



Wetaskiwin Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society

Roots & Branches

Vol. 12 No. 3

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ROOTS & BRANCHES

is published three times per year by and for the members of Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS. It is emailed to members and posted on our website.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Diane Strohschein

As usual the summer months fly by with various family happenings, and now our genealogy society is back on schedule. This year we will not be spending the time and energy on the October workshop which has been our major event for eleven years.

We are looking forward to more time at our regular meetings being spent on programs that will help us research and present our family histories. Claudia and Carole are working hard on our behalf, and I for one, look forward to our programs over the next months. These are good opportunities for all of us.

Please take note inside the newsletter of the trip to Provincial Archives that Carole has arranged for anyone interested. Thanks Carole!

WE REMEMBER JUNE M. HUGHES

September 25, 1923 –
August 28, 2014

"Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present and future."

-- Gail Lumet Buckley

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BRANCH MEETINGS

**3rd Tuesday of the month,
7:00 pm at LDS CHURCH
5410 – 36 Ave
except Dec., July & Aug.**

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WETASKWIN BRANCH: AGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Located at
City of Wetaskiwin Archives
4904 – 51 Street

Resources available "On call"

Branch Library co-ordinator

Contact: Bob Maynard

780-387-4187

maynard@persona.ca

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WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day
Saints,

5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin

Thursdays: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

& 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

EDITOR'S CORNER

Sharon Aney

A gathering of siblings and 2 younger generations this past summer refreshed our relationships and kindled reminiscences. As we were talking about two aunts and an uncle who were childless, I remembered reading that in three generations people can be forgotten. These relatives also have a story! Who will tell it? It must be the family story teller. Are you the one who does this service for your family?

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These days we are so conscious of discrimination.....the latest one being "ageism": discrimination on the basis of age.

Helen was a distant relative, born in 1906, who lived in Chicago. There had been no personal family contact, so all of my information came from public records. The 1940 census was the last mention I found for Helen. According to SSDI all of her siblings had died in Chicago in their 60s and 70s, but no mention of Helen! I kept looking, but "no Helen!" Finally I decided that her death either took place in another place, or just was not recorded.

Then in 2007 I read that the Chicago Tribune was going online. I speculated by entering Helen's name in the search box – and there appeared her recent obituary. She had died in 2007 at the age of 101! Why should I have assumed she would die at a younger age?

I occasionally find myself shaking my head at learning that generations ago people were often married by the time they had reached their mid-teens. Well, times, culture and life were different then. Maybe I should not judge by today's standards.

Are assumptions based on age hindering our genealogy and family history research?

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*Behind every successful man is his
woman. Behind the fall of a
successful man is usually another
woman.*

RECAP OF MEETING PRESENTATIONS

MAY 2012

1. **Research Tip: Tom Gray: keep your eyes open for unusual sources!**

A couple of examples of serendipitous finds:

- While we were at 29 Palms RV resort in California, I found in their library a Readers Digest Condensed Book wherein one selection was *Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier* by Joanna L. Stratton. This book was about the period in Kansas history when my relatives were in the state. The digest gave a great deal of insight about the times and places in which they lived.

I was able to order a used copy of the original book online for \$15 and it was waiting for me when I got home. Eagerly, I checked the index... Unfortunately, the book had nothing about "my" people. Still, the first-person accounts of things I know my family experienced -- Indian attacks, county seat wars, locusts, chinch bugs, blizzards, heat and drought, unending wind -- added a richness to my understanding of the time.

- Another example was when I was looking online for a searchable digital copy of the above book. I tripped over *CLOTHING OF KANSAS WOMEN, 1850-1870* by Barbara M. Fargo, an unpublished MSc thesis from Kansas State University (<https://archive.org/details/clothingofkansas00farg>).

Again, unrelated to my family specifically, but an interesting look at the clothing, fashion, etiquette, and attitudes of the time. Sometimes the little side-trips are fascinating!

2. **FHL library catalogue: Sharon** gave a power point demonstration with tips on how and why to research for documents in FHL. She demonstrated how to search in "places", "surnames", "books", and made suggestions for other types of searches.

3. **How to place orders for films: Gary** followed up on Sharon's presentations by going online and showing how to order films to be sent from Salt Lake City FHL for us to research at the Wetaskiwin FHC

JUNE 2014

Sharon congratulated members (Tom, Mavis, Claudia) whose articles have been and will be reprinted in *Relatively Speaking*. Rosella, club historian, will be inserting these articles into the album.

The program was entitled: "Ask the Experts". Discussion and suggestions occurred around topics brought up by members in attendance: accessing death records in Herfordshire, England, finding Germans from Russia, Dutch research, and online research. Alice also told of 2 pieces of important and interesting family information she unexpectedly found in the latest books acquired by the society. a confirming follow-up to Tom's "research tip" at the May meeting to read books that are generally in your area of research, even if specific information might not be expected to be found.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Research Tip: Alice read an article from *Eastman's Genealogy* about a DNA testing experience that tore a family asunder. We can take from that article that DNA testing, or any research other into our family tree, may turn up unexpected and unwelcome secrets. How will we handle them?

Claudia gave a presentation called "How Do I? Training Resources on the Internet" and demonstrated several websites that have blogs, videos and webinars that are free of charge for us to access and learn from.

1. www.familysearch.org has the Wiki and Learning centre that have information on many countries, topics, languages
2. www.genealogybybarry.com – a website by Barry Ewell has webinars and blogs

3. Legacy website www.familytreewebinars.com has many free webinars, an archive of webinars and the ability to subscribe for live webinars or to purchase CDs
4. Ancestry.com and ancestry.ca have many articles that are especially useful for American research.

She also reminded us that the Wetaskiwin Family History Centre has portals to many genealogy sites that otherwise would require subscription.

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## RESEARCH & ORIENTATION TRIP TO PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

Carole has arranged that Provincial Archives will have a staff member ready to lead a tour on November 5. She has suggested that as we are interested in family history research, the Reading Room is the focus. Restoration information and /or a demo would be of interest. She proposes us arriving about 11:30, having lunch in the lobby eating area, proceeding on the tour from about 12:30-13:30. That way there will be time for some research when the retrieval technician is available. Also, during the 11:30-12:30 hour block of time each person should have time to get registered and receive a Reading Room pass.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity **call Carole Koop [780-352-9929](tel:780-352-9929)**

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PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Claudia Malloch

“C.S.I. FAMILY HISTORY - Learning to Find Someone Like a Crime Scene Investigator”

At our October meeting, on October 21, we will be introducing this new program. It will involve several classes.

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced Genealogist, you should find this program helpful. It involves using proven methods to assist each member who decides to participate, by choosing an ancestor to learn more about. The object of this program is to teach participants the basic techniques and strategies of researching and recording genealogical information. The ancestor chosen, therefore, should be someone who can actually be located.

The program will involve an information session followed by “hands on” assistance by members of the group familiar with the day's topic(s). This portion of the program would take place in the Family History Center.

Some topics addressed will be: How to organize your information to improve your chances of success, researching, recording, sourcing and assessing your discovered information.

You need to determine your ancestor that you will research and bring the information you have on this person **Note: The Ancestor preferably should be someone born before 1921 in Canada or Britain (or 1940 in the US). If you have at least names of some other family members, it will help. The "victim" should be someone you are able to research relatively readily so you can learn research steps. If you use someone who has been a total brick wall for you, it will make it more difficult to learn the other strategies you need.*

It would be helpful if all members interested in this program would be prepared with:

- A 1½” binder and pack of dividers
- A flash drive

For more information: Claudia Malloch at claudiamalloch@me.com or 780-352-0685.

We are excited about helping all of us to succeed in our research and feel better able to “do what we do”

HOMESTEAD RECORDS, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE THEM

Sharon Aney

During the first 75 years of the 20th century, if you drove along the rural roads of Alberta, Saskatchewan and much of Manitoba you would pass a farm yard every few miles. Many were populated by descendants of families who had moved onto the vast prairies to claim land that the government offered for a minimal price and the promise to "prove it up".

There is a real story to be found if we look beyond the statement that "our grandparents lived 6 miles north and 2 miles east" of "any town". If our ancestors were among those who acquired a homestead, a wealth of information waits for us to come calling! The homestead records can easily be accessed for a three-year snapshot of the hardships and accomplishments of our rural ancestors.

The governments of Canada and the United States had set up a process to record western settlement that turns out to be a bonanza for current genealogists. The lands were surveyed and numbered. Procedures and forms were developed to record and ensure orderly settlement as newly arrived pioneers claimed "free" land. The records have been preserved in provincial and USA archives.

The **Application for Homestead Entry** form may well show the only signature you will have of your ancestor! At the very least it could/should dispel disputes about how he spelled his name. It also states the date that he (or she) applied, the specific land location, the number of people in the family, where they came from and occupation previous to this time.

Three or four years later, having made improvements on his land, the applicant completed a **"Sworn Statement in Application for Homestead Patent"**

- #s 1 to 5 & #8 contain important personal information
 1. What is your name in full, age, occupation and post office address?
 2. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? If naturalized, state when and where.
 3. When did you obtain entry for this homestead?
 4. When did you build your house thereon? And when did you begin actual residence there?
 5. What portion of each year, since that date, have you resided therein?
 6. When absent from your homestead where have you resided and what has been your occupation?
 - a. #6 recognized that there was likely a shortage of cash, so the homesteader might have to work away from his land: on railways, lumber camps, threshing crews, etc to be able to buy supplies
 7. If you have lived on land owned by yourself in the vicinity, answer the following:
 - a. Describe such land
 - b. When did you become owner of it?
 - c. How did you acquire it?
 - d. What buildings have you on it?
 - e. Do you own said land at the present time?
 - f. What residence have you performed on it?
 8. Of whom do your family consist, when did they first commence residence upon the homestead, and for what portion of each year since have they resided upon it?
- #s 9 to 13 were the proof that the homesteader was serious about settling on the land granted to him.

9. How much breaking have you done upon your homestead in each year since you obtained entry and how many acres have you cultivated each year?
 10. How many horned cattle, horses, sheep and pigs of which you are owner have you on your homestead each year since the date of perfecting entry? Give number in each year.
 11. What is the size of your house on your homestead, of what material and what is its present cash value?
 12. What extent of fencing have you made on your homestead, and what is the present cash value thereof?
 13. What other buildings have you erected on your homestead? What other improvements have you made thereon, and what is the cash value of the same?
 14. Are there any indications of minerals or quarries on your homestead? If so, state the nature of same, and whether the land is more valuable for agriculture than any other purpose.
 15. Have you had any other homestead entry? If so describe it and say what became of it.
- #16 discouraged profit-taking.
16. Have you mortgaged, assigned, transferred, or agreed to same your present homestead property? If so, when and to whom?

Two neighbours were required to swear before a local land agent, on a similar form, that all information provided by the homesteader was correct. A couple of months later a form would be sent from the Department of the Interior advising that patent (title) for the land in question had been forwarded to the local Registrar of the Land Registration District, and that Certificate of Title would be issued after payment of any fees.

You can see that the requirements on the potential land owner were quite stringent. More importantly for the family historian, the information is quite extensive.

Some files have also contained extra and unexpected notes or documents:

- My great grandfather Daniel's file noted ("subject to claim for flour"), dated June 2, 1898, which substantiated the lore that the family had almost starved over their first winter and needed government assistance.
- In the absence of any other documentation my Grandfather, Peter's file, indicated his age, (27) in November, 1908, and that he was married and had two children.
- A friend told me that he found an actual marriage certificate in his grandfather's file.
- On the Application for Patent which Russ' grandfather, Xavier, completed was a written notation that he'd been married on October 11, 1905 (the only date I've found so far for that event).
- Also in that file I found a copy of his father's Last Will & Testament. This was particularly valuable because Olivier's death particulars, March 7, 1907 in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota were the first lead I had to the large family of siblings that grandfather was reputed to come from. I was now able to find a trail of how he came to Saskatchewan from Quebec, through the USA, and to research some very colourful characters.

As I mentioned at the beginning, these records are readily available to the researcher.

- In Alberta they are found at the Provincial Archives. The procedure to access them can be found on the website of the Alberta Genealogical Society. www.abgensoc.ab.ca
- In Saskatchewan homestead records are found at the Provincial Archives in either Saskatoon or Regina. www.saskarchives.com
- For Manitoba records www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/
- For similar records in the USA www.glorerecords.blm.gov/

CLOTHING YOURSELF IN SOURCES Michael J. Leclerc's Genealogy News

Mocavo Newsletter

09 Sep 2014

One of the biggest things we have to teach and reinforce with beginning genealogists is the concept of citing your sources. Many think that this is some sort of high-brow, scholarly concept that they don't need to do because they are "only doing this for the family." Nothing could be further from the truth.

There are many reasons for citing your sources, including allowing others to retrace your path, and to determine the accuracy of your sources. But the most important reason for keeping track of where you find every bit of information is to benefit yourself and your own research. At some point in your research, you will discover conflicting information about an ancestor and you will need to go back to the original sources to try to resolve the conflict. If you haven't written down where you got the information in the first place, you may have a heck of a quandary on your hands. I have one friend who is still looking for the source of the information she has about her great-grandfather's date and place of death, because she didn't write it down. More than 30 years after she first started researching, she still has not been able to find that source, nor has she been able to find any source at all!

One of the challenges about citing the sources of your information is the many difference variations there can be for a single source. For example, one can find:

- The original document.
- A microfilmed version of the original document.
- A digitized version of the microfilmed version.
- A digitized version of the original document.
- A published book of information extracted from an original document.
- An electronic database of information extracted from an original document.
- An electronic database of a published book of information extracted from an original document.
- An electronic database of information extracted from a microfilm version of an original document.
- An electronic database of information extracted from a digital version of an original document.
- An electronic database of information extracted from a digital version of a microfilm version of an original document.

It is important to note exactly what version of a record you are examining and that provided the information to you. It can get confusing, especially since you also want to make note of the original source as well. This is especially important when you are using digital versions

online. Companies often reorganize their websites, or they can even go out of business. Referencing the original record allows you to be able to find another copy elsewhere if necessary.

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## **GATEWAY TO FREE CANADIAN GENEALOGY** <http://www.canadagenweb.org/>

With all of the hype about ancestry.com, familysearch.org and other genealogy websites that require a subscription we should remember that there still is a wonderful resource that has a lot of information for us. It is totally volunteer run and so records online might not be comprehensive, but they are what researchers have found useful....and they may well be very useful to you! A corresponding site for USA research is [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

The following links were copied from the home page... opening every one will be like a genealogical Christmas!

### **Province & Territory GenWebs**

- [Acadian GenWeb](#)
- [Alberta GenWeb](#)
- [British Columbia GenWeb](#)
- [Manitoba GenWeb](#)
- [New Brunswick GenWeb](#)
- [Newfoundland & Labrador GenWeb](#)
- [Nova Scotia GenWeb](#)
- [Northwest Territories & Nunavut GenWeb](#)
- [Ontario GenWeb](#)
- [Prince Edward Island GenWeb](#)
- [Québec GenWeb](#)
- [Saskatchewan GenWeb](#)
- [Yukon GenWeb](#)
- [CanadaGenWeb For Kids](#)

Thanks to [Tom Alcierre](#) for the domain!

### **Projects**

- [Archives](#)
- [Cemetery Project](#)
- [Family Bible Transcription Project](#)
- [Immigrants To Canada List](#)
- [Online Historical Map Digitization Project](#)
- [Roll of Honour Project](#)

### **Research**

- [Where To Start](#)
- [Canadian Research FAQ](#)
- [CanadaGenWeb FAQ](#)
- [Queries](#)
- [Facts about Canada](#)
- [Timeline of Canada](#)

### **Miscellany**

- [Map of Canada](#)
- [Famous Canadians](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Scene In Canada](#)
- [Sitemap](#)

### **Upcoming Genealogy Meetings & Events,**

**Canada-wide**   
Free Calendars by Bravenet.com

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LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>

From the blog posted on this site: Posted on [August 27, 2014](#)

War Brides

Wars are tragic events but they sometimes have an unexpected silver lining. During the First and Second World Wars, Canadian soldiers often found love overseas, got married and brought back their loved ones to Canada. We are happy to advise you that we have added a new page to our [Military Heritage](#) section about the foreign women who married Canadian soldiers, the war brides. They shared a common experience of leaving their country and heading for Canada on long journeys, first by ship and then by train. They faced many

challenges as they settled into a new country, a different culture and sometimes even a new language. On this new page, you will find records from a variety of sources. The majority are found in the records of National Defence, Department of Employment and Immigration, Department of External Affairs, the Directorate of Repatriation, and the Canadian Wives' Bureau, but many also come from private organizations. Visit the [War Brides](#) page to explore the printed and archival resources available at Library and Archives Canada.

Home page → <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/> discover the collection → military heritage -----
drop down list -----War Brides

The term "war bride" refers to foreign civilian women who married Canadian soldiers serving overseas during the First and Second World Wars. The majority of war brides were from Great Britain, with a smaller number originating from Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy and Germany.

First World War

There is no official number for war brides who married Canadian soldiers during the First World War, but it is estimated that 54,000 relatives and dependents accompanied troops returning to Canada following demobilization. Library and Archives Canada holds a variety of resources relating to Canadian war brides of the First World War, including documents regarding the transportation and care of soldiers' dependents en route to Canada, pay and separation allowance, passage fees for dependents, and procedural recommendations for soldiers returning to Canada with dependents. The following list provides the main resources identified to date..... *list available on the website; deleted due to space limitations here. SA*

Second World War

The records for war brides of the Second World War, held by Library and Archives Canada, are more extensive due to the departments and programs established to handle the care and transport of soldiers' dependents. By 1946, an estimated 48,000 marriages between Canadian servicemen and civilian women overseas had been registered. These marriages resulted in 22,000 children, and by the end of March 1948 the Canadian government had transported approximately 44,000 wives and 21,000 children to Canada..... *Extensive list of resources on the website. SA*

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*"Shoot first and call whatever you hit the target"..... don't let this be your genealogical research strategy (adding the first person you find with a possible family name to your tree!)*

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