McLouth, Kansas. Obviously it has been refurbished. I wish that I had the nerve to knock on the door and ask to see the inside of the house!



What a fabulous day!! That evening I got to meet my 4<sup>th</sup> cousin and her husband who live in Leavenworth, Kansas. Her Great Great Grandfather and my Great Great Grandfather were brothers.

Something interesting is that my Great Great Grandfather was on the Union side in the Civil War and hers was on the Confederate side. If we had met many years ago we would not have been able to converse as the two sides were enemies. Now she is even going to the McLouth cemetery on Memorial Day to put a flag at his headstone.

November 5, 2010: Another day to research – this time at the Leavenworth Co. Courthouse. I was able to find the marriage certificate of Samuel`s 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage in 1881 to Mary Mouser.

All in all this was a very successful family research trip.

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As the autumn air is filled with the dust of harvest – Carole has found someone’s words to pay tribute to those builders of our western lands:

**“The Farmer Feeds Them All”**

Thanks to Carole Koop

The writer thinks, the poet sings,  
 The craftsmen fashion wondrous things,  
 The doctor heals, the lawyer pleads,  
 The miner follows the precious leads,  
 But this or that, whate'er befall,  
 The farmer he must feed them all.

The merchant he may buy or sell,  
 The teacher do his duty well;  
 But men may toil through busy days,  
 Or men may stroll through pleasant ways,  
 From king to beggar, whate'er befall,  
 The farmer he must feed them all.

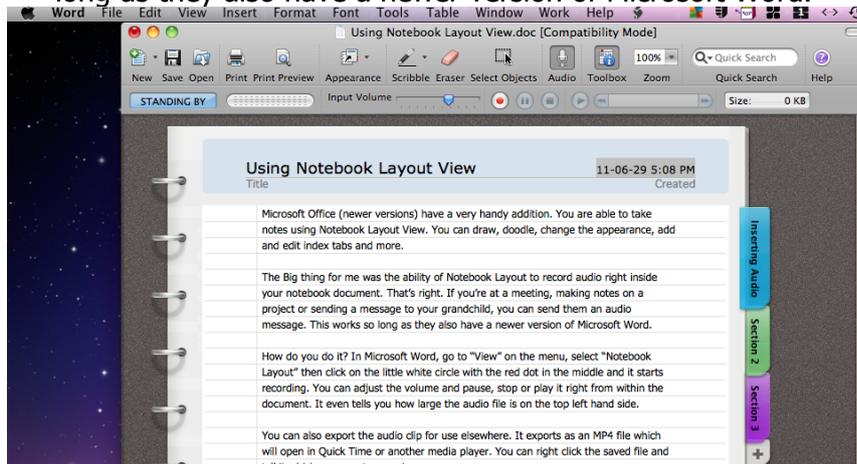
God bless the man who sows the wheat,  
 Who gives us milk and fruit and meat;  
 May his purse be heavy, his heart be light,  
 His cattle and corn and all go right,  
 God bless the seeds his hands let fall,  
 For the farmer he must feed them all.

## Using Notebook Layout View in Microsoft Word

by Claudia Malloch

Microsoft Office (newer versions) have a very handy addition. You are able to take notes using Notebook Layout View. You can draw, doodle, change the appearance, add and edit index tabs and more.

The Big thing for me was the ability of Notebook Layout to **record audio right inside your notebook document**. That's right. If you're at a meeting, making notes on a project or sending a message to your grandchild, you can send them an audio message. This works so long as they also have a newer version of Microsoft Word.



**How do you do it?** In Microsoft Word, go to "View" on the menu, select "Notebook Layout" then click on the little white circle with the red dot in the middle and it starts recording. You can adjust the volume and pause, stop or play it right from within the document. It even tells you how large the audio file is on the top left hand side.

You can also export the audio clip for use elsewhere. It exports as an MP4 file that will open in Quick Time or another media player. You can right click the saved file and tell it which program to open in.

To remove the audio from your notebook, go to "Tools", Audio Notes, Delete Audio from Document.

To put names on your index tabs, simply double click the tab and type in the new name. Or you can right click on a tab to add, rename or delete it, or to change it's colour. The tab will even expand to fit your typing. You can also add a tab by simply clicking on the + sign and typing a new name when the section tab appears.

This tool could have a lot of uses. Imagine recording notes at your next genealogy workshop or when you're interviewing someone for a family history...or just when family is reminiscing. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination.

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If you could see your ancestors all standing in a row  
 There might be some of them perhaps you wouldn't care to know.  
 But there's another question which requires a different view:  
 If you could "meet" your ancestors would they be proud of you??  
 Anon.

~~~~~

"Everyone's destination is to achieve a 'complete' and orderly family tree,  
 a veritable impossibility;  
 therefore the journey with all its complexities  
 and with all its unexpected detours  
 should be more important and ultimately more fascinating than the goal."

Ron Smelski 2001  
 Chairperson & Chief Editor  
 "East European Genealogist"

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## The Country School: A Chapter in Your Family History?

Sharon Aney

Thousands of stories have been told of the new teacher, man or woman, coming into a community to teach at the one-room school. Many of them left their mark by proving excellence, resourcefulness, determination, incompetence or by falling in love, marrying and living in that community for the rest of their lives.

Do these stories live in your family background? Several of them do in mine... the most important one being the 63 year long love story of my parents. Other stories displayed the conviction of the immigrant families that their children needed to be educated to prosper in their new homeland.

My Ukrainian great-grandfather was on the original board of Trustees of Podalia School near Sifton, Manitoba in 1903, despite having been in Canada for only 6 years. He and his sons, brother and nephew continued to hold various positions until the school was closed in the 1950s.

My husband's Swedish great-grandparents in South Dakota were so determined that their children be educated that they joined with two neighbouring families in 1886 to hire an English-speaking young man to teach their children over the winter in their homes. The classes and teacher's board rotated from week to week, from house to house according to the number of children being schooled. Having three children, the Rodeen's home was the school for three weeks, moving onto the other families for two weeks and one week before returning to the Rodeens for another three week session.

Not all schools were ideal. My uncle Mike remembers that in about 1920, speaking only Ukrainian, he began his schooling at a nearby one-room school in Saskatchewan. The majority of students attending there were of German descent and made cruel fun of the boys who could not communicate with them. The following year Grandpa moved to another area and the boys happily settled into a Ukrainian populated school and were even able to enjoy learning the English lessons.

A few years later, when that same Uncle Mike and my Dad were 14 and 12 years old, Elmsville School was opened in an area where Grandpa owned land and classes were held over the winter months. The two boys were sent to live in an unoccupied house in order to attend. It was up to them to keep themselves from freezing or starving, to keep their horse fed, watered and warm, and to attend to their studies. An older brother came by once a week or so with food from home, but otherwise they were on their own. Probably out of boredom they took on the responsibility of going to the school early enough to start the fire in the stove and so to have a warm classroom when the teacher and other students arrived.

My husband's French Canadian grandfather settled near Prud'homme, Saskatchewan and was a leader in the establishment of a Catholic school in his area, going so far as promoting an order of nuns to come from France to come to Canada and teach. His daughters had no fond memories of the spartan and strict boarding school experience.

If you look for these kinds of stories what will you find?

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Family is just accident.... They don't mean to get on your nerves. They don't even mean to be your family, they just are.

~Marsha Norman



## WETASKIWIN'S FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin, AB

Hours: Wed: by appointment: email Patty Caputo: [patty.caputo1@gmail.com](mailto:patty.caputo1@gmail.com)  
Thurs: 1:00 pm– 8:30 pm

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A note from **Carole Koop**: Re: **Ontario Land Record Index**

"I have just brought in over 100 microfiche called "OLRI" Ontario Land Record Index. Our local FHC director is now putting each into its own sleeve. These fiche will stay here in Wetaskiwin's FHC."

**Index by settler name:** 53 microfiche FHL6081200

**Index by township:** 75 microfiche FHL6081199

Carole also provided the following information:

**The Ontario Land Records Index** is a microfiche research roll compiled by the Archives of Ontario in Toronto. It indexes by name the settlers who received land grants or leases in Ontario as found in three groups of records: Crown Land Papers (denoted RG! For Record Group 1 at the Archives of Ontario, Canada Company Papers (CC) and the Peter Robinson Papers (MS-12). The Ontario Archives Land Records Index does not index the land petitions, which are among the most useful land records; many people who were not given land grants nevertheless petitioned for them. This index may provide the township, concession and lot on which the land was located. There is also a separate index by township so you can examine the grants for each township. Use the Index to find the residence of the ancestor you know is an Ontario origin.

**Thank You, Carole!** Ed.

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## Tickle Your Funny Bone

### Family Tree of Vincent Van Gogh:

His dizzy aunt :

The brother who ate prunes:

The brother who worked at a convenience store:

The grandfather from Yugoslavia:

His magician uncle:

The nephew who drove a stage coach:

The ballroom dancing aunt:

The bird lover uncle :

The fruit-loving cousin:

An aunt who taught positive thinking:

The little bouncy nephew:

A sister who loved disco:

And his niece who travels the country in an RV:

**Verti Gogh**

**Gotta Gogh**

**Stop N Gogh**

**U Gogh**

**Where-diddy Gogh**

**Wells-far Gogh**

**Tang Gogh**

**Flamin Gogh**

**Man Gogh**

**Way-to-Gogh**

**Poe Gogh**

**Go Gogh**

**Winnie Bay Gogh**



I saw you smiling . . . **There ya Gogh!**

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I trace my family history so I will know who to blame. ☺

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S. Aney, Ed.