

# Alberta Genealogical Society



## 2014 Annual Report

PRESENTED AT THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18 April 2015

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of Dec. 31, 2014)

### Officers

President	Susan Haga
Past President	Liam Hobbes
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lianne Kruger
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Maxine Maxwell
Vice President of Finance	Jock Howard
Secretary of the Society	Mary Ann Legris

### Directors:

Brooks	Robert Franz
Camrose	Janine Carroll
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Lynne Duigou
Ft. McMurray	Tammy Grantham
Grande Prairie	Jean Smith Gray
Lethbridge	Doug McLeod
Medicine Hat	Doreen Schank
Peace River	Joan Wahl
Red Deer	Diane Lehr
Wetaskiwin	Diane Strohschein

### Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Jock Howard
Nominations (Chair)	Liam Hobbes
Policy and Procedures (Chair)	Mary Ann Legris

### Other Committees and Appointments

Archivist	Mary Ann Legris
Bylaws	Jo Nuthack
Cemetery Database	Shannon Cherkowski
Communications/Public Relations/Publicity	Lyn Meehan
Conference Co-Chairs	Pam Forsyth Carolynne Ross
Electronic Services	John Hazelwood
Facilities	Wayne Harker
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Grants & Fund Raising	Marion Rex
Historian	vacant
Legal Advisor	Sharon Roberts
Liaison with Genealogical Societies	Sue Philips
Library & Research Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Val Peden
Parliamentarian	Jo Nuthack
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking:	
Acting Editor	Marilyn Hindmarch
Production Editor	Lesley O'Neil
Mailing	George Shreeves
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Translations	Sue Philips
Treasurer	Jock Howard
Webmaster	Lianne Kruger

### AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Linda Winski
Bookkeeper	Alice Muntjewerff

## OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the society are:

**To** promote the study of genealogy and genealogical research within the Province of Alberta.

**To** encourage adherence to accuracy and thoroughness in research.

**To** encourage and instruct members in ethical principles, scientific methods and effective techniques of genealogical research and defend the standards of genealogy from incompetent and disreputable persons.

**To** assemble a library of genealogical guides, handbooks, reference sources, family and local histories, and other books and materials which may assist the members, all of which will be available to members.

**To** publish such bulletins, booklets, pamphlets, or other documents as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board of the Society and to make the same available to the members and others on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board.

**To** establish friendly relations with other genealogical societies for exchange of ideas and information and the promotion of common interests.

**To** enter into arrangements with other genealogical societies for the publication of bulletins, booklets, books, pamphlets, or other documents on such terms and conditions as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board.  
**To** promote seminars and workshops on genealogical research and methodology and such other studies as may seem helpful to the members.

**To** provide a centre and suitable meeting place for various activities of the Society and its members by rent or purchase or otherwise.

**To** encourage the establishment of Branches of the Society under such terms and conditions as the Bylaws of the Society may from time to time provide.

**To** achieve the foregoing objects, funds may be raised and donations, gifts, legacies and bequests accepted.

Registered 25 May 2001

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**ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2014  
CHATEAU LOUIS CONFERENCE CENTRE – EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

**AGENDA**

1.WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

2.APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3.APPROVAL - MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4.INTRODUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE AND BOARD DIRECTORS

- PRESIDENT – SUSAN HAGA
- 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – LIANNE KRUGER
- 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – MAXINE MAXWELL
- PAST PRESIDENT – LIAM HOBBS
- BRANCH PRESIDENTS
  - 1.BROOKS – ROBERT FRANZ
  - 2.CAMROSE – JANINE CARROLL
  - 3.DRAYTON VALLEY – CONNIE STUHL
  - 4.EDMONTON – LYNNE DUIGOU
  - 5.FORT McMURRAY – TAMMY GRANTHAM
  - 6.GRANDE PRAIRIE – JEAN GRAY
  - 7.LETHBRIDGE – DOUG McLEOD
  - 8.MEDICINE HAT – DOREEN SHANK
  - 9.PEACE RIVER – JOAN WAHL
  - 10.RED DEER – DIANE LEHR
  - 11..WETASKIWIN – DIANE STROHSCHIEIN
- COMMITTEE CHAIRS – AS LISTED

5.ACCEPTANCE OF EXECUTIVE, BRANCH, AND COMMITTEE  
REPORTS

**6.FINANCIAL REPORTS – JOCK HOWARD, VICE PRESIDENT OF  
FINANCE & TREASURER**

- 2014 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
- ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
- BUDGET 2015 – 2016
- APPROVAL – BUDGET
- APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2015

**7.RESOLUTION OF RESPECT – FRANK EASTON**

**8.PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – SUSAN HAGA**

**9.ADJOURNMENT**

Minutes of the  
**Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS)**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
 Saturday, April 26, 2014  
 Parkview Community League Hall – Edmonton, Alberta

ATTENDANCE OF 47:

ALLRED	Sharon	Lethbridge
ALTHOUSE	John	Edmonton
ATCHESON	Bob	Edmonton
ATCHESON	Francoise	Edmonton
BLACKLEY	Barbara	Edmonton
BOELSTLER	Deb	Edmonton
BOELSTLER	W. Bruce	Edmonton
CATHCART	Gloria	Edmonton
CHERKOWSKI	Shannon	Edmonton
DYER	Sharon	Edmonton
DUIGOU	Lynne	Edmonton
DURIE	Gary	Edmonton
EASTON	Frank	Edmonton
EDWARDS	Natalie	Edmonton
FEARNLEY	Ken	Edmonton
FINN	Neal	Edmonton
GRANTHAM	Tammy	Fort McMurray
GRAY	Jean	Grande Prairie
GREEN	Joan	Edmonton
GREGORY	Shirley	Edmonton
GREGORY	Terry	Edmonton
HAGA	Susan	Lethbridge
HAZELWOOD	John	Edmonton
HOLMES	Ian	Edmonton
HOWARD	Jock	Fort McMurray
KRUGER	Lianne	Red Deer
LEGRIS	Mary Ann	Edmonton
LEHR	Diane	Red Deer
MARTYNIUK	Carol	Edmonton
MAXWELL	Maxine	Grande Prairie
MCLEOD	Doug	Lethbridge
MUENDEL	Henning	Lethbridge
NELSON	Claudine	Edmonton
NUTHACK	Jo	Edmonton
NUTHACK	Judy	Edmonton
O'NEIL	Lesley	Edmonton
RISALER	Colleen	Edmonton
ROBERTS	Jeneane	Edmonton
ROSS	Carolynne	Edmonton
SHANKS	Donna	Edmonton
STUHL	Connie	Drayton Valley
TRUMPOUR	Ivy	Edmonton
TURNBULL	Laura	Edmonton
		Grande Prairie
		Medicine Hat
VANELDIK	Fred	Edmonton
VANELDIK	Sandra	Edmonton
WARDS	Shona	Edmonton
WILLOUGHBY	Vic	Red Deer

**1. Call to Order:**

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:32 P.M. by Susan Haga, President.

**2. Approval of the Agenda:**

**MOVED** by Doug McLeod that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

**Seconded** by Sharon Allred                      **Carried**

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting:**

**MOVED** by Connie Stuhl that the Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented in the Annual Report.

**Seconded** by Claudine Nelson                      **Carried**

**4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and Directors of the Board –**

**Sandra Vaneldik, Past President:** An election was not held; Susan Haga became Acting President in November following the resignation of Les Campbell. There were no nominations received therefore Susan Haga was proclaimed President at the February 2014 meeting and Lianne was named 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Jock Howard will remain as Interim Vice President of Finance.

- **PRESIDENT – SUSAN HAGA**
- **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – LIANNE KRUGER**
- **2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT – MAXINE MAXWELL**
- **VICE PRESIDENT (INTERIM) JOCK HOWARD**
- **SECRETARY- MARY ANN LEGRIS**
- **PAST PRESIDENT – LIAM HOBBS**
- **DIRECTORS:**
  - BROOKS – ROBERT FRANZ**
  - CAMROSE – JANINE CARROLL**
  - DRAYTON VALLEY – CONNIE STUHL**
  - EDMONTON – LYNN DUGOU**
  - FORT McMURRAY – TAMMY GRANTHAM**
  - GRANDE PRAIRIE – JEAN GRAY**
  - LETHBRIDGE – DOUG McLEOD**
  - MEDICINE HAT – DOREEN SHANK**
  - PEACE RIVER – JOAN WAHL**
  - RED DEER – DIANE LEHR**

WETASKIWIN – DIANE STROHSCHHEIN

**5. Executive, Branch and Committee Reports:**

**MOVED** by Lynne Duigou that the Executive Reports, the Branch Reports and Committee Reports be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

**Seconded** by Doug McLeod                      **Carried**

**6. 2013 Audited Financial Statements for 2013, the 2014 – 2016 Budget, and Auditors for 2014:**

Jock Howard, Vice President of Finance, has been the acting Treasurer since March. In December a bookkeeper was hired. The position of Vice President of Finance has not been filled. Jock has agreed to act as interim Vice President. The Executive has recommended that the three positions (Treasurer, V.P. Finance and Bookkeeper) be reviewed over the next few months to determine the best structure for the financial sector of the Society and for presentation at the next AGM.

Jock gave an overview of the financial management during 2013. He reviewed and explained all aspects of the Financial Statements received by the attendees. The Three Year Budget as presented in the Annual Report is incorrect. The corrected one will be sent out with *Relatively Speaking*.

**MOVED** by Jock Howard that the Financial Statements for 2013 be accepted as presented.

**Seconded** by Laura Turnbull                      **Carried**

**MOVED** by Jock Howard that the firm of Kouri, Berezan, & Heinrichs Chartered Accountants be appointed the Auditors for 2014.

**Seconded** by Connie Struhl                      **Carried**

**7. 2013 Resolution of Respect: Frank Easton**

**WHEREAS** the success of our Society has been, and will be, dependent upon many factors including: dedicated membership; professionalism in research; the volunteer efforts of individuals who have provided dedicated service on Committees, Boards of Directors, Executives, Libraries, Educational Courses, and in Community leadership, and with the support of spouses

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the members of the Alberta Genealogical Society go on record as expressing their deepest sorrow on the passing of the following members:

JUNE ARNISON	5629	Edmonton	January 27, 2013
HAL O'NEIL	5088	Edmonton	February 4, 2013
BONNIE DREW	833	Edmonton	February 9, 2013
THOMAS GLADDERS	2191	At Large	February 14, 2013
IRIS EDEY	1300	Edmonton	February 24, 2013
FRANCES SPENCE	5733	Brooks	March 9, 2013
BRUCE DRYSDALE	3444	Red Deer	May 14, 2013
DEBRA PHILLIPS	3022	Medicine Hat	June 11, 2013
DONALD CHAPMAN	5079	Edmonton & Camrose	July 13, 2013
BERTHA MELNYK	3608	Grande Prairie	August 6, 2013
BARBARA BRAZIER	2184	Wetaskiwin	August 9, 2013
DOROTHY CHARTRAND	962	Edmonton	September 6, 2013
JUNE REDER	4197	Edmonton	September 10, 2013
REANNE SMITH	1987	Edmonton	October 29, 2013
ROBERT MILSON	711	Edmonton	December 2, 2013

And do stand in silent tribute to their memory.

**MOVED** by Frank Easton that this Resolution of Respect be made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

**Seconded** by Jo Nuthack

**Carried**

**8. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – SUSAN HAGA - attached**

**9. MOVED** by Terry Gregory that a Thank You be given to all who organized and participated in the GenFair.

**Seconded** by Henning Muendell

**Carried**

**9. ADJOURNMENT – Susan Haga @ 4:45PM**

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Legris  
Secretary

Susan Haga  
President

## **Awards Presented at 2013 AGM**

### **AWARDS PRESENTED BY SUSAN HAGA, PRESIDENT**

#### **SPECIAL MENTION AWARDS (CERTIFICATES)**

##### **Lianne Kruger**

In recognition and appreciation of her leadership in coordinating the GenFair in Red Deer, Alberta, April 2012

#### **2012 GENFAIR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

In recognition and appreciation of their contribution to the success of the 2012 GenFair

#### **RED DEER BRANCH**

For its role in making the 2012 GenFair a wonderful success

#### **Long Term Membership Awards:**

For Twenty-five years of Consistent Loyalty

- Anne Luciuk
- Patricia Pettitt
- Patricia Woodman
- Verna Hockey
- David Rolls
- Jean Klohn
- Ruth Greig
- Jean Schattle
- Gwen Richards
- Dr. Charles Bird

#### **SPECIAL MENTION AWARD (certificate)**

##### **Edmonton Branch (AGS)**

In recognition and appreciation of 40 years of dedication and service to the Society in the promotion of Genealogical Research and Family History (1974 – 2014)

#### **Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards**

Certificate 1.

Kenneth Young Award

for

Best Local Content in a Branch Newsletter  
presented to

**Grande Prairie and District Branch**

Certificate 2.  
Kenneth Young Award  
for  
Best Original Article in a Branch Newsletter  
presented to  
**Red Deer Branch**  
for *Centennial Families* by Linda McKay  
published in "The Tree Climber" March 2013

Kenneth Young Award Plaque  
For Best Overall Branch Newsletter in 2013  
Awarded to  
**Medicine Hat and District Branch**  
for  
*Saamis Seeker*

During the judging of the Newsletters, the committee recommended an additional Special Mention Award be given.

**SPECIAL MENTION AWARD (certificate)**  
presented to

**JOAN BOWMAN**

In honour of her dedication and contribution  
to the promotion of Genealogical Research and Family History through her many years of writing the  
article "Old Newspapers" in Grande Prairie's "Heritage Seekers".

**SPECIAL MENTION AWARD**  
presented to

**SANDRA VANELDIK**

In recognition and appreciation of your dedication and service to the Society by serving an additional  
term of Past President. 2011 - 2013

The **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** is an annual award given for the most outstanding achievement by a  
member.

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD (plaque)**  
presented to

**JOHN ALTHOUSE**

In appreciation for dedicated service to the Society in the promotion and preservation of Family History  
and Genealogy.

During 2013 John served as Past President of Edmonton Branch. He was also the Outreach Coordinator  
and in this role gave many presentations, worked with several SIGs, prepared brochures, and gave many  
hours to committee work,

John completed Volume II of the Alberta Genealogical History (1998-2013) and, following the illness of  
Peter Staveley, Editor of *Relatively Speaking*, assumed the duties of editor on an acting basis.

# EXECUTIVE REPORTS

## President

A lot of ground has been covered since I wrote my first Annual Report in 2013. Life has moved very quickly since then. I want to recap what has happened in the past year showing what has been accomplished in 2014.

On April 26, 2014 our GenFair 'Genealogy Starts with You' was held at the Edmonton Parkview Community League Hall with 150 people in attendance. Jo Nuthack headed up the committee for this event. We had a lot of SIG tables and other display tables that were very representative of what we do as a society. I want to thank Shannon Cherkowski for all of her advertising efforts because I know this made a real difference in our attendance!

One of my goals this past year was to increase our membership by taking a look at how we can go about doing that. We have spoken often of getting younger members involved. In order to do this we needed to take a look at implementing youth memberships for junior and senior high school students as well as for university students. I did some research several months ago to see what other genealogical societies across Canada were doing and got some ideas of what we could do to encourage younger members to join AGS. There have been a lot of discussions at our Board meetings in the past few months regarding this and I am happy to say we are progressing along and will be putting forth two new youth memberships options for membership approval at the AGM.

This year was a challenging one for the *Relatively Speaking* Editorial Committee with the passing of Peter Williams and Peter Stavely's battle with his health, but as a committee they continued pushing forward despite these difficult circumstances to produce this wonderful publication. John Althouse was the Acting Editor up until just before the Retreat.

In September we held our annual Retreat at the Providence Renewal Centre. I would like to thank Maxine Maxwell for heading up our committee for the Retreat. We met on Friday evening for our usual social get together with a fun filled evening of Part II of 'Who Do We Think You Are' session that we had started at last year's Retreat. Last year everyone had sent in a baby picture for us to identify. This year we had a Personal History session that allowed us to learn a little more about each other. Each person was given an opportunity to interview someone else in the room whom they had chosen to be their partner. After about 15 minutes of being interviewed the roles were reversed.. At the conclusion of the second interview (about 15 minutes later) all the questionnaires were collected and the moderator (myself) perused the sheets for an interesting fact regarding each person. Guessing who was being described was a revealing experience and enjoyed by all.

On Saturday morning Maxine led the Sharing of Branch Reports session. Each Branch was given time to talk about programs and activities, challenges and solutions giving all the Directors new ideas to take home to their Branches. Following

this session Jock Howard gave a presentation on 'Preparation for the Video Conference Meeting' that we planned to have for our November Board meeting. After lunch the Board meeting was held with discussion regarding the new process of membership renewal, upgrades to the internet in the AGS Library, and information on policy and procedures.

Saturday evening Alison Freake, Conservator with Access Preservation Services with the Provincial Archives of Alberta gave us an insightful presentation on Conservation. Alison demonstrated the process involved in restoring damaged photographs and documents to their original form and everyone was given a chance for a hands-on-experience. We had invited Kurt Paterson with Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and Ericka Chemko with the Edmonton Heritage Council to join us for supper and for Alison's presentation. It was a great opportunity for us all to meet and socialize with them during the evening. I would like to thank Shannon Cherkowski for arranging for Alison Freake to come from PAA and give this wonderful presentation.

On Sunday morning we were presented with Nestor's Jeopardy Game testing our knowledge on the Policies and Procedures Handbook. We were also given a preview of our new website by Lyn Meehan, Communication Chair and Website Content Manager. This created much excitement as the website was nearing completion. After a short break, Dr. Hugh McKenzie gave an excellent and a very detailed presentation regarding the Historical Cemeteries Project. He encouraged the directors to take the information back to their branches for review. This seemed to clear up a lot of questions about this project for those in attendance.

For our November 22<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting we were successful in holding our Virtual Meeting thanks to Jock and all the

preparations that went into preparing for it. We had to update our internet at the AGS Library in preparation for it. Lethbridge (Doug Mcleod), Brooks (Bob Franz) and Medicine Hat (Doreen Schank) had scheduled to meet in Brooks but Medicine Hat was not able to attend. Janine Carroll, Camrose President, was skyped in from Ottawa using a laptop at the Brooks Library.. Grande Prairie (Jean Gray-President and Maxine Maxwell—2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.) met in a location in Grande Prairie, Red Deer (Diane Lehr-President) and Lianne Kruger-1<sup>st</sup> V.P. were at the Red Deer College but the firewall there prohibited them from connecting with the video conferencing so they phoned in for the entire meeting. At the AGS Library along with me were Mary Ann Legris, Jock Howard, Connie Stuhl (Drayton Valley-President and our moderator) and Lyn Meehan. The meeting lasted 4 hours and we got through all the important issues. An evaluation was sent out by Connie Stuhl afterwards and the comments that came back were favourable for conducting this type of meeting again.

A.G.S. has been falling short of meeting our membership goals. One program used to increase membership is the Outreach program. John Althouse is a great asset in this program and has done a lot as the Outreach Coordinator. Following are some of the projects that he has been involved with. On January 3, 2014 and then again on July 21, 2014 John Althouse gave an interview on CBC Radio about genealogy taking calls from listeners. This was a great way to become visible in the community. This past year he has been involved in sessions around Edmonton as well as in Camrose, Drayton Valley, Red Deer, Calgary (for the AFHS), and will be venturing into Saskatchewan for the first time. He contributes to R.S. and writes a regular newsletter for the German Special Interest Group six times yearly (16-25 pages). He instructs sessions for Tracing

Your Family Tree and contributes to SIGs regularly. Up to this point he has completed the draft copies of three resources for the Genealogy for Children and Youth project. He is currently securing teachers familiar with the various age levels and to provide feedback relating to the difficulty of the content and the level of language used.

This year with Marion Rex's help we secured funding from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and Edmonton Heritage Council along with small group and individual donations.

Our new website was launched on Sunday, November 2, 2014. Since that date Lyn has assisted Linda with the membership registrations. She also created several mass e-mails for member information and rebuilt the lower home page to feature "Upcoming AGS Events". Negotiations are ongoing with Grande Prairie for their website overhaul and database restructuring. The AGS Calendar has been so helpful and the designs for the 2015 AGS Conference and Genealogy for Children and Youth have beautifully reflected the work of the Society. A lot of time and effort has gone into making this website a reality and I would like to thank Lyn for all the many hours she put into our website.

This has been a very busy year, and, for me, one of great satisfaction working with so many able, willing and creative members of our Society.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Haga

## **First Vice President**

My role during this year has included sitting on the Finance Committee as well as my attendance at the Board Meetings, teleconferences, and assistance to the President as requested. Through emails, I

have given some opinions on a variety of topics from financial layouts to school genealogical handouts.

Highlights for me during this year included AGS Gen Fair in Edmonton along with the AGM in April and the Annual Retreat in September.

I attended a Board Meeting from Red Deer using a TeleConference Room at Red Deer College along with Diane Lehr, Red Deer Branch President. Unfortunately we were not able to see the other participants as all other groups could. That caused problems with contributing to the discussions; however; we were able to hear the proceedings clearly.

My other responsibility was that of Webmaster. The new website was launched in November so the role of webmaster was not fully utilized due to the short time span.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lianne Kruger

## **Second Vice President**

This past year has been very busy one for the Executive, but a productive one for AGS. The logistics involved in the launching of the new website seemed huge at times, but under the capable direction of Lyn Meehan and the Website Committee, the task continually moved forward towards its final stages. As a result of our many combined Executive and Finance teleconference meetings and email messages, I always felt connected and part of the discussions and decisions.

I applaud the efforts of Lyn, the Committees, our President, Secretary, and Office Staff in keeping us on track and involved in the process and always informed. It is very exciting to see the final result before our very eyes – the new AGS Website up and running!

In 2014, I participated in the February, May, September/Retreat, and November Board Meetings, plus many teleconference combined Executive & Finance Meetings. In addition to the formal meetings, many updates and conversations occurred through e-mail messages and notices. Communication was always current at every step of the way.

I acknowledge the huge effort by those individuals committed to seeing our very first videoconference become a reality for our November meeting. Although it was not perfect, I thought it was very effective in accomplishing what needed to be done and well worth fine-tuning for future meetings especially when travel conditions are unpredictable.

Kudos to those who persisted in seeing that AGS had what it needed in making this project a feasible alternative. Having to travel only a short distance to participate in a Board Meeting at this time of year was very much appreciated and possibly cost efficient too.

I think our President has been instrumental in moving our organization forward by facilitating a positive, cohesive environment, where Executive, Committees, Office Staff and Board Members can all pull together in promoting good genealogical practices.

We will miss Mary Ann as she leaves the role of Secretary, but will still benefit from her untiring efforts as Policies & Procedure Committee Chair. The Operations Manual has evolved into an informative, streamlined and useful handbook under her expert leadership.

It is because of these accomplishments and the positive interactions with good people, that I end my term as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP with such a gratified feeling. I am truly honored to have been a part of this inspiring team over the past two years. .

I also wanted to recognize the good work of the Chairs of the Committees under the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Retreat, Relatively Speaking, Liaison with Other Genealogical Societies and Translations.

A very big THANK YOU to the volunteers at Relatively Speaking for their faithful reporting to the Board and for their dedication in producing an excellent journal towards upholding the vision by promoting genealogy in Alberta for another year.

Respectfully submitted  
Maxine Maxwell

## Vice President of Finance

When I prepared my report to the membership last year, I reflected on the massive changes that AGS had gone through, and thought, 'Things will slow down now; we've finished the major work.' While many of the major changes had indeed been completed, more keep being added to the list. Chief among these changes was the creation of our new website AND the option to purchase goods and services. This change alone created a major shift in the registration of new and renewed memberships. My hat is off to our Office Coordinator, Linda Winksi, Communications Chair, Lyn Meehan, and the web design team at Mediashaker for all the time and effort they have put in to making transition possible.

I made a list of the highlights of accomplishments and changes made during the past year.

- Revised membership processing.
- Set up PayPal for website use.
- Revised and simplified the shared services agreement with Edmonton Branch.
- Reduced audit costs by having the Bookkeeper collect financial information from the branches throughout the year in order to create a consolidated financial position.
- Updated the existing Wi-Fi service for the Edmonton Facility.
- With improved Wi-Fi service, we conducted the November Board

meeting via video conference to reduce costs.

- Acquired new computers for the Office Coordinator and Bookkeeper.
- Reduced expense which has allowed us to provide a subsidy for the 2015 Conference Banquet.
- Started the process to set up a program to recognize donors.
- Following up on a suggestion from the auditors, we acquired a lockbox to secure keys to filing cabinets with sensitive financial information.

For the past year I have been the AGS Treasurer, only donning the Vice President of Finance hat as required. The plan was to

review the differences between the two positions to amalgamate if appropriate. The test results are in and the Executive and Finance committees have recommended that the Treasurer position be left vacant, with a contract bookkeeper handling the day-to-day payment of bills and banking. I have agreed to take on the role of Vice President of Finance for the second year of the two year term (the position was vacant last year) from now until the AGM next year for a fifth year as Chair of the Finance committee.

Respectfully submitted  
Jock Howard  
Vice President of Finance

## BRANCH ANNUAL REPORTS

### Brooks and District Branch



January. A year ago the executive decided it would be a good idea if the members set personal goals for the year 2013 and share them -much to everyone's surprise, this January we discovered a year had elapsed! Members had great fun reporting on their successes and their not-so-successful research over the past year at January's general meeting.

The year started off with the exciting news that a local soldier, Sergeant William Baird, who had gone missing in action along with his plane and comrades during a training exercise in November 1942 in British Columbia had been discovered by a forest engineering team working

in the dense BC forests near Port Renfrew. A special service was held during Remembrance ceremonies in November.

We also began the year with the launch of a campaign entitled "Tell Us Your Story", encouraging local residents to write a story about their ancestors, an event in the past or a childhood memory which we would then compile into a book and place in our library in an attempt to generate an interest in our branch and what we do. Sadly, we had no submissions. Also sad to report the publication of flyers in five major languages spoken in Brooks generated no interest.

February. The Annual General Meeting saw the entire 2013 executive returned for 2014 by popular demand!

March. One of our new members, Glenn Mitchell, gave a captivating talk on his research into his family, both direct and collateral lines. His presentation initiated discussion on research

being done by other members and provided those present with new ideas on how to record their findings.

April. Doctor Don McIver presented a most informative and thought-provoking presentation to the General Meeting entitled "How the physical environment affected your ancestors and how your environment affects who you are and how travel makes you more aware of these affects." Dr. McIver has traveled extensively through Southeast Asia and illustrated his presentation with many examples and anecdotes from his travels. Also in April six members of the executive traveled to Medicine Hat for a full day of excellent presentations by Lynn Meehan sponsored by the Medicine Hat Branch.

With spring weather finally arriving, our dedicated cemetery team headed out to local cemeteries photographing gravestones in the cemeteries of our surrounding communities which were added to our collection in the following months.

May. Another of our members, Mary Burkholder, presented a most interesting power point presentation on her mother providing members with an insight into the pioneer days in this area and providing members an example on how to prepare a power point presentation on a family member.

June. Unfortunately only one member, President Bob Franz, was able to make the field trip to the Family Centre in Lethbridge but greatly enjoyed the sole attention of President Sue Haga and the hospitality of the Lethbridge Branch. Over the summer, branch members compiled new labels for our library shelves and our collection of newsletters.

September. Members shared their research discoveries and tales of their summer activities (except for our President who was still away on holiday in the South-central States.)

October. Brooks Mayor Martin Shields gave a most interesting presentation on his family's ancestry dating back to a crewman on the Mayflower. The depth and details of the research into his ancestry was most impressive

and lead to discussion among the members on research sites and techniques and the recording and preservation of information.

November. Janet Perkins talked to the group about her two grandfathers who served in World War I and read excerpts from letters that they had written home. The presentation brought into focus the horrors and difficulties of the war and a general discussion of trench warfare. Members shared other stories they had about ancestors who have served in past wars.

December. The Branch acquired a microfiche reader and film from the local Library. Members and their spouses closed the year with fellowship and comradery at a supper at the local golf club.

Throughout the year members have been busy carrying out their various responsibilities with the branch. Mary Burkholder has spent many hours cataloguing our library acquisitions. Local obituaries have been scanned and cemetery data has been added to our website under the leadership of Brian Dunlop. Two issues of our newsletter *B and D Heirlines* was produced by our most capable editor Carol Anderson, memberships have been promoted and members reminded of meetings and upcoming events by Henry Najda, and our webpage has been updated and maintained under the leadership of Karyn Norden and Mary Burkholder. Past President Eileen French has been kept busy serving on various committees and filling in for absent executive members. Our dedicated researcher Clara Iwaasa has spent many hours fielding research requests to the branch and sharing her findings with the executive. Members have throughout the year shared with each other their research and provided assistance to each other. And, historian Bob Franz has documented the year's activities of members in the branch's history book. We were saddened this year by the passing of three former members, Beatrice McBride, Vera Hauck, and Win Spence.

It has been a very active and informative year. We have had unusual success with our monthly open house with members coming in for assistance and members of the public dropping

in with questions about genealogy. We closed the year with 21 members and have dedicated 2850 hours of volunteer service for 2014.

Respectfully submitted  
Robert Franz, President

## Camrose

Membership: 15 Volunteer hours: 1800  
Ongoing projects:

1. Compiling research in order to create a 3rd edition of Births, Marriage & Death Extracts from the Camrose Canadian, covering the years 1941-1950.
2. In 2014, as part of AGS Cemetery Database Project, Camrose Branch completed:

Recording of the grave markers in 8 sections of AGS Key #324 Camrose Valleyview Cemetery. This leave only 2 sections to be recorded, one of them which is all cremation plaques. As soon as the remaining 2 sections have been recorded we will concentrate work on photographing the grave markers we don't yet have.

Photographing of all the grave markers in AGS Key # 326"1 Bethlehem (Dinant) Cemetery and up-dating the records which had been recorded in 2013.

Recording and photographing most of AGS Key #361 The Christian Church Cemetery [known locally as Swan Hill Cemetery]. We still need to record and photograph grave markers which are stacked up and members were unable to move them for recording or photographing.

January - Branch members met at the Camrose Airport, where member and Airport Manager Wayne Steel related the airport's fascinating history. In 1957, prominent businessman Art Burgar and 45 community members established an airport committee. The airport's popular "Fly-in Breakfast" also started in 1957, and is now Canada's longest continuously running "Fly-in Breakfast", currently serving about 1500 breakfasts that day. The balance of the meeting was filled with members stating what they are working on. We welcomed a guest and were

able to provide direction as he researches Minnesota for his mother's genealogy.

February - All members took part in the meeting topic: 'No Question is too Stupid'. Three CGS members attended Family Day, Feb. 17, 2014 at the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton.

March - All members took part in the meeting topic: Train Stories - many incorporated a wartime theme about an ancestor who used the rails to either deploy or return from war.

April - Wendy's Adoption Story - Camrose Branch member Wendy Roth

May 2014 meeting - CGS member Wayne Steel gave a presentation titled "What is Written in Stone", featuring 3 categories of gravestone pictures: Family, Military and Themes (e.g. farm scenes). The presentation was open to discussion and many opinions were stated as we tried to guess the "story" behind each memorial. The gravestone pictures were taken in local cemeteries, and also from the website [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). AGS member and new Camrose Branch member Shannon Cherkowski demonstrated the new online AGS Cemetery Database, now available to all AGS members, with restricted data to the general public.

May 24, 2014 - Saturday Genealogy Workshop  
Topics: Writing your Family History; Spelling Variations in Ancestor's Names  
Speaker: John Althouse, AGS Edmonton Branch  
What an excellent day and exceptional presenter! John had us laughing one minute; then quiet as church mice the next!. Thank you, John!

June 2014 meeting - President Janine Carroll gave a slideshow presentation on the "Gravestone Preservation" course that she recently enjoyed in Illinois. Janine wants to pursue this as a career, and she enthusiastically passed on all that she learned. Her instructor and class went to Mount Carroll Cemetery, for hands-on instruction, treating cemeteries as open air museums.

July 2014 - Branch Summer Social, meeting at Camrose's Valleyview Cemetery where Janine

Carroll and Adele Goa guided a tour, pointing out the gravestones of Camrose's past prominent citizens, citing interesting facts, their contributions to the growth of our city and some trivia.

August 15-17, 2014 - Camrose Founders Days Festival – On Saturday, we had a display table “Under the Tent” near the Centennial Museum. Some CGS members came in “Period Costume”. The picture taken that day will be included in the November issue of Roots and Shoots.

September 3, 2014 - Members set up a display table at the Camrose 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Registration Night. Camrose Adult Learning Council (CALC) sponsors this event every year. This is an excellent opportunity to inform the community of our continuing presence as a genealogical society.

September 2014 meeting – The topic was “What you did last summer” was extremely interesting as all members told stories about their summer projects and genealogical travel.

October 2014 meeting – Topic: “Women in our Attics”. Fay Carlson told the story of her great-aunt Kathrina Dorothea Edenloff; Joan Conley related the story of her paternal grandmother Bertha Mae (nee Carson) Conley. Adele Goa reported on Wayne Steel's grandfather's cousin, Lillian Steel, who never married, recognizing that women who remain single are sometimes forgotten in our histories. Sharon Olsen brought her beautiful Family Tree album, along with a collar embroidered by her great-grandmother Eva May Holmes Flynn, who became Eva May Spoon, and framed pictures of Eva and her husband. Along with these wonderful stories, interest was added to the meeting with our President Janine Carroll talking to us via Skype from Bruce Mines, Ontario.

November 2014 – We welcomed new members Don Lowe and Joe & Heather Howe. Our meeting theme was “War Stories of our Ancestors”. Fay Carlson related the story of her Uncle William (Bill) Murray Paton. Bill, whose mother was Scottish, came to Canada in 1911 on a ship named the “Scotian”, which carried British Home Children. He joined the Canadian

Forces in 1916 and served in France. Fay stated that Bill's Death Certificate contained a lot of information which helped in her search.

Heather Howe told of a female ancestor who was a ship's welder, but was not allowed on board the ship because she was a woman.

Joe Howe brought the album that his grandmother Marion (nee Lafrentz) Bildfell made for all of her grandchildren, telling her life story. Marion made copies for all, and personally signed the last page of each copy. Joe's copy reads “To Joe, Love Granma”. John Stoddart told of his wife Lesley's father, a British Army engineer, who was decorated at the end of the war. While serving in Belgium, he encountered 2 Canadian soldiers who were drinking and looting a house that was booby trapped. He saved the lives of those 2 wayward soldiers.

Bev Webster said that his wife Diane's grandfather has antique coins – 2 German Marks. The coins are zinc or aluminum and were minted during the years 1899-1942. Diane's grandfather joined the Argyll Sutherlanders and fought in the Boer War, earning the Victory Medal, the 1914-1915 Star, and the British War Medal.

Joan Conley told the story of her maternal uncle Sgt. Thomas Chester Budd, who served with the Winnipeg Grenadiers overseas. On Dec. 25, 1942 he became a prisoner of war (POW) in Hong Kong.

Don Lowe's grandfather was “Killed in Action” in France. He received a commendation signed by Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt.

Wayne Steel related the story of his maternal grandmother's brother's death. Private John William Hamilton died at the age of 21. Wayne's grandmother gave Wayne a pair of “puttees”, which the soldiers wore in the field to keep out the wet and insects. Each one is about 3 feet long, with string at the end for tying. Wayne wrapped the “puttees” around his legs as a youngster when he went tobogganing.

Adele Goa chose to tell the story of one of Wayne's ancestors, the youngest brother of Private John William Hamilton. Named Wesley Walker Hamilton, he was born in 1896 and was only 15 years, 2 months old when he signed up. There is no birthdate on Wesley's gravestone. He was the only son to survive the war.

Janine Carroll told of recently attending a meeting of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, a large group of approximately 500 members. About 200 attended this meeting. One fact that stood out to her from the presenter was that it took 30 ships to transport our initial contingent of Canadian soldiers to Europe and only 1 ship would have sufficed to bring the survivors home. What an interesting, informative meeting!

Camrose Branch Christmas Meeting 2014 - as is tradition, members brought ethnic goodies to share along with stories about their family Christmas traditions. It was an excellent evening. Janine, via Skype read part of a newspaper story about an early family written by her great, great uncle Hugh Clarke, a prominent Victoria dentist.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janine Carroll, President



## Drayton Valley Branch

Number of Members: 7  
Volunteer Hours: 471

In 2014 the Drayton Valley Branch focused more on activities to assist members with their research and to promote genealogy in our community.

### Meetings – Speakers and Special Presentations

In March, June and October we reviewed our own resources in the Library and assisted members with some of their research questions.

April 17, Marion Rex was our guest speaker, on the Canadian Census, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

May 21, Susan Haga and Mary Ann Legris visited our Branch and were supportive in what we are doing in Drayton Valley.

September 17 and October 15 members visited the Family History Centre in Drayton Valley to do some personal research.

November 19 the Drayton Valley Branch celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The guest speaker was Paul Spurrell who spoke on his role in the military and featured some of the military artifacts that he has collected. We had one of the Town Councilors from Drayton Valley in attendance as well as members and a few other guests.

### Projects

Members are continuing to collect obituaries from the Western Review. These are pasted on to cards and filed for research.

The Drayton Valley Branch Facebook page was established and events and information continue to be shared.

### Outreach

On March 8 the Drayton Valley Branch held a genealogy workshop with presenter John Althouse speaking on Starting and Writing Your European Family History.

April 26 a display was set up at the Gen Fair in Edmonton, with a few people stopping by.

July 9 volunteers from the Drayton Valley Branch attended the Communities in Bloom kick off in Drayton Valley, cooking hot dogs and popcorn. A display was set up for those in attendance to view.

October 23, I and another member attended a meeting at the Town of Drayton Valley to discuss the future of the cemeteries within the town limits. Discussions included the

opportunity to add a memorial wall to memorialize those who have been cremated.

As President of the Branch I am a member of the Inter Agency group in Drayton Valley, so our events are shared with the many other agencies in this group.

Our goal is to continue to offer programs that may entice some new members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Stuhl, President

## Edmonton Branch



Memberships – 433 Members - 531 – Family memberships – 88  
Volunteer Hours – approximately 10,000 hours

**AGS Finance Committee** I represented Edmonton Branch during several of the AGS Finance Committee Teleconference meetings in 2014. These usually occurred prior to the AGS Board of Directors meetings.

**AGS Audit Information** - Edmonton Branch agreed that we will supply copies of our monthly treasurer's report to membership and a copy of the monthly bank statement for use in preparing the statements for the yearly AGS audit.

**Shared Services Payment Agreement between AGS and Edmonton Branch** has been revised, updated and signed by President and Treasurer on behalf of Edmonton Branch.

**AGS Conference 2015** planning is going ahead under the leadership of Co-chairs Pamela Forsythe and Carolynne Ross. It will be held, April 18, April 19, 2015 at the Chateau Louis Hotel. Conference theme is "*Discover Your*

*Roots, Share Your Stories*". The Library will be open on Friday, April 17, 2014 prior to the conference for members to do research and to pick up registration packages.

**Internet Upgrade** has been completed. Edmonton Branch approved the upgrade using Web4.ca. Our share of the cost is \$75/month and \$250 for setup fees. AGS held a teleconference meeting at Library in November. The ability of our webmaster Debbie Pietrzykowski to send email to all members has increased our ability to communicate. Our Clandigger Newsletter has also been of great benefit to all members thanks to the work of its editor, Donna Shanks.

**The Fall session of Tracing Your Family Tree** was cancelled due to lack of registration. Dyer. New Tracing Your Family Tree brochures have been printed.

**Edmonton Branch Brochures and bookmarks** have been updated and printed. Our thanks to Debbie Pietrzykowski for her work on this project.

**AGS Website Launch** – Lyn Meehan gave the Executive a tour of the new website which was launched Nov 2, 2015. She has agreed to attend one of our General meetings to present the website and give a tour to the Edmonton Branch membership.

**Program Committee** continues to provide interesting programs that attract about 50 members to each meeting. Thanks to Margaret Bendickson

**Webmaster** – Debbie Pietrzykowski and the ability to send out email to all members proved invaluable when the November meeting was cancelled due to the severe weather. The Edmonton Branch Website and Facebook pages are interesting, current and visited often.

**Genealogical Research Committee** headed by Norma Wolowyk continues to provide excellent research service to those sending in queries to the Branch and to AGS.

**Library Committee** is training volunteers to be able to catalogue the library collection and is

doing an inventory of both the Branch and AGS collections. In the spring they held a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to honor the library volunteers. Thanks to Leanne Templeton, Arlene Borgstede, Heather Harper and the Library committee.

**Electronic Resources** -This year the Branch purchased a new laptop computer and a new office/library photocopier. Thanks to John Hazelwood for his work on these purchases.

**Membership numbers** have decreased this year despite the efforts of Janet Cooper our membership chair. We have lost a number of members to death including our Vice President. Thanks to our Correspondence Secretary Sheila Majeau for communicating with those deceased members' families and those members who were ill.

**Special Interest Groups** – Thanks to those who have provided leadership to these groups and continue to do so as they are a special part of this Branch. To those who have made presentations and shared their expertise over the past year the Edmonton Branch thanks you for your generosity in sharing with our members.

**Volunteers** – A special thanks to all who volunteer in any capacity for the Edmonton Branch. Without you we would not be able to function. The total number of hours will be in the 10,000 hours plus range which is phenomenal. When these hours are used for AGS grant submissions they are equated to \$10-15 per hour so are very valuable to the Society. They are invaluable to our members and non-members who use the services the Branch provides through the Branch Board of Directors at the Library, Research Committee, Relatively Speaking, Clandigger and the SIGS.

**PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2014** - Margaret Bendickson

**January 2014 “Where is Technology Taking Us? – Part 4”**

*Facebook, Microsoft Surface Pro 2*

Debby Was presented an informative look into the Social Media Site ‘Facebook’ and the way it can be used to enhance your genealogy. Debby

is an Edmonton Branch member who has greatly contributed her knowledge to our society. Program Chair, **Margaret Bendickson**, presented a look at the new tablet computer Microsoft Surface Pro 2 Tablet and her attempts at learning Windows 8.1 and Microsoft Office 2013. A thank you card was sent to Debby.

**February 2014 “Where is Technology Taking Us? – Part 5”**

*Finding a Grave Website*

**Gloria Cathcart**, Edmonton Branch volunteer, has photographed and listed complete cemeteries, and contributed her findings to the <findagrave.com> website. Encouraged to bring laptops, iPads and tablets our members were introduced to adding and linking family members to the site and with the addition of a handout entitled ‘Genealogy Treasure Hunt’ that included Gloria’s email address, members were able to continue exploring and questioning from home.

A thank you card was sent to Gloria.

**March 2014 “Where is Technology Taking Us? – Part 6”**

*Designing a website is as easy as 1-2-3!*

**Debbie Pietrzykowski**, webmaster for Edmonton Branch demonstrated the ease of setting up a genealogy website using Google Sites --- for FREE! All that is needed is a Google account! A follow up session was offered and held in Debbie’s home. A thank you card was sent to Debbie.

**April 2014 *The Donation Process to the Provincial Archives.***

**Dr. Claude Roberto**, Private Records Archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, who works with Francophone archives, women sources, religious archives, and architectural drawings spoke to the reasons for donating records, and the nature of these donations. Claude explained that collections that are accepted go through a rigorous selection process by qualified archivists with some materials kept and others returned or ‘recycled.’ Small booklets entitled “*Family histories*” – *Preserving Your Personal and Family Documents* were handed out to attendees. These booklets are now available in the library. Dr.

Roberto can be contacted with regard to donation questions. An honorarium and a thank you card were given to Claude.

#### May 2014 *Sharing the Story*

Writer, photographer and Edmonton Branch member, **John Chalmers**, spoke about what to do after the research and writing are done. John demonstrated the tools and technologies used to build an audience for your story and diversify its distribution through writing, photography and video. A thank you card was sent to John.

#### June 2014 "Where is Technology Taking Us? – Part 7" *The Sky Wifi Pen*

**Gloria Cathcart** introduced us to her new technology toy – a Sky Wifi pen – that she has discovered will record your voice and play it back, write in your notebook, and convert handwriting to typed text. This was followed by a Branch social with food and drinks contributed by our members. The **family history books** of our members were also put on display. A thank you card was sent to Gloria

#### September 2014 "Newspapers in Genealogy – Part 1" *Newspapers – Looking in the Past.*

**Les Campbell**, a valued member and contributor to this society for many years, is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Genealogical Studies. Having recently written the exam on Newspapers, Les chose to give us a look at a personal success story that was due to placing a genealogical query in a British newspaper. A thank you card was sent to Les.

#### October 2014 "Newspapers in Genealogy – Part 2" *BritishNewspapers.com*

##### *Treasures in the News*

Edmonton Branch members, **Ruth McConnell** and **Debby Was** proved to us that if we have not been using newspaper articles then we have been missing an incredible amount of information. Ruth discovered a wealth of family information using *Britishnewspapers.com* and Debby was able to piece together the movements and gossip of her family with local newspaper clippings. Thank you cards were sent to Ruth and Debby

#### November 2014

The November program was to have featured research talks by **Alfred Pape** and **Margaret**

**Bendickson** but was cancelled due to bad weather.

Respectfully submitted  
Lynne Duigou, President

## Fort McMurray Branch

Total Membership: 8

Total Volunteer Hours to Date: 342

Our executive over the past year was as follows:

PRESIDENT	Tammy Grantham
VICE-PRESIDENT	Laverne Cormier
TREASURER	Cathy Marriott
SECRETARY	Catherine Whelton

This has been a very quiet year for our branch. With a move in our future we decided to suspend our library hours and spend the time packing up our books and other resources. At this time it looks like our move SHOULD occur in Mar/Apr of 2015.

Our membership is down to 8 members. Of these 8 members, 3 of them live out of town. It is our goal, once we are moved and unpacked and all set up again, to actively recruit new members. We have so many resources here to offer people; we just need to get them into our door to see what we have.

That is about all for the past year. As I said, it has been very quiet, but we hope that next year, with a new home, will bring us new beginnings and hopefully new patrons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Grantham, President



## Grande Prairie & District Branch

Membership: 48      Volunteer Hours: 1216.5

**2014 Executive:** President: Jean Gray  
Vice President: Al Bromling  
Treasurer: Carol Thompson

**Committees:** Cemeteries: Vacant  
Historian: Fran Moore  
Library: Gail Schau  
Newsletter: Patricia Greber  
Obituaries: Lynda Shopka & Jean Gray  
Website: Laura Turnbull  
Casino Chair: Maxine Maxwell  
Volunteer Hours: Jane Cowley  
Genies: Various member volunteers  
Facebook: Patricia Greber  
Research & Queries: Paulette Hrychiw & Joan Bowman

**Meeting Programs:**

January: Members helping Members – looking for the crack in the brick wall.

February: AGM – Ethnic Pot Luck. History Quiz “Back around 50, 100, 150 years” Just What Do You Remember?

March: “Paying it Forward” by indexing, transcribing, contributing to your branch.

April: Creating a Family Timeline and Round Table Research discussion.

May: Research using our branch library and Grande Prairie Resources including our genealogy magazines.

June: Grande Prairie Cemetery Centennial Tour by South Peace Regional Archives.

September: Timeline review and Research Sharing.

October: Fran Moore presented her research trip to Kansas and Missouri finding 4 paternal grandmothers

November: Duff Crerar from Grande Prairie Regional College spoke on WWI Chaplains in the Military.

**Projects:**

We started the year with our Casino. The weather cooperated.

We rented the community room at the Grande Prairie Museum to provide space for members to make a display board representing some aspects of their family history.

February we co-hosted with the South Peace Regional Archives a “Family History Day” to mark Family Day. Vendors, displays and research assistance were offered. Workshops were held by the Genealogy Society and the Archives.

We sponsored a prize at the school Heritage Fair for the best genealogical display. We have developed criteria for the genealogy category to be used in 2015.

We were requested by the Highland Games to do family research on the Clan of the Day. We also had a booth at the games providing information on researching Scotland.

We continue to offer research assistance to the public with “Genies in the Library” under different formats.

We awarded the Margaret Kay Scholarship for \$500 to Nestor Martinez.

We continued to index obits from local and regional newspapers.

We increased our visibility by revamping our ad in Community Connections and

purchased a floor standing banner to be used at workshops and public events.

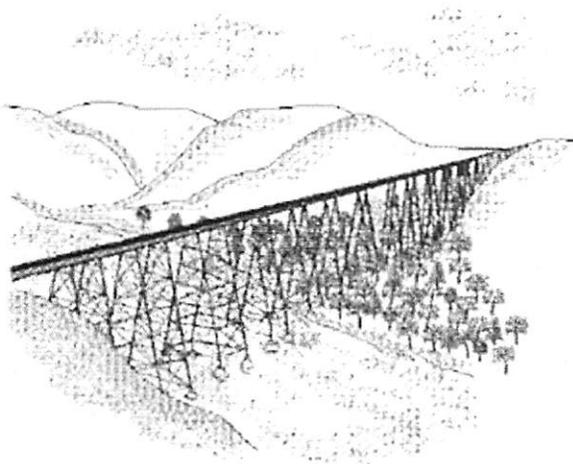
Photographing of the Hythe Cemetery was completed and the Beaverlodge cemetery started. We have received permission from Elmworth and Halcourt.

Our newsletter, Heritage Seekers won the Kenneth Young Award for Best Local Content and Joan Bowman was recognized for her long running column "Old Newspapers."

Grande Prairie and District Branch has had another great year with our member contributions to the Executive, committees and general meetings.

Respectfully submitted  
Jean Gray, President

## Lethbridge & District Branch



The Executive Committee from February 2014 to February 2015 is as follows:

President Doug McLeod  
Vice President Susan Haga  
Secretary Alma Berridge  
Treasurer Pat Barry  
Past President Nestor Martinez

Our membership remained around 50 members.

Our volunteers put in a total of 3255 hrs in 2014.

Lectures and workshops presented at our monthly meetings were as follows:

January: A presentation by Dick Robertson on Legacy 7.5 and 8.

February: No elections and branch member Nestor Martinez gave a talk on Familysearch.org – Family Tree.

March: Cancelled due to weather.

April: David Tyler gave an interesting talk on Research in Germany.

May: Quebec & France research was the topic of Jessica Coupe's presentation.

June: Evelyn Laqua gave a talk on Ancestry.com

We closed up for the summer break.

September: David Tyler returned with a session on How to read Old English Handwriting.

Oct: A very interesting and informative presentation on researching Alberta Adoptions by Shannon Cherkowski

November: We held our annual 'International Supper'. Members and guests were invited to bring an ethnic dish from one of the countries they were researching. Fortunately or not there was no 'haggis', however there was a variety of ethnic dishes including a number of Korean dishes.

December: We held no meeting

Branch members continued to collect and preserve family and genealogical information. Obituaries and funeral cards were collected and digitized. Cemeteries were recorded and photographed.

We completed the indexing of some local church records (on micro film) which the Galt Museum had digitized and asked us to index. This involved the viewing of over 11,640 PDF pages.

Our research volunteers had a busy year responding to requests for information and generated substantial revenues for the branch.

Members were involved in a couple of LDS events, and attended and helped out at the April AGS Genfair in Edmonton.

Our member, Nestor Martinez was awarded the 'Margaret Kay Scholarship' at the AGS Annual General Meeting.

Several members gathered every Monday afternoon for self-learning sessions on Legacy Family Tree and to offer research help for each other.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug McLeod, President

## Medicine Hat & District Branch



Number of Members: 56  
Volunteer Hours: 3000+

### MEETINGS: Speakers and Special Presentations

We started out our year with a very special presentation by Lawrence Gordon who explained the process he went through to locate his Canadian uncle's remains after he had been buried in France as an unknown German soldier. He was successful and was able to bring his

uncle back home to Eastend SK where he was laid to rest with his family.

Norman Fischbuch author of "Friedrich the Blacksmith" gave a very informative talk about his book which was a great history lesson about German from Russia immigrants

Malcolm Sissons did a very interesting presentation about the well-known local Hargrave and Sissons families; he has an extensive family tree which in some cases goes back to the 1700's.

Margery Ensminger & Marlene Smith gave a very interesting presentation on their trip to Volhynia Russia

Madeline Fischer gave a very helpful presentation "Footprints in the Sands of Time" organizing ones genealogy information.

Mel Bender shared a fantastic PBS video "Forgotten Ellis Island"

Webinar presentations included "Putting Flesh on the Bones" - "Tracing Living Relatives" - "Sources and Citations Made Simple"

### PROJECTS: Completed, Ongoing, New

A real highlight this year was our purchase of a Konica Bizhub C360 photocopier. Now that we have acquired a new photocopier we will be starting to scan the society's old scrapbooks to a hard drive for preservation. Preservation will be an on-going project.

Organizing of our society's earlier records have been complicated and have been presented to Medicine Hat Esplanade Archives to be preserved.

In the process of setting up a distribution list of newsletters received from other societies to be delivered electronically to our members.

Our cemetery committee continues to be very busy. Don Schmidt, who has done extensive German from Russia research, has graciously donated his original binder with his original cemetery photos and data of the area; in the

process of scanning it to a hard drive for preservation. Our cemetery committee had been working with the County of Forty Mile and we have shared our information but still waiting to receive their information. While we wait we will now move on to the Cypress County.

Our obituary committee continues clipping from regional and local newspapers and organizing them into binders.

We were fortunate to obtain nine shelving units donated by the Medicine Hat Public Library and three of these units have been set up in our library. We have added ninety books/resources over the past year to our inventory. Our library hours have been extended to three days a week.

Our Special Interest Groups; Computer, Germans from Russia and our newest one Genealogy Family Tree continue to assist many of our members. Two of our SIG groups meet during the day and one meets in the evening. Unfortunately our writer's group has been put on hold.

Our queries committee continues to be active and had great success researching requests from various areas of Canada and abroad.

Funds at the local level continue to be generated from casinos, 50-50 draws, queries, Medicine Hat Co-op Incentive and donations

#### OUT-REACH: Presentations, Displays, etc.

We sponsored a very successful day long workshop "A New Perspective on Genealogy" presented by Lyn Meehan. The workshop was very well attended by our members, a few members from Lethbridge & Brooks, the public and members of the LDS church. The LDS church graciously allowed us to use their place as a venue as well as supplying the refreshments for the breaks. The lunch was catered.

For Armistice Day \$50 donation to the Poppy Fund and a wreath was laid at the Nov. 11 ceremony on behalf of our society.

We had a booth set up at the July 1 Canada Day celebrations to promote genealogy.

We have organized a research trip to Salt Lake City to be taken in May 2015.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Awards/Acquisitions

We are very proud to have received the Kenneth Young Newsletter Award for Best Overall Branch Newsletter. Editor Leanne Belfour

#### NAME OF PRESIDENT: Doreen Schank

My presidential term is coming to an end as a new President will be elected in February 2015. I would like to extend my appreciation, for all the help I received, to our MHDGS members, the executive, the committees, special interest groups and the AGS board members and the AGS office staff.

Another successful year for the Medicine Hat & District Genealogical Society, we have a fantastic society and I look forward to assisting the next president.

Respectfully Submitted  
Doreen Schank, President

## Peace River & District Branch



*"Echoes of the Past"*

No report had been submitted when this publication went to printer.

## Red Deer & District Branch

# Red Deer Branch

Alberta Genealogical Society

Red Deer Branch Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month  
In the Primary Room of the LDS Church 3002 – 47t Avenue, Red Deer. We do not meet July, August or December.

**Membership 2014 – 56 - a reduction of 4 members from 2013**

**Volunteer Hours - 1454**

**Executive for 2014**

President – Diane Lehr  
Vice President – Vacant  
Secretary – Joan Shortt  
Past President – Peter Darby  
Treasurer – Vic Willoughby  
Membership – Betty Barnhill  
Library – Joanne Allen  
Publicity – Joan Schmelke  
Cemetery Recording – Vacant  
Genealogy Queries – Mary Joan Cornett  
Newsletter Editor – Vacant  
Program Committee – Peter Darby, Mary Joan Cornett, Lianne Kruger, Betty Barnhill, Vic Willoughby & Diane Lehr

In spite of the vacancies and reduced numbers our members have eagerly helped when the call went out.

**2014 – Meeting Program:**

**January** – Michael Dawe, a well known historian reviewed his new book, “Red Deer, The Memorable City”

**February** – Lianne Kruger – Unlikely Websites with Great Genealogical Resources  
Roots Tech – a genealogical conference hosted by the LDS Church in Red Deer

**March** – Peter Darby shared his knowledge on “Getting the Most from Family Search, Ancestry & Find My Past”  
The branch hosted a “Beginner’s Genealogy Course”

**April** - Sue Barnsley – “Scottish Research – Beyond the Basics”

**May** - Flashlight Cemetery Tour with members portraying the individual and telling their history

**June** – Annual Pot Luck Supper

**July & August** – No meetings were held

spoke about the United Empire Loyalists

**September** – Heather Traub & Barb Purin

**October** – John Althouse – “Researching in the Ukraine”

**November** – Lise Pomerleau-Mayne provided a review of her book “Becoming Sand”, based on her French Canadian Family who left Quebec to move to the Red Deer area in 1915

**December** – No meeting was held

**Special Projects – Birth, Marriage & Death Recordings**

Branch volunteers recorded birth, marriage and death announcements found in the Red Deer Advocate and the Red Deer Express. Copies are located at the City Library, the Red Deer Museum and AGS Library in Edmonton.

A special thanks to all our members for your continued interest in genealogy and a huge “thank you” to the LDS Church that provides a meeting room free of charge to the Red Deer Branch. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by all members.

Respectfully submitted;  
Diane Lehr, President

**Wetaskiwin Branch**

Membership for 2014: 26  
Volunteer Hours for 2014: 795.5

**Projects:**

In 2014, for the first time in over a decade, our branch did not host an October Genealogy Workshop. In 2013, a decision was made by the membership, to put this annual project on hold. Several members of the branch who had originally spearheaded this annual project, along with others who worked diligently on the many facets necessary to bring this project to fruition, were unable to devote the time required for a project of this size. Although we have missed the contact with awesome guest speakers and the many people who attended each year, the decision has proven to be the right one at this

time. We are not ruling out the possibility of reviving this project in future.

#### **Field Trips:**

In November, our branch member Carole Koop, organized another successful field trip to the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Several of our members attended and we were treated to a tour of the facility, with a special behind-the-scenes look at the preservation and repair of several archival treasures. Everyone found something of interest when we adjourned to the Reading Room – some family brick walls were broken down and some unknown facts were revealed.

#### **Programs, Presentations:**

Our branch made a decision to reduce the business portion of our meetings in order that we could have time at each monthly meeting, to spend time on training, special presentations, networking, etc. This has proven to be very well received by the membership.

**January:** Our topic “What are Your Genealogy Goals for 2014?” brought forth many interesting goals that had been set by our members, including organizing our documents, citing sources in data already entered into our databases, creating memory books, updating photo albums, doing further research on ancestors, etc.

**February:** Our Branch History – our Branch historian, Rosella Plaquin, brought to the meeting, all our photo albums (most of which she has created!) – it was a great opportunity for the members to view all the albums and the history they contained.

**March:** Time Traveler Website – Carole Koop talked about this website and she passed out information regarding how to access the site. She and Bob Maynard told us about the numerous aspects relating to the website and suggested we all spend some time viewing as many of the videos as possible.

**April:** We enjoyed 3 presentations – 1) Family History Tips – Claudia Malloch; 2) Alberta Family History Society Seminar highlights and information – Carole Koop and 3) Immigration: Crossing the Pond – Claudia Malloch

**May:** Once again, we had 3 presentations – 1) Tom Gray spoke about his luck in finding books that related to Kansas in the time frame when his ancestors lived there; 2) Sharon Aney gave a power point presentation on using the Family History Library catalogue; and 3) Gary Rode gave a presentation on how to order microfilms online – these microfilms from Salt Lake City will then be sent to the local Family History Center in Wetaskiwin.

**June:** Our Program Coordinators had requested branch members to submit research questions for the “experts” (AKA our branch members) to assist them with. Questions and possible solutions were given for research in Russia and England.

**September:** Our Program was “How Do I.....?” Training Resources on the Internet. Claudia Malloch presented various resources that our members could use to enhance their research.

**October and November:** In October, we began a journey that will end in 2015! Claudia Malloch has introduced a new program/presentation to our branch members, entitled “CSI Family History”. Each month, she will send us information that will assist us in a unique aspect of our research. The monthly meeting presentations will provide us with examples that we can use when we research at home. We will have homework assigned to us each month! ☺

One additional exciting note with regard to the CSI Family History course – we have had quite a few guests attend our meetings because of the course, and they continue to attend and participate each month!

#### **Displays:**

Each year in September, the City of Wetaskiwin holds a “Parade of Programs” – a chance for residents to visit the local Drill Hall and sign up for programs being held throughout the fall and winter. We have always attended this event, with a table filled with genealogy information, branch brochures, RS copies for people to browse through, etc. This event has always created interest about genealogy from the attendees, with lots of questions being asked and answered.

**Accomplishments:**

In 2014, branch member Sharon Aney, in addition to being our accomplished newsletter editor, completed her personal project – that of creating a database of the entries from a book in our collection, “Moore Funeral Home Records – 1924-1937”. Sharon made this a personal goal and we are very impressed with all the work she put into this. We also give thanks to Laura Turnbull who graciously agreed to place it on our website in order that those who are researching may have another source of information. We have already had enquiries from various locations in Canada and outside of

Canada, for further information found in the records of the above noted funeral home.

In closing, we are very thankful for the close-knit group of members we have in our branch. Everyone who has volunteered to head up a committee has followed through on their commitment. Throughout the year we have been able to learn and enhance our research skills, thanks to the monthly presentations.

We look forward to our genealogy journey in 2015!

Respectfully submitted'  
Alice Hoyle, Secretary-Treasurer

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### By-laws and Parliamentarian

It has been an interesting year by attending the various meetings of the Board, committees and branch meetings. Although I am getting older, I cannot claim to be a 'wise old owl', yet was asked to share my opinions on several subjects over last twelve months.

The AGS Operations Manual received some tweaking by the Policies and Procedures Committee of which I am a member, and I urge every Board member to make good use of it. It often answers the very question one has to have and eliminates a fair amount of back-and-forth e-mail correspondence.

The Bylaws Committee, at the behest of the Board, was asked to present to this year's AGM an amendment to Article #4 which, if passed, will add two more categories to the types of membership effective with the membership year 2016.

Respectfully submitted  
Jo. Nuthack

### Cemetery Database

#### NAMES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shannon Cherkowski Adele Goa, Pat Pettitt and Norma Wolowyk

#### MEETINGS/FIELD TRIPS/WORKSHOPS

Meetings and discussions held by phone or email. Field trips are done by those that are transcribing and or photographing.  
No workshops

**PROJECTS: Completed, Ongoing, New**  
Ongoing receipt of updates and corrections and transcriptions from new cemeteries

#### OUT-REACH PROGRAMS

Encouragement to those transcribing cemeteries for other entities ie: Find-A-Grave, Canadian Headstones etc. to share their work with us. Networking with general public at every opportunity is ongoing, mentioning the purpose and availability of database.

#### PRESENTATIONS: involving chair and/or members

Chair attended at the AGS GenFair in April, 2014 manning the AGS Cemetery Database

table. Showcased the database to attendees and answered questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon Cherkowski

## Communications, Public Relations & Publicity Annual Report

### **AGS Website: Highlights from January to May**

In January, Communications interview or re-interviewed web development companies for the third time by phone or in person. Candidates were: Bubble-up, Mediashaker, Other Machines and Sitwyze. Communications recommended **Mediashaker** as their prime choice having a high-calibre reputation, diversified portfolio that has lustre, is engaging and surpassed all others. They provide a wide range of core services, plus the marketing capability to offer AGS a full-court marketing strategy—from web to print. Outcome: the Board selected *Other Machines* at the February meeting. However, during negotiations on 14 May 2014, *Other Machines* withdrew their contract.



### **June to August:**

AGS Communications was in full-swing developing the Society's new website throughout this summer. The aim was to rebrand AGS depicting a professional look and simplifying the user-interface using a Content Management System. The Society accepted Mediashaker's generous offer, an Edmonton-based web developer, in late June. This last-minute preference led Communications, web developers, several Executives and Committee Chairs to be very lively over the past months. There were oodles of decisions made for design work, rewriting content, security issues, plus weekly reporting to Committees and Executives. Everyone showed a tremendous dedication, and their enthusiasm and cooperation towards the project was unmeasurable.

### **October to December:**

AGS Website was launched on 2 November 2014 and now in full-swing. There were a few bumps in the following weeks but due to innovative thinking on Mediashaker's part everything came together by on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. At this time, new emails were issued to all Executives, office administration, communications, webmaster, RS-Editors, research, conference/GenFair committees due to security issues and preservation of information. A new domain was also selected, finding AGS now at <http://www.abgenealogy.ca>.

In 2014, roughly 1,860 hours were spent working on budgeting and proposals, in meetings, emailing and working with Other Machines and Mediashaker. As always, any correspondence made or received by AGS Communications is opened to any one or all Executive members for auditing. For detailed reporting see Communications quarterly reports in the Members Area on the website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lyn Meehan  
AGS Communications Chair  
[communications@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:communications@abgenealogy.ca)

## Gaming

AGS Casino event:

I received notification in November 2014 that our next casino event will be on May 21 & 22, 2015 at Century Casino in Edmonton.

We need a total of 50 volunteers to help fill the positions required by Alberta Gaming and I have begun filling the schedule. Anybody interested in helping is asked to contact me at <lturnbl@telus.net>.

This event helps considerably in raising funds for major operating costs for AGS including rent for our library facility and insurance costs for all branches.

**AGS Raffle or 50/50 event:**

We have held 50/50 events at the annual conference. Plans are to again have a 50/50 at the 2015 conference.

Branch gaming events:

Casino:

All Branches (except Edmonton) may apply to hold casino events but some need to share with another branch. Each branch has to go through the application processes set up by AGLC.

At present, Brooks/Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Lethbridge have held or will hold casinos to help raise funds. Raffle or 50/50:

– Medicine Hat – has been holding 50/50 draws at local meetings to help raise funds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Turnbull  
AGS Gaming

## Grants/Fundraising

### MEETINGS HELD

As Grants & Fundraising Chair, I attended the February, September and November AGS board meetings, as well as the AGM

and Fall Retreat, as a guest, in order to be current with Board business. In addition, I had meetings with the VP Finance and AGS Bookkeeper during preparation of various grant applications and reports.

### FUNDRAISING PROJECT

AGS receives funding through sponsorship of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Edmonton Heritage Council. It also relies on casino funding, general donations, donations from research and miscellaneous fundraising.

- **AHRF Sponsorship** – In 2014, AGS received \$38,000 in sponsorship funding from Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF) funded by the Alberta Lottery Fund. The Sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, genealogical training programs and workshops, business meetings and general administration.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council Sponsorship** – In 2014, AGS received \$16,562.75 in operational funding for the *first time* from the Edmonton Heritage Council. We also received \$2,897.00 in project grant funding for the *first time* which was used to modernize the website.

### CASINO

The Alberta Genealogical Society worked a casino on July 18-19, 2013 and was not eligible to work a bingo in 2014. The next casino is scheduled for May 21-22, 2015. For more information, see Laura Turnbull's report on Gaming. Some of the branches also had casinos:

- **Provincial Office**—No casino in 2014; \$41,348.47 deferred to 2014 from 2013 casino
- **Grande Prairie**—\$38,649.95

### GENERAL DONATIONS

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$4,832.17 in donations.

- **Provincial Office**
- General donations 1,491.83
- Donations from out of country 10.55
- Northgate Lions Club 200.00

- \$1,702.38
- Brooks -
- Camrose 120.00
- Drayton Valley-
- Edmonton 1,724.79
- Fort McMurray -
- Grande Prairie 105.00
- Lethbridge 105.00
- Medicine Hat 220.00
- Peace River 305.00
- Red Deer 530.00
- Wetaskiwin 20.00

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2015. It was the intent to publish the names of the individual donors in this annual report and in *Relatively Speaking* (RS), however permission from the donors was not requested at the time of the donation. Donors in 2015 are being asked to give permission to publish their names at the time the donation is made. 2015 donor names will be published in next year's annual report and in RS.

#### RESEARCH DONATIONS \$15,283.87

In 2014, AGS raised a total of \$15,283.87 by answering research queries, for the most part by providing answers to family research questions, as well as hard copies of Alberta Homestead Records and Alberta Land records as a result of the finding aid that we put online. Thanks to all members of the research teams in the various branches:

- Provincial Office – \$6,674.71
- Brooks – \$90.00
- Camrose – none
- Drayton Valley – none
- Edmonton – \$6,506.77
- Fort McMurray – none
- Grande Prairie – \$215.00
- Lethbridge – \$1392.17
- Medicine Hat – \$380.22
- Peace River – \$25.00
- Red Deer – none
- Wetaskiwin – none

#### GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING AT THE BRANCH LEVEL

The branches reported branch fundraising as follows:

- Brooks – none
- Camrose – none
- Drayton Valley – \$603.88 from a small fundraiser; as well as two small grants from Community Spirit Grant \$400.00 and Municipal Government – \$400.00
- Edmonton – none
- Fort McMurray – none
- Grande Prairie – none
- Lethbridge – \$405.20 grant
- Medicine Hat – 50/50 \$12.50; \$687.00
- Peace River – none
- Red Deer – none
- Wetaskiwin – none

#### Presentations

Certificates of appreciation were presented to AGS Grande Prairie and District Branch (\$2,250) and to AGS Fort McMurray Branch (\$2,500) for their generous donations. Thank you so much for your generous support.

The Alberta Historical Research Foundation and Edmonton Heritage Council were invited to send a representative to attend dinner and the presentation "*Conserving Documents in the Community*" by Alison Freake of the Provincial Archives of Alberta being held at our Fall Retreat on 27 September 2014. At that time, certificates of appreciation were presented to Kurt Paterson, Board Member on behalf of the Alberta Historical Research Foundation (\$38,000) and to Erika Chemko, Program and Operations Manager on behalf of the Edmonton Heritage Council (\$16,562.75 in operational funding; \$2,897.00 in project grant funding for our new website).

Sincere thanks goes to all donors for their support to help AGS continue as a strong and vibrant organization.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion Rex

## Library & Research Centre

Twenty nine (29) Local History books, new or used, were purchased in 2014. Items that were donated and appropriate for the genealogy library were gratefully received. All items have been catalogued: searchable-on-line through AGS or AGS Edmonton Branch websites.

Searches can be done by searching: title, author, category, subject or publisher. The ISBN box denotes whether it is catalogued as AGS or AGS Edmonton (EDM). Any item catalogued as 'EDM' can only be borrowed by Edmonton Branch members.

Edmonton Branch member, Kate Binder, volunteered to learn the Library cataloguing program and is mastering it under the guidance of Win Sebelius.

Only one mail-out request was received in 2014. AGS pays for the mailing out, and the AGS patron pays the return postage.

The library is kept open by dedicated AGS Edmonton Branch volunteers. They assist patrons in the best way they can. Questions often take the volunteers into learning something new by discovering the resources that the library holds and/or what is available on the internet, mainly Ancestry.com funded by Edmonton Branch.

Respectfully submitted  
Claudine Nelson

## Membership

Membership Numbers for 2014:

AGS only	35
Brooks Branch	20
Camrose Branch	18
Drayton Valley Branch	8
Edmonton Branch	448
Fort McMurray Branch	8
Grande Prairie Branch	45
Lethbridge Branch	52
Medicine Hat Branch	60
Peace River Branch	11
Red Deer Branch	61

Wetaskiwin Branch 29

Total Membership 778

**Note: 2013 Membership was 931.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Val Peden

## Policy & Procedures

The Committee members included: Sandra Vaneldik, Jo Nuthack, Linda Winski and Mary Ann Legris.

During 2014 most of the committee meetings centered on the preparation of forms and review of the Membership Registration Package in association with the development of the new Website.

Several meetings were attended by the Chair of Membership who presented the new information to the Board at the September Retreat. Also at the Retreat, the volunteer hours reporting forms were reviewed with the Presidents of the Branches and additions made based on the suggestions brought forward.

President Susan Haga requested an information sheet be prepared for the orientation of new presidents: "Information for Presidents – Especially New Ones" was written.

One policy was developed for use in the Society Office: "Security of Keys used in the Office" as well as a form to assist in the tracking of donations: "Record of Donations".

Templates were made up for the submission of Annual Reports and sent to all officers and committee chairs.

Work will continue with the development of new policies and procedures required as well as the ongoing review of the *Operations Manual* and the *Handbook for Treasurers*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Legris,

## Publications

During 2014 there were six requests for cemetery burial listings from the AGS Cemetery Index. Eight files were converted to PDF format and sent electronically to the purchasers. There was two sales of the AGS Publication, *Alberta, Formerly the Northwest Territories: Index to Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1870-1905*.

Often there were requests for printouts of cemeteries but when the person was contacted they were looking for specific burial record information and so the request was forwarded to the AGS Research Services Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norma Wolowyk

## Relatively Speaking

Because 2014 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of WWI our editorial committee decided early on to commemorate this occasion with some tribute in each issue and to dedicate the November issue to remembering the Great War. John Althouse, then acting editor, suggested and wrote, *Late Dispatches from the Trenches* to feature new resources, documents, and databases related to WWI.

Throughout the year we have received articles from many of our regular authors as well as a few new contributors. In the May issue we assembled a new compilation titled *A Little Walk in a Cemetery*. These were brief stories each of us wrote about a cemetery experience. Having enjoyed the experience, we decided other readers might also find this engaging and a way to begin to write about their ancestors. We requested submissions – childhood Christmas recollections – for the November issue. This would also provide some diversity to that issue. We received only one contribution from outside our group.

Peter Staveley, you will recall, withdrew from his role as editor due to illness, at which time I returned to the role of editor that I had stepped back from prior to Peter's diagnosis. We thank

John Althouse for stepping in as 'acting editor' for most of 2014; he resigned at the completion of the August issue but did indicate he'd continue to provide VAP material and the occasional article. Once again I returned. Throughout this period of flux our committee continued to show its strength by penning articles and finding new authors. However, this is not a tenable situation. Until recently, Peter attended some meetings and kept involved from home by maintaining the spread sheet he had developed to keep us organized and on track. His health has, sadly, declined and he is unable to continue with RS in any capacity. Another of our committee members, Peter Williams, died this past year. We became a group of five: Grant Nicol, who spends a portion of the year away from Edmonton; Gloria Cathcart, Denise Daubert and myself with other time consuming commitments; and Lesley O'Neil, who will be relocating to Ontario in the spring of 2016.

Some very good news is that Wayne Sheppard, former editor of the AFHS quarterly journal, *Chinook*, has just joined our committee. Peter and I had worked with Wayne a couple of years ago on the joint AGS-AFHS effort, so I was thrilled with Wayne's inquiry as to our current status and offer to join us. We have welcomed him to the RS Editorial Committee. Wayne will co-edit the May 2015 issue with me, then take over as editor with me assisting. My plan is to revert to committee member. Wayne and I are discussing how to facilitate a smooth transition, especially because he resides in Calgary.

We thank all AGS members for their submissions. I especially thank the branches for sending me the electronic version of their newsletters from which I can extract newsworthy items and potential articles.

On behalf of our committee, I wish to express our appreciation for the strong support we receive from the AGS Board, without which the quality of *Relatively Speaking* would be diminished. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Addendum: Upon reflection, Wayne Sheppard has found that several other commitments preclude him transitioning into the role of Editor at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Hindmarch, Acting Editor

## Research Services

### NAMES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Marilyn Astle, Gordon Berdahl, Shannon Cherkowski, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Sheila Majeau, Shirley Machan, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, Win Sebelius, and Norma Wolowyk.

**MEETINGS:** Committee members met each Friday throughout 2014 except for one Friday in December.

**FIELD TRIP:** Claudine Nelson and Norma Wolowyk volunteered to accompany a client from Australia who was visiting Edmonton to see land homesteaded by her grandfather in the early 1900's. The offer was accepted and we had a fun afternoon visiting the homestead land located near Devon. The adventure was written up and appeared in the Edmonton Branch AGS *Clandigger* and *Relatively Speaking*.

**PROJECTS:** Members of the committee respond to research queries which arrive, mainly by email, at the AGS Office each week. 221(269 in 2013) queries were received by AGS during 2014. As Edmonton Branch AGS received 262 (310 in 2013), the total queries handled by the Committee was 483 during the year, this was 96 queries less than in 2013.

Besides using the resources of the Society's library to respond to queries, committee members used resources at Provincial Archives of Alberta, the Legislature Library, University of Alberta Library, Edmonton Public Library, City of Edmonton Archives, etc. to thoroughly complete the research. They also accessed family history information, on behalf of clients, through their own subscriptions to paid genealogical sites.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Members of the committee contributed articles relating to their research to

*Clandigger*, the monthly Edmonton Branch AGS publication.

The Alberta Genealogical Society is very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated researchers. Their commitment to taking up the research challenge and thus providing family history information to people from around the world received many expressions of appreciation from clients during 2014

Thank you to Linda Winski, AGS Office Coordinator, for handling the mail for the Research Committee and collecting credit card payment information. Her prompt attention to informing Research Committee members that payment has arrived is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Norma Wolowyk

## Retreat

The 2014 Retreat was successfully held again at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton on September 26 – 28. Even though this Retreat turned out to be slightly different than was first planned, we thought it achieved what was needed under the circumstances. Our original plan of keeping the Annual Retreat focused on branches and mutual sharing of information was still our mandate. The feedback we received reinforced the idea that attendees wish to see this concept continued as well.

I am pleased to report that all branches were represented this year, plus 5 branches having at least 2 representatives in attendance.

Twenty-five members attended the sessions on Saturday. and twenty-six were present for supper on Saturday night. Susan Haga's "Who do We Think You Are" game on Friday night, Alison Freake's presentation on Saturday night and Nestor's Jeopardy Game on Sunday were definitely highlights.

Fourteen single rooms and two suites were rented over the two days. Even though accommodations have increased by \$10 and meals and meeting room rates have seen

minimal increases (~\$2) over the last three years, I believe it remains a feasible option for AGS. Feedback suggested that the reasonable costs, cleanliness of the facility and friendless of staff were all good reasons to continue using Providence Centre for future Retreats.

I wanted to thank Marion Rex for the use of her digital projector, the backup, when GP Branch's projector died. And big "THANK YOU" to the Grande Prairie Branch who supplied the snacks for the Saturday night 'tea party'. The Friday and Saturday night socials were very much appreciated by those in attendance and feedback indicated they should be included in the future.

On behalf of Susan and myself, I wish to thank everyone who submitted the thoughtful and helpful feedback to give us direction for future Retreats. Feedback and suggestions are welcome at any time.

Retreats for September 18– 20, 2015 (revised date to 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.) and for September 23 – 25, 2016 have both been booked at the same location, based on supporting feedback.

Please mark your calendars and start planning on your Branch being represented by one representative plus a guest. One consistent comment each year: appreciation for the opportunity to share ideas, conduct business and socialize with fellow attendees in a relaxed, peaceful setting away from a formal structure.

All AGS Executive, Board Members or alternatives and Committee Chairs are automatically included and invited to attend every Retreat.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maxine Maxwell

## Alberta Genealogical Society

Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6  
Phone: (780) 424-4429 Fax: (780) 423-8980  
Email: agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca Website: www.abgenealogy.ca

### Brooks & District Branch

President: Robert Franz  
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4  
Phone: (403) 362-2732  
[www.eidnet.org/local/agsbrooks](http://www.eidnet.org/local/agsbrooks)  
Meets second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Community Cultural Centre  
Main Floor, Room 122  
327 Third Street West  
Brooks, AB

### Camrose Branch

President: Janine Carroll  
4009 – 62 Street  
Camrose, AB T4V 2W9  
Phone: (780) 672-9416  
<http://camrose.abgensoc.ca>  
Meets second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Camrose Public Library,  
Downstairs Boardroom

### Drayton Valley Branch

Board Rep: Connie Stuhl  
P.O. Box 115  
Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0  
Phone: (780) 621-0131  
Email: ags.dvbranch@gmail.com  
Meets third Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Wishing Well Apts.  
5102-46 Avenue, Drayton Valley, AB

### Edmonton Branch

President: Lynne Duigou  
Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6  
Phone: (780) 424-4429  
Fax: (780) 423-8980  
Email: agsedm@interbaun.com  
Website: agsedm.edmonton.ab.ca  
Meets fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

### Ft. McMurray Branch

President: Tammy Grantham  
Hill Drugs Bldg.  
10011 Franklin Ave.  
Ft. McMurray, AB T9H 2K7  
Phone: (780) 791-5663  
Email: ftmacgen@telus.net  
Website: users.rootsweb.com/~  
abfmags/index.html  
Meets second Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Hill Drugs Building  
Ft. McMurray, AB

### Grande Prairie & District Branch

President: Jean Gray  
P.O. Box 1257  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1  
Phone: (780) 830-3233  
Email: gp@abgensoc.ca  
Website: <http://gp.abgensoc.ca/>  
Meets third Tuesday, 7 p.m.  
Grande Prairie Public Library  
101, 9839 – 103 Avenue

### Lethbridge & District Branch

President: Doug McLeod  
Rm. 128, 909 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North  
Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5  
Phone: (403) 328-9564  
Email: lethags@theboss.net  
<http://lethbridgeags@theboss.net>  
Meets third Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
Provincial Admin. Building  
909-3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North

### Medicine Hat & District. Branch

President: Doreen Schank  
25 Rossland Way SE  
Medicine Hat, AB T1B 1Z7  
Phone: (403) 526-1163  
Email: mhgs@telus.net  
<http://mhdgs.ca>  
Meets first Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
974 – 13<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Medicine Hat, AB

### **Peace River & District Branch**

President: Joan Wahl  
9807 – 97 Avenue  
Peace River, AB T8S 1H8  
Phone: (780) 624-2369  
Email: [jfwahl@telusplanet.net](mailto:jfwahl@telusplanet.net)  
Website: [rootsweb.com/~abprdgs/](http://rootsweb.com/~abprdgs/)  
Meets third Thursday, 7 p.m.  
Peace River Library  
Peace River, AB

### **Red Deer & District Branch**

President: Diane Lehr  
8 Anderson Close  
Red Deer, AB T4R 1E2  
Phone: (403) 309-2784  
Email: [rdbtags@telus.net](mailto:rdbtags@telus.net)

Website: [www.rdgensoc.ab.ca](http://www.rdgensoc.ab.ca)  
Meets fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
LDS Church  
3002 – 47 Avenue  
Red Deer, AB

### **Wetaskiwin Branch**

President: Diane Strohschein  
RR! Site 10 Box 18  
Millet, AB T0C 1Z0  
Phone: (780) 387-4978  
Email: [wetaskiwin@abgensoc.ca](mailto:wetaskiwin@abgensoc.ca)  
<http://wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ca/>  
Meets third Tuesday (except July, August and  
December) at 7 p.m.  
LDS Church  
Wetaskiwin, AB

## Highlights of 2014

OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE  
RESEARCHING THEIR FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY.

This has been our mandate since 1973.

- Our Society is comprised of eleven active Branches around the province.
- Our membership for 2014 totalled **714**. Including **59** new members.
- Our members contributed **30,985** volunteer hours during 2014.
- Our quarterly journal *Relatively Speaking* was mailed to **50** libraries and Societies
- Our '**special interest groups**'(SIGS), eleven in all, met regularly to study specific countries, geographical regions and topics.
- Our Library & Resource Centre received **3000+** visitors in 2014.
- Our Society sponsored a **GenFair** in April which drew **150** people from the community to discover just what it is we offer.
- Our Society became affiliated with the **Alberta Historical Cemetery Foundation** chaired by Dr. Hugh McKenzie, Grant MacEwan University.
- Our "**Outreach to the Community**" member John Althouse has spent many hours presenting programs and sessions, participating in interviews, and writing newsletters on Family History.
- Our Research Committee responded to **483** research queries during the year.
- Our special project – "**Genealogy for the Youth**" - an educational program for children of school age, was expanded to three units by John Althouse.
- Our annual **September Retreat** for Board members, plus a guest from each Branch, was held at the Providence Conference Centre — a time to unify us as a Society and discuss our goals
- Our members volunteered in community libraries, museums, archives and other facilities to raise public awareness of our Society and our resources.
- Our **Operations Manual** was reviewed and updated based on member suggestions.
- Our Library featured a full subscription to **Ancestry.com** for use by library patrons.
- Our first **Virtual Board Meeting** was held in November and is now an available option.
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Our **NEW WEBSITE** was launched November 2nd by our Communications Chair Lyn Meehan.

Visitors to our site can now access membership registrations, current events in Alberta and across Canada, receive mass emails and visit our research programs.

*The AGS is a beneficiary of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Grant and the Alberta Lottery Fund*



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