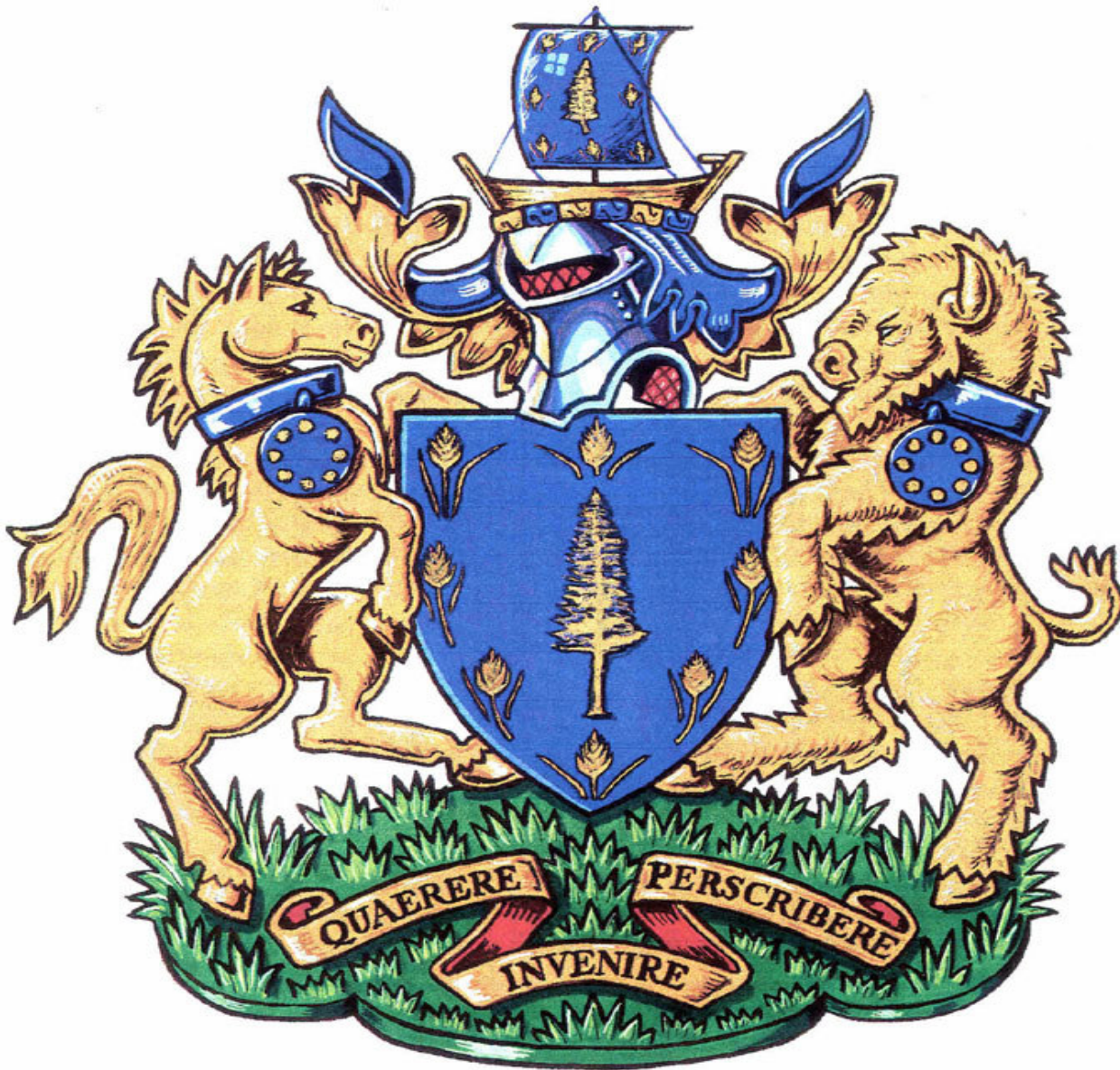


Alberta Genealogical Society



2012 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

20 April 2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of Dec. 31, 2012)

Officers

President	Les Campbell
Past President	Sandra Vaneldik
1 st Vice President	Susan Haga
2 nd Vice President	Maxine Maxwell
Vice President of Finance	Jock Howard
Secretary of the Society	Mary Ann Legris

Directors:

Brooks	David Clark
Camrose	Sharon Olsen
Drayton Valley	Arlene Hedlund
Edmonton	John Althouse
Ft. McMurray	Alexander Payne
Grande Prairie	Jean Smith Gray
Lethbridge	Nestor Martinez
Medicine Hat	Clark Lang
Peace River	Joan Wahl
Red Deer	Lianne Kruger
Wetaskiwin	Joan Krueger

Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Jock Howard
Nominations (Chair)	Sandra Vaneldik

Other Committees and Appointments

Archivist	Mary Ann Legris
Bylaws	Jo Nuthack
Communications/Public Relations/Publicity	Lyn Meehan
Conference 2013	Shannon Cherkowski
Electronic Services	John Hazelwood
Facilities	Wayne Harker
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Historian	vacant
Inventory, Property, Insurance	vacant
Legal Advisor	Sharon Roberts
Liaison with Genealogical Societies	Sue Philips
Library & Research Centre	Claudine Nelson
Master Surname Database	Shannon Cherkowski
Membership	Val Peden
Parliamentarian	Jo Nuthack
Policies & Procedures	Mary Ann Legris
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking Co-Editors	Marilyn Hindmarch & Peter Staveley
Relatively Speaking Mailing	George Shreeves
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Translations	Sue Philips
Treasurer (temporary)	Wayne Harker
Website	Carey Kennedy

AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Linda Winski
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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

Highlights of 2012

OUR MISSION: To provide support and services for people researching their family history and genealogy.

- Active since 1973
- Serving **984 members** through eleven branches around the province
- Contributing over **30,000 volunteer hours** reported in 2012
- Mailing and exchanging our quarterly journal *Relatively Speaking* to over 50 libraries and Societies
- Running **20 plus** branch and 'special interest group' (SIG) meetings monthly
- Receiving **3065 visitors** to the library in 2012
- Holding an **annual genealogical conference** or similar event for members and the general public
- Contributing to the growing database of names of those buried in Alberta cemeteries and photographing gravestones to preserve their appearance for future generations. (Note: Alberta has 1566 active (registered) cemeteries. Our volunteers have recorded over 2000 because some cemeteries are no longer in service. **Over 710,000** names have been recorded and several branches are also photographing cemeteries & headstones.)
- Volunteering in community libraries, museums, archives and other facilities to raise public awareness of our Society and our efforts
- Responding to **689 research queries** in 2012
- Reviewing our Society's **Operations Manual**, reorganizing and updating the contents for Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs and producing a **Treasurer's Handbook** for branch treasurers
- Maintaining a full **subscription to Ancestry.com** for use by library patrons
- Using webinar technology for select Board meetings to reduce costs
- Having an appraisal of library holdings done for insurance purposes
- Initiating work on a variety of new projects including the renewal of our Website, reaching out to Youth, and updating of the AGS History in anticipation of our 40th anniversary in 2013.
- **Securing funding** through membership fees, sponsorship monies from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, donations, gaming events and other activities in local communities
- Maintaining one paid part-time staff



Table of Contents

Highlights	3
Table of Contents	4
Agenda	5
Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting	6
Awards 2011 presented at 2012 AGM	10
Executive Reports	
President	11
Past President	12
First Vice President	12
Second Vice President	12
Vice President of Finance	13
Volunteer Hours	14
Branch Annual Reports	
Brooks & District	15
Camrose	16
Drayton Valley	16
Edmonton	18
Fort McMurray	21
Grande Prairie & District	22
Lethbridge & District	24
Medicine Hat & District	25
Peace River	26
Red Deer & District	26
Wetaskiwin	27
Committee Reports	
Bylaws & Parliamentary	30
Communications	30
Conference	31
Gaming	31
Grants & Fundraising	32
Library	33
Master Surname Database	33
Membership	34
Policy & Procedures	34
Publications	35
Relatively Speaking	35
Research	36
Retreat	37
Three Year Budget	38
Comparison 2012 Approved with year end balance	39

**ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY, APRIL, 2013 @ 12:45 P.M.
CHATEAU LOUIS CONVENTION CENTRE – EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval – Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting
4. Business Arising
5. President's Report
6. Branch Reports
 - 6.1 Brooks
 - 6.2 Camrose
 - 6.3 Drayton Valley
 - 6.4 Edmonton
 - 6.5 Fort McMurray
 - 6.6 Grande Prairie
 - 6.7 Lethbridge
 - 6.8 Medicine Hat
 - 6.9 Peace River
 - 6.10 Red Deer
 - 6.11 Wetaskiwin
7. Executive Reports
8. Committee Reports
9. Acceptance of Branch, Executive and Committee Reports
10. 2012 Audited Financial Statements
11. Adoption of Financial Statements
12. Budget 2013 – 2015
13. Approval – Budget
14. Appointment of Auditor for 2013
15. Elections and Appointments
16. By-Law Changes
17. Courtesy Motions
18. Adjournment

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Minutes of the

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (AGS)

39TH Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Windspear Room, Holiday Inn, Red Deer, Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

SURNAME:	GIVEN NAME:	BRANCH:
AKGUNGOR	Allison	Edmonton
ALLEN	Jo	Red Deer
ALTHOUSE	John	Edmonton
ANDERSON	Carol	Brooks
ATCHESON	Bob	Edmonton
BALFOUR	Leanne	Medicine Hat
BARNHILL	Betty	Red Deer
BECKER	Gordon	Red Deer
BELL	Randy	Edmonton
BENDER	Melvin	Medicine Hat
BERRECLOTH	Gloria	Edmonton
BIRD	Pat	Red Deer
BORGSTEDT	Arlene	Edmonton
BOXER	Jean	Red Deer
BRIMACOMBE	Bob	Edmonton
CARLSON	C. Fay	Camrose
CARRIER	Lynn	Edmonton
CHERKOWSKI	Shannon	Edmonton
COUPER	Bonita	Edmonton
CUST	Elaine	Edmonton
DARBY	Linda	Red Deer
DARBY	Peter	Red Deer
DUIGOU	Lynne	Edmonton
DYER	Sharon	Edmonton
EAGLESON	Jim	Red Deer
EASTON	Frank	Edmonton
ELLIS	Claire	Red Deer
FINN	Neal	Edmonton
FLINN	Bev	Red Deer
FRANZ	Robert	Brooks
FRENCH	Eileen	Brooks
FOGWILL	Lynn	Edmonton
GLEISNER	Cathy	Medicine Hat
GRAY	Jean	Grande Prairie
HAGA	Susan	Lethbridge

HEDLUND	Arlene	Drayton Valley
HOLMES	Ian	Edmonton
HOWARD	Jock	Fort McMurray
HOYLE	Alice	Wetaskiwin
IWAASA	Clara	Brooks
KNOBLICK	Faye	Medicine Hat
KOOP	Carole	Wetaskiwin
KRUEGER	Joan	Wetaskiwin
LANG	Clark	Medicine Hat
LAZYNSKI	Sylvia	Red Deer
LEGRIS	Mary Ann	Edmonton
LEWIS	Diane	Red Deer
LISKA	Barb	Red Deer
LOCOCK	Tony	Edmonton
MALLOCK	Claudia	Wetaskiwin
MARSHALL	Margaret	Red Deer
MATALSKI	Lynn	Drayton Valley
MCCONNELL	Ruth	Edmonton
MCEWAN	Sara	Edmonton
MCINALL	Margaret	Edmonton
MCKAY	Linda	Red Deer
MCLEOD	Doug	Lethbridge
NAJDA	Henry	Brooks
NORDEN	Karyn	Brooks
NUTHACK	Jo	Edmonton
NUTHACK	Judy	Edmonton
O'HANLON	Leslie	Red Deer
O'NEIL	Lesley	Edmonton
PARENT	Leo	Red Deer
PARKER	Jeannine	Drayton Valley
PERKINS	Louise	Edmonton
PURIN	Barbara	Edmonton
REX	Marion	Edmonton
ROBERTS	Miriam	Drayton Valley
RODRIGUE	Cecile	Red Deer
SCHAU	Gail	Grande Prairie
SCHANK	Doreen	Medicine Hat
SEREDA	Joan	Edmonton
SHOPKA	Lynda	Grande Prairie
SPLCHEN	Marilyn	Edmonton
SPLETT	Marion	Fort St. John, B.C.(AGS)
STAVELEY	Peter	Edmonton
SQUAREK	John	Lethbridge
TURNBULL	Laura	Edmonton
VANELDIK	Fred	Edmonton

VANELDIK	Sandra	Edmonton
WALTON	Ellen	Red Deer
WILLOUGHBY	Vic	Red Deer
WOLOWYK	Norma	Edmonton
YURKEWICH	Shirley	Edmonton

Total of 84 attendees.

1. Call to Order:

The 39th Annual General Meeting was called to order at 12:30 P.M. by Vic Willoughby, Past President. Mr. Willoughby chaired the meeting due to the illness of Liam Hobbes, President.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

MOVED by Doug McLeod that the Agenda be adopted.

Seconded by Lesley O'Neil **Carried**

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting:

MOVED by Bob Atcheson that the Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented in the 2011 Annual Report.

Seconded by Peter Staveley **Carried**

4. Executive, Branch and Committee Reports:

MOVED by Laura Turnbull that the Executive Reports (with the exception of the Financial Reports), the Branch Reports and Committee Reports be accepted as presented in the 2011 Annual Report.

Seconded by Betty Barnhill **Carried**

5. 2011 Audited Financial Statement, 2012 – 2014 Budget, and Auditor for 2012:

Jock Howard, Vice President of Finance, gave an overview of the financial management during 2011. He reviewed and explained all aspects of the Consolidated Financial Reports which were received by the attendees as an additional information packet to the 2011 Annual Report.

MOVED by Jock Howard that the Consolidated Financial Reports be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Frank Easton **Carried**

MOVED by Jock Howard that the firm of Kouri, Berezan, & Heinrichs - Chartered Accountants be appointed the Auditor for 2012.

Seconded by Lesley O'Neil **Carried**

The Consolidated 3year Budget was reviewed by Mr. Howard.

MOVED by Jock Howard that the three-year budget be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Bonita Couper **Carried**

6. Nominations Report: Vic Willoughby asked that nominations for President and First Vice President, with resumes, be submitted to the AGS Office prior to the May Board Meeting.

7. 2011 Resolution of Respect: Frank Easton

WHEREAS the success of our Society has been, and will be, dependent upon many factors including: dedicated members; professionalism in research; dedicated volunteer service to Committees, Boards of Directors, Executive Offices, Libraries, Educational Courses, Community leadership, and with the ongoing support of their families and members of the Society,

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

Wilma Stevenson	#5641	Lethbridge	Nov 9, 2009
Peter Alexander	#5110	Lethbridge	Sep 02, 2010
Kay Sales	#514	Edmonton	Jan 03, 2011
Irene Gordey	#4956	Peace River	Jan 21, 2011
Malcolm MacCrimmon	#444	Edmonton	Feb 13, 2011
Rose Braun	#868	Medicine Hat	Mar 31, 2011
Eleanor Clyde	#5323	Medicine Hat	May 9, 2011
Karonne Olir	#4749	Peace River	May 22, 2011
Joseph Nelson	#2592	Edmonton	Aug 9, 2011
Juanita Block	#1865	Drayton Valley	Aug 23, 2011
Rev. John Nowakowski	#2845	Edmonton	Aug 27, 2011
Irene Percy	#3024	Grande Prairie	Sep 07, 2011
Lillian Wight	#2668	Edmonton	Sep 28, 2011
Elvina Hagan	#2362	Edmonton	Oct 05, 2011
John DeLaroque	#3157	Edmonton	Nov 29, 2011

And do stand and observe a minute's silence 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

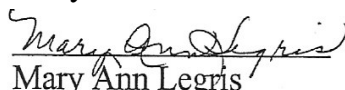
Vic Willoughby expressed his appreciation for the Society and thanked all who assisted him throughout his years of responsibility within the Executive and Committees of the Society.

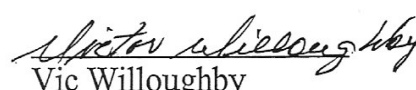
8. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED by Jock Howard that the meeting be adjourned.

Time: 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:


Mary Ann Legris
— Secretary


Vic Willoughby
Past President

Awards Presented at 2012 AGM in Red Deer

Long Term Membership Awards (25 years):

Rheanne Smith AGS 1987 from Edmonton Branch

Illa Skeith AGS 2016 from Lethbridge Branch

Marion & Howard Sim AGS 2026 from Edmonton Branch

Donald Tomlinson AGS 2056 (AGS Only – No Branch)

Connie Stuhl AGS 2073 from Drayton Valley Branch

Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards

Certificate 1. Best Local Content awarded to Grande Prairie and District Branch

Certificate 2. Best Original Article awarded to Drayton Valley Branch
for “*Meeting Oklahoma Cousins*” by Arlene Hedlund, February 2011 Vol 17 #1

Kenneth Young Award Plaque for Best overall branch newsletter awarded to
B & D Heir Lines, Brooks AGS

Presidents Awards:

President’s Award presented **to AGS Fort McMurray Branch** in appreciation of 25 years of dedicated Membership and Service to the Society in the Promotion and Preservation of Family History and Genealogy (1987 – 2012)

President’s Award presented **to AGS Library Volunteers**

President’s Award presented **to AGS Research Committee**

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President

At the May 2012 Board of Directors meeting, I accepted the position of President. The past seven months have been eventful as well as challenging and rewarding.

The September retreat was held at the Providence Renewal Centre. Topics included Sharing of Personal Genealogical Finds, Evolving Branch Roles in the Digital Age of Research, and a Team Building workshop. The retreat was well attended. Susan Haga and Maxine Maxwell did a great job in organizing this two-day event.

In September, a committee was formed for promoting genealogy to youth. The program material is being developed by John Althouse, Lianne Kruger and Marion Rex.

The position of Library & Research has been vacant since February 2011. I am pleased that the position has been filled by Claudine Nelson. Claudine previously held the position of Library Director for the Edmonton branch. Her experience in this position will benefit AGS.

The AGS and Edmonton Branch libraries will be appraised in February 2013. The last appraisal was completed in April 2006. The appraisal is necessary to determine if the current insurance coverage is adequate.

The Operations Manual was completed in December 2009 with a recommendation that a review and updates occur every three to five years. A committee was formed to complete the review and updates. The committee consists of Mary Ann Legris, Sandra Vaneldik, Jo Nuthack and Linda Winski.

During the month of October 2012, Lynn Carrier resigned her position as Treasurer. Wayne

Harker graciously volunteered to fill the responsibilities of Treasurer for November, December and January 2013. Wayne coordinated the audit of the society's financials with Kouri, Berezan, Heinrichs, Chartered Accountants. Wayne has been instrumental in getting us back on track as we continue our search for a candidate to fill this position.

The November Board of Directors meeting was held using Webinar technology. Lianne Kruger, President of the Red Deer branch, was instrumental in helping with this technology. She provided a mini training session for the participants prior to the meeting. In 2013 we will again use this technology during the winter months to reduce travel and expense.

The Website Renewal Project is being developed by Lyn Meehan and Carey Kennedy. Lyn provided a brief overview of the project at the September retreat. In addition to the website project Lyn will be redesigning the brochure.

The position of Historian has been vacant for a number of years. To commemorate our 40th anniversary John Althouse, Past President of Edmonton Branch, has graciously taken on the task of updating the society's history from 1998 to 2012. To complete this task he will consolidate the branch histories into a book publication.

AGS will be celebrating its 40th anniversary at the 2013 conference on April 20-21, 2013. I look forward to visiting with you at this event.

Respectfully submitted,
Les Campbell

Past President

In July, Les Campbell asked me if I would be willing to act as his past president, because of health issues of the normally designated member. My first tasks involved filling in some committee chair positions. Two of these positions have been filled; Claudine Nelson accepted the job of AGS Librarian and Carey Kennedy consented to take the post of Webmanager. We are still in need of an Historian. The vacant portfolios of Property and Inventory Control, as well as Insurance are under review by the Policy and Procedures Committee, which is looking at specific Executive management in those important areas.

In the fall our treasurer resigned and an urgent search for a replacement began. Wayne Harker stepped up in the interim and kept us on track dealing with year-end, preparation for audit and much more. At the end of January, Susan McKeen accepted the position and was warmly welcomed and appointed by the Executive on Feb 9 and approved by the Board on March 2.

A major responsibility of the past president is to chair the Nominating Committee. This year both members who hold positions that are up for election have agreed to accept another term. No competing nominations were made/accepted, so there is no election required. However, two changes to the bylaws were proposed and these will be presented to the membership for approval. The overseeing of this is also the responsibility of the past president.

I had joined the Policy and Procedures Committee before Les asked me to join the executive, so I continue in this role. It has been a busy year and I hope I have been able to assist in the continuation of the Society's good work.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Vaneldik, Acting Past President

First Vice President

I have found being a member of this genealogical society to be a very rewarding experience. I enjoy very much associating with the other members on the Executive and the Board. Although I've spent most of my life learning about family history as I have researched my ancestral lines I feel that I have really grown by being a member of this society. I joined the society to help a friend and along the way I've gained many more friends and I am grateful for that.

During the past year, I have endeavored to be a support to those committees who fall under my area of responsibility. As I learn more about each of their responsibilities, I realize how much time and effort members of this society donate freely to their positions. We are all volunteers and learn much from each other.

I have enjoyed working closely with Maxine Maxwell and Nestor Martinez on the Retreat Committee. Each year our Retreat seems to get better and better. Our last Retreat was not only a great learning experience for us with the segment on Sharing Branch Reports, Policy & Procedures Manual and Team Building but we all enjoyed Nestor's Jeopardy Game that allowed us to learn and have fun at the same time. Plans are already underway for our next Retreat and as we analyze the several evaluations from last year's Retreat and implement the suggestions from all who attended we hope to make it the best yet!

Regards,
Susan Haga, First Vice President

Second Vice President

I have enjoyed the opportunity to be back interacting with the AGS Executive and Board members in the capacity of Second Vice President. It is an enlightening experience to be part of the process where the initial discussions occur.

I have participated in two Board meetings since the beginning of my term (May, 2012), September 15 (Retreat) and November 24, our first Webinar. Due to technical difficulties at the AGS office, where some participants, including Les, had no audio, I was asked to moderate the meeting on short notice, an interesting first for me! A big 'Thank You' to Lianne Kruger, who set the Webinar up and kept the meeting running for the duration. We were able to communicate with the Edmonton office participants through Lianne by telephone conversation, an effective Plan B. It was certainly an acceptable alternate to traveling to Edmonton on winter roads and well worth pursuing in the future. We held two Executive teleconference meetings; October 30 and December 16.

Susan Haga, Nestor Martinez and myself made up the Retreat Committee and have started the process of planning for 2013 Retreat (see my Retreat Report).

I also wanted to recognize the efforts and faithful reporting from the members who head the Committees under the umbrella of Second Vice President (Liaison with other Genealogical Societies, Library and Research Centre, Master Surname Database and Translations). See their respective reports.

'Thank You' to these volunteers for all their good work and informative reporting to the AGS Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Maxwell

Vice President of Finance

The finances of the Society are managed by a team. We decide issues based on consensus, with everyone having an equal voice at the table. Financial issues are brought to the Committee for consideration (that is, "Is it appropriate for consideration?", and "Do we have sufficient budgeted funding?") prior to being brought to

the Board; there is no mandate for final decision-making.

2012 Finance Committee

Jock Howard	Vice President of Finance
Les Campbell	President
Susan Haga	1 st Vice President
Mary Ann Legris	Secretary
Lynn Carrier	Treasurer (January through October)
Wayne Harker	Treasurer (October through year-end)
Carey Kennedy	Webmaster
Lyn Meehan	Web Design
Marion Rex	Grants & Fundraising
Norma Wolowyk	Research

I was very sad to lose Lynn Carrier who left the position of AGS Treasurer in October. She had given us a business view of our organisation that had been lacking, especially reviewing every expense with a view to reducing it and/or improving the return that we get from it. She was also of great help in improving our Chart of Accounts. Special thanks go to Wayne Harker who stepped in when approached from October through year-end and has done a stellar job. We are looking forward to working with Susan McKeen who has been appointed as AGS Treasurer for 2013.

Highlights of 2012

- Following the audit last April, a letter from the Accountants suggested that the finance policies and procedures should be reviewed, especially those dealing with expenses incurred by officers and committees. They also made suggestions for several new policies such as 'Security checks for the Treasurers'. This has been completed
- Work was started on the Chart of Accounts and ways in which the branch treasurers could be assisted in the development of budgets. This was interrupted with the departure of Lynn, but I will push to have this work completed this year.

- We reviewed and approved budgets for continued work on the Master Surname and Cemetery databases.
- Our society needs to move into the 21st century in the way we approach the rest of the world and a well-presented and easily-used website is the way to go. When we were approached for seed money for the development of a website, we approved the expense.
- The Policies & Procedures Committee worked hard this year to revamp the Policies and Procedures Manual, moving all financial information into one section and, at the same time, creating a Handbook for Treasurers.
- The lease for our AGS office and AGS & Edmonton Branch Library was renewed under favourable terms.
- The contents of the AGS and Edmonton Branch Libraries were appraised for insurance purposes.

The year 2012 was a very successful year in that we made positive changes to the ways in which we operate based on the auditor's suggestions, worked on an improved Chart of Accounts which will facilitate better financial management, implemented better budgeting for large projects, and revamped the policies and procedures. We are moving toward making committees and projects financially responsible: budgets for website, research, membership, Conference/GenFair, library, policies & procedures, and Relatively Speaking were reviewed and incorporated into the 2013 budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Jock Howard, Vice President of Finance

VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2012

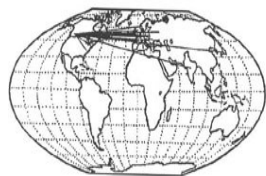
30,569

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all eleven branches of the AGS realized a total of over 30,000 volunteer hours that were reported in 2012.

*Sincere appreciation to all
who serve the Society so willingly and selflessly
with their gifts of time, energy, enthusiasm and expertise*

BRANCH ANNUAL REPORTS

Brooks and District



The year of 2012 was ushered in with the skirl of the pipes rather than a bang as we co-hosted with the Friends of the Public Library a Robbie Burns Night held at the Royal Canadian Legion. It was well attended and a successful fund-raiser.

Programs:

The programs in 2012 were diverse and informative.

January: A very informative power-point on Heraldry in ancient times: granting, displaying, describing and recording coats of arms, family crests, shields and rules of Heraldry.

February: Jan Beecher a journalist for the Brooks Bulletin newspaper caught our interest with a power-point on her recommendations, expertise and experience in writing, be it for one's own memoirs, family history, or writing for genealogy magazines.

March: "Black Sheep Ancestry" had members sharing stories about their black sheep ancestors. It was not a surprise that everyone had a black sheep ancestor for whom they are still searching.

April: "Destination Canada" A Genealogical Guide to Immigration records by Dave Obee. A partial overview was given on the content, focusing on European and British Atlantic ports and Canadian ports of arrival, and Canadian/ US Border Crossings.

May: Brooks members were given a review of the AGS Red Deer Branch/Alberta Family Histories Society Calgary Gen Fair held in Red Deer. The Brooks Branch newsletter B & D HEIR LINES received the Kenneth Young Award for Best Overall Branch Newsletter for 2011.

Events:

April: Branch Open House with members helping those of the interested public who attended as well members assisting other members with their research.

May: On May 8 thirteen members and two nonmembers worked a Casino in Medicine Hat.

June: Renovations began in the branch library resource room. Two sets of metal shelving for the library holdings were added and excess furniture was removed. Members were entertained with a guided historical tour of the century old C.P.R Chief Engineer's home restored to its original appearance by owner Kathy Ramer. The Branch Website was retailored to be a more informative and professional search site pertaining to the Brooks area.

July: Members were on hand July 1st at the Brooks Museum Canada Day Celebrations as hosts in the former Sikisika ditcher rider's house later known as the Alberts' home.

September: Members had fun sharing their summer travels, family reunions and childhood memories. An Open House for members and the public resumed and will continue monthly every 3rd Saturday afternoon with the exception of July, August and December.

October: We held an evening for members to bring a show and tell collectable item or heirloom and a guest. The annual "Family History Week" was declared for October 15- 20th by the City of Brooks Mayor and Council.

November: Members shared stories of their family war time veteran either from the two major world wars or other historic battles.

New Project: To inform the Brooks immigrant population about our genealogy branch, an information brochure will be printed in the most prevalent of the current languages spoken in the city; Spanish; (Mexican, Cambodian), Mandarin, Filipino (tagalong).

Volunteer hours for 2012 were 2159

Camrose

I consider myself very fortunate to be given the Camrose Branch's confidence to represent them at the provincial level. I look forward to the challenge and anticipate a rewarding experience working alongside this dedicated group of people! At the same meeting that I became president, members chose a new format for our monthly meetings and I'm excited to help to facilitate this change. I would like to thank outgoing executive members and would also like to recognize the incoming executive, Sharon Olsen, treasurer; Adele Goa, secretary; Bev Webster and Joan Conley who are continuing in positions of branch librarian and branch newsletter editor, respectively.

Over the past 7 years Branch members have collectively researched early editions of our local newspaper, *The Camrose Canadian*, compiling 2 volumes: Birth, Marriage & Death Extracts from *The Camrose Canadian* 1908-1929 (published June 2010) and from 1930-1940 (published January 2012). We now embark on collecting data for the next phase with Bev Webster once again spearheading the project.

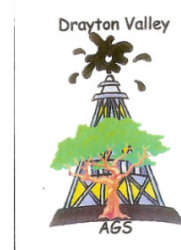
The Camrose Branch has partnered with Camrose Founders Days Committee annually since the 2004 centennial celebration of the Camrose Main Street. It has since evolved into an annual heritage festival to which our members contribute hugely. We researched 2 founding community members this past year, Signe Spokkeli Hills, first school teacher in Camrose and Almer Ofrim, early blacksmith and long time local businessman.

Branch members hosted 2 genealogy workshops over the past several months. The first was held in June 2012, when we welcomed a large number of enthusiasts. We supplied a variety of genealogy charts, booklets and handouts and shared 5 door prizes (donated by one of our members). Several members gave brief presentations and then we opened the floor to discussion and questions.

The second workshop incorporated 2 sessions and catered towards a teenage audience. The first session was an "Introduction to Genealogy"; the second was titled "Hands On Genealogy Workshop". We kept our presentations short and simple. We helped the attendees access the Ancestry website on laptops and then work on their charts.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Camrose Library starting at 7:30 pm. We welcome guests and new members. If you are ever in the area, please join us.

Janine Carroll, incoming President
AGS, Camrose Branch



Drayton Valley

Our Executive:

No President or Vice President .Past Presidents Colleen Andersen, Miriam Roberts and Arlene Hedlund fulfilled the duties of President.

Secretary:	Elaine Hewlett
Treasurer:	Bev Wright
Librarian:	Elaine Fink
AGS Rep:	Arlene Hedlund
Newsletter Editor:	Colleen Andersen
Publicity:	Miriam Roberts
Telephone/E-mail	
& Volunteer Hours:	Lynn Matalski
Typist:	Connie Stuhl
Historian, Western Review Articles, Cemetery	
Chair:	Arlene Hedlund

Our general meetings are the third Wednesday of every month except July, August and December. The Executive meet the first Wednesday of the same months. Our executive meetings are held in our Library/Resource room at the Wishing Well Apartments at 5102 – 46 Avenue in Drayton Valley and the general meetings are in the Wishing Well Apartment's library. We are able to use the common room for larger group functions.

We had 14 members in 2012. Several are long distance members making it hard for them to participate in group activities. Our executive meetings are well attended most times. Some of our general meetings were poorly attended.

In January we had a Search and Find meeting. Colleen Andersen brought her laptop and air card to look up requests. Our library was open for anyone wanting to research.

February meeting was our Annual Meeting. Liam Hobbes, President of AGS attended. When we had no president or vice president elected, Liam suggested an AGS Rep and branch past presidents fulfill duties of president. His input and knowledge was helpful. At our annual meeting a vote was taken to have three Past Finder newsletters published per year instead of four. Members with signing authority at Servus Credit Union are Colleen Andersen, Arlene Hedlund, Bev Wright, Elaine Hewlett and Elaine Fink. The Branch has two accounts, General Account and Research Account.

In March Colleen Andersen and Lynn Matalski were "Genies" in the Drayton Valley Public Library. Several persons approached them for help. Due to farming commitments and lack of volunteers March was the only month this was done.

Our Annual March Workshop was held March 10th at the Drayton Valley Learning Centre. Lyn Meehan presented Building Evidence, Records Interrogation 101, Research Without Borders and Thoroughly Modern Genealogy. 8 members and three non-members attended. The workshop was 9 – 3:30 with the branch supplying a lunch included in the \$35.00 registration fee. All agreed the information was valuable and well presented. I have stayed in touch with the three people through the year. Two have attended other meetings and hopefully will take out memberships in 2013. A \$300.00 Matching Grant from AGS helped pay workshop expenses.

At the March general branch meeting Elaine Fink did a demonstration on her laptop on

Ancestry.com and Colleen Andersen on Familysearch.org. The meeting was well attended with three guests and eight members.

April took four of our members, Miriam Roberts, Jeannine Parker, Lynn Matalski and Arlene Hedlund to "Find Your Tree in the Forest" GenFair at the Holiday Inn in Red Deer. The GenFair was co-sponsored by the Alberta Genealogical Society and the Family Histories Society of Calgary. Arlene Hedlund accepted a 25 Year AGS Membership for Connie Stuhl from Vic Willoughby. The Ken Young Award for Best Original Article in a Branch Newsletter was presented by Vic Willoughby to Arlene Hedlund for her article "Meeting Oklahoma Cousins".

April general meeting was a Round Table discussion on successes and brick walls in our research.

For May Miriam Roberts did a presentation "Alberta Bound" using the overhead projector. She showed maps of Canada as the boundaries changed and new areas were added. It was a well researched presentation helping people know where their family records may be found.

We celebrated Connie Stuhls' 25 Year AGS Membership with a potluck supper in the common room of the Wishing Well Apartments. Liam Hobbes, Past President AGS presented Connie with her certificate. The branch presented her with a special cake and a bouquet of flowers. Connie was one of Drayton Valley Branch AGS founding members and has played an active role in the success of our branch. Courtney Whalen, editor of the Western Review newspaper attended and took pictures and interviewed Connie for an article in the paper. 12 members and three guests attended.

Miriam Roberts is active in the Drayton Valley Anglican Church and invited our branch to share a table with the church at the Evergreen Farmer's Market. The church was celebrating their 75th Anniversary. We had our book, Index Of Births, Marriages And Deaths Of Drayton Valley and Surrounding Area In Alberta and a branch

display on the table. We handed out branch brochures and talked to people about our branch. The table was manned by Miriam Roberts, Lynn Matalaski and Arlene Hedlund.

June 15th Elaine Young and Arlene Hedlund recorded Poplar Valley Cemetery. Miriam Roberts recorded Iola Fairview, St. Aiden & St. Hilda Anglican Church Rexboro and Mountclare Cemeteries through the summer months. Connie Stuhl has typed and Miriam and Arlene have proofread these recordings.

September 14 – 16th Jeannine Parker and Arlene Hedlund attended the AGS Retreat at the Providence Centre in Edmonton. Both enjoyed the presentation by Gloria Cathcart on Saturday night. The retreat is a good opportunity for branches to share and brainstorm. The Jeopardy Game with Nestor Martinez helped everyone learn more about the AGS policies and procedures.

In October our branch was saddened by the passing of Blanche Cherrington. Blanche was a long time member only giving up her membership when she became too ill to participate. Blanche was an active member, organizing Legion Bingo volunteers for several years, being branch secretary and helping to record many cemeteries.

The obits from the *Western Review* newspaper have been collected by first, Winnie Hammerlindl, branch members and then Colleen Andersen for many years. At our October meeting we cut and pasted some of the obits onto index cards. This is an ongoing project. Colleen Andersen found a drawer unit at our thrift store that we purchased for \$75.00 to hold these index cards. Connie Stuhl is typing the labels for the cards.

Colleen Andersen did a presentation “My Father-in-Law, Svend Andersen’s Military Service”. The family had recently found a box containing parts of his uniform, books, post cards, and his duffle bag. Our November military related topics are well attended.

Our celebration of Christmas was a pot luck supper for members and guests in the Wishing Well Apartments common room. After supper Miriam Roberts showed a DVD and spoke about their trip to Peru and Ecuador.

Members volunteered at five Legion Bingos as a fundraiser. When our member Juanita Block passed away in 2011 her family donated her books to the branch. We had duplicates of several and were able to sell some of them.

We submitted 10 genealogy articles to the *Western Review* as I was unable to get articles for October and December. I spoke to Courtney Whalen, editor of the paper, and told her we would not be submitting any more monthly articles. I was told we could begin again at any time. The first article was submitted in June of 2004.

Members responded to several research requests. Donna Webb with Brightwood connections; Lynne Moyer with Research Websites; Joan Fraser with Warburg connections and Lyle Purdy on family in Hills of Hope books.

Kelly Forster recorded some of the births, marriages and deaths in the *Western Review* for 2011. Arlene Hedlund completed 2011 and recorded 2012.

Our branch is having a Beginners Workshop with presenter, Connie Stuhl in February and we look forward to our March Workshop, “Star Spangled Genealogy” with John Althouse and Les Campbell as presenters.

Volunteer Hours reported for 2012 - 932

Respectfully submitted by
Arlene Hedlund

Edmonton Branch

Once again, it was a busy and productive year at Edmonton Branch. Our Annual General Meeting was held on 24 February 2012. At that meeting, the Branch Executive was elected. It consisted of

Executive**Officers**

President	John Althouse
Vice President	Deanna Bullock
Past President	Walter Meyer
Secretary	Joyce Willard
Treasurer	Bonita Couper
Library Co-Directors	Arlene Borgstede, Heather Harper, and Marilyn Wales
Membership Director	Lynne Duigou

Standing Committee Chairs

Archivist/Historian	Joan Green
Clandigger	Les Campbell
Genealogical Courses	Margaret McInall
Genealogical Research	Norma Wolowyk
Program	Margaret Bendickson
Publicity	Sharon Dyer
Recording & Indexing	Vacant

Ad Hoc Committees (Appointed, non-voting)

Corresponding Secretary	Sheila Majeau
Electronic Resources	John Hazelwood
Webmaster	Les Campbell
Volunteer Coordinator	Jeneane Roberts

The executive remained largely unchanged except for changes in 2 positions: Deanna Bullock succeeded Marilyn Wales as Vice President and Joyce Willard assumed the position of Secretary, previously held by Barbara Blackley. The position of Chair of the Recording and Indexing Committee was left vacant. During the course of the term, Deanna Bullock, our Vice President moved from the Edmonton area so the Branch finished the year with that position vacant. A voluntary position of Branch Volunteer Coordinator was developed and Jeneane Roberts accepted the role.

The biggest item addressed during the year was the lease. While this was addressed by the AGS Board, there was a good deal of discussion with our Branch prior to the renewal. Our lease has been renewed at this site for five more years. About the same time, there was a revision of the parking policy at the site. In a discussion with the landlord, our unique situation was indicated and adaptations to the method were made which to this point have generally worked very well.

Genealogical education continued at Edmonton Branch. The "Tracing Your Family Tree" Course continued to be the benchmark for genealogical education in the Edmonton area, but it also had its ups and downs. The Spring Course did not fill and was cancelled. But following coverage through the media, the Autumn Course not only filled with 21 students but produced a waiting list. This term, a number of new instructors presented sessions in the course under the capable direction of Margaret McInall. In addition, a committee of the Branch developed a plan for the delivery of a genealogy course at the University of Alberta through the ELLA program. That program has been approved, and the committee is making the final preparations to deliver it this Spring.

The Branch has also provided opportunities for members to share what they know, build their skills, and add to their knowledge. This is done in large part through our Special Interest Groups (SIG). Edmonton Branch currently has England Wales, Ireland, Scotland, German, Ukrainian, Canada USA, Compugene (PC computer genealogy), and Postscripts (writing of family history) SIG. Regretfully, the Mac Reunion SIG (Apple computer genealogy) has ceased to operate as no one stepped forward to assume its leadership. A few of the SIG have offered special events. The Irish SIG was part of a St. Patrick's Day Event at the Library and presented a day long workshop on Internet Sources for Irish genealogy. Postscripts did a morning of "Story Smithing" where members, in small groups, could bring pieces of their personal family history writing to share and receive editing suggestions. The German group spent a social evening at the Oktoberfest at the German Canadian Club.

Under the capable hand of Margaret Bendickson, Edmonton Branch has provided presentations and activities of general interest to our members at monthly meetings. A series of short presentations on the military relatives of members, presentations by authors, and a modified "pecha kucha" presentation were among the highlights of these programs.

Edmonton Branch has advocated for causes of benefit to its members and perhaps many genealogists. As a Branch, we provided a letter to the Minister voicing our concerns on the proposed cuts to service and funding to LAC. We also encouraged our members to forward individual letters related to this important matter. We also sent a letter of support for the request of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress that the government funding for the church properties indexing project (which includes the recording of cemeteries) be continued. At a general meeting, we received a presentation from the Canadian History Museum and were asked how they might become relevant to us. We are currently advocating in relation to Alberta Vital Records to encourage greater ease of access and reduced costs of these records..

Over the past year, we continued to make Edmonton Branch better known in the Edmonton area and in our fellow AGS Branches. To do this, we have engaged in a number of "outreach" activities. These have been in the form of static displays, presentations, and workshops. The events which the Branch participated in this year were St. Albert Retired Teachers (January 26), Second Winds (April 18), Peace River (May 12), Strathcona County (June 7), Heritage Week / Open Doors (July 3-8), Fort Edmonton Park (August 12), Justice Canada (September 19), Leduc Public Library (October 3), and Covenant Health Group (November 10). In addition, I travelled to Peace River in May where I gave a one-day workshop on Eastern European genealogy, and Les Campbell and I are developing a one-day workshop on genealogical topics on the USA for presentation in Drayton Valley in March 2013. Other events have been booked or are being studied for future "outreach" events. For "Heritage Week / Open Doors", we continued to have the Library available free of charge to anyone who might have an interest in genealogy and wish to experience doing genealogy during regular hours, but the Branch also added three presentations for evenings and weekend afternoons. At the Fort Edmonton event, we were provided with the theme of the day which was "Women" so not only provided a display to promote AGS but also catered the

display to that theme providing a static display entitled "The Ladies of Fort Edmonton Park ~ Finding Our Female Lines." For this and future static displays, Louise Perkins worked to put together a promotional portable bulletin board. We are currently out of Branch brochures but have delayed printing off large numbers of new ones as we wait to see the new AGS brochure and perhaps develop one having a similar look.

The biggest boon to the Branch came in the form of an extensive article (3 pages) which appeared in the Edmonton Journal on July 14, 2012. The article involved interviews with AGS members and information from members of the Branch executive. This really enhanced our profile. The TYFT course which had not filled in the Spring Session of 2012 was filled for the Autumn Session within two weeks after the article appeared in the newspaper. It also produced visits to our library and phone calls from those interested in learning more.

Members of Edmonton Branch continue to do yeoman service as volunteers. This work can be readily seen when one visits the Library. Our research team not only provides answers to many genealogical queries but also has generated a good amount of revenue in the process. In addition, members are involved in several AGS positions and roles which also are needed to carry on what we do as a Branch and AGS does as a society. Finally, other members work jointly with other organizations such as the PAA on projects which are invaluable to all genealogists. This year, we have been active contributors to "News from the Branches" in *Relatively Speaking*. To aid in distribution, members have stepped forward to fill in vacancies in the group who prepare our magazine for mailing. We thank all those volunteers for their tireless and most dedicated work.

Our Library volunteers continue to be the face of our organization. They have been involved in a number of activities in addition to the stocking and operating of the Library. These volunteers had a bee to clean out the storage area at the back of our Library. They also were major participants in the St. Patrick's Day event mentioned earlier.

Our Library Committee in concert with the AGS Library Director is discussing matters related to procedures for operating the Library. The Library collection has been almost completely transferred into a digital format and discussions are taking place to determine exactly how this digital record will be made available.

A number of matters related to the overall operation of the Branch and the building have taken place this year. We are in good financial shape, and our Treasurer Bonita Couper has ably navigated the new accounting procedures which have come on stream. Our policy and procedures binders were purged, updated, and redistributed in current form through the efforts of member volunteers. We purchase a new computer monitor, a printer, and a microwave oven to replace ones that had "died". Wayne Harker is currently looking for reasonably priced replacements for some of our chairs which constantly require repair. He also was called upon to purchase and replace the handle and lock assembly for the washroom door to replace one which no longer would lock securely.

At the end of 2012, we had 564 members consisting of 500 memberships. The last two years have seen the Branch membership increase, reversing the decline in members for several years prior. This year, the Branch formally presented certificates for 25 years of AGS membership to Rheanne Smith at her home and Marion and Howard Sim at our May 2012 Branch Meeting.

We are on the eve of the 40th Anniversary of the Alberta Genealogical Society. Edmonton members are looking forward to this milestone. Some members are involved in projects marking this occasion such as the writing and compiling of an AGS history for the last fifteen years, the planning and execution of the AGS conference, development of an educational genealogical resource for school age children, placing the pre-1905 vital records in a form which will be more readily accessible, and many other excellent projects, soon to be made public. Edmonton Branch members continue to do stellar volunteer work from which not only our Branch but all

genealogists benefit. The Annual General Meeting for 2013 will be held on 28 February 2013 shortly after this report is submitted. A new executive will be elected and / or selected at that meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
John Althouse, President

Fort McMurray Branch

MEMBERSHIP: 13

VOLUNTEER HOURS: 823

EXECUTIVE:

President	Alexander Payne
Vice President	Laverne Cormier
Treasurer	Cathy Marriott
Secretary	Bobbie Driscoll (now vacant)

The year of 2012 has been an interesting year for us. It started out with our being recognized as having been a member of the Alberta Genealogical Society for 25 years. I wonder if that small group that started meeting in the basement of one of the member's homes had imagined the group would last so long, and that their resource materials would have been expanded to the level that it is today? Well, we have lasted, and we are a group that still takes joy in making new discoveries, either for ourselves, or in helping others.

It is a disappointment that our membership numbers still stay so low. Is it a reflection of the community in which we live? A City of shift workers, working long hours and not having (or more importantly, not making) the time to pursue a hobby of interest to them. Or is it a reflection of our general population and the advanced technology that is now available to a large portion of our people. With the current commercials being shown, one thinks that all they have to do is go to the computer and plug in a little information, and voila!!! their family history will be before their eyes. They are not taught the value of having viable sources for their information; they do not learn the history of

when and why certain family members had to move away....but I digress...suffice it to say that I would love to have our membership numbers improve.

Over the summer we started to photograph our two cemeteries. The newer of the two cemeteries, Abasand, is well laid out and mapped almost to perfection. The Downtown cemetery is older, stones have been broken/moved/rotted (there are a fair number of wooden crosses) or just plain not there. The rows are crooked and any semblance to the City map is pure coincidence I think. So this brings us to the question...what or who do you believe...the headstones that are placed, or a map that shows who should be where? Hopefully, we will continue working on this over this coming summer.

In midsummer, we were then given the news that we were going to have to move. The building that houses us was being sold to the City but we were told not to worry, the City would find us a new home. Well, the new home they wanted to give us was about 2/3 the size of our current place, and we were hoping to expand our space! As it happened the conditions of the sale were not met, so the sale was put on hold. Then we got notice that the City was expropriating the property....so we finished out our year not knowing what was going to happen or when. Nevertheless, we continued doing our research, we held our lovely potluck Christmas Social and we waited for our next chapter to start.

Submitted by
Tammy Grantham
Past President, Fort McMurray Branch



Grande Prairie & District

MEMBERSHIP: 59
VOLUNTEER HOURS: 1804

2012 Executive:

President: Jean Gray
Past President: Maxine Maxwell
Vice President: Al Bromling
Secretary: Theresa Delaney
(part term each) Patricia Greber
Treasurer: Susan Thomson

Committees:

Cemeteries: Sharon Kokosha & Al Richards
Historian: Fran Moore
Genies: Paulette Hrychiw & Bill Lappenbush
Library/Volunteer Hours: Gail Schau
Newsletter/Heritage Seekers: Judy Bradley
Facebook: Patricia Greber
Obituaries: Paulette Hrychiw & Joan Bowman
Publicity: Al Bromling
Research & Queries: Paulette Hrychiw & Joan Bowman
Casino Chair: Maxine Maxwell
Membership & Volunteer Coordinator: Gwen Richards
Technical Advisor: Lorna Picken
Workshop Co-Chairman: Sandy Luckwell & Gail Schau
Website: Laura Turnbull
Peace Area Obits: Lynda Shopka

Meeting Programs:

January: Cancelled due to weather – too cold
February: AGM – Ethnic Pot Luck. Bill Lappenbush presented a program “Putting Your Family History on Line”
March: “Can I Help You” an evening of members helping members
April: Gail Schau, Lynda Shopka and Jean Gray presented “What I Learned at the Gen Fair in Red Deer”

- May: "Picture, Picture", a PowerPoint Presentation– Members had 3 minutes to talk about a picture/ document they had submitted, who/what/why this was important to their family research
- June: Field Trip to Debolt Museum – Members took their own packed supper, which was eaten during meeting and then had a museum tour.
- September: "Welcome Back Bingo" a fun game to learn things about fellow members
- October: Presentation from the Grande Prairie Century Play committee
- November: Jane Cowley spoke about her father as a WWI veterinarian, including quotes from his diary. Display of members relatives who were veterans who had served in any conflict at any time.

Projects:

- Our cemetery collection "Gravemarkers of Northwestern Alberta" found on the Grande Prairie website continued to grow this year including indexing all 7032 names for the 17 cemeteries. The sad passing of Al Richards has halted expansion for now, but we are hopeful someone will step forward to continue his work. Thanks to Laura Turnbull who helped to get the photos on the website.
- We held a successful workshop on September 21/22 in partnership with the Latter Day Saints Church. Our speakers were Don Evans, Area Family History Advisor; Ronna Byam speaking on "Ontario Research"; Wayne Shephard with Online Parish Clerks; Leslie Pearson speaking on "Archives: How can they help with your research" and local speakers Leita Askew on "Organizing your research files" and Sandy Luckwell with "How to become a Volunteer Indexer" and "Where were the women in the 1911 British Census"? In the gym area tables of various displays were available for participants to look at. We were fortunate to have the North Peace Historical Society & Fort St. John North Peace Museum from British Columbia attending. They brought copies of their new book "Peacemakers of the North Peace" and a binder with cemetery records. The workshop's success was due to the hard work of Gail Schau and Sandy Luckwell. Job well done!!
- Committees were formed to look at improving our Margaret Kay Memorial Scholarship visibility; planning a Family Day Event for February 2013 in conjunction with the South Peace Regional Archives; planning and celebrating our 35th anniversary as an AGS branch.
- We represented our branch at a number of publicity appearances, events and presentations.
 - March : Troyanda's Vitaemo Festival – set up publicity booth and Genie sessions
 - May: 5 members attended Peace River's Branch "Open the Trunk" – Beginning the Search for Your Eastern European Family Roots by John Althouse.
 - June: Highland Games – set up publicity booth
 - August: Heritage Day at the Grande Prairie Museum – publicity booth and Genie sessions
 - September: Our successful " Family Connections 2012" Workshop
- The Genies continued providing free public family research assistance in the Library every Wednesday 7-9 pm
- We continued clipping and transcribing obituaries from regional and local newspapers, organized them into binders and sent the indexing information to Laura Turnbull to upload to our website and to the "Obituary Daily Times", a free Roots/Ancstry site. We now have 145 years of indexes online (Grande Prairie Daily Herald Tribune from 1965 to 2011, Peace River Record Gazette from 1914 to 1991, and Peace area obits for 1992 to 2011.

- We continued production of our quarterly newsletter, "Heritage seekers". With the expertise of editor Judy Bradley, her committee and submissions from members, we were awarded the AGS Kenneth Young Newsletters Award for Best Local Content.
- Our Historian, Fran Moore researched and wrote the last 15 years of our branch's history. This was requested by the provincial body to have an up to date history of all branches for the 40th anniversary of the Alberta Genealogical Society,
- We received 31 Queries which were passed on to our researchers, Joan Bowman, and Paulette Hrychiw.
- We established executive email addresses that can be passed on from year to year, thus keeping AGS business out of personal email.
- Patricia Greber set up a Facebook page for our branch.

Grande Prairie and District Branch has had another great year with our member contributions to the Executive, committees and general meetings. I am always so gratified to have such dedicated and enthusiastic people to work with.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Gray, President

Lethbridge & District

The Executive Committee from February 2012 to February 2013 is as follows:

President:	Nestor Martinez
Vice President:	Susan Haga
Treasurer:	Pat Barry
Secretary:	Bev Tufts
Past-President:	Doug McLeod

During the year 2012 our branch continued to present a series of lectures and workshops during our monthly meetings that added to our

knowledge of research skills and expanded our awareness of available resources.

Programs during this period were as follows:

January: Hans-Henning Mündel spoke on his wife's Mayflower descent. Mrs. Mundel was recently accepted as a Mayflower descendant and Henning outlined the process and documentation followed to prove this. It was a very interesting presentation that highlighted excellent research and documentation methods required for credible family history.

February: We had a presentation by Don Laqua on publishing photo books using computer programs and internet resources. He showed how to use a program to format the books and we were able to view some striking books published by him using contemporary and vintage photographs.

March: "Research in Wales" presented by David Tyler, Co-Director of the Raymond LDS Family History Centre.

April: We met at the Galt Museum and Archive where Andrew Chernevych, Archivist, discussed the archive holdings and programs and recent additions to the collections. He also conducted a tour of the facilities and discussed preservation and conservation techniques.

May: "England Beyond the Basics" presented by Celia Tyler, Co-Director of the Raymond Family History Centre.

June: On the June 9th weekend, we held our bi-annual garage sale. This is our main fund-raising event. The weather was good and we had very good purchaser response. Our intention had been to hold the sale on Friday and Saturday but we were able to start our sales on Thursday. The sale was preceded by long weeks of gathering merchandise and longer days of pricing and organizing. We raised in excess of \$3000. We capped the weekend with a potluck dinner on Saturday evening.

September: Evelyn Laqua presented on "Irish Research". Evelyn is on the Educational Committee at the Lethbridge Family History Center. She gave a very informative power point presentation with a very well documented handout.

October: Branch member Helen Paquin spoke on her North American Paquin Genealogy and family organization.

November: We held our annual International Dinner at the Park Bridge Estates Club House. The event was well attended and the food was delicious.

Branch members continue to be involved in various projects to collect and preserve family and genealogical information. Obituaries and funeral cards are being collected and digitized. Our research volunteers had a busy year responding to requests for information and generated substantial revenues for the branch. Several of our members were asked to present lectures at the annual LDS Family History training conference in Lethbridge as well as setting up an AGS information table during the conference.

Volunteer hours for the year were 3010.

Submitted by
Nestor Martinez, Branch President



Medicine Hat & District

Web: mhgs.abgensoc.ca
E-mail: mhgs@telus.net

By now we are enjoying the whiteness of the snow and the cold of the winter air. If it wasn't for the Christmas season, I could do without winter. I now know the fascination with the southern climes.

2012 was another good year for our genealogy society. Our volunteer time has increased to over 2500 hours, which means we are spending more time helping to grow our society. Our year ended with 54 memberships and 1 lifetime member, an increase from 2011. As in any organization, our membership fluctuates but we grew a little this year. I am very pleased with the turnout at our meetings. We average 25 members per meeting.

Our queries committee has been active and having success researching requests from various people, as far away as Australia. We have a new members information package explaining the operation of our society. As you can see from this newspaper, our Saamis Seeker is very impressive as well as informative. We have purchased a new camera equipped with a GPS to assist our cemetery committee do their work. We were given a microfilm reader from Medicine Hat Library and are looking for a home for the old reader. We have purchased plaques with the names of the entire executive since we became a society.

The library committee has been very active collecting and recording many new and donated books. They attended video conferencing seminars at the Medicine Hat Public Library hosted by Vulcan Public Library. An evening meeting of family history writing will begin soon at our library. We purchased a large retractable projector screen to assist program presenters. We were given a used sound system. The obituary databases are growing with pictures of head stones to be added soon (members only). We may be adding an obituary name index to our website to assist our members. Our website has a new look to it. Visit us at 'mhdgs.ca'. There are more changes coming to our website in the future. We have had information booths at Canada Day, Medicine Hat Heritage Day and representation at the Remembrance Day.

I have been attending the Alberta Genealogical Society executive meetings in Edmonton and a webinar in Medicine Hat. There are many good changes coming from our parent society. It is very informative listening to the other Alberta branches, voicing their concerns and telling us of

their wins and loses. I have received many good ideas to increase our effectiveness as a society.

This message is my last as a president as a new president will be elected in February 2013. I have enjoyed my term and look forward to assisting the next president of the Medicine Hat and District Genealogical Society.

Clark Lang, President

Peace River & District



VI HOPKINS
FIRST ANGLICAN CHURCH

"Echoes of the Past"

The Peace River Branch had 11 members in 2012 and reported 500 volunteer hours.

We are happy to be back in the newly renovated Peace River Library this year. Our Genealogy Branch has reserved a meeting room and a computer for our regular monthly meetings and the library Staff is always very helpful.

At our January meeting, former member Gordon Troup brought forward ideas on developing local resources and databases. Gordon has been working on digitizing the 1916 Canada Census Records for Northwest Alberta. He has completed some of the work but has suggested that the membership may be interested in finishing it.

The Museum hosted an Exhibit of the Internment of Ukrainians in Canada from 1914. They asked our Branch to partner with them on hosting a day where we would hold a workshop on "Searching Your Eastern European Roots."

Grande Prairie Branch voted to give us \$1000 from their Casino proceeds for which we thank them. We are considering how we can best use the money to provide resources that will encourage others to join our Branch.

Cindy Tosh advised that she will be unable to continue as Treasurer and Denise Fortier volunteered to fill the position.

At our February 16th meeting member Pat Proskurniak showed us how to access WW1 and WW2 army records. She talked about how she had ordered her great-uncle's records, including a beautiful page from the Book of Remembrance.

The Branch has also decided to ask the Museum to archive material from the early years of our Branch so they can be available for people wanting to do research.

Over the past couple of months members of our Branch have been busy with personal and work-related commitments and did not have a lot of time to donate to Genealogy.

At our meeting on March 15th a member of the Library staff demonstrated the use of the Microfiche reader and printer. We reviewed the Microfiche holdings and the books in the Genealogy section of the library and discussed the best way to organize our collection. Plans were made for the Workshop on "Searching Your Eastern European Roots" and we were able to get John Althouse to present the workshop.

At our April 19th meeting we reviewed the plans for the Workshop to be held on May 12, 2012 at the Peace River Library.

We had a very successful Workshop on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at the Peace River Library, with 17 participants present. The Grande Prairie Branch was represented by six members and others came from Manning and the surrounding area.

John Althouse gave an excellent presentation, illustrating the various topics and information with his own search experiences. This method was extremely helpful and participants commented on how much they learned. Members of the Branch hosted a dinner with John on Saturday evening and the discussion of

genealogy and sharing of family lore was a wonderful end to the day. The regular May meeting of the Branch was cancelled.

At our June 21st meeting we reviewed the May Workshop and the article in the May edition of *Relatively Speaking* that Pat Proskurniak had submitted on behalf of our Branch.

Pat Proskurniak and I met at the Peace River Library on August 23 to list all of the Genealogy Branch's holdings. The intent is to have the resources put into the Library database so those interested in genealogy can locate the books.

Wendy Dyck and I attended the Annual AGS Board Retreat at Providence Centre, in Edmonton on September 15-16, 2012. This is the first time each Branch could invite another member. It was great to have more members with a range of knowledge and skills that could add to the ideas that were discussed.

At the October Meeting we discussed how we wished to utilize the remaining money from the Grande Prairie Branch. Some of the funds had been used for the May Workshop on "Searching your Eastern European Roots". The Branch voted to change the date of the Annual meeting to January, so the Annual Meeting will be held on January 17, 2013.

In November Dave McLaughlin, a former member of our Branch spoke about his trip to Ireland to search for his roots and illustrated his talk with a wonderful slide presentation. There were several people from the general public and the members of our Branch present and there was an opportunity to ask questions about his preparation and success in finding information. This is one of many Travelogues that are being scheduled for the coming year organized by the Peace River Library and the Museum with input from our Branch.

In keeping with previous years, there was no Branch meeting scheduled for December.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Wahl, President

Red Deer & District

Meetings are held at LDS Church, 3002 - 47th Avenue in Red Deer on the 4th Wednesday of every month except July, August and December

Members: 68

Meeting Programs

- | | |
|------|---|
| Jan | Lianne Kruger
<i>Sources: Understand & Write</i> |
| Feb | Question & Answers
Share problems Others in the group gave suggestions on how to solve |
| Mar | Sharing Evening & Preparation of Participant Bags for conference |
| Apr | Lianne Kruger
<i>Calendar Changes & Their effect on your Genealogy</i> |
| May | Peter Darby & Lianne Kruger
<i>Webinars</i> |
| June | Potluck Dinner at a member's home in Sylvan Lake |
| Sept | What did you do this summer? |
| Oct | Deanna Bullock
<i>An immigrant case study & resources used over 20 years</i> |
| Nov | Lianne Kruger & others
Different ways to make Christmas presents with photos and such from genealogy |

AGS/AFHS Conference

The first part of 2012 was organizing the Alberta Genealogical Society/Alberta Family History Society (AGS/AFHS) conference held in Red Deer in April. This was organized jointly by Red Deer AGS and AFHS [Calgary]. It was a good opportunity to get to know and work with members of the Calgary group. As well, Red Deer branch members got involved. At our March meeting we had a short program after which everyone helped stuff 225 conference participant goodie bags! The conference was a great success. We were able to return the \$3,000.00 loaned to us from AGS and made money as well. The evaluations were very positive and a joint publication was printed.

City of Red Deer Centennial

The City of Red Deer's Centennial is 2013. We discussed projects that our group could do for the centennial. It was decided that we would compile a booklet of families who lived in Red Deer in 1913 who still have relatives living in Red Deer today. This was begun in the Fall of 2012 and will continue through 2013.

Volunteering

Volunteers continue to put in many hours working at the Archives. The City Archives got new bookcases and so we had to move all of our books into their backroom and then back onto the new bookcases. We donated our old bookcases to the Centennial Society's office.

Executive 2012 - 2013

President	Lianne Kruger
Past President	Peter Darby
Vice President	Dianne Lehr
Secretary	Bev Flinn
Treasurer	May McKinnon
Membership	Betty Barnhill

Committees

Publicity	Ruth Greig
Newsletter	Lianne Kruger
Library	Joanne Allen
Queries	Mary Joan Cornett
Cemetery	Linda McKay

Respectively submitted
Lianne Kruger, President

Wetaskiwin

Executive:

President	Joan Krueger
Vice President	Vacant
Past President	Don Brosius
Secretary	Claudia Malloch
Treasurer	Elaine Young
Membership	Lee Koop
Newsletter	Sharon Aney
Programs, Library	Alice Hoyle
Volunteer Research	Alice Hoyle
Historian	Rosella Plaquin

Our membership was 38

Our volunteer hours were 1047.5

PROJECTS:

Our main project for the year is our annual workshop held in October. This year it was "*Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy: Your Ancestors: the What, Where, How and Why.*" Our guest speakers were very good. Deanna Bullock gave a presentation on Cloud storage and Using census records in our research. John Chalmers spoke on Researching military resources. We received new memberships for Wetaskiwin and one for Edmonton.

Library/Resource Centre:

In the early part of 2012, we were asked by the City of Wetaskiwin Archivist to make alternate arrangements for our meeting location. We had been meeting at the Archives, and our resource centre is located there as well. The Archivist, for personal reasons, decided she was not prepared to come back in the evening to unlock the doors and stay on the premises during the time we were in the Archives building. This caused a bit of a panic for our membership as the available meeting rooms in Wetaskiwin are few and far between. We rented a facility for one month; then our branch member Claudia Malloch was able to make arrangements with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints that would allow us to meet in their church. This has proven to be a wonderful alternative to our previous location, allowing us to access internet for our presentations, and showcase the Family History Center located at the church.

Most of our additions to the resource centre have been donations; however we did purchase the latest David Obee book, "Counting Canada". The resource centre has been allowed to stay on the City Archives premises; we staff the centre each Tuesday from 1:00 – 3:00pm (excluding December, July & August). Thanks to the willing branch members who volunteer their time. Without you, we would not have a viable resource centre.

Volunteer Research:

We had fewer requests in 2012 than in 2011, but nevertheless they were interesting, and kept our volunteers on their toes.

An enquiry from Germany, along with some photos, allowed us to re-connect this person with their second cousin living in Camrose!

We have had requests for information about ancestors buried in local cemeteries; a request for more information relating to the Funeral Cards in the possession of one of our branch members; a request from Venezuela for information on family who came to Alberta; requests for information on how to access adoption records as well as information on how to locate living relatives in Canada.

Thanks to the members of our branch who eagerly step in and assist with these requests – the group effort definitely pays off with positive results for those requesting assistance.

Meeting Presentations during the 2012 year:

January: Library and Archives Canada – how to access the information on their database

February: AGM – no presentation

March: Writing your Family History (Webinar CD)

April: Recap of what was new and exciting at GenFair in Red Deer

May: Digital Writing Tools for Genealogists (Webinar CD)

June: Review of each branch member's Genealogy Progress over the past year

September: Summer Genealogy Discoveries – members shared their “finds” since our last meeting

October: Tour of the Family History Center, and opportunity to learn about the databases available

November: Researching Ships' Lists using various online databases

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Krueger, President

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-laws and Parliamentarian

The year 2012 has been a quiet one with the attendance at the regular Board meetings, the Annual Meeting, the Retreat at the Providence Centre and meetings of the Policies & Procedures Committee.

I had the privilege to assist Board members in their interpretation of the bylaws. Although one believes they are straight forward they do stimulate questions off and on.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members, Board, Branch Executive, 'grass roots' ones and our Office Coordinator for their continued willingness to support the Alberta Genealogical Society.

Respectfully submitted

Jo. Nuthack
Bylaws Chair & Parliamentarian.

Communications

February 2012

An appeal was drafted to all AGS Members in a two-page summary concerning LAC's (Library and Archives Canada) continuing modernization and how their new mandate will affect all researchers in the future. The summary was emailed as a PDF to some, and sent as a Supplement (insert) in the May 2012 *Relatively Speaking* issue. There was an update at the meeting about some new decisions made by LAC effective in Feb 2013, and ways we could get further involved.

Mar-Apr 2012: New AGS Brochure and website redesign

The AGS brochure was overhauled and unveiled at the meeting for critiquing. Some discussion

went on in February about re-skinning the AGS website. Review of aesthetics, organization of information, navigation, material content, bringing the website up-to-date and implementing a Content Manager System (CMS) was talked about. Some wireframes will be shown; design process and budgeting will be discussed.

April 2012: Red Deer's GenFair advertisement

The half-page advertisement to the right was submitted by AGS Communications in March for publication in GenFair's booklet advertising the society's 40th anniversary, April 2013. The cost was \$200. Initially the advert was to be placed on page 14, however somewhere between proofing and the booklet's publication, the announcement shifted to the back page. Good for us!

September 2012: *Relatively Speaking* indexing project:

By late September all issues of *Relatively Speaking* (Fall 1973-Aug 2012) were scanned and keyword searchable in PDF format. All articles were index, with only one issue left — November 2012. Building the subject index and fine tuning author and title indexes, then formatting the tables still is the most laborious task and was underway. Jo Nuthack's 1984 compilation *What's In Relatively Speaking? A Comprehensive Index, Volumes 1 to 10* was a PDF to be included in the published DVD. Despite technology, to date, better than 400 hours have been donated to the project, along with \$800 in equipment use and software. I can't imagine the hours Jo placed in his project with 1983-4 historical technology. Thanks Jo for a great foundation! Please remember, the development of this 40-year index is only an author, title and subject index.

November 2012: Edmonton Branch-AGS letter voicing concern over LAC responsibilities.

Accolades to John Althouse for writing a letter to the federal government regarding the cutbacks and restructuring of LAC; and the future of Canada's documentary heritage.

"Library and Archives Canada (LAC), the federal institution responsible for preserving Canada's history and cultural heritage, is under threat. Badly conceived restructuring, a redefinition of its mandate, and financial cutbacks are undermining LAC's ability to acquire, preserve and make publicly available Canada's full documentary heritage"

December 2012: AGS website:

Since the November 2012 AGS Board meeting, Carey Kennedy (Webmaster) and Lyn Meehan (Communications) have teamed up and are rolling out a new streamlined design for the entire AGS site. The two have brought the freshest ideas with flexible technology to the prototype. A one-hour demo and talk will be provided at the 2 March 2013 Board meeting regarding the new features to emerge throughout 2013.

Late December *Relatively Speaking* indexing project halted to place more energy into website and brochure development.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Meehan, AGS Communications Chair

Conference 2013

The Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) Conference 2013 "*Same Roots, Different Branches*" will be held on Saturday, April 20th and Sunday, April 21st, 2013.

We started preparations for Conference in the Fall of 2012 and in December, Shirley Clarke was nominated and accepted as Conference Co-Chair.

The theme "Same Roots, Different Branches" has a threefold meaning for this Conference.

1. 2013 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Alberta Genealogical Society. The society celebrates the roots of the society and its 11 branches throughout Alberta.
2. We acknowledge ones research into the different branches of their family trees and provide spectacular presentations by interesting and knowledgeable speakers that will certainly assist one in different ideas.
3. Extra effort is being made to connect attendees with other attendees who may be related and find people that belong on their very own branches.

As of December 31, 2012, the Conference Co-Chairs worked on obtaining sponsorship funds to help offset the cost to conference attendees, reserving speakers and vendors, choosing presentations and other preparations.

Our conferences bring together like-minded people, not only from Alberta but often from around Canada and the United States, to learn from our speakers, share new genealogical information and share genealogical adventures with each other. The ambiance and networking accessible and achievable at our conferences is unique. The benefits received from attending a conference in person are greater (and much more fun!) than can be done merely watching webinars online.

Respectfully submitted



Shannon Cherkowski and Shirley Clarke
AGS 2013 Conference Co- Chairs

Gaming

AGS Casino event:

Our next casino event for AGS has been approved for the **3rd Qtr of 2013** (Jul/Aug/Sep) at Century Casino, Edmonton. The actual dates are **July 18 and 19, 2013**. About 50 volunteers are needed – if you can help, please contact me by email at gaming@abgensoc.ca or phone the library at 780-424-4429.

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.

Branch gaming events:

Casino:

All Branches (except Edmonton) are eligible 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, Grande Prairie, Brooks/Medicine Hat, and Fort McMurray 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.

Submitted by
Laura Turnbull, AGS Gaming

Grants/Fundraising 2012

AHRF Sponsorship

In 2012, AGS received \$35,000 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.

Community Spirit Program Grant

We received \$1,764.75 from the Community Spirit Program Grant. We also applied for the next grant in the amount of \$4,709 based on donations received in the 2011 fiscal year. Since that time, Community Spirit Program Grant funding has been eliminated from the 2013 Government of Alberta budget.

Casino

The Alberta Genealogical Society did not work a casino in the 2012 year; \$31,215.98 was deferred from the casino in the 3rd quarter (September

28-29, 2011). For more information, see Laura Turnbull's report on Gaming.

Donations

Donations for AGS and its branches amounted to \$4,590.12 including:

- Provincial Office – \$1,695.00
- Brooks – \$92.00
- Camrose – \$150.00
- Edmonton – \$1,695.00
- Fort McMurray – \$50.00
- Lethbridge – \$210.96
- Peace River – \$70.00
- Red Deer – \$2,322.16

Research

In 2012, AGS raised a total of \$9,220.18 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 – \$9,557.92 (research income), \$631.55 (research donations-Alberta), \$552.60 (research donations-other), library research income (\$675.53); special thanks to members of Edmonton Branch who answer these queries on behalf of AGS
- Brooks – \$200.00
- Edmonton – \$7,878.19
- Grande Prairie – \$199.02
- Lethbridge – \$844.50

Grants and Fundraising at the Branch Level
The branches reported the following to me:

Brooks & District Branch – \$10,703.83

recognized from a casino and \$3, 447.00 in fundraising income which included \$333.00 from a 50/50 draw and \$60.90 from the sale of used books.

Camrose Branch – \$280.00 from sales from Vital Statistics books, and \$0.19 in interest income

Drayton Valley Branch – \$332.50 from workshop profit, \$45.00 from petty cash

donations, \$10.00 from sale of pins, \$25.00 from Book of Indexes CD, \$140.00 from the sale of used books, and \$300.00 from branch courses

Edmonton Branch – \$524.40 in library fees, \$2,040.00 from branch courses, \$496.00 from the sale of used books, \$113.75 from the sale of inventory, and \$657.07 in interest income

Fort McMurray Branch – received \$53,108.00 from a casino; received \$500 from Syncrude, and \$34.52 in interest income

Grande Prairie & District Branch – \$14,000.00 recognized from a casino, \$30.00 from publications, as well as research income as noted above, and \$26.09 in interest income

Lethbridge & District Branch – \$3130.06 from a garage sale, \$62.85 in library fees, \$59.51 from branch courses, \$1,217.00 from the sale of used books, \$800.00 from grant income, as well as research income as noted above, and \$42.38 in interest income

Medicine Hat & District Branch – \$10,703.83 recognized from a casino, \$55.00 in library fees, \$528.60 from branch courses, \$779.29 in fundraising, and \$230.86 in interest income

Peace River & District Branch – \$1000 donation from Peace River branch; and \$534.57 in fundraising

Red Deer & District Branch – \$2000.00 in fundraising

Wetaskiwin Branch – received \$500.00 from the City of Wetaskiwin; \$290.00 in fundraising, and \$100.00 from the sale of inventory

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Rex, Grants/Fundraising

Library

AGS was without a library director until I was appointed in September 2012.

The AGS library and Edmonton Branch library were in the process of being catalogued with new bar codes, by a team of Edmonton Branch volunteers. Win Sebelius was instrumental in the purchasing of (in 2011) and learning how to use the library cataloguing computer program “Resource Mate Plus 3”, a Database Management System. At the end of December the team had almost completed the bar coding process of all books (end of December, about 4,000 barcodes on books and the borrowing cards = about 8,000 stickums). Once all bar codes are on the books, the library holdings should be ready to be uploaded for searching on-line.

We continue to acquire as many Local History books as we can – a resource heavily used in the library by patrons and Research Services.

‘Relatively Speaking’ has been traded for many years with Societies from Canada and around the world. Needing more library shelf space and knowing that members are not reading many of the Newsletters or Society Periodicals, I made the decision to notify 39, Branches and Societies, that we would no longer be exchanging publications for a saving of about \$1,000.00. The Branches do purchase Periodicals that they want for their library. I did assist the Policy and Procedures Committee to update the Library Chair job description which was approved in November.

Submitted
Claudine Nelson, AGS Library Chair

Master Surname Database

We have had some issues and delays in getting the database online this year due to technical, medical and or personal matters, on both my and the database technician’s part. Correspondence and phone calls with OtherMachines have been encouraging yet the task is taking longer than originally anticipated.

The AGS Master Surname database continues to grow, with people contacting us from all over

Alberta, other provinces and countries, submitting transcriptions. The Alberta Genealogical Society Master Surname Database is, as always, a valuable research resource and aids in preserving information for many generations to come.

Respectfully submitted

Shannon Cherkowski, AGSMSD Chair

Membership

The past year has gone by with only a couple of inquiries to my address and no complaints as far as my positions goes.

I have had some inquiries as to the Data Base on line, and I have suggested they call the executive.

I am still trying to go to the AGS office on a regular basis to collect membership renewal forms.

This year I suggested we send out the renewal forms with *Relatively Speaking* where possible and that was accepted. To date I have not heard any complaints about that procedure which will save the organization some money. Postage and paper is about all the membership position uses and only at renewal time. I cannot give a value on this as it is done from the office and therefore would have to be selected out of the regular amount of paper and postage the office uses. Other correspondence is done via email from my home.

Val Peden
AGS Membership Chairperson.

AGS Membership Stats for 2012

Branch Name	2011	2012
AGS all memberships	853	813
Brooks	33	30
Camrose	18	16
Drayton Valley	21	14
Edmonton	498	481
Fort McMurray	18	13
Grande Prairie	64	58
Lethbridge	57	54
Medicine Hat	51	54
Peace River	13	11
Red Deer	73	64
Wetaskiwin	29	38
No Branch	23	20
Memberships (including multiple branches)	894	853
Multiple branch memberships	41	42
Total members served by memberships*	917	983
AGS/Total Members (excluding multiple br)	853	811

- Some memberships are family memberships and therefore the number of members being served is higher than the number of actual memberships.

Policy & Procedures

Following the audit of 2012, the legal advisors for the Society recommended the development of additional policies and procedures within the financial section of the *Operations Manual*. The Manual was completed in December of 2009 and included committee guidelines for a “five year or more frequent review as necessary”. During the May Board Meeting, the committee was re-activated to initiate a review. The committee members appointed: Mary Ann Legris, Executive Officer responsible for Policies & Procedures; Jo Nuthack, Parliamentarian; Sandra Vaneldik, Past President and Linda Winski, Office Coordinator were members of the committee responsible for the development of the *Operations Manual*; Lynn Carrier, Treasurer; and Les Campbell, President, *ex officio member*.

The committee met in June and, over the summer months, prepared ten financial policies and procedures that were approved at the September Retreat Board meeting. During the Retreat, the

committee met with the Branch Presidents to review the *Operations Manual*. Many suggestions were received aimed mostly at making the Manual more 'user-friendly'. Two suggestions stood out: 1) placing all of the finance material into one section and 2) creating a separate *Handbook for Treasurers* which would contain all of the finance material plus information regarding budgeting and bookkeeping specifics.

Once all the finance policies and procedures were placed into one section of the Manual, it became apparent to the committee that a reorganization of the Manual as a whole was necessary. Over the Fall months nine more procedures were written or amended and approved by the Board, and the reorganization began. Lynn Carrier assisted with the finance material until the time of her resignation. The Manual reorganization has taken place and the *Handbook for Treasurers* has been completed. The revised *Operations Manual* will be a part of the Orientation for New Presidents planned for the March 2013 Board Meeting. The Branches will have several months to use the Manual and Handbook before the September Retreat when another review session will be held with the Branch Presidents.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Legris, Chair
Policies & Procedures Committee

Publications

During 2012 there were nine requests for cemetery listings from the AGS Master Surname Database. Thirty-three files were converted to PDF format and sent electronically to the purchasers. There was one sale 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.

Submitted by
Norma Wolowyk

Relatively Speaking

Again we have had the good fortune of a full bank of material from which to select articles for publication throughout 2012 with many written on similar topics enabling us to group them in a mini-theme format in individual issues.

We continued, as always, to strive for balance in selected articles with the hope that readers will glean some tidbits from the experiences our authors so interestingly chronicle that will help them with their own research. We have been heartened with the connections made by readers from some of these articles and the feedback we, as a group, continue to receive.

We have been most appreciative of the continued support from contributors, both AGS members and non-members alike. We are also very appreciative of the volunteers who stepped forward to replace Shirley Machan and Pat Pettitt so that Spinning Webs and Gleanings could continue. Denise Daubert now prepares Spinning Webs, and Hal and Lesley O'Neil now prepare Gleanings. Other changes to our committee this year included Peter Williams moving to the west coast; however he has assured us he will continue to contribute material to us for publication.

Early in the year we put our collective heads together to come up with useful replacements for the library segment that we realized would not continue. We hit upon a "Visiting Alberta's Past" and "From the Branches" segments which we hope will succeed and grow. To that end we published an article on the Leduc Grain Elevator, structures that are fast becoming things of the past, and the historic St. Margaret's Church in Deville. A commentary from Fort McMurray on their flood, the lessons learned and how to avoid a recurrence provided good warning to all branches; and Edmonton Branch president John

Althouse listed some new initiatives that Edmonton Branch is undertaking. With each of these new segments we hope to receive input from the branches that reflect the uniqueness of their locale and events that might prove helpful to others.

We extend our thanks all our committee members along with the regular feature contributors for their ongoing efforts. We also wish to acknowledge the strong support we receive from the AGS Board, without which the quality of *Relatively Speaking* would be diminished.

As in previous years we did submit one our 2011 *Relatively Speaking* issues to the FFHS Elizabeth Simpson Award. Unfortunately we did not place in any of their criteria and the Overseas Category, that we were fortunate to win in 2008, was not included in their listing. We did not receive any feedback from their judging committee on any category changes or the performance of the entries which was disappointing. Our purpose for entering this competition is primarily to receive positive critiquing to assist us in the continuing improvement of *Relatively Speaking*. We will submit an entry in 2013 and make mention of our wish for improved dialogue.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors, *Relatively Speaking*

Research Services

The **Research Services Committee** for both AGS and Edmonton Branch began meeting each Friday at the AGS Library in 1999 and has continued to do so since that year.

Participating during 2012 were Phil Bentley, Gordon Berdahl, Shannon Cherkowski, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Shirley Machan, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, Win Sebelius and Norma Wolowyk. Although not an official member of the Research Committee

Peter Skitsko gave invaluable assistance on queries relating to Eastern Europe, his expertise has solved many a language and name spelling challenge during 2012.

Each week committee members selected queries, did research in the AGS library and at other local institutions, and responded by e-mail from their own home or by mailing correspondence. A query database was compiled of surnames researched, submitter's name, locality of inquiry and the ID number assigned to each query. Sheila Majeau maintained this query database on computer during 2012 and also processed credit card payments.

Charges billed were fifty cents per page of photocopying and two dollars per page of computer printout from the AGS Master Databank. Also, clients were encouraged to send additional monies to the Society in appreciation of the volunteer commitment given to their queries. These funds ranged from a few dollars to \$1500 in 2012.

Besides using the resources of the Society's library, 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 research a query. They also accessed family history information, on behalf of clients, through their own subscriptions to paid genealogical sites. 346 queries were received by AGS during 2012. As Edmonton Branch AGS received 343, the total queries handled by the Committee was 689 during the year, this was 17 queries more than in 2011. The majority of queries arrived by email through links on the AGS Website and Edmonton Branch Website.

Most of the queries received related to specific families, with the others generally relating to Society membership, how to obtain vital statistics certificates, recommended genealogical software, cemetery information, how to research, etc. Using the online AGS Homestead Databases we were able to assist families applying for the Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award by

providing copies of census and homestead records. Copies of land records were charged at \$10 plus 50 cents per page of copy, with the average file six to twelve pages.

About 50% of initial requests arrived because the client had found a reference on the land files or local history book databases on the AGS website. In about 90% of these cases research progressed to burial records, local history books, newspaper articles, vital records information, etc.

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 2012. The Committee celebrated an appreciation lunch funded by Edmonton Branch AGS in early December.

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.

Submitted by:
Norma Wolowyk

Retreat

First of all, I wish to thank my fellow Committee Members, Susan Haga and Nestor Martinez for their generous time and energy commitments in helping make the 2012 Retreat a reality and a success. Also, the wise council from the AGS Executive, helped us deal with the challenges of scheduling and budgeting. And finally, thank you to the Board members, the branch reps and the guests who attended, allowing us to show increased numbers and total representation from all eleven branches, a trend we hope continues. Twenty one members and guests booked rooms at the Providence Centre and ate their meals there. Twenty eight attended supper on Saturday.

The Retreat Committee advocates that the inclusion of guests from the branches and their introduction to AGS operations at the provincial level, is an important aspect in the continuing strength and vibrancy of the Society. From the positive feedback received, we are encouraged to continue planning retreats with a 'branch - centered', sharing focus, around various relevant topics. We are of the mind that a Retreat should provide an opportunity for branch successes and concerns to be shared in a relaxed, comfortable setting. It should be different and distinct from the more formal structure of a Genfair or Conference.

Feedback also indicated that a Policies and Procedures Operations Manual Review session should be scheduled at every Retreat, for member awareness and to ensure an opportunity for updating is always available. As well, the very popular 'Operations Manual Jeopardy Game', courtesy of Nestor Martinez, will reappear at the 2013 Retreat, the second time it is back by popular demand!

Your support and specific suggestions on the feedback forms was greatly appreciated, giving us new ideas for Retreat 2013, which is coming together nicely. Please mark your calendars for the weekend of September 27 - 29 at the Providence Centre in Edmonton, for the 2013 Retreat. All AGS Executive, Board members and Committee heads are automatically included and invited. Plan on attending and bringing a guest from your membership to represent your branch, for an informative, informal weekend amongst friends in a unique setting. We'll see you there!

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Maxwell

Alberta Genealogical Society

3-Year Budget

		2013B		2014B		2015B	
		Debits	Credits	Debits	Credits	Debits	Credits
REVENUE TOTALS:							
4019	MEMBERSHIPS		32,000.00		32,000.00		32,000.00
4029	DONATIONS		1,400.00		1,400.00		1,400.00
4119	AGLC GRANTS & FUNDRAISINGS		41,850.00		41,350.00		41,350.00
4129	NON-AGFL FUNDRAISING		10,000.00		10,000.00		10,000.00
4159	PROVINCIAL GRANTS		36,500.00		33,000.00		33,000.00
4299	EVENTS (CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP)		33,715.00				
4319	LIBRARY INCOME		250.00		250.00		250.00
4439	PUBLICATIONS		1,250.00		1,250.00		1,250.00
4459	INVENTORY SALES		200.00		200.00		200.00
4499	RESEARCH		12,100.00		12,100.00		12,100.00
4530	INVESTMENT INCOME		1,100.00		1,100.00		1,100.00
			170,365.00		132,650.00		132,650.00
EXPENSE TOTALS:							
5029	AGS MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES	1,600.00		1,600.00		1,600.00	
5199	BRANCH SUPPORT EXPENSES	2,400.00		2,400.00		2,400.00	
5249	PURCHASE of GOODS & SERVICES	18,200.00		16,600.00		16,600.00	
5399	EVENTS (Conf/Wrkshp) EXPENSES	31,750.00					
5499	FACILITY EXPENSES	51,700.00		51,200.00		51,200.00	
5549	GRANTS/FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	550.00		500.00		500.00	
5599	LIBRARY EXPENSES	2,100.00		2,100.00		2,100.00	
5649	MEETING EXPENSES	21,500.00		19,900.00		19,900.00	
5799	OFFICE EQUIP & FURNIHINGS	1,000.00		1,000.00		1,000.00	
5899	OTHER ADMIN EXPENSES	15,650.00		12,350.00		12,350.00	
5919	WAGES & BENEFITS	23,725.00		23,725.00		23,725.00	
		170,175.00	170,365.00	131,375.00	132,650.00	131,375.00	132,650.00
			190.00		1,275.00		1,275.00

Comparison 2012 Approved Budget vs. Year-end Trial Balance

Account No	Account Description	2012 A		2012 B in 2012		2012 B vs. A	
		Debits	Credits	Debits	Credits	Debits	Credits
4010	Memberships		31,302.10		32,000		-697.90
4091	Alberta Individuals Donations		1,185.00		2,000		-815.00
4092	Donations - Other		180.00		1,000		-820.00
4111	Casino Income		31,215.98		57,600		-
						26,384.02	
4151	Alberta Heritage Grant		35,000.00		35,000		0.00
4152	Community Spirit Grant		1,764.75		500		1,264.75
4350	Research Income		675.53				675.53
4420	Do Not Use		-951.60				-951.60
4431	Relatively Speaking		1,248.00		3,000		-1,752.00
4451	Sale of Pins		145.00				145.00
4495	Research Income		9,557.92		10,000		-442.08
4496	Research Donations - Alberta Indiv		631.55		600		31.55
4497	Research Donations - Other		552.60		400		152.60
4910	Interest Income		1,097.83		1,000		97.83
5010	Membership Expenses	290.58		350		-59.42	
5011	Membership Awards & Certificates	549.09		650		-100.91	
5111	Casino Expenses	-49.63				-49.63	
5312	Library Acquisitions	240.40		500		-259.60	
5340	Membership in Other Gen Soc	80.82				80.82	
5420	Relatively Speaking printing & post	10,236.16		10,500		-263.84	
5450	Do Not Use	2,224.23				2,224.23	
5495	Research Expenses	2,681.70		4,500		-1,818.30	
5496	AGS Online Databases	2,450.00		5,000		-2,550.00	
5511	Employee Wages	20,025.41		22,275		-2,249.59	
5512	Employer's Share of CPP	818.02		850		-31.98	
5513	Employer's Share of EI	513.04		550		-36.96	
5514	Workers Compensation	302.40		325		-22.60	
5518	Other Travel	7.81				7.81	
5521	Rent	36,440.34		39,000		-2,559.66	
5522	Insurance	7,113.00		7,500		-387.00	
5524	Internet, Telephone & Fax	1,167.99		1,500		-332.01	
5531	Office Supplies	1,009.69		3,100		-2,090.31	
5551	Hotels and Mileage	8,596.95		10,000		-1,403.05	
5552	Food & Beverages	167.00				167.00	
5553	Conference Calls	764.35		2,500		-1,735.65	
5554	Annual Retreat	6,350.89		7,000		-649.11	
5556	Printing and Photocopying for meetings	1,209.59				1,209.59	
5558	Other Travel	329.45		500		-170.55	
5563	Drayton Valley Branch Support	300.00		584		-284.00	
5567	Lethbridge Branch Support	2,141.50		4,172		-2,030.50	
5569	Branch Support - Peace River	125.00		244		-119.00	
5581	Professional Fees	7,348.28		4,500		2,848.28	
5582	Presidents Discretionary Fund	469.11		2,500		-2,030.89	
5583	Education	281.87		500		-218.13	
5591	Publicity	200.00		3,100		-2,900.00	
5597	Bank Charges	174.37		500		-325.63	
5598	Credit Card Charges	784.12		1,000		-215.88	
		115,343.53	113,604.66	133,700	143,100	(18,356)	(29,495)
		-1,738.87		9,400		-11,139	

Alberta Genealogical Society

Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6

Phone: (780) 424-4429 Fax: (780) 423-8980

Email: agsoffice@abgensoc.ca Website: <http://abgensoc.ca/>

2012 Branch Contact Information

Brooks & District Branch

President: David Fionn Clarke
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4
Phone: (403) 362-2732
Website:
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: Sharon Olsen
103B, 4917 – 68 Street
Camrose AB T4V 4T8
Phone: (780) 672-0899
Website: <http://camrose.abgensoc.ca>
Meets second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Camrose Public Library,
Downstairs Boardroom

Drayton Valley Branch

Board Rep: Arlene Hedlund
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: John Althouse
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.
Place: 14315 – 118 Avenue
Edmonton, AB

Ft. McMurray Branch

President: Alexander Payne
Hill Drugs Bldg.
10011 Franklin Ave.
Ft. McMurray, AB T9H 2K7
Phone: (780) 743-8904
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: Maxine Maxwell
P.O. Box 1257
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1
Phone: (780) 766-2920
Email: gp@abgensoc.ca
Website: <http://gp.abgensoc.ca/>
Meets third Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Grande Prairie Public Library
101, 9839 – 103 Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB

Lethbridge & District Branch

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

Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Clark Lang
P.O. Box 971
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8
Phone: (403) 526-5188
Email: mhgs@telus.net
www.mhgs.abgensoc.ca/
Meets first Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
974 – 13th 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
Website: rootsweb.com/~abprdgs/
Meets third Thursday, 7 p.m.
Peace River Library
Peace River, AB

Red Deer & District Branch

President: Lianne Kruger
P. O. Box 922
Red Deer, AB T4N 5H3
Phone: (403) 347-1826
Email: rdbags@telus.net
Website: www.rdgensoc.ab.ca
Meets fourth Wednesday, 7 p.m.
LDS Church
3002 – 47 Avenue
Red Deer, AB

Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Joan Krueger
RR! Site 10 Box 18
Millet, AB T0C 1Z0
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0
Phone: (780) 387-4978
Email: wetaskiwin@abgensoc.ca
Website:
<http://wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ca/>
Meets third Tuesday (except July, August and December) at 7 p.m.
Wetaskiwin Branch Resource Centre
4904 – 51 Street
Wetaskiwin, AB

