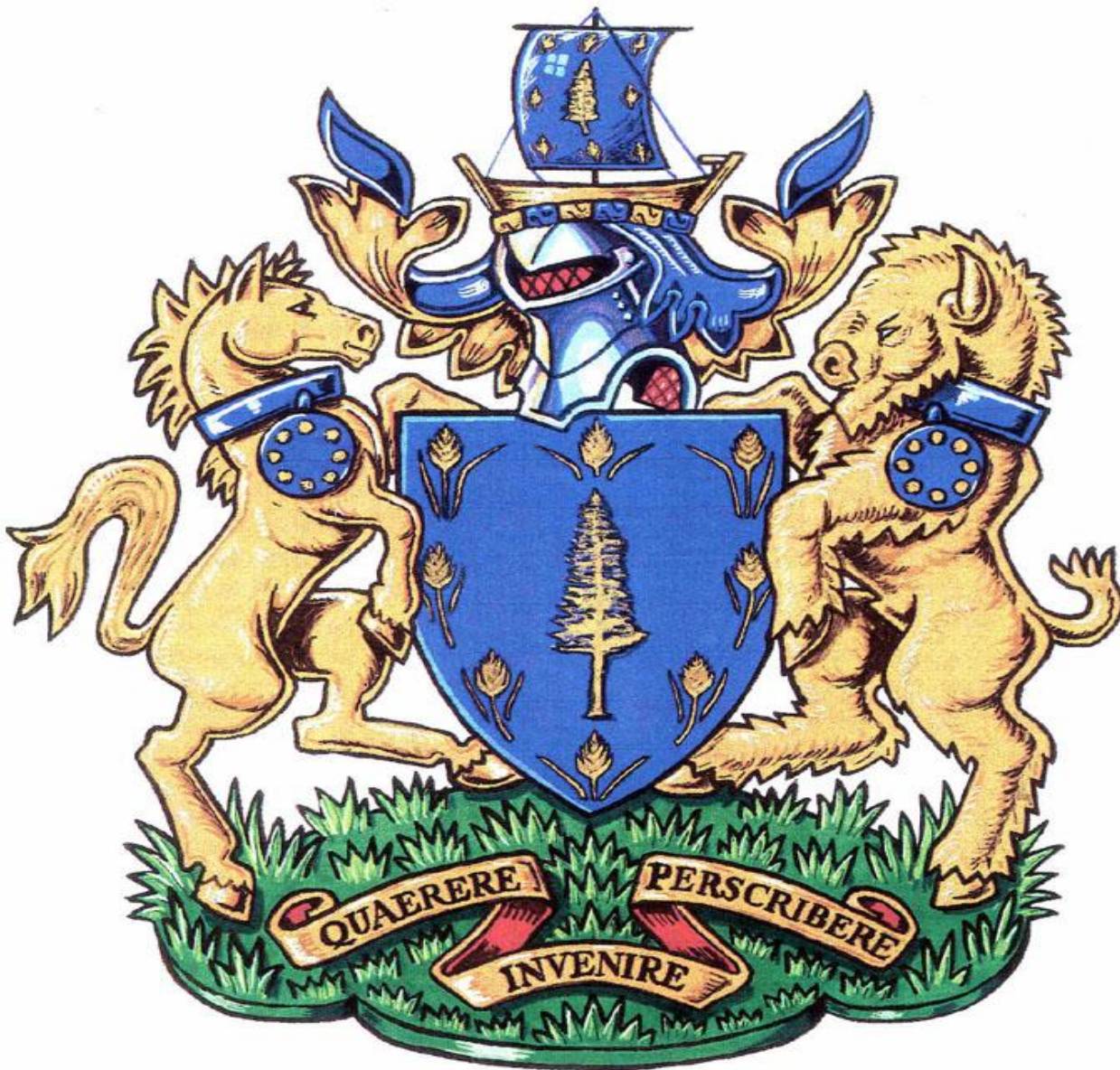


# Alberta Genealogical Society



## 2016 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

22 April 2017

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(as of Dec. 31, 2016)

### Officers

President	Robert Franz
Past President	Susan Haga
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Lianne Kruger
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jean Gray
Treasurer	Marion Rex
Secretary of the Society	Norma Wolowyk

### Directors

Brooks	Robert Franz
Camrose	Janine Carroll
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Donna Shanks
Fort McMurray	Tammy Grantham
Grande Prairie	Al Bromling
Lethbridge	Doug McLeod
Medicine Hat	Lloyd Robinson
Red Deer	Linda Darby
Wetaskiwin	Diane Strohschein

### Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Marion Rex
Nominations (Chair)	Susan Haga
Policies and Procedures (Chair)	Jean Gray

### Other Committees and Appointments

Archivist	Mary Ann Legris
Bylaws/Parliamentarian	Al Bromling
Cemetery Database	Shannon Cherkowski
Communications & Web Content Manager	Lyn Meehan
Conference 2017 Co-Chairs	Lianne Kruger
	Susan Haga
Electronic Services	John Hazelwood
Facilities	Wayne Harker
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Historian	Vacant
Legal Advisor	Sharon Roberts
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Vacant
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking:	
Editor	Vacant
Production Editor	Vacant
Mailing	George Shreeves
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
	Maxine Maxwell
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Translations	Sue Philips

### AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Linda Winski
Bookkeeper	Shirley Keller

## OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of the society are:

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

Registered 25 May 2001

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**Heartfelt  
Thanks**

**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
gratefully acknowledges the support of the

***Alberta Historical Resources Foundation***

***for \$36,170 in funding  
received through the Alberta Lottery Fund.***

The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied  
to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs,  
professional consultations and general administration.



**Our  
Sincere  
Gratitude**

**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
gratefully acknowledges the support of the

***Edmonton Heritage Council***

***for \$23,029 in funding  
received from the City of Edmonton.***

The sponsorship received from EHC helps  
to provide staffing and operational support.



## WITH SINCERE THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Alberta Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges those who donated \$10.00 or more to AGS and/or its branches in 2016 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged.

AGS received \$3,486, while Branches received \$11,073 for a total of \$14,559.

Your donation helps AGS to fulfill its mission: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

### OVER \$2000

Cold Lake Genealogy Club  
Genealogy Tours

### \$1001-2,000

-

### \$501-\$1,000

TELUS Cares

### \$251-\$500

AGS—Grande Prairie Branch

### \$101-\$250

Carroll, Janine  
Easton, Frank  
McCubbin, Lorna  
Pettipas, Gerard  
Rex, Marion  
Robbins, Melva

### \$76-\$100

Anderson, Ruth  
Brown, Evelyn  
Edmunds, Elizabeth  
Javorsky, Larry  
Losie, Frances  
Squarek, John

### \$51-\$75

Doberstein, Evelyn  
Hollands, Dorothy  
Moore, Fran  
Pape, Alfred  
Phipps, Anne

### \$26-\$50

Annau, Catherine  
Bender, Melvin  
Buchko, Sandy  
Gibson, Robert  
Gushaty, Daria  
Hagen, Beverly  
Harasewich, Tillie  
Hergot, Barbara  
Hessler, Cheryl  
Hirning, Lorraine  
Meehan, Lyn  
Millson, Catharine  
Ridgewell, Martin  
Rossiter, Marian  
Roth, Grace  
Smille, Donald  
Williams, John  
Wright, Wayne

### \$11-\$25

Allen, Joanne  
Browse, Jean  
Chalmers, John  
Clamp, Bernice  
Edwards, Susan  
Ensminger, Margery  
Goodwin, Bill  
Houston, Charlotte  
Landry, Maurice  
McKelvie, Edna  
McLeod, Doug  
Nicol, H. Grant  
Pohranychny, Edward  
Ramsden, Gloria  
Rolls, Dave  
Ross, Carolynne  
Yurkiw, Joseph

### \$10

Bilawchuk, Nellie  
Bunning, Al  
Caldwell, Darlene  
Dubrule, Rollande  
Gerretsen, Jeff  
Gibeault, Connie  
Maxwell, Maxine  
Maynard, Robert  
Mitchell, Luella  
Nutting, Mary  
Pientsch, Diane  
Stahl, Eileen  
Stephens, Henry

*Our sincere  
thanks also  
go to the 14  
donors who  
wished to  
remain  
anonymous.*

**ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
44 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2017  
RADISSON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE – EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Call to Order – President Robert (Bob) Franz
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016
4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and Directors of the Board:
  - a) President – Robert Franz
  - b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lianne Kruger
  - c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Jean Gray
  - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
  - e) Secretary – Norma Wolowyk
  - f) Past President – Susan Haga
  - g) Directors – Branch Presidents:
    - Brooks – Robert Franz
    - Camrose – Janine Carroll
    - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
    - Edmonton – Sheila Genaille
    - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
    - Grande Prairie – Ed Hall
    - Lethbridge – John Squarek
    - Medicine Hat – Melvin Bender
    - Red Deer – Sonya Miller
    - Wetaskiwin – vacant
  - h) Committee Chairs – as listed
5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports
6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Marion Rex
  - a) 2016 Audited Financial Statement
  - b) Adoption of Financial Statements
  - c) Budget 2017
  - d) Approval of Budget
  - e) Appointment of Auditor for 2017
7. Election Results – Susan Haga, Past President
8. Introduction of New Executive
9. Resolution of Respect – Frank Easton
10. Presentation of Awards – Robert Franz
11. Adjournment

**ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – APRIL 23, 2016  
DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Carol Anderson	Brooks Branch	Lyn Meehan	AGS
Sharon Aney	Wetaskiwin Branch	Merna Nelson	Drayton Valley Branch
Robert Atcheson	Edmonton Branch	Janet Nichols	Edmonton Branch
Al Bromling	Grande Prairie Branch	Jo Nuthack	Edmonton Branch
George Cathcart	Edmonton Branch	Judy Nuthack	Edmonton Branch
Gloria Cathcart	Edmonton Branch	Pat Pettitt	Edmonton Branch
Gisele Cyr	Guest	Marion Rex	Edmonton Branch
Ray Cyr	Red Deer Branch	Miriam Roberts	Drayton Valley Branch
Frank Easton	Edmonton Branch	Carolynne Ross	Edmonton Branch
Robert Franz	Brooks Branch	Connie Stuhl	Drayton Valley Branch
Jean Gray	Grande Prairie Branch	Blanche Thomson	Edmonton Branch
Susan Haga	Lethbridge Branch	E. Thompson	Edmonton Branch
Jock Howard	Fort McMurray Branch	Laura Turnbull	Edmonton Branch
Shirley Keller	AGS Bookkeeper	Linda Winski	AGS Office Coordinator
Lianne Kruger	Red Deer Branch	Norma Wolowyk	Edmonton Branch
Mary Ann Legris	Edmonton Branch	B. Wright	Edmonton Branch
Maurice Legris	Edmonton Branch	Members	32
Diane Lehr	Red Deer Branch	Guests	3
Doug McLeod	Lethbridge Branch	Total in attendance	35

1. Call to Order: The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Susan Haga, President.
2. Approval of the Agenda  
**MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.  
**Seconded** by Bob Atcheson **CARRIED**
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting  
 It was noted that the Resolution of Respect contained the 2013 listing of deceased members rather than the 2014 listing.  
**MOVED** by Doug McLeod that the Minutes of 2015 be accepted as corrected with the correction (2014 listing) attached to the Minutes prior to placement on the Website.  
**Seconded** by Sharon Aney **CARRIED**

### **Correction: 2014 listing of Deceased Members**

Beatrice McBride	#3426	Brooks	January 8, 2014
Wilma Rix	#2175	Edmonton	February 5, 2014
Bonnie Hande	# 110	AGS	February 23, 2014
Vera Hauck	#1877	Brooks	April 22, 2014
Ruby Engler	# 631	Medicine Hat	May 4, 2014
Wendee Nicoll	#2959	Edmonton	May 6, 2014
Winsome Olive Spence	#5264	Brooks	May 11, 2014
Howard Sim	#2016	Edmonton	June 28, 2014
Dwain Sebelius	#4538	Edmonton	July 30, 2014
Peter Williams	#3772	Edmonton	July 30, 2014
Anne Knight	#2946	Edmonton	August 14, 2014
June Hughes	#5450	Wetaskiwin	August 28, 2014
John Luciuk	#2317	Edmonton	August 30, 2014
Herbert Albrecht	#1904	Edmonton	September 6, 2014
Shirley Yurkewich	#3862	Edmonton	September 11, 2014
Patricia Jean Woodman	#2355	Edmonton	December 18, 2014

Several members asked that, at future Conferences and GenFairs, the Annual Reports and Financial Reports can be made available during that day rather than just as the AGM is beginning.

#### **4. Introduction of the Executive and Directors by President Susan Haga**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lianne Kruger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jean Gray
- Vice President – Finance Jock Howard
- Past President Liam Hobbes
- Secretary Mary Ann Legris
- Branch Presidents (Directors)
  - Brooks Robert Franz
  - Camrose Janine Carroll
  - Drayton Valley Connie Stuhl
  - Edmonton Donna Shanks
  - Fort McMurray Tammy Grantham
  - Grande Prairie Al Bromling
  - Lethbridge Doug McLeod
  - Medicine Hat Lloyd Robinson
  - Peace River Joan Wahl
  - Red Deer Linda Darby
  - Wetaskiwin Diane Strohschein
- Committee Chairs as listed

#### **5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee Reports**

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

**Seconded** by Miriam Roberts

**CARRIED**



6. Financial Reports: Vice President of Finance/Treasurer Jock Howard  
Following the presentation and discussion of the 2015 Audited Financial Statements, this motion was made:  
**MOVED** by Jock Howard that the Audited Financial Statements – 2015 be accepted as presented.  
**Seconded** by Robert Franz **CARRIED**

Following the presentation and discussion of the AGS Budget 2016 – 2017, this motion was made:  
**MOVED** by Jock Howard that the AGS Budget 2016 – 2017 be adopted as presented.  
**Seconded** by Laura Turnbull **CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Jock Howard that the firm of Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs Chartered Accountants be retained for 2016.  
**Seconded** by Doug McLeod **CARRIED**

7. Business brought forward from the Board

- Dissolution of Peace River Branch – Secretary Mary Ann Legris  
The ‘Statement of Dissolution’ was read by the Secretary  
Having been in a state of dormancy for a period of one year, according to Bylaw 7.2 - Dormancy, and having met all requirements as outlined in Bylaw 7.3 - Dissolution, the Peace River Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society is now dissolved. The Statement of Dissolution, monetary assets, financial records, and minutes will be kept secure by the Society for a period of five years ending April 23, 2021.
- Branch difficulties - Executive positions: Parliamentarian/Bylaws – Jo Nuthack  
As Chair of Bylaws, Jo Nuthack has been approached by the executive of several small branches regarding the difficulty to fill the elected positions. It has become necessary for some of the Presidents to stay beyond the years specified in the Society Bylaws.

Jo recommended that the Bylaws Chair and committee consider amendments allowing for alternatives such as the extension of terms for the Presidents of Branches with the exception of Edmonton Branch.  
He suggested, as well, that the Board consider a review of the Bylaws as a whole. The last review took place in early 2000.

8. Election – Jo Nuthack (Acting Chair in the absence of the Past President)  
Bylaw Amendments presented for membership vote

- Proposed: Student Membership open to grade school children of grades one to twelve. **CARRIED**
- Proposed: To change the present title of Vice President of Finance to Treasurer. **CARRIED**

Acclamation and introduction of Elected Officers:

- President for a two-year term ROBERT FRANZ
- 1st Vice President for a two-year term LIANNE KRUGER
- Vice President of Finance for a two-year term MARION REX  
(Hence-forth to be titled Treasurer)
- Secretary for a one-year term NORMA WOLOWYK  
(To complete the second year of present term)

**MOVED** by Doug McLeod that the ballots of election 2016 be destroyed.

**Seconded** by Frank Easton

**CARRIED**

9. Resolution of Respect – Frank Easton

Be it resolved that members of the Alberta Genealogical Society go on record as expressing their deepest sorrow in the passing of the following members

William Lappenbush	#4413	Grande Prairie	Jan. 10, 2015
Hugh Critchley	#5197	Edmonton	Jan. 18, 2015
Paul Workman	#4685	Edmonton	Feb. 26, 2015
Myra Anderson	#3038	Medicine Hat	Apr. 02, 2015
Peter Staveley	#4645	Edmonton	May 23, 2015
Mairi MacCrimmon	# 444	Edmonton	June 07, 2015
Patricia Peterson	#2010	Brooks	June 15, 2015
Arthur Murphy	#6121	Grande Prairie	June 19, 2015
Stan Thomson	#1280	Edmonton	Sept. 02, 2015
Sharon Allred	#5921	Lethbridge	Sept. 04, 2015
Jean Madill	#1684	Edmonton	Oct. 19, 2015
Gary Flug	#5781	Medicine Hat	Nov. 14, 2015
Richard McNeill	#2262	Edmonton	Nov. 27, 2015
Wilfred (Wish) Walters	#4796	Medicine Hat	Dec. 06, 2015
Judith McKinney	#3558	Edmonton	Dec. 10, 2015

We stood for a moment of silent tribute to their memory.

10. Presentation of Awards – President Susan Haga

**Long Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five years**

Marjorie Nicholson	Camrose Branch
Colleen Anderson	Drayton Valley Branch
Doreen & Slim Dimitroff	Edmonton Branch
Lois & Leonard Evans	Edmonton Branch
Peter Skitsko	Edmonton Branch
Sheila Hale	Fort McMurray Branch
Janet Coatham	Red Deer Branch
Diane Lewis	Red Deer Branch

### **Life Membership – Award given for outstanding contribution to the Society**

- *Beverly Hagen – Brooks Branch*  
Beverly has been an AGS member of 35 years, a founding member of Brooks Branch and a Past President of the Branch. She continues to be an ongoing contributing member.
- *Shirley Machan – Edmonton Branch*  
Shirley has been the AGS member responsible for the cataloguing of the AGS and Edmonton Libraries, from 1992 to 2013, which is now searchable online. She also volunteers in the Library and on the Research Services Committee.
- *Alice Hoyle – Wetaskiwin Branch*  
Alice, an AGS member, has served in all Branch executive positions and as Editor of the newsletter. She assists with research, volunteers in the Library and is involved with all Outreach Programs.

### **Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards – Excellence in Branch Newsletters**

- **Certificate for Best Original Article** Barbara D. Krasner  
**“10 Lessons You Can Learn From An Oral Historian”**  
*Yesterday’s Footprints* – Lethbridge Branch
- **Certificate for Best Local Content** Leslie Gordon  
**“Taking Care of Your Family Photos”**  
*Heritage Seekers* – Grande Prairie Branch
- **Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter**  
*Heritage Seekers* – Grande Prairie Branch  
Editor: Patricia Greber

### **Certificates of Appreciation**

- **In recognition of your leadership in making the 2015 AGS Convention a memorable event** – Pamela Forsyth and Carolynne Ross, Co-Chairs
- **In recognition of your outstanding report presented to the 2015 Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Board** – Marion Rex
- **In recognition of your ongoing work as Editor of the Grande Prairie Award winning newsletter, *Heritage Seekers*** – Patricia Greber
- **In recognition of your ongoing support given to the President** – Mary Ann Legris

### **President’s Award:**

- **A plaque to Wetaskiwin Branch for 27 years as a Branch: 1980-1992 & 2000-2015.**
- **A plaque to Jo Nuthack for his 41 years of ongoing and dedicated service to the Society.**

## **11. Adjournment**

Susan Haga presented the gavel to the incoming President Robert Franz who declared the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Mary Ann Legris  
AGS Secretary

---

Susan Haga  
AGS President

# EXECUTIVE REPORTS

## **President – Robert Franz**

According to Chinese astrology, 2016 was the year of the fire monkey. Individuals born in this year were described as being ambitious and adventurous but irritable and 2016 was predicted as an unlucky year requiring caution. This being my first year as President and in a sense a rebirth of AGS, in reviewing this past year, the description and caution seems apt. AGS embarked on several ambitious and adventurous initiatives which resulted in marked discontent and irritability among some members and reminded the current executive of the need to proceed with caution.

Susan Haga, President from January to April, finished her year visiting several AGS branches, one of the goals of her presidency. The year began for myself and the 2016 Board of Directors with the major challenge of projected declining revenue and declining membership with increasing costs of providing services including web development and publishing our journal *Relatively Speaking*. To cut expenses, the February Board of Directors meeting was held at the Providence Centre. Final analysis proved the move not to have a significant cost advantage in that savings in accommodation were offset by added costs for meals. With great relief and thanks to the efforts of Marion Rex and Jean Gray and their committees, the dire projections regarding finances and membership did not materialize.

The ‘GenFair’ was held April 23, hosted most ably by Drayton Valley. Accolades on a job well done go to all volunteers involved. The fair differed from past fairs in taking the risk of including three speakers in addition to the traditional booths, and this daring change proved to be a huge success in the end.

Elections at the AGM saw a number of changes in the Executive with myself being acclaimed President, Norma Wolowyk elected Secretary

and Marion Rex elected Treasurer. Most Committee Chairs were reappointed for another term; however, with the resignations of Jo Nuthack and Mary Ann Legris respectively, Al Bromling was elected Parliamentarian and Jean Gray was elected Chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee.

At the May 25 Board of Directors meeting, I identified three pillars of my Presidency:

- enhancing services and support to AGS Members and Branches,
- promotion and collaboration with Potential Members and Parallel Agencies, and
- addressing the health of the Board and Committees.

With the encouragement of Wayne Shephard and Lyn Meehan, I posted a first ever President’s column called “*Let’s Talk*” on our website in an effort to reach not just the membership but beyond, with the hope of attracting new members to the Society.

At the end of June, I called a Superordinary meeting of the Executive to address the intensity of the response received to the Board’s decision to switch delivery of *Relatively Speaking* to a digital format as well as to the resignation of the RS Editor. This meeting was conducted by video conference July 6 and resulted in two motions:

1. that the AGS Board of Directors reassess the Board’s decision to go 100% digital in printing/delivery of *Relatively Speaking* in 2017, and
2. that the Executive recommend to the Board of Directors that they accept the resignation of Wayne Shephard, Editor of *Relatively Speaking*.

In July, the Associate Editor of *Relatively Speaking* also resigned.

Meanwhile, the AGS was present at a number of events in the Alberta community during the summer. In August, Donna Shanks and John Althouse represented AGS at the “Gathering of

the Victoria Settlement” in Victoria. Susan Haga and Miriam Roberts attended the “North American Festival of Wales” in Calgary and Bob Franz attended the “Society for Germany Genealogy in Eastern Europe Conference”.

The August 2016 issue of *Relatively Speaking* under the editorship of Wayne Shephard saw the first interprovincial collaboration between Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba on a joint feature on the NWMP which received much attention and praise. In August the Board instituted the Peter Staveley Memorial Award for significant contribution to *Relative Speaking* which will be awarded for the first time in 2017. An increasing number of members are expressing a desire to receive *Relatively Speaking* in a digital format and there are early indications that AGS membership requests are on the increase.

A Board Development Facilitator from Culture and Tourism was engaged to lead the Board and AGS Committee Chairs through a workshop on the morning of September 24 at the Annual Retreat at Providence Centre. Six issues facing the Society were identified and the President was charged with raising these issues at subsequent meetings for discussion and resolution.

As President of the Society, I was invited by the Edmonton Branch to attend their Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on October 1 with expenses paid by the Edmonton Branch. While in Edmonton, I also met with the Office Coordinator and briefly with some of the Executive members of the Edmonton Branch. It was a very enjoyable and productive day, and I extend sincere thanks to the Edmonton Branch for the opportunity to meet with them and to exchange thoughts on what is happening in the Society.

In November, the Board of Directors met for a record virtual meeting (using BlueJeans video conferencing technology) of five hours and ten minutes, cutting costs while covering much ground.

By the end of 2016, the Society was being promoted on Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter and Family Search Wiki. Our webpage was being

used more and more frequently and had received acclaim from genealogy and family history societies and bloggers nationally and internationally.

The problems we have addressed this year regarding content management technology, delivery of our Journal, internal communication and cooperation between departments can all be accredited, in part, to our continued growth and success. This coming year, our Annual Conference will see a change in venue as we have outgrown our previous location, again reflecting the success and growth of this society. That growth and success, is the direct result of the leadership provided at each of the local branches and by your Provincial Executive and Board of Directors. Most of all, it is due to the support received from you, the membership.

My first eight months as your President have been challenging as we addressed concerns associated with our growth and change, but also rewarding, and I thank you for the opportunity to help strengthen our mission of promoting the study of genealogy and genealogical research in this province.

Volunteer Hours, April to December — 331

## **Past President – Susan Haga**

It's been a long eight months since we met at our AGM in Drayton Valley this past April when I passed the gavel over to Bob Franz our new AGS President and I've been chuckling ever since as more and more duties have been passed on to me as the Past President. Some of the things that I've been involved with I had volunteered for as well. I have enjoyed, though, having fewer emails with which to be concerned since Bob has taken on the role of President. I thank him for hanging in there as there have been some challenging times since he became President in April, 2016.

I also thank Drayton Valley President Connie Stuhl and her committee for putting on a great GenFair and encouraging the other Branches to be willing to do the same. The Annual General Meeting of the Society is always an important part of our GenFairs and Conferences and it is

important for members from across the province to attend.

I am part of the Retreat Committee and have been for a number of years. It keeps me fairly busy especially this year with Maxine going on a lengthy tour to the Ukraine right before the Retreat, so there were a lot of last minute details to finalize. The Retreat is a great time to come together as executive and board members to share ideas of what we are doing in our Branches and to have some time to socialize together.

In 2016, I was also involved with the Policies and Procedures Committee chaired by Jean Gray. There were a lot of policies that needed updating and some new ones put in place resulting in a lot of community hours being contributed. I thank Jean for the many hours she put into heading up this committee. BlueJeans, our online videoconferencing interface, has made it much easier for us to meet as a committee, as an executive and as a board. We held a successful, five hour, virtual meeting on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> which ran fairly smoothly and saved us a lot of money.

I especially thank Jock Howard for the time he spent arranging for us to acquire BlueJeans as a means to communicate via virtual meetings as an executive and as a board. It's fairly affordable as we can use it as often as we like. I would like to suggest that the Branches take advantage of online videoconferencing as a way to bring in speakers to their monthly meetings through the use of BlueJeans.

## **First Vice President – Lianne Kruger**

### Social Media

AGS social media has continued to grow over the last year. My participation in #GenChat and #AncestryHour has helped. Tweeting about the conference has also helped. Thank you Laura for your continued work.

### Databases

We have not made any progress yet on the cemetery database but I believe we have a small idea of a plan to go into the new year.

### Website

The website is wonderful. Many great resources have been added. The website has been a tremendous asset for the conference. Thank you Lyn.

### Conference

I was asked to organize the GenFair with the Alberta Family History Society (AFHS) in Calgary. Unfortunately that did not work for 2016. I asked which branch would like to help and Connie with her Drayton Valley branch organized the GenFair for us. They did a great job.

I have organized the 2017 conference which will be held in Edmonton using the theme and ideas I had for the 2016 GenFair. I have had volunteers from a variety of branches. It has been good to have other branches involved, from the north to the south. I found a hotel that can handle the size of our conference with everything on one floor. The Radisson has been wonderful to work with and will cost less than our previous venue.

## **Second Vice President – Jean Gray**

This is my second and last year as 2nd VP and it has been a challenge.

Chairing the Membership Committee for all of 2015 and again for part of 2016 was educational and provided an opportunity to work with the Communications and Website content manager updating the New Member's Kit, renewal application form and the membership cards. It also showed me the value of the data that our Shout program is collecting to give us information in planning for the future.

The 2nd VP is also the executive member to whom the Editor of *Relatively Speaking* reports. The resignation of our editor, Wayne Shephard, and his committee was unfortunate. A committee was created to interview any applicants who would apply and the plan is to have *Relatively Speaking* published again early in 2017.

Translations is the last area of my responsibility. There were no translation requests this year.

I was the Executive member who chaired the Policies and Procedure Committee for part of 2016 and whose report is included on page 40 of this Annual Report.

Our society has an Operations Manual outlining the position descriptions and responsibilities of our Committee Chairs. The Board appoints committee chairs to carry out this work. Board members and society members must support these committee chairs and their committees. This organization of the work load was established for the Society to function well. Let's use it for the benefit and improvement of the Alberta Genealogical Society.

Volunteer Hours — 204

## **Treasurer – Marion Rex**

### **Surplus in 2016**

We finished the 2016 year with a surplus. This is due, in part, to the following:

- Higher than budgeted membership
- Higher than anticipated AHRF grant
- Donation from Cold Lake Genealogy Club of \$2,075.35
- Higher than anticipated rent rebate due to less snow removal
- Lower costs for publishing *Relatively Speaking* because we published three issues, not four.
- Lower than anticipated library book purchases
- Lower than anticipated Board travel because the November videoconference was held with each board member joining the conference from home through BlueJeans, our videoconferencing interface rather than from localized submeetings
- Purchase of a \$2,000 fire resistant file cabinet scheduled to be made at year-end if funds were available was cancelled when we learned that casino funding could be down by as much as \$20,000 in 2017 based on information that we received about the most current payouts being made

At year-end, the intent was to use the surplus to help balance the 2017 budget in anticipation of the casino shortfall.

## **Bookkeeping**

This year was the second full year that Shirley Keller, our part-time, contract bookkeeper, has provided bookkeeping services for Alberta Genealogical Society. She does all the AGS provincial bookkeeping and helps to coordinate and consolidate all financial information provided by the Branches so we can report to Revenue Canada. She also completes the GST and charity returns. She has developed an excellent working relationship with Linda Winski, our Office Coordinator, in balancing funding raised through memberships, donations and conference registrations. Her help is invaluable in providing the data required for grant applications and working with the auditors. She has also developed many processes that have helped to improve efficiencies for AGS.

## **Gaming**

A casino was held in 2015, one of the largest ever for AGS. In 2016, deferred funding helped offset the costs of insurance coverage for AGS and all of its Branches, as well as rent for the AGS facility in Edmonton. My thanks to Laura Turnbull for chairing this important revenue stream, and to all the volunteers who make this event possible. Please see Laura Turnbull's Gaming report for more information.

## **Grants & Other Funding**

The Alberta Genealogical Society (Provincial) is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (\$36,170) and the Edmonton Heritage Council (\$23,029). The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration. Funding received from EHC helps provide both staffing and operational support.

The final report for the Community Initiative Program (CIP) grant for computers and videoconferencing equipment was submitted. Thanks to CIP funding, we now have new computers for the office manager and bookkeeper as well as webcam and a speaker for videoconferencing.

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS provincial (\$3,486) and its Branches (\$11,073) received \$14,559 in donations. We are grateful to all of our generous donors.

AGS Provincial is also very appreciative of the **Cold Lake Genealogy Club**'s donation in the amount of \$2,075.35 when they closed their group. Please see the Grants & Other Funding report for more information.

### **Research**

In 2016, AGS consolidated raised \$8,335.26 by answering research queries. AGS Provincial (\$3,507.44) and its Branches (\$4,827.82) raised a total of \$8,335.26 by answering research queries, for the most part by providing answers to family research questions, as well as hard copies of Alberta Homestead Records, Alberta Land records, cemetery records and obituaries as a result of finding aids that we have online.

Thanks to the members of Edmonton Branch for answering the questions directed to the provincial office. My sincere gratitude to Norma Wolowyk and her team for their efforts in providing genealogical research and support for those who make queries to AGS realizing over \$3,500 in funding to AGS. Please see Norma Wolowyk's Research report for more information.

### **Finance Committee**

My thanks to the Finance Committee: Jock Howard (Past VP Finance), Donna Shanks (Edmonton Branch President), Laura Turnbull (Gaming Chair), and Norma Wolowyk (Research Chair) for helping to guide the financial decisions for the Alberta Genealogical Society. This would be a hard job to do without their wisdom and experience.

Volunteer Hours —278

## VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2016

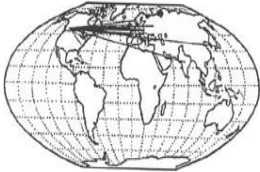
The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten Branches of the AGS realized a total of 32,277 volunteer hours that were reported in 2016

*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



Memberships            21  
Volunteer hours       1746

January. Local artist Linda Larochelle-Wilson gave a most informative presentation on how she compiled and published a history book on her family as well as a commemorative book detailing the life of her mother-in-law on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday using a wide collection of family artifacts and heirlooms to illustrate and provide character to the books.

Also, on January 23 we celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On hand to extend greetings and congratulations were our Provincial President Susan Haga, newly-elected City of Brooks Mayor Barry Morishita, and the Reeve of the County of Newell, her Worship Molly Douglass. Also in attendance was Brooks and District first President, Susan Hagen, past Branch presidents, and founding members Clara Iwaasa and Carol Anderson, both still active members of our Branch. The afternoon included a presentation by member Trisha Hutton on her trip to England and the family research she conducted there. The time capsule put together to celebrate Alberta's Centennial was opened and the contents examined. Additional items were collected to reflect the Branch in 2015 and were added to the capsule to be sealed again until another time.

Also in January member Karyn Norden set up a Facebook Page for the Branch.

February. Karyn Norden led a discussion on "The History of Valentine's Day" and members brought and discussed Valentines that held special significance to them. We also held our annual general meeting on the tenth. The entire 2015 executive was returned for 2016 by popular demand!

President: Bob Franz  
Vice President: Eileen French  
Secretary: Glenn Michell  
Treasurer: Karyn Norden  
Finance: Brian Dunlop  
Publications: Carol Anderson  
Newsletter: Editor Carol Anderson, Copy Editor Glenn Michell  
Casino: Eileen French, Brian Dunlop, Karyn Norden  
Membership: Henry Najda  
Research: Clara Iwaasa  
Website: Karyn Norden and Brian Dunlop

March. Past President, Eileen French, lead us through the web site "Find a Grave" and enlightened us on the many features of this site and others shared their research on similar sites. Several of our members also attended a workshop on Casinos.

April. April brought us a comprehensive and informative review of the history of the airplane. Dane "From the Food Bank Downstairs" brought us several dozen plastic airplanes he has built from scratch and detailed along with a history of each airplane and its pilot.

Also in April, Carol Anderson and Bob Franz attended the GenFair and AGM in Drayton

Valley. An excellent time was spent at the Fair with informative speakers and interesting displays. Brooks and District Branch set up a display on our activities which attracted much interest from those in attendance.

May. Last year, several of our members attended the first open house by the Suffield Historical Society. In May, their president David Dennis and their secretary Sheila Langlois and their members travelled to Brooks for an evening slide presentation on the photos they have collected of Suffield and on the formation and history of their society. We continue to advertise and hold our monthly open house but with little interest shown by the community.

Two members have stepped forward to fill vacancies: Library, Lee Hunter and Historian, Iris Dunham. Members never cease to amaze with their enthusiasm and willingness to help out.

June. Our annual outing this year was to the little hamlet of Etzikom in the County of Forty Mile and about an hour's drive southeast of Brooks. Two carloads of eight members and guests carpooled to our destination. Arriving at the hamlet of Etzikom after a short stop at Hays, we were warmly greeted by the museum staff and spent several delightful hours wandering through the museum on our own and with a guided tour (and sing-along) in their music room of historic organs (and historic songs). We have all seen many museums in our lifetimes, but it was unanimously agreed that we have never seen one as well-stocked and as well-organized as the one we had just seen. We then visited the Canadian National Historical Windmill Center on the grounds of the museum, a collection of original and reconstructed windmills. After refreshing ourselves with homemade pie at the museum, we continued on our way to Red Rock Coulee, a collection of glacial rocks deposited along a stretch of coulee

in the County of Forty Mile. After hiking about the rocks and leaning into the westerly winds, we returned to our cars and headed to Redcliff for coffee at their new A & W, and returned up the TransCanada to Brooks. A most enjoyable and highly recommended outing.

June also brought the tragic death of Lyle William Kloth, one of our members. Lyle was crossing the street in his motorized scooter when he was struck by a hit and run driver. Eighty-three years of age, he died of his injuries. Lyle was a quiet, personal man and a loyal member who never failed to attend our monthly meetings and social gatherings and he will be greatly missed.

July. Canada Day saw members once again manning a booth at the Brooks and District Museum which was well attended by those celebrating Canada Day festivities dropping by to chat or to see what we were about.

August. Our executive met on August 24 to discuss what is happening at AGS provincially and to plan our events and activities for the fall.

September. AGS Past President Susan Haga presented four one-hour sessions on genealogy in the hopes of attracting new members. We kicked off our fall program with a sharing session on research over the summer and April from the Family History Centre gave a presentation on the services available at the newly reopened Centre.

October. October sadly saw the passing of longtime life member Mitsuo Iwaasa. His advocacy and support of our society has been greatly appreciated and unfortunately we were in the midst of preparing our recognition of his contribution when he passed on.

At our program meeting member Henry Nadja gave a presentation on his trip through Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Deputy

Mayor signed a declaration for Family History week which was published in the local paper and we held three open-house sessions for the public.

Also in October, in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in Alberta, the City of Brooks held a commemorative reenactment of Nellie McClung's satirical speech on why men should not have a right to vote. Plaques on female graduates from the local high school's wall of fame and six plaques on female pioneers in the area were exhibited, and the latter were donated to the AGS Branch and now grace our walls.

November. We were invited to an advance look at the new library facility being built in town and the room available to the Brooks Branch. Dane Shivers was invited back to talk about his hobby of constructing model airplanes with a focus on War planes. He provided a detailed history of the Canadian planes and a submarine he has built and of Canadian pilots. Our second speaker was Gerry Giraldi who spoke to us on his personal experiences in reconnaissance during the Viet Nam war. His graphic presentation had everyone squirming uncomfortably in their seats.

December. Members of the Brooks and District Branch gathered with their spouses at a local eatery for their annual evening of good cheer and fellowship in December. Once again, this year we had a gift draw with proceeds donated to the local food bank. The fall issue of our newsletter *B and D Heirlines* had to be carried over to the spring.

Throughout 2016, members have shared their research with each other, provided assistance to each other and dutifully performed the responsibilities associated with their various positions.

We continue to be a small but active and dedicated group. We closed the year with 21 members and have dedicated 1746 hours of volunteer service for 2016.

Submitted by Robert Franz, President

## Camrose Branch

Memberships	26
Volunteer hours	1557.5

### 2016 Executive:

President:	Janine Carroll
Vice President:	Fay Carlson
Secretary:	Adele Goa
Treasurer:	Alora Nelson
Library:	Bev Webster
Newsletter:	Joan Conley

### Volunteer Hours:

Our total volunteer hours were down about 500 hours from 2015 when a great deal of research went into the 3<sup>rd</sup> volume of the Camrose Canadian BMD.

### Making Connections:

We were excited having someone from South Africa become a member of our branch and we immediately started working on a plan to make him president! Dave is a 13<sup>th</sup> generation South African with an Irish grandfather. His connection with Camrose began with his search for his Irish roots. He contacted Jack Cunningham, one of our past members who had initiated our Branch Newsletter. Dave had seen an article that Jack had published in the 'Roots and Shoots' Winter 2004 issue and was able to link his family to the Cunninghams. It is amazing that our local Newsletter could have such results! But that's what it is all about... making connections!

### Meeting Topics:

February: We watched the movie "Oranges and Sunshine", the story of British Home Children who were sent to Australia.

March: “Helping Each Other”. Members were encouraged to bring questions, brick walls and their laptops.

April: “Family Tree Adventures in Ireland & Scotland” presented by Joan Conley.

May: A Webinar on “Canadian Ports of Entry” organized by Deb Trout.

June: Ms. Pat Ryan presented a 1 hour slideshow and talk titled “Who’s your Momma”. Also in June, several Camrose members attended the “Genealogy in the Park” – a two day workshop with Pat Ryan.

Summer Activities: The Branch Summer Social was held at the end of July and included a picnic lunch and cemetery scavenger hunt at the Camrose Valleyview Cemetery. Nine members attended. Branch members were also invited to attend the Camrose Founders Days Festival activities and several members helped organize this 3 day historical festival.

September: Members gave presentations on what they did during the summer.

October: Regular meeting and presentation by Joan Conley on “Family Tree Adventures in Ireland and Scotland”.

November: Guest speaker Lorraine Cathro spoke about writing family history.

December: “Show and Tell” - Members brought family artifacts and photos and shared the stories.

### **Outreach:**

Members of the Branch attended the Camrose Community Registration Evening in early September attracting a good deal of interest. One member provided past copies of *Relatively Speaking* which were of great interest to people. The Branch will be ordering a new, more

modern silk banner that will be more convenient to store and transport.

### **Ongoing Project:**

BMD’s from the Camrose Canadian, Volume 3, 1941 – 1946 is expected to be completed in 2017.

Submitted by Janine Carroll, President



## **Drayton Valley Branch**

Memberships 12  
Volunteer hours: 634

In 2016, Drayton Valley Branch continued to assist members with research and promote genealogy in our community.

### **Meetings, Speakers and Presentations**

In January, we set up at the Drayton Valley Community Library with Genies in the Library. There were 3 members of the public that attended to do some preliminary search on their family tree.

February was our annual general meeting and only the executive attended. It is increasingly difficult to find members willing to support the Branch by serving in a position.

In March, we prepared for the upcoming GenFair, discussing where the tables would be set up, who would be at the reception table and able to answer questions from the public.

April 23, 2016, we hosted the AGS GenFair at the Royal Canadian Legion in Drayton Valley. There were 69 attendees and we received positive feedback on how the GenFair was run. Everyone enjoyed the speakers during the day. Having them throughout the day kept the

attendees for the whole day. We had enough AGS members present to hold the AGM.

In May, I gave a short talk on DNA and Forensic Genealogy. I showed some photos which highlighted what to look for, what not to overlook and to not assume. One photo looked like a wedding, but on closer examination, everyone in the photo was female. This photo was of a play not a wedding, so the person to look for would have been an actress not a bride.

In June, we had a supper meeting at a local restaurant with spouses and other guests. It was a nice way to wrap up before the summer break.

In September, we highlighted what research resources were in our local branch library.

In October, a talk was given on Drayton Valley's first murder that occurred in 1923. It was very interesting to hear the story of the case, as well as following the person who was incarcerated after being sent to jail. He was released to the United States before his sentence was completed in Canada (this was in the 1930's).

In November, keeping with our usual military theme, we had a community member as a guest speaker. She spoke about her time growing up in England during the beginning of WWII. It was a very interesting story.

We did not have a meeting in December as it would have been very close to Christmas.

### **Projects**

Drayton Valley Branch continues to collect obituaries and place them on index cards for research. We also maintain a Facebook page. Two members are involved with the Legacy Project with other community groups for Drayton Valley and area. This project is to preserve the oral, written and photographic

history of Drayton Valley and area. We felt this was a good fit with what we promote.

### **Outreach**

In January, we hosted Genies in the Library at the Municipal Library in Drayton Valley and on April 23, we hosted the AGS GenFair at the Royal Canadian Legion in Drayton Valley.

On September 20, I attended an Alberta Culture Days event at the Municipal Library where guest authors read snippets of their latest book. I gathered up some of the genealogical resources that the Library has on hand and set up a display. The display was left up over the weekend for the public to view.

Two of our members are members of the Drayton Valley and Area Legacy Project. The Town recognizes that history is a resource that requires careful stewardship. The plan is to archive video, audio, photographs and text to record the history of the community. By preserving the past, we can build a strong sense of community and deeper engagement with visitors to Drayton Valley. I feel that our Branch of AGS is a good fit with this project.

As President of the Drayton Valley Branch, I am a member of an Inter Agency Group. Through this group we can share activities that get fanned out to members of the community.

Our goal remains to continue to offer programs that may entice new members to join our Branch.

Submitted by Connie Stuhl, President



Memberships	431
Members	499
Volunteer hours	12,010

**President:** 2016 has been a busy year at Edmonton Branch. In addition to the general duties as president, I represented AGS and Edmonton at the Gathering at Victoria Settlement in August. I also hosted the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch on October 1 on behalf of the Branch Executive.

Our **Vice President**, Valerie Rappel, was unable to complete her term due to health issues, so we were without a Vice President for part of the year.

**Past President**, Lynne Duigou, acted as nominations chair and secured nominations to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for 2015-16 and 2016-17. She also chaired the Branch General Meeting while the President was ill and the Vice President was out of the country.

In 2016, Lynne presented a session at Tracing Your Family Free (TYFT) on Immigration, Emigration and land records; co-chaired the Canada/USA special interest group (SIG); made a presentation at the Postscripts SIG on how she and her husband Lou wrote a 400 page history book for Lou's family's 100 year celebration of their arrival in Canada; and she spoke to interested groups about the Society and Edmonton Branch.

Ken Fearnley was elected to the position of **Treasurer** and has been receiving training from

AGS Bookkeeper, Shirley Keller. Ken's background in business will be an asset to the Branch and AGS

**Library Committee** members, Arlene Borgstede, Heather Harper, Leanne Templeton and Lynn Fogwill continued to do an excellent job for the Branch and AGS in 2016. With the overall aim to increase membership, library usage and patron satisfaction, the committee focused on identifying ways to better meet user needs. This included consultations with Branch members at a general meeting, distribution of an electronic survey to all Edmonton Branch members, and a physical questionnaire completed at the Library by visiting researchers (be they members or guests). The information-gathering process took about four months and the results were compiled by Lynn Fogwill and the committee into a report entitled: *AGS – Edmonton Branch Library, The Next Ten Years*. The report and its recommendations were submitted to the Edmonton Branch Executive in the fall of 2016 with the hope that they will be accepted in January 2017 as a tool for the committee to use moving forward to assess future projects, weigh ideas against proven user feedback, and facilitate the distribution and allocation of resources.

A few requests for **volunteer work** that could be completed at home resulted in new work being done on the Local History Book Indexing Project. Norma Wolowyk assisted in setting up an Excel sheet that requires only basic typing skills to enter names and pages into columns. This project is once again open and ongoing.

**Acquisitions:** After six months of discussions with librarians from the Stanley Milner Branch of the Edmonton Public Library (EPL), we acquired four boxes of materials from the Heritage Collection prior to their move/closure. These are being sorted and will be shared with other branches if they prove to be duplicates or beyond the scope of our collection.

**Membership Director** Janet Cooper reported that, in 2016, we had 431 memberships totalling 499 members. This indicates an increase of 61 members over last year with a total of 69 families. Three members reached the 25 year mark and will be honored at the annual meeting. Those qualifying include Fran Losie, Noel Nicolson and Shirley Machan.

We mourned the passing of the following Branch members in 2016: Lorraine Yackulic; Claudette Vague; John Stirling Bradley; Peter Goutbeck; Lorran (Larry) Clark and Lucille Horne.

The Edmonton Branch Newsletter, “Clandigger” is compiled by John Althouse. He reported that in 2016, he continued developing the theme of volunteerism. “Clandigger” provided coverage of the GenFair with the help of photographs and input from members. A way to provide copies of this newsletter to Branch members without email was devised since a paper copy is not provided to members who have email. However, should any member desire a print copy, the resources to produce a copy are available at the AGS Library. John forwarded online copies of “Clandigger” to all AGS Branches for inclusion in their library and for their newsletter editor’s reference. Thanks to all who have assisted in any way.

Edmonton Branch will be seeking a new Editor for “Clandigger” in 2017 as John wishes to step away from this role. He graciously offered to provide an orientation to anyone wishing to take up this challenge.

### **Tracing Your Family Tree (TYFT) Courses and Outreach**

Director Colleen Murray had a busy 2016. A one-day “Tracing your Family Tree - Kickstart” course was organized for June. There were 26 students and the new format was received with enthusiasm. In order to cover some of the

missed topics from the three-day course, another one-day course entitled “Tracing your Family Tree-the Basics” was offered in October.

The topic of DNA was added to TYFT for the first time, as well as several traditional topics. Fifteen students attended and again, the one day class was well-received in spite of having a lot of content and was a bit rushed. New one day workshops are being planned for 2017 on topics of interest to members and others.

The **Research Services Committee** for both AGS and Edmonton Branch AGS has been meeting each Friday at the AGS Library since 1999 and continued to do so in 2016.

258 queries (229 in 2015) were processed by Edmonton Branch AGS during 2016. For AGS, they processed 144 (177 in 2015). The total number of queries handled by the Committee during the year was 402. There was a 7% increase, 13% to 20%, in queries received through the Edmonton Branch email address. This increase is a result of the Edmonton Journal Obituary Index (1950-1982) being placed on the Branch website and the addition of more records added to the probate indexes.

**Programs Directors** Pam Forsyth and Carolynne Ross organized the following speakers for Edmonton Branch General Meetings

- **March** – *Genealogical Services for Hire* by Jean Crozier, Colleen Murray and Sharon Cherkowski
- **April** – *Fraud Prevention for Seniors* by Detective Bill Allen, Edmonton Police Service
- **May** – *A Visioning and Brainstorming Session Regarding Our Library* by Edmonton Branch Library Committee
- **June** – *Immigrant Ancestor Project* by two (2) students of Marion Rex from the St. Thomas Aquinas School, Spruce Grove

- **September** – *Memory Catchers* by Nicole Beart
- **October** – *My Grandmother and the Countess: Two Sisters – Such Different Lives* by Susan Maynard
- **November** – *Update on Captain Roy Brown* by John Chalmers and a report on the *Ontario Genealogical Society Conference* by Pam Forsyth and Carolynne Ross

**Publicity Director** Sharon Dyer sent out monthly meeting notices to over 50 organizations, senior groups, and public libraries. She also sent out notices for the *Tracing Your Family Tree* courses & other events that she is asked to assist with. Postings to the Edmonton Journal and the City of Edmonton website happened regularly.

**Correspondence Secretary** Bev Wardell sent sympathy cards to the following members on the loss of a loved one:  
Neil Horne and family on the loss of Lucille Horne; the Hesson family on the loss of Edith Hesson; Marion Rex, on the loss of a family member; Doreen Duckett on the loss of a family member; and Wendy Langkass on the loss of a family member. Get well cards were sent to Louise Perkins, Debbie Pietrzykowski and Gail Cockwill.

**Electronic Resources** for the Library are handled by John Hazelwood, who reported that 2016, was quite a year for Electronic Resources. There were a few problems with the patron computers using Windows 10, with the operating system updates. A new printer was purchased so now each computer has a designated printer. John is thankful to Bruce Boelstler and Fred Vaneldik for their assistance.

**Webmaster** Debbie Pietrzykowski continued to do an excellent job of keeping members advised of Branch happenings and programs. The Facebook page has grown to 319 likes from 234 last year. Sharon Dyer's contribution to the

Facebook page has helped to promote interest in the AGS/Edmonton Branch library.

<https://www.facebook.com/AlbertaGenealogicalSocietyEdmontonBranch>

In 2017, we are looking forward to having Donna Parker take over the position of webmaster for the branch. Donna brings skills and experience to the position and we look forward to continuing to make our website a great resource for those researching in our province. Website:

<http://edmontongenealogy.ca/> Webmaster email: [webmaster@edmontongenealogy.ca](mailto:webmaster@edmontongenealogy.ca)

**Special Interest Groups (SIG)** In 2016, our SIG's continued to meet. The new DNA group has been a great success and we thank Debbie Was and Ellen Thompson-Jennings for making this current topic available to members and guests. Reunion for Mac has also been well attended (led by Laura Turnbull). "Open Library Research Night" (OLRN) has had great results and members are excited to learn from experienced researchers.

**Volunteers** make our Society. A special thanks to all who volunteer in any capacity for the Edmonton Branch. Without you, we would not be able to function. I would like to especially mention the **Branch Board of Directors** who put in countless hours behind the scenes making sure things get done. I would also like to thank the Library, Research Committee, Relatively Speaking, "Clandigger" and Special Interest Group (SIG) volunteers. Finally, thank you to Ivy who tallies up our volunteer hours.

Submitted by Donna Shanks, President



## Fort McMurray Branch

Memberships: 15  
12 in town members and 3 out of town members  
Volunteer hours 759

Our Executive for the year was as follows:

President	Tammy Grantham
Vice President	Laverne Cormier
Treasurer	Cathy Marriott
Secretary	Catherine Whelton

Wow! What a year we have had! I think it is safe to say that we have hit some of our highest highs, and some of our lowest lows this year...

We started off the year with pretty good feelings. We had become very comfortable in our new home. There were a few finishing touches left to do, but we are very proud of what we had done.

With the library looking good, we decided to turn our efforts into finding new members. This effort had started during the last few months of 2015, so we did have a bit of a jump start on bringing in new members. We decided to hold an open house during February's 'Family Day' weekend. Our AGS President at the time, Susan Haga, decided that would be a great time to come and check us out. Susan rode the bus all night, and I picked her up mid-morning on the day of our open house. I gave her a very quick tour of our town (which does not look near as nice in the winter as it does in the summer, in my opinion) and we picked up some pizza to go along with the many other treats we had to entice the public into viewing what our library had to offer. Thankfully there were some people who showed up. Everyone was impressed with our library and all were surprised that we even existed! We had one member sign up that day, and another member signed up soon after. So we considered it a success. I took Susan back to the bus later that afternoon. Her whole stay in Fort McMurray lasted about 7 hours, and I am sure she travelled

for more than 15 hours each way...she was a trooper for sure, and I am sure I wouldn't have survived such a trip as well as she did. It was nice to have her, and I hope she has good memories of our library.

In April, we had another Casino. We cajoled friends and family to help us out and the event went without a hitch.

Then May happened. It hit fast, it hit hard, and it left everyone in shock. The Beast was well covered in the news, so I won't say much about it other than it affected all of us to one degree or another and its effects are still being felt by the town as a whole and the many individuals who lost their homes. We had one member lose her home and one member lose a condo that they owned here. The library was not damaged per se, but the building needed extensive cleaning to the heating/cooling system, walls, carpets etc. The town opened up to the public on June 2, but the building in which we rent was not opened until around mid-July. We were allowed limited access into the Library to check on how things were. Other than a bit of soot on the bookshelves, we were all good. We just had to sit back and wait for the landlords to look after cleaning the building and we could concentrate on cleaning our own houses. A very nice gift from the landlords, was no charge of rent for May and June and July was prorated. Thank you UNIFOR!

Now, remember I said we had our casino in April? Anyone familiar with gaming knows that the calendar year is divided into quarters, and gaming proceeds are pooled for that quarter, and then dispersed equally between all groups that held an event during that quarter. Well, the casino was only open for the month of April, then closed May and June. We waited and wondered how this would affect our proceeds. The Casino is our main source of funding, and if we were to even miss one we would be up that proverbial creek! In August, we heard from gaming that any group that were slated to work,

or did work, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (Apr, May, June) would be given \$15 000.00, and the chance to work another casino in the last quarter of 2016. Of course we leapt at that chance, and Dec. 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> found us back at the Casino hosting the event. At the time of this report, we have not received the monies from this event so I cannot report our proceeds.

So the highs of the year were having a wonderful, though very short, visit from Susan Haga. And we finished off our membership year with 15 members! This almost tripled our membership from 2015.

Our lows were the fire, and a feeling that we are going to lose some of our new found members. The effects of that fire were felt by many in many different ways, and though I like to think our little City has not changed, even I cannot deny that there is change that is felt in the air by everyone.

As our great mentor, Fire Chief Darby Allen, said...."We are here, we are strong" and with that, our little library will continue on.

Submitted by Tammy Grantham, President



## Grande Prairie & District Branch

Memberships	53
Volunteer hours	2285

Branch Executive for 2016:

President	Al Bromling
Vice President	Patricia Greber
Treasurer	Carol Thomson
Secretary	Maxine Maxwell
Past President	Jean Gray

### Monthly Public Programs:

Our **January** public program was built around member stories about favourite female ancestors. Members shared stories, pictures and mementos and, of course, the brick walls each had to surpass to get these interesting stories. In **February**, the Branch Annual meeting approved the annual budget plan and elected the new Executive as noted above.

At our **March meeting**, we hosted a well-attended public presentation by **Dianne Carrell** on FamilySearch.org. Most family researchers regularly use FamilySearch, but only a presenter like Dianne can show the full potential of these research tools and databases.

Our **April meeting** included a presentation, by **Patricia Greber**, about the online memorial to the soldiers of the South Peace on the website of the South Peace Regional Archives. There are currently 900 WWI and 2000 WWII persons on the memorial database. Also in April, Branch members attended the **AGS Annual meeting and GenFair**. Kudos to the planning committee and the folks at Drayton Valley for hosting a top quality **2016 GenFair—Pulling Together Your Family History**.

At our **May meeting**, one of our long serving members, **Wilma Friesen**, presented the story of her father who came to Canada as one of the British Home Children. She also discussed the larger context of the Home Children period in UK and Canada.

Our **June** meeting continued the Branch tradition of a picnic and fieldtrip to a local site that is of genealogical or historical interest. Fifteen members and guests were hosted by **Betty and Orval Sorkin** who showcased their family histories village. The Sorkinville project is an important private initiative to collect, restore and preserve buildings and equipment of the pioneer families in the south Peace region.

For our **September** gathering, our featured speaker was Wayne Shephard from Calgary. His discussion of the role of natural phenomena in shaping our family histories was insightful and generated a lively Q and A.

Our **October** meeting program included a presentation by **Mary Nutting** and an extensive Q and A on the matter of document digitization needs in our region. Both the South Peace Regional Archives and the AGS Branch in Grande Prairie have collections of single copy documents/publications that would be more accessible for researchers if they were online in searchable format.

For our **November** 22 meeting, we were treated to a double presentation from **Lloyd and Val Robinson**, from the Medicine Hat Branch. Lloyd presented an update on the **Alberta Telephone Directory** scanning project. In a separate program, Lloyd and Val used role playing and dialogue to share some fascinating stories from the Mayflower portion of their family tree.

#### Larger Public Events:

On February 20, we hosted our annual **Family History Day** event. This is a joint venture with the Grande Prairie Public Library and the South Peace Regional Archives. We hosted four Webinars: crafting ancestor profiles, Facebook tips, Google tips and DNA testing. Our program included a version of "Who Do You Think You Are?" Our volunteers researched the families of two community personalities—one an archbishop and the other a radio show host. The Family History documents prepared were presented to the celebrities in handsome three ring binders during our Family History Day celebrations.

Publicity: Past President, Jean Gray looked after the publicity for the monthly branch meetings. Posters were created and emailed to our members by Gwen Richards. The posters were

also emailed to 7 area libraries and. put on the community bulletin board in the Grande Prairie library as well as in the Isabel Campbell Room. The community calendar of the Daily Herald Tribune was also used to promote our events and meetings.

Cemeteries: Jean also served on the Cemetery committee and with Maxine Maxwell and Linda Harris, the Teepee Creek cemetery was updated in June by recording the additional grave marker information and photographing new grave markers. Jean also continued her work on the Beaverlodge cemetery. Beaverlodge and Hythe cemeteries will be uploaded to the website as time permits.

Fern Dyck photographed Hilltop and Salem cemeteries in Lymburn and Immanuel Cemetery in Goodfare. These photographs have not yet been prepared for upload to the website. Included in future plans is to instruct at least two other people on the preparation of the photographs and excel sheets for uploading to the website.

Volunteer Researcher Report: B. Joan Bowman, one of our researchers, reported that in 2016 the Branch had a variety of queries for information. We were able to provide one biography and twelve newspaper obituaries from the old Grande Prairie newspapers, and two obituaries from the old Peace River newspapers.

Two unsolved queries were published as stories for our branch newsletter, "Heritage Seekers".

Other queries included:

- Headstone locations in five cemeteries, two of which were local cemeteries, one for St. Paul, AB. and two at Plamondon, AB. The Cemetery AGS Database certainly helps in replying to these types of queries.
- Location for one homestead near Sturgeon Heights, AB

- Locating for a family, a grave of a 1953 baby buried in the Grande Prairie Cemetery
- Supplying information to an adoptee looking for information on his birth mother who at one time lived near Grande Prairie, AB
- Military information on a fellow who had lived at Buffalo Lake, AB
- Replying to a query from British Columbia looking for family information at Saskatoon, SK. Referred that query to the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

Peace Area Newspaper Obituary: Peace area obituaries are clipped and mounted in binders, from 15 area newspapers provided by the Peace Library Systems, then housed in the Isabel Campbell Room of the Grande Prairie Library. With more and more obituaries posted online, Lynda Shopka reviewed the first 160 entries (of the 465 in total), and determined that 93.75% of the extracted obituaries were online in various websites including online local newspapers (*South Peace News, Smokey River Express, Fairview Post, Peace River Gazette*), funeral home sites (Oliver's, Bear Creek) and others. The content was often not the same, the online entries often provided color photos not found in the newspaper.

Obituaries Collected from the *Daily Herald Tribune*: Ed Hall reported that in 2016 a total of 386 deaths were recorded in the obituaries of the DHT. There is often more than one obituary published upon an individual death. In 2016, there were 80 duplicates with the result that 466 obituaries have been added to our DHT collection in the Isabel Campbell Room.

Facebook Report: Patricia Greber is our Facebook Editor. Our group Facebook page is our social media tool to keep us in touch about Branch activities and events and to support each other with shared experience and advice. The Facebook group has 105 members and we work on creating engagement through posting items of interest to members.

Heritage Seekers Newsletter: Freddi Bromling is the Editor of our Newsletter, "Heritage Seekers". It appears quarterly, and in 2016, four issues were published. The newsletter is published electronically and distributed primarily electronically. Hard copies are sent to a few members as well as institutional subscribers. This strategy has cut publication and distribution costs for our branch.

"Heritage Seekers" reports on club events such as speakers, field trips, and projects and encourages members to share and publish their family history research methodologies to provide tips and insights to assist others. Regular features, such as Joan's 'Old Newspapers', provide insight into local history.

Our December issue featured, for the first time, a theme to encourage members to share family history (in this case on the topic "Family Christmas Traditions") in an attempt to make contributing content easy and fun. The diverse and engaging content made this an interesting issue to read, and we will try the theme approach again!

Casino Annual Report: Maxine Maxwell, Casino Chair reported that Grande Prairie & District Branch ran its 3<sup>rd</sup> successful casino on July 1 & 2, 2016. The Branch received \$31,351.81 in proceeds from this casino to help fund programs and purchases over the next 3 years. Thank you to the 11 members and 5 additional family and friends who volunteered over two days at the Great Northern Casino.

Our annual **Margaret Kay Scholarship** is funded by casino proceeds. In 2016, the scholarship was awarded to **Stephanie Humphreys** of Magrath, Alberta. Also in 2016, we donated funds to **Medicine Hat Branch**, to help with digitization of old Alberta telephone books. We also contributed to the support of the provincial website. In the past we have donated to the **Peace Country Historical Society** and

settlement register digitization project and to the **AGS Provincial Conference** speakers' fund.

Membership Report: Our 2016 membership has been steady at 53 members which is up a little from 2015 as reported by Gwen Richards, Membership Chair. We have lost a few members due to retirements but have gained new members, many of whom are from distant place but have connections to Grande Prairie and the Peace Region.

In remembrance: John Bradley, member #2688, best friend and loving husband to Judy (Gourlay) and devoted father to Charlene Lau (Mike), John, and James (James) died in Grande Prairie on 14th of April 2016, age 65 years. John and Judy contributed tremendously to our Branch and to provincial AGS over the years.

Library and Research Centre Report: Our partnership with the Public Library enables our Branch to host an excellent Library and Research Centre. Gail Schau reported that the Branch has print resources held on Reserve, but also a large selection of circulation items. The Branch has print index storage cabinets, microfilm storage and microfilm reader access. As well, the Library provides a computer with an institutional subscription to *Ancestry.com* resources and family trees.

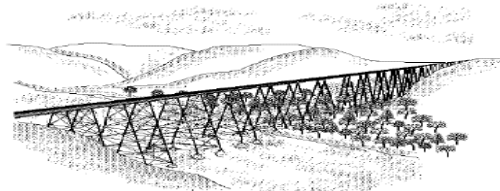
Wednesday Evening Genie Service: The Genie Service continued at the Isabel Campbell Room in 2016. Volunteers provided 64 hours of mentoring for 14 individuals during the year. We encourage access by appointment but also serve walk-in traffic. This volunteer activity is one of the elements of our contract commitment with GPPL and provides a valued service to the community.

Volunteer Hours Report: During 2016, there were the usual discussions of volunteer fatigue and we faced some challenges as we strove to meet all of our commitments. Thank you to all

who served in any capacity as a volunteer and contributed to the 2285 hours of service.

Submitted by Al Bromling, President

## Lethbridge & District Branch



Memberships	47
Volunteer hours	3659

The Executive Committee from February 2016 to February 2017 is as follows:

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

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

January: Our member Hans Henning Muendel talked about his trip to Latvia.

February: We held our AGM. There were no elections. After the meeting David Tyler talked about locating family in London.

March: Member Nestor discussed the progress in DNA research.

April: Bev Muendel did a PowerPoint on the Muendel's trip to Sweden.

May: Belinda Crowson discussed 'The Children of Lethbridge'.

June: We had no meeting as we had our first casino event.

Jul and Aug: We closed up for the summer.

September: We held our semi-annual meeting, followed by an open discussion session.

October: We held our annual 'International Supper'. Members and guests were invited to bring an ethnic dish from one of the countries they were researching. Belinda Crowson was our after dinner speaker. She delighted us with stories about the ghosts of Lethbridge.

November: David Tyler spoke on researching Hungary and Austria.

December: We held no meeting

Branch members continue to collect and preserve family and genealogical information. Obituaries and funeral cards are being collected and digitized.

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

Members were involved in a couple of LDS events as well as attending the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society.

We continue our Monday afternoon Legacy Family Tree sessions where we deal with the Legacy program and other genealogical information.

Submitted by Doug McLeod, President



## Medicine Hat & District Branch

Memberships	64
Dual memberships	10
Total # of members	74
Volunteer hours	1677

Highlights for the year include:

- Ten monthly meetings held at the library with various speakers throughout the year.
- Executive remains the same through 2016.
- Salt Lake genealogy trip is cancelled.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> Genealogy in the Park was well attended.
- Google & the Web Seminar hosted by Roy Morrison in September.
- My Heritage places a link on their Web site to our Phone Book project.
- Medicine Hat and Lethbridge and District phone books from 1905 to 1955 are scanned and placed on our Web site. Some Calgary and Grand Prairie books are being scanned as well.
- I attended 3 AGS Board meetings in Edmonton.
- I published 12 monthly genealogy columns in the Medicine Hat newspaper.
- Travelled to Grande Prairie for a Speaking engagement.
- A year end Christmas party was held at the Elks Club.

The Medicine Hat Branch would like to extend a huge thank you to the Grande Prairie Branch for their financial contribution to our Phone Book project. This will enable us to purchase some digitizing equipment for the project.

It has been my pleasure to serve the MHDGS as president for the last 2 years. I would like to thank all our members for their kind support and encouragement during this time.

Submitted by Lloyd Robinson, President

## Red Deer & District Branch

Memberships 55  
Volunteer hours 1579.5

### Executive for 2016

President	Linda Darby
Vice President	Sonya Miller
Secretary	May McKinnon
Past President	Diane Lehr
Treasurer	Vic Willoughby
	Sonya Miller
Membership	Betty Barnhill
Library	Joanne Allen
Publicity	Joan Schmelke
Cemetery	Vacant
Genealogy Queries	Betty Barnhill
Newsletter	Sonya Miller
	Larry Johnstone
Program Committee	Peter Darby, Mary Joan Cornett, Lianne Kruger, Betty Barnhill, Vic Willoughby, and Diane Lehr

### 2016 Meeting Programs

January: Michael Dawe presented on “Researching the First World War” with an emphasis on Red Deer Soldiers.

February: We held our Annual Meeting followed by each member sharing stories about relatives and from where their relatives came.

March: No regular meeting was held. Many members attended and helped with the Red Deer Family History Fair.

April: Allen Shepherd presented on “How Climate Influenced the Lives of our Ancestors”.

June: 45 people attended our Annual Pot Luck.

September: “Resources for Genealogists at the Archives and Genealogical Donations Accepted by the Archives”

October: Lianne Kruger presented on “Making the most of the AGS website” and “Using the Wiki at Family Search”

November: Members shared their recent successes in finding ancestor.

December: No meeting

### Research Support Available

The hour before each Branch meeting, Peter Darby opens the Family History Library and helps members solve their genealogical problems. Betty Barnhill answers queries sent by email.

### Special Projects

Dedicated branch members record death announcements found in the Red Deer Advocate and the Red Deer Express newspapers. Copies of previous yearly databases are located in the City Library, Red Deer Museum and the AGS Library in Edmonton.

Highland Games: A booth was set up and participants at the games learned about AGS

Library Support: Numerous genealogical books, including many local histories, are located in the Archive section of the Red Deer Museum. A computer is also available to aid in research.

Submitted by Linda Darby

## Wetaskiwin Branch

Memberships 28  
Volunteer hours 793.75  
President during 2016: Diane Strohschein

### Projects:

In keeping with our Branch decision in 2013, to concentrate on the education and training of our Branch members instead of hosting genealogy workshops, etc. we did not take part in any

Branch fundraising projects in 2016. We are very fortunate to be able to meet at the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints facility – they do not charge us rental fees to meet there. The Family History Center located at the church has, in addition, been a wonderful source of information for our members.

As a follow up to our special project last year - a “School Days Memories” booklet - which was a compilation of the school memories of some of our branch members, our newsletter editor, Sharon Aney, suggested that we once again showcase our creative talents by recording our “Memories of Christmas”. Our submissions by March 31, 2017 will be compiled in a booklet similar to the “School Days Memories” booklet. These 2 ‘memories’ projects are our contribution to the Canada 150 celebrations, and we are very thankful that Sharon’s initiative resulted in some wonderful memories being recorded for future reference.

## **PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS:**

January: One of our branch members, Pam Cooke, recently returned from a trip to England. With the assistance of her husband Brian, they treated us to a presentation based on their research trip. Pam told us how initial information, given to her by her family, changed once she began looking into her ancestors and the lives they led. Her trip to England opened up many doors: connecting her to family she didn’t know she had!

February: We were fortunate to have as our guest, Lyn Meehan, AGS Communications/Web Content Manager. Lyn was able to tell us about the move of our Branch data to the new web format that AGS is using. We were all in awe when we saw Lyn’s presentation – the Wetaskiwin branch website will be much improved over the older version and we looked forward to seeing the final product, with the

official launch probably set for the end of this month.

March: We had as our guests this month – AGS President Susan Haga, Edmonton Branch members Mary Ann Legris and Maurice Legris. President Susan commended our Branch on our newsletters and on the work our Branch member Lee Koop had done relating to the new website. She also recognized the work that Lee had done in trying to trace family members of the John and Jennie Arnold family whose photo album (over 100 years of age) was found in a house in Wetaskiwin that was being renovated.

Also in March, guest Patty Caputo gave us an amazing presentation entitled “Family History on the Go”. We learned how using apps on our mobile devices can provide us with an additional way to save and record our family history.

April: Using Spreadsheets for Genealogy – Dan DeWolf, retired instructor at Norquest College, spoke about and demonstrated spreadsheets, particularly Excel and Libra Office. He provided comprehensive notes and elaborated upon them. He illustrated the features of spreadsheet programs and showed how to use them in genealogy research, especially research Logs.

May: Webinar – Taming Your Inner Packrat – This webinar was a great reminder to all of us about how important it is to be organized and to periodically examine the genealogical documents, paperwork, etc. that we have collected over the years. Lisa Alzo gave us some tips about how to reduce the amount of paper we keep and how to store valuable items that cannot be replaced.

June: Webinar – Taming Your Inner Packrat, Part 2 – In this session, we were given lots of information and tips about how to organize documents, photos, files, etc. Some of the most



strongly emphasized points in this presentation were: always back up digital files; keep current with your digital information – upgrading and converting to new technology as it becomes available; keep printed copies of very important/irreplaceable documents; use a research log/planner so you don't duplicate your research; cite sources; stay focused; set a goal.

September: What's New at the "New" Family History Discovery Center in Wetaskiwin. We were given the opportunity to view and use the re-worked Family History Center. There are now several rooms, each featuring a different opportunity to research, view Webinars, look at microfilms, or use the computers with their multitude of databases that are available to anyone using the Center. It was a very interesting evening, and quite a few of our branch members were inspired to try something new – even indexing!

October: Webinar – FamilySearch.org. – For beginners and for everyone! This webinar highlighted the various options for searching, preserving and displaying our family history. The presenter gave us several ideas on how to use the site for researching our ancestral information, recording it, making it available for others, etc.

November: DNA Testing – Due to the overwhelming interest about DNA Testing, Claudia was able to obtain a webinar on this topic and present it to us this evening. The

presenter, Diahan Southard, was amazing – her presentation style had us all glued to our seats! She managed to "untangle" the mystery of DNA testing and gave us an idea of which type of DNA testing would be applicable to our situation.

Our Program Coordinator, Claudia Malloch, has done an outstanding job keeping us educated, inspired and informed about the latest information relating to genealogical research.

#### **Wetaskiwin Branch Website:**

Thanks to the hard work of our Branch member Lee Koop, and the work of AGS member Lyn Meehan, our website continues to attract attention. We have had several research requests since the new site was launched and some of our members have been contacted because of our personal research (surnames and places where we are researching) we have listed on the website.

Placing our Branch newsletters on the website has also garnered us some attention: we have been contacted by people doing research – people who saw and read the newsletters!

The hard work of our dedicated branch members has resulted in a 'sharing of knowledge' that has benefitted all of us. We look forward to our genealogy journey in 2017!

Submitted by Alice Hoyle, Secretary

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## **Archivist** — Mary Ann Legris

Volunteer hours – 21

During 2016 all Branch Archivists and Newsletter Editors were contacted regarding their submissions to the Society's Collection of Historic Information which is housed at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) located in Edmonton.

Following sorting and organizing materials gathered over the past five years, the following were submitted to the PAA on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November:

- *Relatively Speaking* Volume 36 Numbers 1-4 (2008) through Volume 43 Numbers 1-4 (2015)
- The Society's Annual Report (2007 – 2015)
- Consolidated Financial Report (2013, 2014, 2015)
- Minutes of the Board (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)
- Conference Syllabus (2009, 2011, 2013, 2015)
- Library Holdings (2000 & 2002)
- *History of the Genealogical Society Volume II 1998 – 2013 New Leaves*
- *Index to Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1870 – 1905 Volume 1*
- *Index to the 1901 Census District of Alberta*
- *Index to the 1901 Census District of Assiniboia East*
- *Index to the 1901 Census District of Assiniboia West*
- *Index to the 1901 Census District of Saskatchewan*
- *Index to the 1901 Census Unorganized Territories, Athabasca*
- *Alberta Sources Cemeteries and Other Surname Sources 2007*

## **Bylaws and Parliamentarian** –

Al Bromling

Volunteer hours – 32

There are no outstanding issues from 2016 parliamentarian activity that warrant a formal recommendation. There are items of interest to share with our Membership.

### The matter of a tie vote in the Society Annual or Board meetings was raised:

Our AGS Bylaws (Section 6.1.6) seems to explicitly remove the need for a casting vote. A tie vote means the motion is defeated. This same logic applies to General meetings of AGS (see 5.5.3). There is no casting vote.

### The matter of a Board Member accepting responsibility for a second portfolio was raised:

In 2016, the AGS Chair was also the Director from Brooks Branch and the Parliamentarian was also the Director from Grande Prairie Branch. Some discomfort was expressed by members. This practice has the potential to cause stress for the incumbent and possible perceptions of conflict of interest. AGS Bylaws and policy are silent on this matter. It is probably practical and efficient to continue to allow the practice. A free and frank discussion of the practice should accompany an election process where a second portfolio is to be assigned.

### The matter of filling in for absent Directors was raised.

The AGS Policy V-70 indicates that the Director may "send an alternate from the Branch Executive". If other Branch Executive Committee members are not available, Article 7.1.2 and 6.1.2 allow the Branch to appoint one Director at Large to expand the Branch Executive Committee. This person could be assigned to represent the Branch on the Provincial Board.

The matter of appropriate means to challenge the behaviour of a Member when there is allegation of abusive or disrespectful treatment of others:

The Volunteer Code of Conduct, 2013-Motion 13/68, sets out standards of civility and respectful treatment for our organization and our work spaces. The Code does not indicate a process to raise a complaint, nor does it establish a review panel or specify an AGS officer accountable for implementation of the Code. The Grievance Settlement Policy (VII-100) provides a step by step process that may be more useful. Member use of this policy could avoid some of the 'escalation by email' that usually worsens controversy and damages relationships.

The matter of the appropriate role of 'in camera' sessions of the Board was raised:

AGS Bylaw Article 6.1.6 states that Board meetings are open to any Member of the Society. The Bylaws and Policy do not address the need for privacy when the Board deals with sensitive, Personnel and other confidential matters. Bylaw Article 9.1 states that Roberts' Rules of Order shall apply in matters not addressed in AGS Bylaws and Policy. Therefore, AGS Board practice is guided by Section 9 of Roberts Rules. The Board may move, by simple majority vote, to go into Executive Session to deal with sensitive matters. Only Board members are present. Any formal action to be taken by the Board, must be debated and approved in a subsequent public portion of the meeting.

In addition to these items, more informal advice on meeting process was provided during Board discussions in 2016.

## **Cemetery Database –**

Shannon Cherkowski

Volunteer hours – 104

In building and maintaining the Alberta Genealogical Cemetery database, we ask that members and non members collecting data from cemeteries recordings for websites (Find-A-Grave, Billions of Graves, Canadian Headstones), please consider sharing the data with us. When searching the cemetery database

online, feel free to email me to conduct a further search on data that has not made it into the online database.

We would also like to hear from members about transcription errors and/or any difficulties with the data.

[agscemeterydb@shaw.ca](mailto:agscemeterydb@shaw.ca)

## **Communications & Web Content Management –**

Lyn Meehan

Volunteer Hours –1,025

### ***Highlights for the Year***

- *2016 Membership campaign did well*
- *AGS Children and Youth Project, Unit 2 released*
- *Wetaskiwin Branch, website developed, Feb 26*
- *Red Deer Branch, website developed, Oct 13*
- *Brooks & District Branch, website developed, Nov 12*
- *Members Helping Members webpage*
- *AGS President's Message, Let's Talk, webpage*
- *Visiting Alberta's Past, webpage*
- *AGS Homestead merged Database, webpage*
- *GenFair---Pulling Together Your Family History*
- *Educational Opportunities (Conferences, webinars, online courses, etc) cooperative effort between RS and webpage*
- *Customer Relations Management report (CRM), Jan 12*
- *Let's Talk—back issues in PDF online*
- *2017 Conference mini-website designed and launched, Oct 27*
- *2017 Membership cards, New Members kit and application form, updated*
- *AGS Motions from 2007 - May 2016 online, Sep 8*
- *Migration of the AGS website to a new server and upgraded to a new software version, Oct 13*
- *2017 Membership Campaign and renewal message to members*
- *Got quotes for brochure, letterhead and*

vertical screen for advertising, Dec, 35 hrs.

- *Reworked PDF instructional guidelines for renewing memberships*
- *Generated 2016 year end Memberships stats*
- *Stats for the website as of end 2016*

*Relatively Speaking* articles published:

- “*A Database Experience That Inspires You to Keep Searching*,” Feb 2016
- “*A Fresh Look into Summer AGS Website Projects!*” May 2016
- “*AGS Alberta Homestead Index: Reformatted*,” Aug 2016

### **January to March**

The year began in developing the new AGS Homestead webpage and database. Merger of three independent databases took place over Christmas 2015 to stay ahead of deadlines. With the help of Norma Wolowyk in refining and refreshing some historical articles, writing a new descriptive article “The Benefits of Using the AGS Alberta Homestead Index”, this website and database went live in July 2016. An additional 60,000+ entries were uploaded late August and early September. Strategies for the cleanup of the cemetery database have been a topic on several occasions and on record since May 2015. Mock-ups of the database were drawn and prototypes built but incomplete due to delays. It is hoped that in 2017 this project can move forward.

A 40-hour research report was written for Communications own understanding to strategize the principles and relationship between a good website and a good member service database. It was to learn more about the sophistication of the integrated relationship, its advantages, how the business strategy works with technology, the automation of processes, what the Society could be experiencing, the setbacks if the Society discontinues it, transparency and ownership of information, succession planning, street credibility and discussion on ‘what is good business conduct’. The Board report discusses the advantages of its use, such as interactions with our Society members versus the disadvantages of not using one. This

philosophy leverages on technology to create stronger relationships with our former, active and potential members while maximizing our marketing and service capabilities

### **March to May — Fresh Look into AGS Summer Website Projects**

Collaboration is the secret of a Society’s ongoing success! The Communications and Web Content Manager worked alongside the Editor of *Relatively Speaking* to bring members genealogical news. Today, many provincial, federal and international genealogical societies are improving their web content and databases to be mobile-responsive and user-friendly. Taking a step forward, several societies are minimizing their printed resources and turning to ePublishing. This is to assist in practical distribution of their newsletters and periodicals to reduce costs as well as expand communication. AGS is no different! We are always looking for a fresh approach in introducing our Society’s resources and building our membership incentives.

Over the summer of 2016, Communications brought some innovative webpages online:

- *AGS President’s Message, Let’s Talk*. This feature is intended to foster dialogue between members and the AGS Board of Directors. *Let’s Talk* features news, comments, anecdotes, snippets from Board meetings and vision statements about the Society.
- *Visiting Alberta’s Past*. Communications and AGS member John Althouse teamed-up to take his Alberta travelogue electronic. John’s Alberta walkabouts offer insight to geographic places, ghost towns, history and resources that family historians may not have been aware of.
- *AB Homestead Databases*. The three parts of this collection: Applications for Alberta Land Patents, 1885–1897; Alberta Homestead Records, 1870–1930; and Alberta Homesteads Records, post–1930, were merged into one large database over Christmas 2015 consisting of over 520,000 entries. The database grew to over 680,000 entries by August.

- *Relatively Speaking Digital Database* featuring articles from the past 40+ years.
- *AGS Awards: Society Recognition*, a new webpage describing the many wonderful awards our Society distributes to dedicated volunteers who have shown outstanding performance.

### ***May to September***

One of the major tasks of Communications/Web Content Manager is to bring information to the Board meetings, and to publish such material on the web. The Web Committee and AGS Media (Web and RS Committees) have always adhered to industry standards, and are open to suggestions with alternatives.

### ***September to December***

The AGS Website took a quantum leap from Shout v.5 to v.6.10.1 the first two weeks of October. No pages were broken nor data lost but several little glitches with preferences resetting to default occurred.

Since publication of *Relatively Speaking* was suspended, the administration worked extra hard to diversify communications by electronic means through the web as well as mass email. It was expressed that mass communications come from an array of different AGS positions who work for the benefit of the Society.

Back issues of *Let's Talk* were redesigned in MS-Word then PDF to emulate the online version. This was considered so new members and non-members could read about the growth of the Society under the leadership of any current AGS President.

Brooks & District Branch joined the AGS Web Umbrella. The Brooks web committee was headed by Brian Dunlop. Karyn Norden now heads that committee. Rough completion was done in November 2016. Through teleconferencing they are looking to merge some of their databases.

### ***AGS Membership Statistics—2016***

Membership stats were provided to the Membership Chairperson when requested.

Our Society's website statistics were phenomenal with greater than 22,000 users in 2016, viewing over 151,000 pages.

### ***The Future of the AGS Website***

The Society's website is in a very healthy condition. We have a good partnership with several Branches and Committee Chairs. We hope more Branches will bring their inspirational stories, their projects and products, and advertise with us. Remember our strength is in teamwork and good communication.

As always, any correspondence made or received by AGS Communications / Web Content Manager is open to any one or all Executive members for auditing. For detailed reporting, see Communications quarterly reports in the Members Area on the website.

## **Gaming – Laura Turnbull**

### **AGS Casino event:**

I received notification on November 4, 2016 that our next casino event will be on **May 15 & 16, 2017** at Century Casino in Edmonton.

We need a total of 50 volunteers to help fill the positions required by Alberta Gaming and I have begun working on the schedule. Anybody interested in helping is asked to contact me at **ljturnbl@telus.net** or by phone through the AGS office at **780-424-4429**.

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

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

We have held 50/50 events at the annual conference. Plans are to again have a 50/50 at the 2017 conference.

### **Branch gaming events:**

#### Casino:

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

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

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

## **Genealogy for Children and Youth Project – John Althouse**

### **Purpose of the Program:**

To develop resources and activities which could be used with children and youth to introduce them to genealogy and family history in pleasant and interesting ways. If such an experience is meaningful, it is hoped that those who experienced it may come back to genealogy and our Society later in life when life provides them with ample leisure time

.

### **Initiatives:**

1. AGS now provide a youth membership at a reasonable price that young people can afford.
2. AGS has developed two resources for introducing children 6 to 8 years and 9 to 11 years to genealogy, and is considering developing more such resources for other ages and groups. These resources are available to any interested party at no cost. These resources are presented in an engaging manner and are easily downloadable from the AGS website.
3. The website provides a list of supplementary reading resources which adults may use with children to open discussion on family history, aspects of genealogy and other related topics in the home.

4. Presentations about genealogy for children and youth along with the AGS program and resources have also been made at the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Conference, April 2016 and at the Conference of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (an international conference) in Calgary in August 2016.
5. There is a presentation scheduled for the April 2017 AGS Conference to make members aware of the rationale and the need for this project.
6. Work on resources will begin soon to complete a comprehensive overall plan. *“Our Family Home – Here in Alberta and Far Away!”* was completed, placed online, and copyright obtained.
7. Plans for workshops to develop branch facilitators for the program are being planned.
8. AGS provided recognition in the form of certificates to 151 students who completed a family history immigrant project and 5 students who received special mention awards related to their projects. A number of these students shared their presentations with members of Edmonton Branch at their general meetings or within special interest groups of the branch that corresponded to their area of research.
9. Discussions are ongoing on how to better promote and advertise our program and its resources.
10. Books and other media are being acquired and reviewed for consideration as support for our resources and potential inclusion in them.

## **Grants & Other Funding –**

Marion Rex

Volunteer hours – 269

The Alberta Genealogical Society is forever grateful for the funding received through sponsorship from the Alberta Historical

Resources Foundation and the Edmonton Heritage Council. AGS also relies on casino funding, general donations, and research income to help fund their activities.

### Meetings Held

As Grants & Other Funding Chair, I attended the May, September, and November AGS board meetings, as well as the AGM and Fall Retreat, as a guest, in order to be current with AGS Board business. I also attended several teleconferences and face-to-face meetings held by the Finance Committee.

### Grants

The Alberta Genealogical Society (Provincial) is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

- **Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF) Sponsorship**—In 2016, AGS received \$36,170 in sponsorship funding from AHRF funded by the Alberta Lottery Fund. The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2016, AGS received \$23,029 in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton. This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support.
- **Community Initiative Program Grant (CIP)**—The remaining portion of the CIP grant obtained last year for technology equipment was spent on videoconferencing equipment and the necessary reports were completed.

### Gaming/Casino

The Alberta Genealogical Society (Provincial) relied on casino funding raised in 2015. Brooks/Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Lethbridge also rely on casino funding. For more information, see Laura Turnbull's report on Gaming.

### General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$14,559 in donations.

• Provincial Office	\$ 3,486
• Branches	<u>\$11,073</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$14,559</u>

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2017. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report. AGS (Provincial) is also very appreciative of the **Cold Lake Genealogy Club's** donation in the amount of \$2,075.35 when they closed their group. Our sincere thanks go to all donors for their support to help AGS continue as a strong and vibrant organization.

### Research Income

In 2016, AGS consolidated raised \$8,335.26 by answering research queries. AGS (provincial) raised a total of \$3,507.44 by answering research queries, for the most part by providing answers to family research questions, as well as hard copies of Alberta Homestead Records, Alberta Land records, cemetery records and obituaries as a result of finding aids that we have online. Thanks to the members of Edmonton Branch for answering the questions directed to the Provincial office. Funds were also raised by the various branches.

• Provincial Office	\$3,507.44
• Edmonton	3,828.27
• Grande Prairie	156.00
• Lethbridge	658.45
• Medicine Hat	<u>185.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$8,335.26</u>

### Library & Resource Centre – Claudine Nelson

The AGS library and Edmonton Branch AGS libraries are housed in the same facility. Edmonton Branch did get a dedicated password

for the 4 patron-used computers which is working very well.

The library carpet was cleaned in December.

Purchases of Local History books, new and used, continue. Members of AGS can borrow up to 10 items, books and periodicals, for 4 weeks. Items can be mailed to members unable to get into the library: AGS pays for outgoing mailing and the member must pay return postage. We had one such request in 2016.

Thanks to Edmonton Branch members for becoming a library volunteer: answering the phone, taking and relaying messages, encouraging folks to take out AGS memberships, and assisting patrons in their research quest.

The number of patrons who visited the library in 2016 was 3103.

## **Membership – Jean Gray**

Volunteer hours – 40

AGS membership for 2016 – 743

The position of Chairperson for this committee was shared between Jean Gray, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and Helene Paquin who served as our Membership Chair from her appointment in May 2016 until the end of the year. Her organization and ideas to engage the Branch membership chairs were greatly appreciated and will be missed. Thank you, Helene, for volunteering your time and dedication.

### **Some stats as of December 31, 2016.**

There were 134 new members for 2016 compared to 82 in 2015.

Members requesting digital copies of *Relatively Speaking* were 307 for 2016 compared to 109 in 2015.

Number of renewals for 2017 who had signed up before the end of 2016 was 308.

Number of new members for 2017 who had signed up before the end of 2016 was 37.

Number of new members for 2017 using the online option was 18.

New members requesting digital copies of *Relatively Speaking* are 27.

Moving the start of our membership drive to October seems to have had a positive result.

The New Member's Kit was updated and refreshed with new pictures. New membership cards were purchased without a date to allow for longer usage. Each branch was provided with a supply of AGS pins. A welcome letter to new members was written and mailed.

See Appendix A for the membership stats breakdown by branch, membership type, etc.

## **Policies & Procedures –**

Jean Gray

Volunteer hours – 442

The Policies and Procedure Committee from January 2016 until May was chaired by Mary Ann Legris with committee members Sandra Vaneldik and Jo Nuthack.

At the May Board meeting, Jean Gray was elected as Chairperson of the Policies and Procedures Committee. A new committee consisting of Mary Ann Legris, Connie Stuhl, Maxine Maxwell, and Susan Haga was established.

I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication Mary Ann Legris, Sandra Vaneldik and Jo Nuthack have given to this committee in the past.

Numerous additions and changes were made to the Operations Manual throughout 2016. For a detailed list, please see Appendix B (page 45). While much has been accomplished there still remains the constant review and updating of our Operations Manual. This is a time consuming job and I would like to thank the committee members for their efforts.



The committee has identified the following as work for the future:

- Write and Approve Retreat Chair
- Write and Approve Social Media Chair
- Review and Update as needed Membership Chair Position Description
- Review and Update as needed Finance Section
- Update all AGS forms when we get new letterhead
- Review and Update as needed AGS Planning Calendar and AGS Calendar of Events

## **Publications – Norma Wolowyk**

During 2016 there was only one request for cemetery burial listings from the AGS Cemetery Database. Files were converted to PDF format and sent electronically to the purchaser.

Four copies of *Alberta, Formerly the Northwest Territories: Index to Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1870-1905* were sold in 2016.

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.

## **Relatively Speaking – Jean Gray**

Volunteer Hours covering the 3 issues of *Relatively Speaking* for 2016

- Wayne Shephard, Editor 1200+ hrs
- Marilyn Hindmarch, Assoc. Editor 250 hrs
- Committee Members 175 hrs

This year-end report is being submitted by the 2nd VP who is the Executive Member responsible for the reporting of this committee and because the Society was without an Editorial staff after finishing the August 2016 issue.

*Relatively Speaking* in 2016 gave the Alberta Genealogical Society membership three amazing issues. Thank you to Editor Wayne Shephard, Associate Editor Marilyn Hindmarch and the editorial committee for producing these. As volunteers, your time, energy and knowledge was appreciated. Wayne Shephard estimated that he alone spent up to 400+hours per issue. Such dedication and service to the Society and its membership is exemplary and worthy of note.

I believe the collaboration on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police summer issue with the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Genealogical Societies was a first.

The depth of feature articles and columns from various authors in all issues offered great research information and provided wonderful stories.

Unfortunately, the Society received resignations from the Editor and Associate Editor in July 2016 and a Motion at the September board meeting regretfully suspended publishing *Relatively Speaking* until further notice. This suspension gave the Executive time to advertise and interview for the position of a replacement Editor without being under a rigid timeline. The interview process was able to proceed at the end of December with the results to be presented to the Board in February 2017. *Relatively Speaking* will be published again providing the members of the Society with valuable information and stories.

The cost of producing and mailing a printed copy of *Relatively Speaking* for the three issues in 2016 was presented in a report for the Board of Directors and will be addressed in May, 2017.

## **Research Services – Norma Wolowyk**

**Committee Members:** Gordon Berdahl, Shannon Cherkowski, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts,

and Norma Wolowyk. Sheila Majeau, who maintained the query database for fourteen years, retired from the Committee in 2016. We thank her for her dedication to the team over so many years.

**Meetings:** Committee members met each Friday at the AGS Library throughout 2016 except for two Fridays in December.

**Projects:** Members of the committee responded to research queries which arrived, mainly by email, at the AGS Office each week. 144 queries (177 in 2015) were processed by AGS during 2016. As Edmonton Branch AGS, we processed 258 (229 in 2015). The total queries handled by the Committee was 402 during the year. Queries processed for AGS were requests for copies of Alberta homestead files. In 2016, there were fewer requests for these records as in February 2016 Alberta homestead files were launched on Ancestry.com.

In June 2016, Edmonton Branch approved paying 50% of the copying costs incurred at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. As fewer homestead files (now available on Ancestry.com) are copied most of the copying relates to requests for copies of probate files, newspaper obituaries and vital statistics documents generated from Edmonton Branch AGS queries.

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

Charges billed were fifty cents per page of photocopying and two dollars per page of computer printout from the AGS Cemetery Index. Requests generated from the local history book and probate indexes were charged an additional five dollars and homestead files ten

dollars. Postal charges were added to each query. Also, clients were encouraged to send additional monies to the Society in appreciation of the volunteer commitment given to their queries. These contributions continued to be a valuable source of funding for the Society.

**Presentations:** Members of the committee contributed articles relating to their research to *Clandigger*, the monthly Edmonton Branch AGS publication. During 2016 Claudine Nelson and Gordon Berdahl met with clients who had travelled from overseas to visit places where their ancestors had lived.

The Alberta Genealogical Society is very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated researchers. They have a commitment to taking up the research challenge and thus providing family history information to people from around the world with Alberta roots. The committee has received comments on the superior research assistance provided, stating results were beyond their expectations.

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.

## Retreat –

Susan Haga & Maxine Maxwell  
Volunteer hours – 113

The Retreat Committee consists of Susan Haga and Maxine Maxwell. For the 2016 AGS retreat dates, Maxine had a prior commitment and Susan assumed the responsibility of ensuring the weekend ran smoothly.

The 2016 Retreat was a little different in that we extended an invitation only to the AGS Executive, AGS/Board/Branches and AGS Committee Chairs (or delegate). In the future, we plan to resume the practice of inviting a guest from each Branch along with their respective

delegate. We believe it is important to acquaint as many members as possible to the operations of AGS. In addition, this event is a perfect opportunity to provide a specific focus on a relevant topic for selected guests from all the Branches.

The Friday evening social was facilitated by Susan and started with a round table discussion of genealogical finds over the summer followed by a “Get to Know You” Bingo Genealogy game, complete with prizes. Everyone learned a lot about each other and our respective research journeys and successes. Lethbridge Branch supplied the refreshments, courtesy of Doug & Judith McLeod.

At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, the business for the weekend began with a Community Development Session presented and tailored to provide guidance to non-profit organizations like ours, operated by volunteers. It was very well received and set a positive tone for the rest of the Retreat.

At 1:00 p.m., the Board meeting commenced and continued through to Sunday noon. The extended Board Meeting was a feedback

suggestion from 2014 that was implemented as a trial in 2015, but extended as it provided a more relaxed atmosphere to cover the extensive agenda items.

On Saturday evening, Lorraine Cathro from the Calgary area, spoke on “Writing Family History with Others: Processes, Rewards, and Challenges”. Afterward everyone stayed into the evening, visiting and enjoying the ‘tea party’ with the refreshments and baking provided by Grace Franz and Brooks Branch.

Sunday morning saw the continuation and the conclusion of the Board Meeting at around 12:15 p.m. The Board Reports were part of the meeting, but scheduled from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m, a slot considered sufficient time to allow for presentation and discussion, also a feedback preference from the previous Retreat.

The 2017 September Retreat is booked for September 22-24 at the Providence Centre, as this location continues to provide a satisfactory venue for this event.

# Appendix A: Membership Statistics Table

2016 Membership Stats --- from Shout as of December 31st (by Lyn)																		
Branch	Total Memberships	Branch (single)	Home Branch	Multiple Memberships			Membership Type											
				Associate to Branch	2016 New Members	TOTAL	I	F	S	S+	L	L+	ST	YD	MKS	P	PDF	
AGS only	32	32	0	32	0	11	14	2	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	17	
1 Brooks	22	19	1	20	2	2	6	1	12	0	2	1	0	0	1	11	9	
2 Camrose	27	19	4	23	4	6	13	2	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	10	
3 Drayton Valley	12	10	1	11	1	4	7	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	
4 Edmonton	431	403	18	421	10	72	119	22	240	28	12	5	4	2	0	259	163	
5 Ft. McMurray	16	12	3	15	1	5	8	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	
6 Grande Prairie	53	40	4	44	9	11	19	4	24	2	4	0	0	0	0	23	21	
7 Lethbridge	46	36	0	36	10	3	10	2	24	7	1	2	0	0	2	14	22	
8 Medicine Hat	64	59	1	60	4	19	17	2	38	7	0	0	0	0	0	35	25	
9 Red Deer	65	54	3	57	8	11	19	0	38	9	0	0	0	0	0	33	24	
10 Wetaskiwin	28	22	2	24	4	2	9	1	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	16	8	
SUB-TOTAL	796	706	37	743	53	134	NOTE: Balanced.										437	307
What does all this mean?																		
Total Memberships = having memberships in one or more Branches Branch = memberships dedicated to one Branch with no associated membership Home Branch = Those members dedicated to a "a single primary Branch" but with one or more associate memberships Associate to Branch = Those members who have an associate membership with that Branch, but base their Home Branch elsewhere Note: By adding Branch plus Home plus Associate equals Total Memberships																		
Legend																		
I = Individual Membership F = Family Membership (one or more members in the household are members) S = Senior Membership S+ = Senior Plus Membership (one or more members in the household are members) L = Life Membership L+ = Life Plus membership (one or more members in the household are members) ST = Student Membership YD = Young Adult Membership MKS = Margaret Kay Scholarship recipient P = the number of members preferring a print copy of Relatively Speaking PDF = the number of members preferring a PDF copy of Relatively Speaking																		

# **Appendix B:**

## **Changes and additions to the Operations Manual in 2016**

### **February**

Policy V11-50 Building Security for AGS Library and Office Motion 16/08

### **May**

Treasurer V-40 VP of Finance to Treasurer to conform to By-Laws Motion 16/22

Committee: Executive VI-10 Executive committee Standing Committee status Motion 16/23

Committee: Finance VI-20 Finance committee Standing committee status Motion 16/24

Gen Fair VII-70 Procedures for Gen Fair Motion 16/25

Secretary of the Society V-50 Updated position description Motion 16/26

Past President V-60 Updated position description Motion 16/27

Parliamentarian VI-200 Updated position description Revised Motion 16/28

*Relatively Speaking* Editor VI-230 Updated position description Motion 16/29

*Relatively Speaking* Associate Editor VI-235 (New) Motion 16/30

Policies and Procedures Committee VI-35 Standing Committee Status Motion 16/31

Awards – Newsletter VII-30 Revised Motion 16/32

*Relatively Speaking* Editorial Committee VII-210 and *Relatively Speaking* Operating Procedures  
Section IX Motion 16/33

Advertising on AGS Property VII-15 (New) Motion 16/34

Awards – Members VII-20 Motion 16/35

### **September**

2017 Membership Form Updated Motion 16/52 and 16/53

New Member Kit VII-150 Updated Motion 16/54

Peter Staveley Memorial Award VII-35 (New) Motion 16/55

### **November**

Office Coordinator Job Description Approved Motion 16/94

Table of Contents & Section Index updated to show VII-35 Motion 16/95

Grants and Fundraising VI-120 Updated Motion 16/96

Communications/Publicity/Website Content Manager VI-70 Job description to remain the same  
Motion 16/97

Parliamentarian VI-200 Job descriptions to remain the same Motion 16/98

AGS Organization Chart Updated Motion 16/99

# Alberta Genealogical Society

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

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

Email: [agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:agsoffice@abgenealogy.ca) Website: <http://abgenealogy.ca/>

## 2017 Branch Contact Information

### **Brooks & District Branch**

President: Robert Franz

Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4

Phone: (403) 362-2732

[www.abgenealogy.ca/brooks-district-branch](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/brooks-district-branch)

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month,  
7:30 p.m. Community Cultural Centre  
Main Floor, Room 122  
327 Third Street West, Brooks, AB

### **Camrose Branch**

President: Janine Carroll

c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue

Camrose, AB T4V 3B1

Phone: (780) 608-6243

<http://camrose.abgenealogy.ca>

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month,  
7:00 p.m. Camrose Public Library  
Downstairs Boardroom

### **Drayton Valley Branch**

President: Connie Stuhl

P.O. Box 115

Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0

Phone: (780) 542-2787

Email: [ags.dvbranch@gmail.com](mailto:ags.dvbranch@gmail.com)

Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month  
7 p.m. @ Wishing Well Apts.  
5102-46 Avenue, Drayton Valley, AB

### **Edmonton Branch**

President: Sheila Genaille

Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6

Phone: (780) 424-4429

Fax: (780) 423-8980

Email:

[edmontonags@edmontongenealogy.ca](mailto:edmontonags@edmontongenealogy.ca)

Website:

<http://edmontongenealogy.ca/>

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month,  
7:30 p.m.

### **Ft. McMurray Branch**

President: Tammy Grantham

9B, 10019 MacDonald Avenue

Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1S9

Phone: (780) 743-8904

Email: [ftmacgen@telus.net](mailto:ftmacgen@telus.net)

Website:

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~)

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month  
7 p.m.

### **Grande Prairie & District Branch**

President: Ed Hall

P.O. Box 1257

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1

Phone: (780) 539-7005

Email: [gp@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:gp@abgenealogy.ca)

Website: <http://gp.abgenealogy.ca>

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month,  
7 p.m. Grande Prairie Public Library  
101, 9839 – 103 Avenue

### **Lethbridge & District Branch**

President: John Squarek

Rm. 128, 909 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North

Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Email: [lethags@theboss.net](mailto:lethags@theboss.net)

<http://lethbridgeags@theboss.net>

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month,  
7:00 p.m. Provincial Admin. Building  
909-3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North, Lethbridge

### **Medicine Hat & District Branch**

President: Mel Bender

Box 971,

Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8

Phone: (403) 526-3794

Email: [mhgs@shaw.ca](mailto:mhgs@shaw.ca)

<http://mhdgs.ca>

Meets 1st Wednesday of the month,  
7:00 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental  
Co. Ltd. 974 – 13<sup>th</sup> St. SW, MH

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

President: Sonya Miller

Box 922

Red Deer, AB T4N 5H3

Phone: (403) 350-6880

Email: [rdbrags@telus.net](mailto:rdbrags@telus.net)

Website: [www.rdgensoc.ab.ca](http://www.rdgensoc.ab.ca)

Meets 4th Wednesday of the month  
7 p.m. LDS Church  
3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer, AB

### **Wetaskiwin Branch**

President: c/o Alice Hoyle

R.R. #3, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 1X1

Phone: (780) 387-4978

Email: [wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca)

<http://abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch>

Meets 3rd Tuesday (except July,  
August and December) at 7 p.m.  
LDS Church, Wetaskiwin, AB





# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

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

- Active since 1973, 2016 was our 43<sup>rd</sup> year of providing genealogical service to the community.
- Membership for 2016 totalled 743 compared to 704 in 2015.
- Members contributed 32,277 volunteer hours in 2016.
- Our journal, *Relatively Speaking*, published a highly acclaimed joint issue with the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Genealogical societies featuring the early history of the RNWMP.
- The Board initiated the Peter Staveley Memorial Award to recognize significant and important contributions by authors to *Relatively Speaking*.
- The resignation of the editor and associate editor suspended the publication of the fourth issue of *Relatively Speaking*.
- A fact-finding Ad Hoc Committee was struck to address concerns regarding the delivery and future of *Relatively Speaking*.
- Peace River Branch went into dormancy leaving us now with 10 branches to continue to provide diverse programs and services to the membership locally.
- Our 11 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continued to meet regularly and provide valuable research and discussion topics for their members.
- The Research Committee responded to 402 research queries in 2016.
- The annual September Retreat at the Providence Centre featured a speaker from Community and Culture to lead a discussion on Board Governance for the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs to address wellness concerns.
- “Let’s Talk”, a message from the AGS President, Bob Franz, was introduced as an ongoing feature to the webpage.
- The AGS webpage, under the stewardship of Lyn Meehan, now includes the merged homestead databases in the public section of the website. The website has received acclaim from genealogy and family history societies as well as bloggers nationally and internationally. More than 22,000 users viewed over 151,000 pages.
- Drayton Valley Branch, under the leadership of Connie Stuhl and her committee, held a very successful GenFair in April.
- The AGS Board of Directors held a five hour virtual meeting in November to cut meeting expenses.
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, gaming events, and grants from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Edmonton Heritage Council.
- The Society continued to employ one part-time Office Coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper.

*Proud beneficiary of the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation through the Alberta Lottery Fund, and the Edmonton Heritage Council through the City of Edmonton.*

