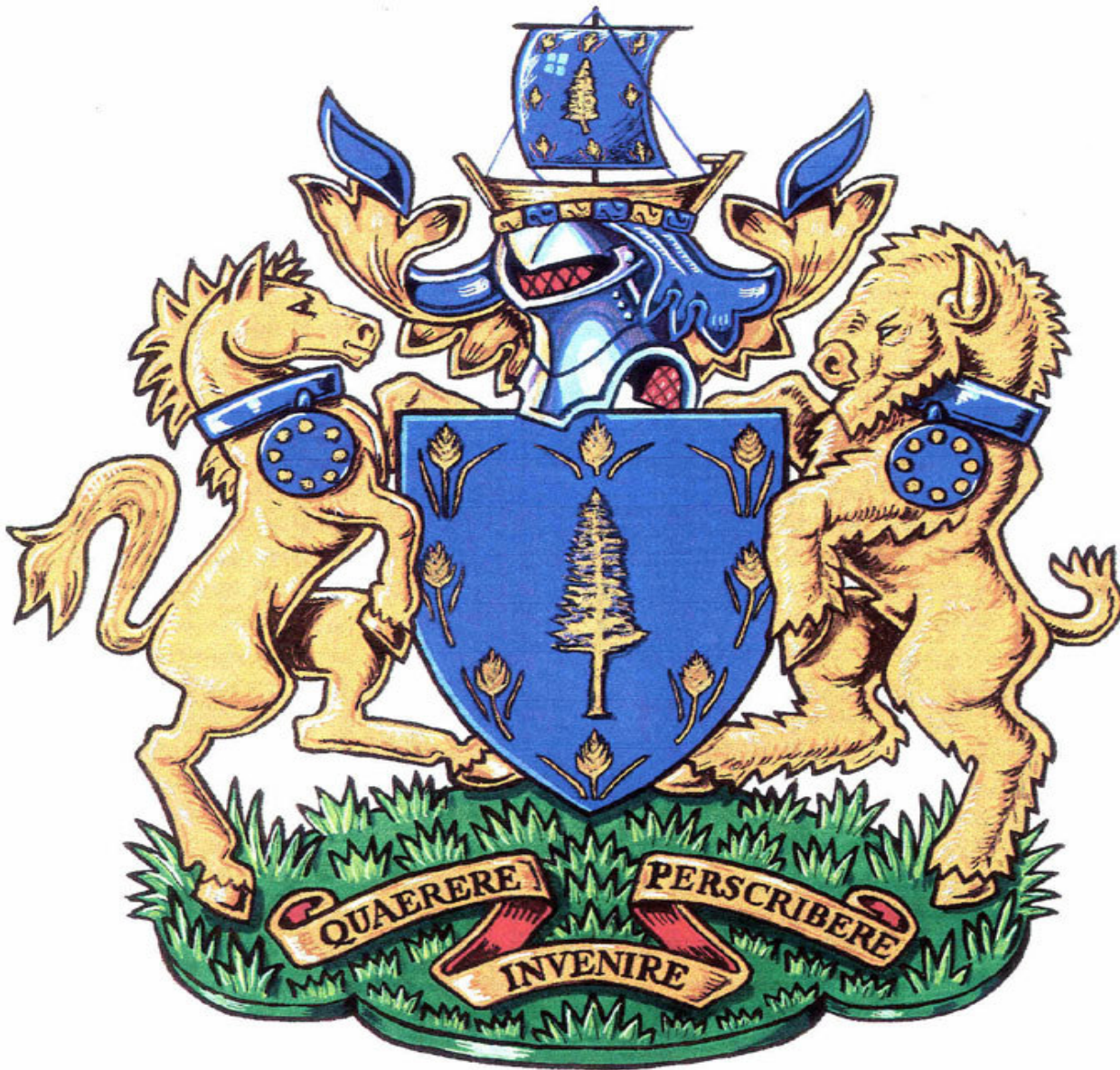


Alberta Genealogical Society



2013 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

26 April 2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of Dec. 31, 2013)

Officers

President (acting)	Susan Haga
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	Robert Franz
Camrose	Janine Carroll
Drayton Valley	Colleen Anderson
Edmonton	Lynne Duigou
Ft. McMurray	Alexander Payne
Grande Prairie	Jean Smith Gray
Lethbridge	Doug McLeod
Medicine Hat	Doreen Schank
Peace River	Joan Wahl
Red Deer	Diane Lehr
Wetaskiwin	Joan Krueger

Standing Committees

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

Other Committees and Appointments

Archivist	Mary Ann Legris
Bylaws	Jo Nuthack
Cemetery Database	Shannon Cherkowski
Communications/Public Relations/Publicity	Lyn Meehan
Conference 2013 Co-Chairs	Shannon Cherkowski Shirley Clarke
Electronic Services	John Hazelwood
Facilities	Wayne Harker
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Historian	vacant
Legal Advisor	Sharon Roberts
Liaison with Genealogical Societies	Sue Philips
Library & Research Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Val Peden
Parliamentarian	Jo Nuthack
Policies & Procedures	Mary Ann Legris
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking Editor (acting)	John Althouse
Relatively Speaking Mailing	George Shreeves
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Translations	Sue Philips
Treasurer	Susan McKeen
Website (acting)	Laura Turnbull

AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Linda Winski
Bookkeeper	Alice Muntjewerff

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the society are:

- ✓ To promote the study of genealogy and genealogical research within the Province of Alberta.
- ✓ To encourage adherence to accuracy and thoroughness in research.
- ✓ To encourage and instruct members in ethical principles, scientific methods and effective techniques of genealogical research and defend the standards of genealogy from incompetent and disreputable persons.
- ✓ To assemble a library of genealogical guides, handbooks, reference sources, family and local histories, and other books and materials which may assist the members, all of which will be available to members.
- ✓ To publish such bulletins, booklets, pamphlets, or other documents as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board of the Society and to make the same available to the members and others on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board.
- ✓ To establish friendly relations with other genealogical societies for exchange of ideas and information and the promotion of common interests.
- ✓ To enter into arrangements with other genealogical societies for the publication of bulletins, booklets, books, pamphlets, or other documents on such terms and conditions as may be found desirable and expedient by the Board.
- ✓ To promote seminars and workshops on genealogical research and methodology and such other studies as may seem helpful to the members.
- ✓ To provide a centre and suitable meeting place for various activities of the Society and its members by rent or purchase or otherwise.
- ✓ To encourage the establishment of Branches of the Society under such terms and conditions as the Bylaws of the Society may from time to time provide.
- ✓ To achieve the foregoing objects, funds may be raised and donations, gifts, legacies and bequests accepted.

Registered 25 May 2001

Highlights of 2013

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

- Active since 1973
- Serving **931** members throughout 11 branches around the province
- Contributing over **30,000** volunteer hours reported in 2013
- 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 over **3000** visitors to the library in 2013
- Celebrating the **40th** anniversary of the Alberta Genealogical Society
- Completing Volume II of the Alberta Genealogical Society History (1998 – 2013) **NEW LEAVES**
- Honoring the Society at our **annual conference**, 'Same Roots, Different Branches' with a record attendance of 313 people.
- Planning a course to introduce genealogy to children and youth
- Holding the **annual September Retreat** for Executive and Board members to unify as a Society and discuss our goals
- 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 and headstones.)
- Volunteering in community libraries, museums, archives and other facilities to raise public awareness of our Society and our efforts
- Responding to **579** research queries in 2013
- **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
- Securing funding through membership fees, sponsorship monies from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Edmonton Heritage Council, donations, gaming events and other activities in local communities
- Maintaining two part-time staff



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

Table of Contents

Highlights	3
Table of Contents	4
Agenda	5
Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting	6
Awards Presented at the 2013 AGM	10
Executive Reports	
President	11
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	17
Edmonton	18
Fort McMurray	19
Grande Prairie & District	20
Lethbridge & District	21
Medicine Hat & District	22
Peace River	23
Red Deer & District	23
Wetaskiwin	24
Committee Reports	
Bylaws & Parliamentary	25
Cemetery Database	25
Communications, Public Relations & Publicity	25
Conference	26
Gaming	27
Grants & Fundraising	27
Library	28
Membership	28
Policy & Procedures	29
Publications	29
Relatively Speaking	29
Research	30
Retreat	31
Three Year Budget	32
Comparison 2012 Approved with year end balance	33

**ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2014
PARKVIEW COMMUNITY LEAGUE HALL – EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER – SUSAN HAGA
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. APPROVAL - MINUTES OF THE 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
4. INTRODUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE AND BOARD DIRECTORS – SANDRA VANELDIK
 - PRESIDENT – SUSAN HAGA
 - 1ST VICE PRESIDENT – LIANNE KRUGER
 - 2ND VICE PRESIDENT – MAXINE MAXWELL
 - VICE PRESIDENT – FINANCE (Interim) – JOCK HOWARD
 - SECRETARY – MARY ANN LEGRIS
 - PAST PRESIDENT – LIAM HOBBS
 - DIRECTORS – BRANCH PRESIDENTS
 1. BROOKS – ROBERT FRANZ
 2. CAMROSE – JANINE CARROLL
 3. DRAYTON VALLEY – CONNIE STUHL
 4. EDMONTON – LYNNE DUIGOU
 5. FORT McMURRAY – TAMMY GRANTHAM
 6. GRANDE PRAIRIE – JEAN GRAY
 7. LETHBRIDGE – DOUG McLEOD
 8. MEDICINE HAT – DOREEN SHANK
 9. PEACE RIVER – JOAN WAHL
 10. RED DEER – DIANE LEHR
 11. WETASKIWIN – DIANE STROHSCHNEIN
 - COMMITTEE CHAIRS – AS LISTED
5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
6. ACCEPTANCE OF EXECUTIVE, BRANCH, AND COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS.
7. FINANCIAL REPORTS – JOCK HOWARD, VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE
 - 2013 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 - ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 - BUDGET 2014 – 2016
 - APPROVAL – BUDGET
 - APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2014
8. RESOLUTION OF RESPECT – FRANK EASTON
9. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – SUSAN HAGA
- ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the
ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (AGS)
40th Annual General Meeting
Saturday, April 20, 2013
Chateau Louis Conference Centre, Edmonton Alberta

ATTENDANCE:

Surname	Given Name	Branch	Surname	Given Name	Branch
ALLRED	Sharon	Lethbridge	FEARNLEY	Ken	Edmonton
ANEY	Sharon	Wetaskiwin	FINN	Bonnie	Edmonton
ALTHOUSE	John	Edmonton	FINN	Neal	Edmonton
ANDERSON	Carol	Brooks	FISKE	Lorraine	Edmonton
ATCHESON	Bob	Edmonton	FRANZ	Robert	Brooks
ASTLE	Marilyn	Edmonton	FRENCH	Eileen	Brooks
BANASCH	Jacqueline	Edmonton	FOGWILL	Lynn	Edmonton
BEAUDIN	Laura	Edmonton	FORSYTH	Pamela	Edmonton
BECKER	Gordon	Red Deer	GERRETSEN	Jeff	Edmonton
BELL	Randy	Edmonton	GIBBS	Linda	Edmonton
BELL	Sharon	Edmonton	GLASS	Alison	AGS
BENDER	Melvin	Medicine Hat	GLEISNER	Kathy	Medicine Hat
BERDAHL	Gordon	Edmonton	GOA	Adele	Edmonton
BLACKLEY	Barbara	Edmonton	GRAY	Jean	Grande Prairie
BOYD	Stewart	Edmonton	GREBEN	Patricia	Grande Prairie
BRADLEY	Judy	Edmonton	GREEN	Joan	Edmonton
BRENNEIS	Marina A.	Edmonton	GREGORY	Shirley	Edmonton
BROMLING	Al	Grande Prairie	GREGORY	Terry	Edmonton
BROWN	Laura	Edmonton	HAGA	Susan	Lethbridge
CABLE	Florence	Edmonton	HARTLEY	Mary L.	Edmonton
CAMPBELL	Les	Edmonton	HAZELWOOD	John	Edmonton
CATHCART	Gloria	Edmonton	HEDLUND	Arlene	Drayton Valley
CHALMERS	John	Edmonton	HINDMARCH	Marilyn	Edmonton
COOPER	Janet	Edmonton	HOLMES	Ian	Edmonton
CORBETT	Mary Joan	Edmonton	HOPE	Lorraine	Edmonton
CORBETT	Rick	Edmonton	HOUSTON	C. Lorraine	Red Deer
CORBETT	Sharon	Edmonton	HOUVING	Dianne	Edmonton
COUPER	Bonita	Edmonton	HOWARD	Jock	Fort McMurray
DAUBERT	Denise	Edmonton	HOYLE	Alice	Wetaskiwin
DAVIDSON	Darlene	Edmonton	HUMENULO	Jeannette	Edmonton
DIMITROFF	Doreen	Edmonton	HUTCHISON	Brian	Edmonton
DUCKETT	Doreen	Edmonton	ISELY	Sherry	Edmonton
DUNCAN	Grant	Edmonton	IWAASA	Clara	Brooks
DYER	Sharon	Edmonton	JABUSCH	Patricia A.	Edmonton
EASTON	Frank	Edmonton	JOHNSON	Peter D. G.	Edmonton
EDWARDS	Natalie	Edmonton	JONES	Amanda	Edmonton
ENNS	Sharon	Edmonton	JONES	Verna	Edmonton
ETTY	Vivian	Edmonton	KNOBLICK	Faye	Medicine Hat
			KRAUSS	Lorraine	Edmonton

KRUEGER	Joan	Wetaskiwin	ROGERS	Robert J.	Edmonton
LEGRIS	Mary Ann	Edmonton	RONAGHAN	Allen	Edmonton
LEGRIS	Maurice	Edmonton	RONAGHAN	Shirley	Edmonton
LEHR	Diane	Red Deer	ROSS	Carolynne	Edmonton
LOCOCK	Tony	Edmonton	SCHAU	Gail	Grande Prairie
MALLOCK	Claudia	Wetaskiwin	SCHANK	Doreen	Medicine Hat
MAXWELL	Maxine	Grande Prairie	SCHWERING	Marilyn	Edmonton
MAYNARD	Bob	Wetaskiwin	SCHWERING	Nick	Edmonton
MAYNARD	Suzanne	Edmonton	SCOTT	David	Edmonton
MACPHERSON	Bobbie	Wetaskiwin	SEREDA	Joan	Edmonton
MCDONALD	Jane	Edmonton	SHOPKA	Lynda	Grande Prairie
MCKEEN	Susan	Edmonton	SIMS	Marion	Edmonton
MCLEOD	Doug	Lethbridge	SPLCHEN	Marilyn	Edmonton
MEEHAN	Lyn	Edmonton	STAPLES	Marjorie	Edmonton
MORGAN	Drae	Edmonton	SYDORA	Louise	Edmonton
MORRISON	Nan	Edmonton	THOMSON	Blanche	Edmonton
NAJDA	Henry	Brooks	TRONIAK	Neal	Edmonton
NELSON	Claudine	Edmonton	TRONIAK	Sharon	Edmonton
NELSON	Merna	Drayton Valley	TRUMPOUR	Ivy	Edmonton
NICHOLS	Janet	Edmonton	TUFTS	Bev	Lethbridge
NICOLL	Wendee	Edmonton	TURNBULL	Laura	Edmonton
NORDEN	Karyn	Brooks	TURNER	Dawn	Red Deer
NUTHACK	Jo	Edmonton	VANELDIK	Fred	Edmonton
NUTHACK	Judy	Edmonton	VANELDIK	Sandra	Edmonton
O'NEIL	Lesley	Edmonton	WARDS	Shona	Edmonton
PATERSON	Kurt	Edmonton	WILLOUGHBY	Vic	Red Deer
PERKINS	Louise	Edmonton	WOROBEC	Dennis	Edmonton
PETTITT	Pat	Edmonton	WORKMAN	Paul	Edmonton
POLLOWAY	Margaret	Edmonton	WOOD	Katherine	Edmonton
POSCH	Helen	Edmonton	YURKEWICH	Shirley	Edmonton
PURCHA	Ken	Edmonton			
PURIN	Barbara	Edmonton			
REX	Marion	Edmonton			

Total of 140 attendees.

1. Call to Order:

The 40th Annual General Meeting was called to order at 12:45 P.M. by Les Campbell, President.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

MOVED by Vic Willoughby that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

Seconded by Doug McLeod

Carried

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting:

MOVED by Bob Atcheson that the Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting be approved as presented in the Annual Report.

Seconded by Marion Rex

Carried

4. Executive, Branch and Committee Reports:

Les Campbell, President, briefly discussed items within his report which are a part of his vision for our Society: to become a more visual, available and efficient Society:

- A committee of educators is preparing a program to promote genealogy to the youth,
- A team is developing website renewal.
- A committee is reviewing and updating the Operations Manual,
- Webinar meetings are being considered for Board meeting during the winter months, and
- All positions on the Executive are filled.

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

Seconded by Marilyn Astle

Carried

5. 2012 Audited Financial Statements, 2013 – 2015 Budget, and Auditor for 2013:

Jock Howard, Vice President of Finance, gave an overview of the financial management during 2012. He reviewed and explained all aspects of the Financial Statements, received by the attendees, and the Three Year Budget as presented in the Annual Report.

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

Seconded by Marilyn Hindmarch

Carried

MOVED by Jock Howard that the firm of Kouri, Berezan, & Heinrichs Chartered Accountants be appointed the Auditor for 2013.

Seconded by Marion Rex

Carried

6. Elections Report: Sandra Vaneldik, Past President

By acclamation:

Second Vice-President – Maxine Maxwell

Secretary – Mary Ann Legris

Proposed Bylaw Change:

- Addition of a Policy and Procedure Committee as a Standing Committee 6.5.4

Ballots mailed: 820

Ballots returned: 185

YES vote : 177

NO vote : 6

Spoiled ballot: 2

Carried

- Nominations Committee consists of the Past President or other past member of the board and the two Executive Officers not standing for Office in the nomination year. 6.3.2 – 6.3.5

Ballots mailed: 820

Ballots returned: 182

YES vote: 176

NO vote: 6

Spoiled ballot: 0

Carried

MOVED by Marion Rex that the ballots be destroyed;

Seconded by Lesley O'Neil

Carried

7. 2012 Resolution of Respect: Frank Easton

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

Betty Jean Killaly	#3059	Wetaskiwin	Jan 2, 2012
Ron Becker	#3516	Medicine Hat	Jan 4, 2012
John Gosior	#1531	Edmonton	Jan 20, 2012
Andrea Lukawiecki	#5073	Red Deer	Mar 18, 2012
Lila Nagel	#1473	Red Deer	May 2, 2012
Ken Hodgins	#5629	Edmonton	May 14, 2012
Elsie Seefeldt	#3814	Brooks	Aug 6, 2012
Clair Ellis	#1189	Red Deer	Aug 12, 2012
Blanche Cherrington	#3605	Drayton Valley	Oct 2, 2012
Al Richards	#2408	Grande Prairie	Dec 18, 2012

And do stand in silent tribute to their memory.

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

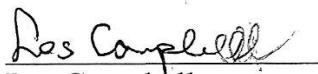
Seconded by Jo Nuthack

Carried

8. ADJOURNMENT – Les Campbell @ 1:18PM

Respectfully submitted:


Mary Ann Legris
Secretary


Les Campbell
President

Awards Presented at 2013 AGM

Long Term Membership Awards (25 years):

Iris Campbell	Edmonton Branch
Ivy Trumpour & Jack Twells	Edmonton Branch
Barbara Brazier	Wetaskiwin Branch
Laverne & Bruce Cormier	Ft. McMurray Branch
Richard McNeill	Edmonton Branch
Ian Holmes	Edmonton Branch
Teresa & Richard Parasynchuk	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Arthur & Sylvia Avery	Ft. McMurray Branch

Life Membership Awards

Fran Moore	Grande Prairie & District Branch
B. Joan Bowman	Grande Prairie & District Branch

Special Mention Awards

John Althouse	Edmonton Branch
Leanne Balfour	Medicine Hat & District Branch
Susan Haga	Lethbridge & District Branch

Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards

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

Certificate 2. Best Original Article awarded to Wetaskiwin Branch
for *Sheepskin Coats on the Prairies* by Sharon Aney, May 2012 Vol. 10 No. 3

Kenneth Young Award Plaque for Best overall branch newsletter awarded to
Saamis Seeker, Medicine Hat & District Branch (AGS)

Presidents Award

Wayne Harker	Edmonton Branch
--------------	-----------------

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President - Susan Haga

On November 4, 2013, Les Campbell resigned as President and I assumed the role and duties of President of the Society. I have to admit that I have felt a bit overwhelmed...like being on a roller coaster ride as things have moved very quickly since November. This report endeavours to recap the past year and provide highlights of our accomplishments in 2013.

We celebrated our 40th Anniversary in 2013 and held a great conference "Same Roots, Different Branches" at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre in April. There was a record attendance of 313 people! Congrats go to Shannon Cherkowski and her Conference Committee. In honour of our 40th Anniversary, John Althouse completed Volume II of "*New Leaves*" *The History of the Alberta Genealogical Society* (1998-2013).

During the summer, under the direction of the Cemetery Database Committee and Les Campbell, the Cemetery Database was finally put online for use by all members. It has 700,000 entries.

As First V.P., I was a member of the planning committee for our annual Retreat held in September at the Providence Renewal Centre. I also conducted a session on 'Climbing Over Our Brick Walls' at the Retreat.

In November, the first order of business after taking the reins as Acting President was to order the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) pins, now available from the AGS Library. The pins closely resemble the original design (perhaps slightly larger) and are very appealing.

At our November 23rd Board meeting, Dr. Hugh McKenzie, Director of the Grant MacEwan Historical Cemeteries Project presented an overview of the project and explained how we, as AGS members, might get involved. Other organizations have become involved in this project including the Alberta Family Histories Society, CanGenWeb Cemetery Project and Canadian Headstones Photo Project. After the meeting, information was sent to all the Branch

Presidents with the challenge to discuss it among their branch members and send ideas and results of their discussion to the Board prior to the February Board meeting.

Also at the November meeting, Lyn Meehan, Communications, Public Relations and Publicity Chair, was asked to contact four website design companies and prepare a detailed proposal for the Executive by January 2014 so we could review it and provide information to the Board before the February 2014 meeting.

2013 was a challenging year for the Relatively Speaking Editorial Committee as both Peter Williams and Peter Staveley, Editor of Relatively Speaking, suffered illnesses. John Althouse assumed the duties of Editor on an acting basis.

The AGS has been falling short of meeting our membership goals. One program used to increase membership is the Outreach program. One way to reach "outside the box" is to make our Society visible and desirable to others. John Althouse is truly a believer in this program and has done a lot as the Outreach Coordinator. Following are some of the projects he has been involved with this past year:

- He prepared the Edmonton Branch plan for the Heritage festival held in July.
- He gave an interview to the St. Albert Gazette about the Charles Denny Collection. He was also interviewed on CBC Radio about Genealogy.
- He worked with Marion Rex planning a course to introduce genealogy to children and youth and he prepared a brochure on "Tracing Your Family Tree" course.

This year, with the assistance of Marion Rex, we applied for two new grants from the Edmonton Heritage Council (City of Edmonton) that we hope to receive in 2014. We continue to be grateful for the substantial grant we receive from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, contributions from a Casino and donations. It has been a year of accomplishments and a very busy one for me since November.

First Vice President - Susan Haga

As I reflect on the past two years as First V.P. and as my responsibilities have steadily increased in the past few months, I am amazed at all that has been accomplished in a very short period of time. I personally feel that I have been stretched as I tried to finish up my role as First V.P. while also assuming the duties of the President with Les Campbell's resignation. I certainly experienced feelings of being overwhelmed from time to time but with the support of the Executive I have been able to stay on course and do what needed to be done.

The more involved I become in this Society, the more I realize just how much work and effort goes into running a society like the AGS. Since I first became a member in 2005, I have appreciated the support that I have received and the friends I've gained. We all have busy lives; yet we come together for one common goal – to support this great Society.

This past year we passed a milestone of 40 years and it was celebrated with our 40th Anniversary Conference "Same Roots, Different Branches" held April 20-21st. In honour of our 40th anniversary, members of the Society were given \$10.00 off their registration fee when registering for the 2-day conference. Also in honour of this occasion, The National Institute of Genealogical Studies offered a free course in Methodology Part I that was included with each conference registration. We were very grateful for all the sponsors who made it possible to put on such a great conference!

In July, we were finally able to get our Cemetery Database online for use by AGS members. Access information was sent out to all the Branch Presidents to pass onto their members. I encourage all members to search the database if they have not had the opportunity to do so.

Early in 2013, I was approached by Marilyn Hindmarch of *Relatively Speaking* to contact the Branches and invite them to submit articles to the Editorial Committee for possible publication so all members across the Province could see what is happening in our Branches. While waiting for Branch submissions, John Althouse, Acting Editor, choose articles from the Branch newsletters for consideration in future issues.

Recently I have been working on updating our Successful Speakers and Topics List that has been

ongoing since the fall of 2010. The updated list was emailed to Program Directors for each Branch. I want to thank all the Branches for sending in their list of speakers who have either presented at their monthly meetings or at their workshops. When this list was first compiled, it was 4 pages in length and included speakers and topics submitted from all the Branches. I am happy to report we now have 8 pages! I have been tremendously impressed by all that is accomplished in the Branches and this lists all Branches ideas for future speakers and/or activities that can be planned.

Over the past few years, I have also been very involved in planning the Retreats with Maxine Maxwell and have had a lot of fun doing it. (See Retreat report for more details.) I am grateful for my association with all those I've had the pleasure to work with.

Second Vice President - Maxine Maxwell

This past year has been one of change on the AGS Executive. I was pleased to have been a part of the meetings and discussions that were needed to arrive at the comfortable place we are at now. In 2013, I participated in the Board meetings held in February, May, September/Retreat, and November. In addition to the formal meetings, many conversations and discussions occurred through e-mails and phone calls.

I also wanted to recognize the good work and great reporting of the Chairs of the Committees for whom the 2nd V.P. has responsibility. Here are some highlights from their 2013 reports:

Cemetery Database - Shannon Cherkowski
Shannon's big announcement occurred in November, 2013, where she reported: "*On behalf of the AGS Cemetery Database Committee and myself as AGS Cemetery Database Chair, we are pleased to announce that the Alberta Genealogical Society Cemetery Database is now online for use by AGS Members only.*"

Communications, Public Relations & Publicity - Lyn Meehan

Lyn assembled an excellent package of website information for the Board. It was a very useful tool in the process of selecting a website design company. Lyn presented her findings on two occasions and commented: "*In this modern information age*

websites are about accessibility to services. The major expectation of the website is to promote public awareness about AGS and to generate revenue from the Society's products and services. The vitality of our Society is staying connected to the world and can only be accomplished strategically through set-by-step marketing development. This will take time, money and commitment". A final decision will be made in February of 2014.

Research Services – Norma Wolowyk

In November 2013, Norma included the following in her report to the Board:

"An exciting event this past month was a request from Maggie McCaw, a researcher with the CBC: *"I work on the TV program George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight. I'm working on background research for an interview later this week with Albertan country singer Brett Kissel. Brett grew up on his family's farm in Flat Lake, Alberta. The farm has been in his family for 4 generations. One thing we like to do on our show is present the guests with research/photos/video or anecdotes that surprise, delight or connect them to an important moment in their past. Do you think there would be original documents related to the Kissel homestead in your records?"* Norma reported that a copy of the homestead file was emailed to the CBC in time for the interview.

Library & Research Centre - Claudine Nelson

In May 2013 Claudine reported: *"At this time, I want to offer ALL Branch members the opportunity to have access to the contents of Library books. NOTE: Requests for look-ups would come to my personal e-mail: CBN@shaw.ca Subject line: Library books. Copies of certain pages would be made and mailed with the costs being paid by AGS. *Only 10% of a book may be copied, according to Copyright regulations"*

Publications - Norma Wolowyk

In 2013, Norma reported, *"There were three sales of the AGS Publication, Alberta, Formerly the Northwest Territories: Index to Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1870-1905."*

A very big THANK YOU to these volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the vision of AGS, that of promoting genealogy in Alberta over this past year.

Vice President of Finance -

Jock Howard

It has been a very busy and educational three years for me since I took office as Vice President of Finance. I want to thank the members of the team over that period of time. I am going to briefly review the accomplishments of the Finance portfolio.

Following the hiring of Kouri • Berezan • Heinrichs and based on their Management Letters, the following changes were made in 2013:

- Revised Chart of Accounts – in consultation with the branches, the CoA was completely revised to help standardize bookkeeping
- Expense form – revised and now requires approval
- Timesheets – revised and now requires approval
- Police Record Check – Policy VIII-180 in place for all Treasurers;
- Credit card information – securing the hardcopies of personal information, with destruction after confirmation
- Secure records – all financial and other sensitive records are now secured in the office

Based on a review of our expenses, the following changes were made to either reduce cost (or increase income):

- Teleconferencing – we acquired quotes from several companies, choosing Pragmatic
- Credit card – reduced fees for credit card incoming payments;
- Current account – reduced fees for chequing account with a Community Account;
- Investment income – moved to a high interest Savings Account;
- Aligned Signing Authorities – all bank accounts now have the same people authorized to sign

In conjunction with the Policy & Procedure Committee, changes were made to the Operations Manual to consolidate the financial information in

one Section, and, as well, to allow for the creation of a separate Treasurer's Handbook.

During her term as Treasurer, Susan McKeen spent considerable effort to find and organize all financial source documents [2013]. She also prepared and taught a Treasurers' Workshop as part of the September Retreat.

Recently, with anticipated financial assistance from the Edmonton Heritage Council and at their suggestion, a professional bookkeeper was hired. This move prompted the need for a Human Resource policy, requisite for financial grants, and a Position

Description for the Bookkeeper. The Treasurer is no longer responsible for the bookkeeping. With these changes having been made plus an increasing need for better financial information in decision-making, a review of all position descriptions within the financial structure will be required during 2014. A proposal to add the position of Treasurer to the Executive should be considered.

The year's activities have been challenging and, although frustrating and laborious at times, have certainly contributed to the stability of the Society.

VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2013

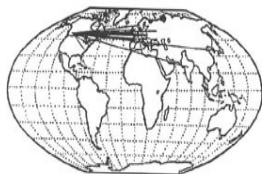
30,793

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 Branch



Meetings and Activities

January. The year began with members writing their goals for the year under the guidance and prodding of Secretary Carol Anderson who filed them for review next January!

February. Annual elections. To help lessen the branch treasurer's work responsibility, a Finance Chair position was formed by Motion of the general membership. The role of the Finance Chair is to report with printed hand-outs to the Executive the monthly bank Profit & Loss statements and the monthly branch account balance sheet. Brian Dunlop was elected to this position. Other executive elected were President Bob Franz, Treasurer Karyn Norden, and Secretary E. Carol Anderson. Eileen French moved to the Vice-President position.

March. At the general meeting, Tamara from the Brooks Public Library presented a most informative session on how to create a presentation using Power Point to write one's family history. A group of volunteers also met several times in March to review the branch's history books and create a new display board promoting the activities of the branch.

April. Branch member Nestor Martinez updated members at the general meeting on changes on Family Search, illustrated with samples of his own extensive research. The branch also held its annual spring fundraiser, the Bakeless Bake Sale, to raise funds to maintain the branch library resource room.

Six members of the branch attended the AGS conference and AGM in Edmonton and returned

enthused by the many excellent presentations they attended. It also provided members an opportunity to meet and get to know each other better.

May. Branch member and Membership Chair Henry Najda shared with members at the general meeting the Pat Ryan session on *Organizing Your Files* that he had attended at the conference and showed members his newly organized collection of data. Eileen French also shared with members the U-Tube video she had found regarding Ellis Island and immigration in the US.

We were saddened by the sudden passing of member Frances Spence. Frances had an energetic and positive outlook on life and she will be greatly missed.

June. Keeping up with what seems to be becoming a tradition, the weather would not cooperate and we had to cancel our outing due to rain.

July. This year the branch held an open house in the Sara King house on the museum grounds on Canada Day, providing an opportunity to meet and talk to some of the babies Sara King delivered over sixty years ago.

August. Under the direction of Eileen French, branch members and several volunteer supporters worked the Casino in Medicine Hat, a joint venture between our branch and Medicine Hat Branch.

September. The delayed June outing to Majorville Medicine Wheel and old homesteads along the way with guide Jay Bartsch amazed and delighted members. On the way back to Brooks we paused at the newly developed Taylor cemetery. At the general meeting, Karyn Norden shared with members the video 'Breaking Down the Brick Wall' by David Obee.

October. The city and the Branch proclaimed Family History Week and Eileen French shared the U-Tube video *Genealogy Myth Busters*.

November. Bob Franz presented a session on Researching Rural Ancestors based on the conference presentations by Lyn Meehan on Country Cousins and Researching Yorkshire with examples from his research on his ancestors in rural Nebraska and rural Alberta. Branch members joined the Brooks Public Library to promote family research and to give the public an opportunity to view the library edition of Ancestry. The Branch also donated \$500 to the Brooks Public Library to assist in the cost of the Brooks Bulletin Newspaper digitizing project.

November also saw the production and distribution of our Multilanguage (Mandarin, Spanish, Filipino, French and English) flyers in an attempt to reach out to the diverse immigrant population in the area.

December. The year concluded with our annual Christmas supper for members and spouses.

Throughout the year members have been busy carrying out their various responsibilities with the branch.

- Mary Burkholder has spent many hours cataloguing our library acquisitions. Local obituaries have been scanned and cemetery data has been added to our website under the leadership of Brian Dunlop.
- Two issues of our newsletter *B & D Heirlines* were produced by our most capable editor Carol Anderson, memberships have been promoted and members reminded of meetings and upcoming events by Henry Najda, and our webpage has been updated and maintained with the leadership of Karyn Norden and Mary Burkholder.
- Our dedicated researcher Clara Iwaasa has spent many hours fielding research requests to the branch and sharing her findings with the executive.

Through the year, members have shared their research with each other and provided assistance to each other; and historian Bob Franz has documented the year's activities in the branch's history book.

In 2013 our members put in 2278 volunteer hours. Despite our drop in membership from 30 in 2012 to 18 in 2013, 2013 was a very busy and successful year.

Submitted by Bob Franz, President

Camrose

In January 2013 our Branch membership chose to introduce a new format for our monthly meetings. The executive now meets outside our regular meetings, about every 3 months, leaving the monthly meetings to discuss topics of interest. The lectures are prepared and presented by members or guest speakers. Upcoming topics will include: "What is written in stone?" a series of interesting gravestones, compiled by Wayne Steele; and "...Continuing to search our women ancestors", which all members contribute. President Janine Carroll is attending 2 Gravestone & Monument Preservation workshops at the Campbell Center Historic Preservation in Mt Carroll, IL in May 2014 and will be delivering a report at our June meeting. On Saturday, June 21st members will gather at the Camrose Valley View Cemetery for a historical tour and a ghost story or two.

Branch members are especially excited to bring John Althouse to Camrose for our annual spring workshop. This free workshop is offered to community members as well as the genealogy community. The topics John will be presenting are "Let's Journal" and "Not Written in Stone." The workshop will be held at the Camrose Public Library on Saturday, May 24th, 2014 from 1 - 4pm. If you would like to attend please email camrose@abgensoc.ca

Research continues to be gathered from the Camrose Canadian, in order to compile the next edition of the DMB register. I would like to recognize project chair Bev Webster for the staggering amount of work he has dedicated to this project and the many Camrose members who contribute. Two editions have already been completed and released covering years from 1908 – 1939.

Our Branch produces a quarterly newsletter called *Roots and Shoots* and I would like to thank Joan Conley an excellent publication.

Six of our branch members took part in a field trip to the Riverbend Family History Centre in October, 2013; three members attended the 2014 PAA Family Day program and two members attended a Drayton Valley workshop. We annually participate in the Community Registration Night in September in order to raise our organizational profile.

Our meetings are every 2nd Thursday of the month (except July and August), held at the Camrose Library (in a downstairs meeting room) starting at 7:30 pm. We welcome guests and new members. If you are ever in the area, please join us.

A big thank you to our executive! President: Janine Carroll; Secretary: Adele Goa; Treasurer: Sharon Olsen; Librarian: Bev Webster; Newsletter Editor: Joan Conley and Website coordinators: Adele Goa & Joan Conley.

Adele Goa has very actively been collecting and processing data to update the AGS cemetery data base. Some members are waiting very impatiently for weather enjoyable to continue photographing every stone in area cemeteries.

Cemetery Recording, Photographing and Transcribing - Adele Goa

AGS Key # 324 Camrose Cemetery

In 1993 AGS Edmonton Branch recorded 5902 burials in Camrose Valleyview Cemetery. From local records we learned that as of 19 July 2013 there were 8341 burials. That is an increase of 2439 since 1993.

Two of our Camrose Branch members began recording in Camrose Valleyview Cemetery on 15 July and spent 50 hours together. Another 3 hours recording on 2 separate occasions was spent sorting out some very confusing plots.

To date we have completed recording Sections A, B, C, D, E, F, G & G2. According to the 1993 AGS transcription this was about 3000 graves. There are no new graves in Sections A & B. We have recorded 675 new graves bringing us up to 3675.

Photographs have been taken of all of section A, most of sections C, E and W and about 20 other stones in various sections.

AGS Key # 1791 Skudesness Lutheran E.L.C.

In 2000 AGS Edmonton Branch recorded 80 burials in Skudesness Lutheran E.L.C. Cemetery.

Two of our Camrose Branch members have recorded, photographed and transcribed the entire cemetery. There are now 93 burials in Skudesness. Surprisingly there is only one burial record in 2000 for which we could not find the gravestone. This was for a baby who died in 1923.

AGS Key # 1502 Parkland Lutheran

In 2000 AGS Edmonton Branch recorded 191 burials in Parkland Lutheran Cemetery.

The two Camrose Branch members who recorded Skudesness stopped at Parkland Lutheran and photographed all the gravestones there. We did not have the 2002 Transcription with us but thought we may as well photograph everything while we had the opportunity.

This will be recorded, matched with the photographs and transcribed in due course.

AGS Key #3022 Haselwood Cemetery

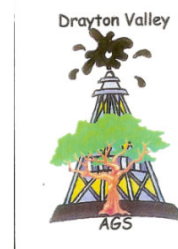
Haselwood Cemetery [Cemetery on their sign] was assigned the AGS Key # 3022 in August.

Photographs were taken and recording and transcribing has been done from the photographs. We intend on visiting it again to do on-site recording as soon as possible.

Photographs Taken

Meeting Creek Cemetery, Century Meadows Cemetery, Duhamel Cemetery, Scandia and Old Scandia

Janine Carroll, President, Camrose Branch



Drayton Valley Branch

Membership: 11
Volunteer Hours: 607 hours

Executive:

Miriam Roberts and Colleen Andersen shared the duties of President in the absence of an elected one.

Arlene Hedlund and Miriam Roberts attended the AGS Board meetings as branch representatives.

Secretary:	Jeannine Parker
Treasurer:	Bev Wright
Librarian:	Colleen Andersen
Publicity/Newsletter:	Miriam Roberts
Historian/ Western Review Articles/ Cemetery Chair:	Arlene Hedlund

Telephone, Email and	
Volunteer Hours:	Lynn Matalski
Typist:	Connie Stuhl

Meetings: Our general meetings are the third Wednesday of every month except, July, August and December. Meetings are held at the Wishing Well Apartments. Some executive meetings have been held before the general meetings.

On February 08, 2013 Connie Stuhl presented a Beginners Workshop in the common room of the Wishing Well Apartments. There were nine attendees: 4 members and 5 guests

On February 20th we had our Annual Meeting.

March 08, 2013 Drayton Valley Branch hosted the "Star Spangled Genealogy" workshop with Les Campbell and John Althouse as speakers. Twenty people attended, we gained one new member and the evaluations were positive.

For the March general meeting we had a roundtable discussion.

At the April meeting we went to the Drayton Valley Municipal Library to have a demonstration on various websites such as The Library Trac System and the U of A Website.

For the May meeting Arlene Hedlund and Jeannine Parker spoke to members about the AGS Conference of April 20 and 21.

At the June meeting we had a potluck supper and show and tell of items of genealogical interest.

At the September meeting the future of the branch was the main topic, because of dwindling membership and declining attendance at meetings. Connie Stuhl agreed to come forward as president at the next AGM in February 2014. Lynn Matalski resigned from her positions in October.

In October we had Sherry Hicke of Winfield speak to our group about her involvement with the Royal Canadian Cadet Core that is affiliated with the 20th Field Battalion.

In November, Miriam Roberts showed slides of her trip to Siberia to visit Mennonite Villages. There were five members and five guests in attendance.

The branch continues to retrieve obituaries from the Western Review and pastes them onto cards. There were no new cemeteries recorded in 2013, but the

cemeteries that have been recorded are being typed and proofread.

On November 23, at the AGS Board meeting, the future of our branch was discussed and concern was expressed. The Society offered financial assistance and speakers for future events. Some 2013 members will not be renewing to our branch for 2014 so our future is still unsure.

A workshop is planned for March 08th, 2014 with John Althouse being presenter. We hope to have some new members sign up after the workshop.

Respectfully submitted by
Miriam Roberts

Edmonton Branch

In 2013, Edmonton Branch members continued to be very active in a number of areas of genealogy as volunteers **contributed 11,931 hours** in everything from executive, to research, Tracing Your Family Tree course, Edmonton Life Long Learners Course, outreach classes, presentations to special interest groups and meetings.

This year our new webmaster Debbie Pietrzykowski was able to get our website active again and our *Clandigger* Editor Donna Shanks has published monthly newsletters since July. The ability to communicate with our members has been crucial to keeping branch members informed so they participate in all the Branch meetings and other events.

The *Tracing Your Family Tree* course was held in the Spring and the Fall with full attendance at both sessions. Thanks to all the volunteer instructors for sharing their time and expertise and to Margaret Bendickson and Jeff Gerretsen for their leadership and organization.

Our Special Interest Groups (SIG's) continue to operate but continue to need new volunteer leadership in order to renew and grow. The ability to communicate their programs and meetings to the membership has been beneficial.

Our Outreach program sessions under the guidance of John Althouse have been very well received. John presented a number of sessions and classes in a number of venues across Alberta in 2013. Thank you John for travelling to share your time and expertise.

John also collected submissions and put together the AGS 40th Anniversary History Book.

Edmonton Branch General Meetings have featured Technology programs this year. Margaret Bendickson found different and interesting speakers and new technologies for us to learn about and try.

While the total number of memberships in the Branch is down, reports Janet Cooper, the total of members has increased due to an increase in the number of family memberships. Renewal letters were sent out to all members who had not yet renewed.

The Library Committee representative Arlene Borgstede reports that they have a new chairperson Leanne Templeton. They have made a number of acquisitions for the library and the list of new items is now published in Clandigger. The branch has decided not to dispose of the Antiquarian books but to ask those who want to use them to do so with the white gloves provided as the books continue to deteriorate due to the way we must house them. A Library volunteer Appreciation event is being planned for the spring of 2014.

The Genealogical Research committee under the guidance of Norma Wolowyk continues to meet every Friday. In 2013, they dealt with 579 queries for Edmonton Branch and AGS. What a dedicated group!!! Our thanks to them for their continued dedication to genealogical research.

Our Correspondence Secretary, Sheila Mageau, sent out 25 cards for Sympathy, Get well, Anniversary and Thinking of you. Please let Sheila know when a member should get a card.

John Hazelwood our Electronic Resources chair has been busy this year updating our printers and our computers. Thanks to Fred Vaneldik for his help in purchasing a new microphone and headset for the sound system.

Shirley Yurkewich our very capable Vice President has been pressed into service a number of times this year to represent the Branch at AGS meetings and to chair Branch meetings.

Bonita Couper our Treasurer will be stepping down. We have not as yet found a replacement. We have the opportunity to use the services of the AGS bookkeeper should our new treasurer wish to do so.

Our hard working Secretary, Joyce Willard, our Archivist, Joan Green and our Publicity Chair, Sharon Dyer continue to put in many volunteer hours behind the scenes to keep our Branch running smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Duigou, President

Fort McMurray Branch

Memberships 11
Volunteer hours 225 (grossly underrated but these were all that were recorded)

President	Alexander Payne
Vice President	Laverne Cormier
Treasurer	Cathy Marriott
Secretary (acting)	Tammy Grantham

A large part of 2013 was spent quietly waiting, and let me just say, we were beginning to get tired of waiting. We began the year knowing that the property where our Library is housed had been expropriated by the City of Fort McMurray. They were to help us find a new home but the options they provided were not suitable. We were looking to expand our space; the options provided were much smaller than our current space. So we began looking on our own.

We began talks with another group that had the space we were looking for but the property needed to undergo major renovations before anyone could move in. During the renovations, this group faced their own hurdles which delayed our move in date again and again. The latest 'new move in date' is Aug/Sept. 2014. Thankfully, the City has extended our occupation of our current location to December 2014 and we truly hope that we will actually get into a new home by then.

As we wait to get into a new home, we have put a lot of projects, and library upgrades, on hold; however, we did not just sit idly by. In April we had our Casino. Because we are such a small group, we recruited additional volunteer help from two local groups: the Wood Buffalo Seniors Program and Girls Inc. We reached out to both ends of the spectrum, a group that helps out seniors, and a group that offers girls, from a young age, the tools to grow up smart, strong and bold. We made a cash donation to each of these groups to show our appreciation of their help.

Once spring hit and the snow melted away, we headed out to our two local Cemeteries to photograph the headstones. We did this with the City's blessing and they gave us a map of each cemetery along with other pertinent information to help us along the way. The newer cemetery was a breeze: everyone was where they should be and it is a well laid out and cared for cemetery. The older cemetery was a different experience altogether. We did start taking photos, but finally had to meet with the City to figure out which information was the most correct. *Do you follow the map with the names of who should be where, or do you follow the stones that say who should be there?* It was and will continue to be a challenge and I don't know if it can ever totally be sorted... but we did take pictures of the stones and say where we found them.

We ended the year with our Christmas gathering. Sadly our group keeps getting smaller. We lost two more members due to out of town moves. I know other Branches experience small or dwindling membership numbers as well; so if anyone knows the magical cure to this issue please jump up and shout it from the rooftops!

Have a great year everyone!

Tammy Grantham
Past President, Fort McMurray Branch



Grande Prairie & District Branch

Memberships: 50
Volunteer Hours: 2011

2013 Executive:

President: Jean Gray
Past President: Maxine Maxwell
Vice President: Al Bromling
Secretary: Patricia Greber
Treasurer: Lorna Picken

Committees:

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

Meeting Programs:

January:

Lorna Picken spoke about her Ontario research trip and attendance at the Ontario Genealogical Society conference.

February:

AGM and Ethnic Pot Luck. AGS President Les Campbell in attendance. History Quiz about our branches 35 years by Fran Moore.

March:

Members helping Members with research.

April:

Meeting held at Family History Library. Information on websites available at the library.

May:

Report on speakers presentations at the AGS conference in Edmonton.

June:

Walking Tour of the historic Town of Sexsmith.

September:

Show & Tell. Sharing something from your genealogy/family history collection.

October:

Tour of the Grande Prairie Library and collections held in the Isabel Campbell Room, including AGS library.

November:

Christmas memories. Sharing Christmas traditions, food, and memories.

Projects:

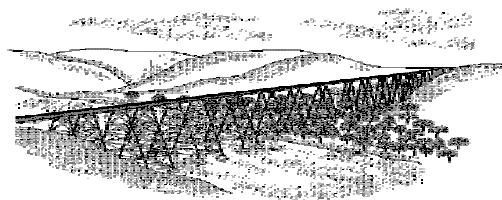
- We held our first co-hosted History Family Day with the South Peace Regional Archives
- Our Workshop Family Connections 2013 "Our Canadian Roots" was held over two days September 20, 21 with speakers John Althouse, Edmonton and Gary Schroder, Montreal. Gary's topics were Census Records in Ontario and Quebec, Researching wills in Ontario and Quebec and Births, Marriage and Death records in Ontario and Quebec. John spoke on Writing your Story, Researching Canadian Passenger Lists, Introducing Genealogy to Children, Grandchildren and Students.
- The Margaret Kay brochure was updated and the scholarship was increased to 500.00/year. It can now be paid out of the Casino funds.
- We represented our branch with a booth at the Highland Games.
- The Genies continued providing free public family research assistance in the library every Wednesday 7 – 9.
- 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/Ancestry site.
- We continued production of our quarterly newsletter, "*Heritage Seekers*". We started circulating it by PDF which has been received well by our members. There are still some hard copies printed and mailed. In 2013 our newsletter received the "**Kenneth Young Award for Best Local Content**". Well done!

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, #5697, President

Lethbridge & District Branch



1:28, 909 - 3 Avenue North, Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 0H5
Telephone: (403) 328-9564 e-mail: lethags@theboss.net
<http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net>

The Executive Committee from February 2013 to February 2014 is as follows:

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

Our membership remained around **50** members. Our volunteers put in a total of **3630 hrs** in 2013.

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

January: Presentation by Sharon Daniels: "*How to start a blog*"

February: Branch member John Squarek presented: "*Genealogy DNA Research*"

March: "*Researching in France*" was the topic of David Tyler's presentation.

April: Inger Schaufert discussed "*Researching in Hungary*"

May: Presentation on "*Dutch Researching*" by Inge Pot

June: We held an open discussion on brickwalls, success, etc.

July: Two of our members did a presentation at the Galt Museum

September: David Tyler returned with a session on 'North American research back to Europe'

October: Gord Tolton, author, discussed 'why and how' he became a writer and some of his books.

November: We held our *annual 'International Supper'*. Members and guests were invited to bring an ethnic dish from one of the countries they were researching. The highlight of which was the 'haggis' that was presented not by a Scottish member but by a German member. It was enjoyed by all.

Branch members continue to collect and preserve family and genealogical information. Obituaries and funeral cards are being collected and digitized. Cemeteries are being recorded and photographed. In September, the Galt Museum asked us to index some local church records (on micro film) which they had digitized. We started indexing in Nov and the project will continue into 2014.

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

Members set up a display at the Lethbridge Family History Centre as well as the Raymond Family History Centre's Fun Fair, and attended and helped out at the April AGS conference.

Our member, Susan Haga was awarded the 'Margaret Kay Scholarship' at the conference.

Submitted by
Doug McLeod, Branch President



Medicine Hat & District Branch

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

2013 was another great year for our Society. Our year ended with **57 memberships** with 12 of these memberships being family memberships and we have

one life membership. We are fortunate to have a good turnout of members at meetings. Our reported **volunteer hours** were **2976.5**. We are working towards having our library open more than one day a week.

Our library is growing and in 2013 we added 53 books and 25 webinars to our collection. Purchased books included 7 Area Histories, 6 general genealogy books and 7 Germans from Russia books. We purchased 25 genealogy Webinars as well. The library received generous donations of books; newsletters and CD's relating to Nova Scotia, Ontario, Ireland, the United Kingdom; Area Histories; Family Histories and general genealogy books. We did a library clean-up in May. Four used duplicate books and no longer needed office items were sold at a garage sale. Eighteen used duplicate books also sold at our open house in June with proceeds going back into library budget. Another shelf was purchased for the library and we use this to showcase the new books for a month before they are carded and put into the library.

Our *Saamis Seeker* Newsletter was distributed not only to our membership but was also sent out via email or snail mail to dozens of libraries and genealogy societies. A couple of our members have had previously unknown relatives contact them thanks to the *Saamis Seeker* being on the internet.

Our queries committee was active and had great success researching requests from various areas of Canada and abroad. We also helped a local lawyer locate people from an estate they were working on.

Our cemetery committee was very busy: Area Cemeteries database (on our computers) have been updated; The "Saamis Prairie View" 2013 Records and Plot Map has gone from 638 burials to 1807 and the committee members are photographing the headstones. Bow Island has been updated to 837 burials. Burdett has been updated but not computerized. The Bethel Church Cemetery, Wisdom photos and Congregational Church & Cemetery Gros Ventre Tothill photos have been digitized. They are working on GPS co-ordinates and photographing of headstones. Our obituary committee continues clipping from regional and local newspapers and organizing them into binders adding 895 obits for 2013.

The Society continues to have informative programs following our monthly meetings. Nine great speakers

gave presentations and we had two webinars. Presentations were on the following topics: Historical Resources , Obituaries, Ancestry, Google Search and Beyond, The Changing Map Of Europe, Scrivener writing program, Organizing Your Paper Files, Making the Most of Canadian Census Records and Genealogy in Music.

Respectfully submitted
Doreen Schank, President, Medicine Hat Branch

Peace River & District Branch



"Echoes of the Past"

January was our Annual General meeting.

Officers elected were:

President: Joan Wahl

Vice Pres: Vacant

Secretary: Wendy Dyck

Treasurer: Denise Fortier

We completed the Inventory of our Library holdings and the books were entered into the Library Database. There is interest in cemetery indexing in our area, so we are going to check the Master Data Base to ensure the small cemeteries have been included in the Data Base.

Our February 21st meeting was a Travel Log with Gordon Troup, a former member of our Branch. Gordon's many trips to Scotland searching his genealogy have made him well-conversant with community libraries and archives. He has also learned much about family history and personal stories from the locals at the pub! We cooperated with the Library and Museum in presenting this event.

In April we were sad to bid goodbye to Wendy Dyck, our hard-working Secretary. She left our community for Grande Prairie, to follow her heart. We wish her all the best and are most grateful for her many contributions to our Branch.

Our Branch did not meet in June and as per tradition we did not meet in July and August.

At our September meeting we talked about having education sessions, advertising our meeting in the

newspaper and inviting the public to attend our programs. Some ideas for meetings were:

- Presentation by a former member on his Search for his Roots in Ireland
- Mennonite genealogy by a local woman who has travelled three migration routes of Mennonites in Europe
- Presentation on the use of Technology in Genealogy

At our October meeting former member Dave McLaughlin presented a slide show and outline of his trip to Ireland and his preparations before he left to find his roots.

Our November meeting featured a presentation on Research methods on the Internet by a person who is interested in joining our group.

We did not meet in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Wahl, President

Red Deer & District Branch

Red Deer Branch meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Primary Room of the LDS Church, 3002 - 47th Avenue in Red Deer. We do not meet in July, August or December.

Membership 2013: 60

Volunteer Hours: 1510

Executive 2012 - 2013

President Diane Lehr

Vice President Vacant

Secretary Joan Shortt

Treasurer Vic Willoughby

Membership Betty Barnhill

Committees

Newsletter Lianne Kruger

Library Joanne Allen

Cemetery Recording Linda McKay

Program Committee: Peter Darby, Mary Joan Cornett, Lianne Kruger, Betty Barnhill, Diane Lehr

2013 Meeting Programs

Jan	Austin Murray <i>Computer Tips for Genealogists</i>
Feb	Peter Darby <i>What's New on Family Search</i>
Mar	Peter Darby & Lianne Kruger <i>Genealogy & Family History Blogs</i>
Apr	Peter Darby & Lianne Kruger <i>What's New on Ancestry.com</i>
May	Sue Barnsley <i>Researching Your Scottish Roots</i>
June	Annual Wind-up BBQ
Sept	John Althouse <i>Passenger Ship Lists</i>
Oct	Deanna Bullock <i>DNA & Genealogy</i>
Nov	Sharing Ideas – Genealogy Christmas Ideas

Our branch is very fortunate to have Peter & Linda Darby and Lianne Kruger who freely share their skills and knowledge with members. Thank you on behalf of Red Deer members.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

City of Red Deer Centennial

In 2012 we talked about how we could honour families whose relatives were living in Red Deer in 1913. The branch received a grant to produce a booklet and when the call went out 58 families submitted their genealogy as part of Red Deer's 100th Anniversary. In 2013, a booklet was produced and it will be located at the Red Deer Museum and the Public Library. A special thanks to the committee members that work on this project for the past 12 months.

Birth, Marriage & Death Recordings

Branch members once again recorded birth, marriage and death announcements found in the *Red Deer Advocate* and the *Red Deer Express*. Copies are located at the City Library and the Red Deer Museum.

Respectfully submitted
Diane Lehr, President

Wetaskiwin Branch

Executive:

President	Joan Krueger
Vice President	Vacant
Past President	Don Brosius
Secretary	Claudia Malloch
Treasurer	Elaine Young
Membership	Leroy 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 was our annual workshop held in October. This year it was titled "*From Stump to Tree: Expand Your Family History*" and had the following sessions:

Session 1: *Introduction to Genealogy – Where Do We Start?* with Lyn Meehan

Session 2: *Exploring 19th Century U.S. Records* also by Lyn.

Session 3: *Charting A Course Using Maps in Your Genealogy.* Guest speaker - John Althouse.

Session 4: *But I'm not a writer!* also by John Althouse.

With the leadership co-chairpersons Claudia and Alice the committee did an outstanding job and the workshop was well attended. Alice and Claudia also did an excellent job doing the programs for us during 2013.

We are thankful to the members of our branch who eagerly step in and assist with requests for research.

The Library was the recipient of quite a few donations in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Krueger, President

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-laws and Parliamentarian

It has been a rather quiet year in some ways but interesting in others: quiet, in that the activities have been routine and interesting, in that a Society as active as the AGS encounters situations which appear to be unique but usually are not because life repeats itself whether we like it or not. As a long-time member of the Society, I have an advantage in terms of perspective and was able to point out that indeed life repeats itself, and, in the end, this helped to make informed decisions.

A continuing challenge is how to decrease the amount of time spent at meetings debating and resolving what often seems to be a 'common sense' issue. There are two distinct points of view about this: on one hand, every point of view is valid and ought to be heard and considered; while on the other, meetings ought not last forever. While this is not 'unique' to our Society (as anyone who belongs to other organizations will surely have experienced), we need to address it.

I would like to thank the members of the Board for the time they spent attending meetings and sharing their opinions for the betterment of the Society.

Jo. Nuthack, Chair & Parliamentarian.

Cemetery Database

The Alberta Genealogical Society Cemetery Database is online in a beta format. We invite all AGS members to use it. For access information contact your branch president or the AGS office. Our thanks go to Les Campbell for his assistance and extra effort in pushing this forward. As well, the service provided by Dwayne of OtherMachines.com has been exemplary.

The database online at this time consists of the records on hand as of 2007-burial information, either transcribed from headstones or records received from cemetery offices. Updates will be added before the database gets moved to the AGS website.

It is intended that the data that has been removed (obituaries, 1901 census, book indexes etc. aka 'non cemetery material') will be formatted into a separate database or databases for use, whether online or not, all to be discussed and decided at a later date. In the meantime, the old "Master Surname Database" is still usable at the AGS/Edmonton Branch office and we hope the branches and their libraries still have their old versions of the Master Surname Database to use. We are collecting photographs of headstones for future insertion into the database and invite all to submit their headstone photos.

The AGS Cemetery Database Committee consists of Adele Goa, Jean Klohn, Pat Pettitt and Norma Wolowyk

The Alberta Genealogical Society Cemetery Database is, as always, a valuable research resource and aids in preserving information for many generations to come.



Shannon Cherkowski, Chair

Communications, Public Relations & Publicity

Relatively Speaking indexing project:

All issues of Relatively Speaking Fall 1973-August 2012 were scanned and made keyword searchable in PDF format. All titles of articles have been indexed. Building the subject index and fine tuning author and title indexes are not complete because of priorities with the AGS Website and Brochure.

AGS Brochure:

According to many AGS Branches and members-at-large the brochure was a success. The Finance Committee granted Communications a \$1000 budget for brochures in 2013. The AGS received five quotes from the following vendors: Budget Printing, Fuze Graphics, LaserText, Swarm Enterprises and West Canadian Digital Imaging. Bids ranged from \$440 to \$1286.25 for a 5000 full-colour matt print run. Swarm received the contract based on quality, price and previous relationship with the AGS. Final cost was \$675 + GST = \$708.75, coming in under budget

by nearly \$300. The brochure was designed in an older version of Adobe InDesign. Branch distribution took place at the 2013 AGS Conference. Historical distribution points for Edmonton were the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) and City of Edmonton.

AGS Website: Continuing from December 2012 to May 2013:

Carey Kennedy (Webmaster) and Lyn Meehan (Communications) continued to build a new AGS Website with the aim of cost-cutting development expenses, modernizing the site design and simplifying the management user interface. The Team was granted a \$4000 budget in May 2013. From January to May this went well. With regret, Carey resigned from being Webmaster and the Technology Team in May.

June to August 2013:

In June, discussions began with a new webmaster. Both, AGS Communications and the new webmaster agreed in moving forward in finding a professional web designer. Talks between the two committees were to establish the programming language, size, conditions and what servers the databases are hosted from. This information was required by website contractors in order for them to provide a complete proposal submission. Once again there were unavoidable delays: a death in one family, the resignation of a key player and a breakdown in communication. All of these events caused extreme frustration and resignation from the Committee.

October to December 2013:

In November, Communications was asked by the Board to reconsider and restart the project. Quotes from excellent companies were submitted to the Finance Committee in January 2014 for discussion and submission to members of the Board at the February Meeting. Hopefully this leads to the development of a new website for the Society.

As always, any correspondence made or received by AGS Communications are open for review by any one or all Executive members.

Lyn Meehan, Chair

Conference 2013

The Alberta Genealogical Society Conference 2013 *Same Roots, Different Branches* was held April 20-21, 2013 with pre-conference tours being held on the 19th. Attendance at the conference totalled a record 313 people. Presenters included: Stephen Young, Lisa Louise Cooke, Dave Obee, Pat Ryan, Deanna Bullock, Lyn Meehan, John Althouse, Alison Freake and Vernon Wishart.

Major sponsorship funds were received from: the City of Edmonton, the Provincial Archives of Alberta, and Edmonton Branch (AGS). The National Institute of Genealogical Studies offered one free online Methodology Course to attendees. Other sponsors included: Edmonton Tourism, the Government of Alberta – Culture, the Alberta Museum Association, the Archives Society of Alberta, and Ancestry.ca.

50/50 tickets were sold. 61 door prizes were gathered from local, provincial, international sources and several AGS Branches. Vendors and displays filled two rooms with a vast variety of products for sale and information tables showcasing various non-profit, like-minded societies and groups.

The AGS celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013. Congratulatory cards were sent to Frank Easton and D'Arcy Hande, the two remaining original founders of the Society. The anniversary was recognized at the conference in a variety of ways including a cake cutting ceremony and a Power Point presentation dedicated to the celebration of 40 years. The Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture, was presented with a Jenkins family history binder, a "Who Do You Think You Are?" gift, prepared by the Edmonton Branch AGS Research Services Committee.

Our thanks and gratitude goes out to the sponsors, presenters, vendors, societies and volunteers who helped make this weekend a success.

Shannon Cherkowski & Shirley Clarke,
Co-Chairs

Gaming

AGS Casino event:

AGS was called to work a casino event on July 18 & 19, 2013 at Century Casino in Edmonton. Our proceeds from the event totalled **\$78,681.59**. We had a total of 40 volunteers to fill the 38 positions and I was able to report a total of 325 hours of volunteering to the AGS office for this event.

A **Very Special Thank You** to all who were able to help during the busy summer months. Our next casino event for AGS has been approved for the **2nd Qtr of 2015** (Apr/May/Jun) at Century Casino, Edmonton. We will receive actual dates in November 2014. 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) may apply to hold casino events but some need to share with another branch. Each branch has to go through the application processes set up by AGLC.
- At present, Brooks/Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Lethbridge have held or will hold casinos to help raise funds.

Raffle or 50/50:

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

Laura Turnbull, AGS Gaming

Grants/Fundraising 2013

AHRF Sponsorship

In 2013, 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 \$2,825.40 from the Community Spirit Program Grant. This is the last year we'll receive Community Spirit Program Grant funding as it was eliminated from the Government of Alberta budget in 2013.

Casino

The Alberta Genealogical Society worked a casino in the second quarter of the July 18-19, 2013 year raising \$79,681.59. For more information, see Laura Turnbull's report on Gaming. Deferred casino income of \$218,779.98 was as follows:

1. Provincial Office	\$87,377.72
2. Brooks	\$2,902.06
3. Fort McMurray	\$107,507.48
4. Grande Prairie	\$5,342.52
5. Medicine Hat	\$15,650.20

Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members and businesses, AGS and its branches received donations in the amount of \$7,104.21 including:

1. Provincial Office	\$3,770.51
2. Brooks	\$40.00
3. Camrose	-
4. Drayton Valley	-
5. Edmonton	\$1,700.00
6. Fort McMurray	\$75.85
7. Grande Prairie	\$957.85
8. Lethbridge	\$160.00
9. Medicine Hat	-
10. Peace River	-
11. Red Deer	\$400.00
12. Wetaskiwin	-

Research & Research Donations

In 2013, AGS raised a total of \$11,561.32 by answering research queries and \$4,281.34 in research donations, 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:

1. **Provincial Office** – \$6,786.70 (research income), \$720.93 (research donations) Special thanks to members of Edmonton Branch who answer these queries on behalf of AGS.
2. **Brooks** – none
3. **Camrose** – \$.11 (research donations)
4. **Drayton Valley** – none
5. **Edmonton** – \$3,744.73 (research income); \$2,988.14 (research donations)
6. **Fort McMurray** – none
7. **Grande Prairie** - \$317.16 (research donations)
8. **Lethbridge** – \$654.67 (research income)
9. **Medicine Hat** – \$355.22 (research income)
10. **Peace River** – 255.00 (research donations)
11. **Red Deer** – \$20.00 (research income)

12. **Wetaskiwin** – none

Grants and Fundraising at the Branch Level

The branches reported a total of \$2,312.91 in branch fundraising as follows:

1. Brooks – **\$605.00** bakeless bake sale
2. Camrose – **none**
3. Drayton Valley – **a total of \$1,457.91 in fundraising including \$890.00 from workshop, \$220.00 Book of indexes, \$50.00 from Book of Indexes CD, \$250.00 from Bingo, and donations \$47.91**
4. Edmonton – **none**
5. Fort McMurray – **none**
6. **Grande Prairie** – none
7. **Lethbridge** – \$250.00 from a garage sale
8. **Medicine Hat** – none
9. **Peace River** – none
10. **Red Deer** – none
11. **Wetaskiwin** – none

Marion Rex, Grants/Fundraising

Library & Research Centre

The AGS and AGS Edmonton Branch library holdings have been catalogued and are searchable-on-line through the AGS or AGS Edmonton Branch websites. Searches can be done by searching: title, author, category, subject or publisher. The ISBN box denotes whether it is catalogued as AGS or AGS Edmonton (EDM). Any item catalogued as 'EDM' can only be borrowed by Edmonton Branch members. Thanks to Win Sebelius, Gail Cockwill and Norma Wolowyk for working diligently to get everything catalogued so that we all can now search-on-line.

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

Many local history books were purchased, either used or new, and a few were donated. These books are used constantly. It is my plan to acquire more local history books for the Society by donation or purchase.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudine Nelson, Chair

Membership

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

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

The cost of postage remains a concern. The New Member Package costs a fair amount to be mailed out. I am wondering what your thoughts are on having them picked up at the local branch. We could give someone representing each branch a bundle when they are at a meeting and our Office Coordinator could then send any new info that needed to be included via email to the branch contact for inserting in the package. If you have any other ideas on this issue please let me know.

I would just like to acknowledge John Althouse as an awesome ambassador for the Society. I volunteer in my own community in several ways, one of them being at the Multicultural Centre. John has been directing some courses there and they are great. While this may or may not generate new members for the Society, it is certainly making the Alberta Genealogical Society known in the community.

Val Peden, Chair

AGS Membership Stats for 2013

	2012	2013
AGS all memberships	813	778
Brooks	30	20
Camrose	16	15
Drayton Valley	14	11
Edmonton	481	476
Fort McMurray	13	11
Grande Prairie	58	50
Lethbridge	54	53
Medicine Hat	54	57
Peace River	11	12
Red Deer	64	60
Wetaskiwin	38	30
No Branch	20	28
Memberships (including multiple branches)	853	823
Multiple branch memberships	42	39

Policy & Procedures

The revised *Operations Manual* was introduced to the Branch Presidents at the Orientation Session prior to the 2013 March Board Meeting.

The Branch Presidents had the opportunity to use the Manual over the following months before attending an evaluation session held as part of the September Retreat. The discussions and resulting suggestions were very helpful to the committee members in their continuing work during the fall months.

Packets of revised sections of the Manual with instructions for insertion were prepared for the remainder of Officers and Committee Chairs.

The committee revised several position descriptions in keeping with the changes that had been made to the Bylaws in April of 2013. Two new policies were developed as a result of information required for grant applications: "Human Resources Policy" and "Code of Conduct for Volunteers". A procedure was developed for the policy "Agreements with Outside Parties". A guideline for the submission of Branch Financial Information to the Office was added to the *Handbook for Treasurers*. At the request of the Branch Presidents, a listing of all new and revised policies and procedures for 2013 was sent to all who hold Manuals.

At the 2013 AGM the Policies and Procedures Committee became a Standing Committee. This ensured that the review of the *Operations Manual* would be ongoing with quarterly reports to the Board. As well, it has been decided that the Policies and Procedures Session will now be a permanent part of the September Retreat.

Submitted by Mary Ann Legris, Chair

Publications

During 2013 there were four requests for cemetery listings from the AGS Cemetery Index. Ten files were converted to PDF format and sent electronically to the purchasers. There was three sales of the AGS Publication, *Alberta, Formerly the Northwest Territories: Index to Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1870-1905*.

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

Norma Wolowyk

Relatively Speaking

Because 2013 was the AGS 40th Anniversary, we celebrated this milestone with a stamp on the front cover of each issue during the year. We also included a segment in each issue of founding member Charles Denney's list of useful research tips, dating back to 1989. Frank Easton, the only founding member who is still active in AGS, was kind enough to provide us with his recollections of humorous events from the early years. We paired these with the Denney list to commemorate this milestone event. Once again we had the good fortune of a full bank of material from which to select other articles for publication throughout 2013, many of which we could group together in a mini-theme format in individual issues. The November issue is a case in point when we publish articles reflective of Remembrance Day. We thank all contributors who enabled us to easily compile each issue because of their timely and appropriate submissions.

You might recall that we began the year by reprinting articles of the Red Deer conference presenters, in part to acknowledge the AGS/AFHS collaboration on this conference and in part to allow those members who could not attend that conference to read the material. We thank these contributors for allowing us to do so. We also thank AGS members and branches who submitted material for the Visiting Alberta's Past (VAP) and From the Branches (FTB) portions. These have often proved difficult to fill and we think readers do enjoy reading about historic sites and across the province events, be they past or future. These segments provide balance along with the articles that range from personal research and 'how to' pieces. We have been most appreciative of the continued support from contributors, both AGS members and non-members.

We made some changes to RS this year, beginning with the cover redesign, full justification of text and no scholar's margin on pages where there are two columns. Justifying the text was one of our least successful changes. It proved, at times, frustrating for

Lesley to achieve an attractive appearance ranging from single lines to entire pages. InDesign, we discovered, seems not to like this layout. We plan to revert back to our former non-justified style in 2014. Peter Staveley had proposed we change the format of the inside covers so that the front of the journal contains RS information and news, and the back contains AGS information, thus making it easier for readers to find the information they might be looking for. We made these changes in the May issue. Added to the front cover was a notice board where we can, as required, place significant news items. Otherwise, as is the case in the November issue, we can place an interesting tidbit that we hope readers will enjoy. We are pleased with the way the covers are working and plan to keep this feature for the foreseeable future.

This past year has proved stressful for our editorial committee members. In January Hal O'Neil died after having been unwell for many months. Lesley O'Neil, Production Editor, persevered and managed to produce the February issue. After the May issue, Marilyn Hindmarch announced she was stepping back from Co- to Assistant Editor because of increasing family demands upon her time. This left Peter Staveley to then assume the role of Editor in Chief for each issue. Over the course of the year Peter Williams suffered medical issues that precluded his attending our meetings regularly. After a lengthy hospital stay he seems to now be on the road to recovery and we look forward to his increased participation in the coming year. As if this were not enough, Peter Staveley became seriously ill over the summer in the midst of preparations for the August issue. He immediately stepped down as Editor because of impending surgery and follow up chemo. We are happy to report that he seems to be improving steadily and hopes to be able to resume some RS duties in the new year and attend some meetings. The good news is that John Althouse, a new member to our committee, agreed to step in as 'acting editor' for at least the February 2014 issue. John will assess this role and his schedule after that time before making his final decision regarding taking on the role of Editor. All of us have rallied to end this year on a high note with an optimistic look to the next.

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

Marilyn Hindmarch, Assistant Editor

Research Services

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

Participating during 2013 were 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. Marilyn Astle joined the team during 2013 and responded to queries until her departure for warmer climates during the winter months. We look forward to her return in 2014. Phil Bentley retired from the Research Committee in 2013 and we thank him for his contribution over the past years.

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 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 Cemetery Index. Also, clients were encouraged to send additional monies to the Society in appreciation of the volunteer commitment given to their queries. Previously, donations from Alberta sources were used in applying for a Community Spirit matching grant. Unfortunately this grant was discontinued in 2013 so the committee no longer tracks donation amounts. On a positive note this means a lot less paper work in the future.

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.

269 queries were received by AGS during 2013. As Edmonton Branch AGS received 310, the total queries handled by the Committee was 579 during

the year, this was 110 queries less than in 2012. 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. AGS receives all monies raised from the copying of homestead files.

Although initial requests arrived because clients had found a reference on the land files or local history book databases on the AGS website in most cases the 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 2013. 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.

Norma Wolowyk, Chair

Retreat

A very big note of thanks and appreciation to my fellow Retreat Committee member, Susan Haga. Susan generously donated her time and offered great ideas through an exchange of many emails during the planning and extended her expertise in leading of sessions throughout the weekend of the Retreat.

The 2013 Retreat was held again at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton on September 27 - 29, with nine branches represented by at least one attendee with six also bringing a guest. The request to include Treasurers for a special Saturday morning session resulted in five branches responding. Feedback suggested it was helpful to the branches. The Retreat Committee maintains that inviting guests to participate in AGS activities in an informal setting, is beneficial to the organization's future freshness and continuity.

Twenty-six people attended the Board Meeting on Saturday afternoon, twenty-six were served supper Saturday evening and twenty-two ate lunch on Sunday. Fourteen single rooms and five suites were rented, either for one or two nights. The specific feedback from attendees once again supported our vision that the Retreat should be an opportunity for branches, AGS Executive and Committee Heads to meet and focus on a number of key areas in a more relaxed setting, emphasizing round table discussion rather than presentation-style sessions. Being able to share common concerns and speak freely without feeling pressure by tight time constraints, was the most common feedback given. Most felt there was a good mix of social and business items. There were specific requests for a more entertaining/low key speaker on Saturday evening, after a full day of intense concentration, and many requested another inspiring genealogical session. To additional suggestions: that we run a session on reviewing our Long Term Plan and that we have a common lounging area with tea and cookies where we could visit and unwind after the long day of business.

Reviewing updated Policies and Procedures for the Operations Manual is built into the schedule for every Retreat to ensure that this important Manual is familiar and user friendly to all participants. We appreciate the thoughtful feedback and are planning on implementing as many of the suggestions as possible in 2014. Any further feedback and/or suggestions would be welcomed.

The 2014 Retreat has been booked for September 26 - 28 at the same location and a draft schedule is in place. Please mark your calendars and start planning on your Branch being represented. All AGS Executive, Board Members or alternates and Committee Chairs are automatically included and invited to attend. See you there!

Maxine Maxwell, Chair

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

Alberta Genealogy Society Comparative Income Statement

Account #	DEBIT	CREDIT	DEBIT	CREDIT	DEBIT
CREDIT					
4010		Memberships	27,381.00	32,000.00	4,619.00
4021		Alberta individuals donations	2,843.98	1,200.00	(1,643.98)
4022		Donations - other	0.00	200.00	200.00
4111		Casino income	50,061.87	36,350.00	(13,711.87)
4113		50/50	645.00	500.00	(145.00)
4115		Rent reimbursement	9,112.90	0.00	(9,112.90)
4118		Casino Income From Other	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
		Branches			
4121		Local branch	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
4151		Alberta Heritage grant	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
4152		Community Spirit grant	2,825.40	1,500.00	(1,325.40)
4210		Conference or Genfair	24,695.00	26,000.00	1,305.00
		Registration			
4220		Conference or Genfair Table	0.00	525.00	525.00
		rental			
4230		Conf/Genfair Sale Inventory	190.00	150.00	(40.00)
		Items			
4240		Conf/Genfair - Food/Banquet	2,190.00	0.00	(2,190.00)
4250		Conference/Genfair	3,060.00	800.00	(2,260.00)
		Advertising			
4260		Conference/Genfair	0.00	5,740.00	5,740.00
		Sponsorship			
4292		Conference/Genfair Other	4,241.09	0.00	(4,241.09)
		Donations			
4310		Library fees/fines	36.00	0.00	(36.00)
4312		Sale of used books	1,949.76	250.00	(1,699.76)
4431		Relatively Speaking	376.99	1,250.00	873.01
4435		AGS vital	663.54	0.00	(663.54)
		stats/history/cemetery pr			
4491		Research Donations -	215.50	600.00	384.50
		Alberta Indiv			
4492		Research Donations - Other	505.43	500.00	(5.43)
4495		Research Income	7,932.73	11,000.00	3,067.27
4510		Interest income	1,413.07	1,100.00	(313.07)
TOTAL REVENUE		175,339.26	169,665.00	(5,674.26)	
EXPENSE					
5002		AGS memberships	0.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
5005		Margaret Kay Scholarship	100.00	0.00	(100.00)
5010		Membership awards & certificates	361.21	500.00	138.79
5105		Brooks Branch - support	0.00	300.00	300.00
5110		Camrose Branch - support	0.00	300.00	300.00
5115		Drayton Valley Branch - support	150.00	300.00	150.00
5135		Lethbridge Branch - support	0.00	300.00	300.00
5140		Medicine Hat Branch - support	0.00	300.00	300.00
5145		Peace River Branch - support	0.00	300.00	300.00
5150		Red Deer Branch - support	0.00	300.00	300.00
5155		Wetaskiwin Branch - support	0.00	300.00	300.00
5205		AGS Online databases	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
5220		Purchase AGS pins	815.87	0.00	(815.87)
5230		Relatively Speaking Printing	6,763.23	12,100.00	5,336.77
5231		Relatively Speaking Postage	3,447.35	0.00	(3,447.35)
5232		Relatively Speaking Intern.	436.00	0.00	(436.00)
		Postage			
5305		Conf. - Items purchased for resale	0.00	100.00	100.00
5310		Conference printing/photocopying	347.10	1,200.00	852.90
5315		Conference publicity	1,784.80	1,000.00	(784.80)
5320		Conference Banquet	23,057.97	18,800.00	(4,257.97)
5325		Conference Sound system, etc	2,126.33	2,500.00	373.67
5330		Conf. Speaker Travel & Accommodation	3,278.18	7,000.00	3,721.82
5335		Conference Table rental expense	0.00	150.00	150.00
5340		Conf - Venue rental (Chateau Louis)	2,626.83	1,000.00	(1,626.83)
5350		Conf/Genf Honorarium	3,398.13	0.00	(3,398.13)
5405		Cleaning & maintenance supplies	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
5415		Insurance	7,346.88	7,500.00	153.12
5420		Internet, telephone & fax	123.73	1,700.00	1,576.27
5430		Office supplies	2,260.04	1,200.00	(1,060.04)
5435		Rent	33,620.00	40,000.00	6,380.00
5440		Utilities and library security	561.35	0.00	(561.35)
5505		Casino expenses	2,033.41	0.00	(2,033.41)
5515		AGS non-AGLC Fundraising	0.00	500.00	500.00
5555		Books (100% GST Rebate)	2,317.48	2,000.00	(317.48)
5560		Library Purchases other than books	853.54	0.00	(853.54)
5570		Membership in other Gen Soc	0.00	100.00	100.00
5575		Refreshments & paper products	8.37	0.00	(8.37)
5580		Research Expenses	1,983.15	2,700.00	716.85
5605		AGM-Board Travel, Hotel, Venue Rent	6,931.64	1,000.00	(5,931.64)
5610		Meeting Conference Calls	498.56	800.00	301.44
5615		Meeting Food & beverages	250.31	1,650.00	1,399.69
5620		Other Authorized Travel	0.00	1,650.00	1,650.00
5625		Annual retreat (Providence)	3,750.26	4,000.00	249.74
5630		Meeting Travel Expenses	13,693.96	12,850.00	(843.96)
5632		Meeting Hotel Expenses	2,353.73	0.00	(2,353.73)
5635		Printing and Copying for Meetings	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
5705		Computer & peripheral equipment	225.48	1,000.00	774.52
5720		Office Equipment Repair & Maint.	1,666.80	0.00	(1,666.80)
5805		Advertising & publicity expense	1,577.78	1,000.00	(577.78)
5810		Bank & credit card charges	1,479.19	1,200.00	(279.19)
5820		Education expense	0.00	500.00	500.00
5827		Professional Fees	1,125.00	0.00	(1,125.00)
5830		Auditing	9,837.50	5,000.00	(4,837.50)
5832		Bookkeeping	1,042.40	0.00	(1,042.40)
5835		Travel/mileage reimbursement	0.00	50.00	50.00
5840		Website design	0.00	5,800.00	5,800.00
5843		Website Maintenance	271.20	0.00	(271.20)
5845		President's Discretionary Fund	555.30	0.00	(555.30)
5903		OPP expense	868.27	850.00	(18.27)
5906		EI expense	569.71	550.00	(19.71)
5912		Employee wages & bonuses	21,154.42	22,000.00	845.58
5915		Workers' compensation	200.00	325.00	125.00
TOTAL EXPENSE		167,852.46	168,775.00	922.54	
NET INCOME		7,486.80	890.00	6,596.80	

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/>

2013 Branch Contact Information

Brooks & District Branch

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

Camrose Branch

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

Drayton Valley Branch

Board Rep: Colleen Anderson
P.O. Box 115
Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0
Phone: (780) 542-2787
Email: ags.dvbranch@gmail.com
Meets third Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Wishing Well Apts.
5102-46 Avenue, Drayton Valley, AB

Edmonton Branch

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

Ft. McMurray Branch

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

Lethbridge & District Branch

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

Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Doreen Schank
25 Rossland Way SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1B 1Z7
Phone: (403) 526-1163
Email: mhgs@telus.net
<http://mhdgs.ca>
Meets first Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
974 – 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: Diane Lehr
8 Anderson Close
Red Deer, AB T4R 1E2
Phone: (403) 309-2784
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
Phone: (780) 387-4978
Email: wetaskiwin@abgensoc.ca
<http://wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ca/>
Meets third Tuesday (except July, August and December) at 7 p.m.
LDS Church
Wetaskiwin, AB

