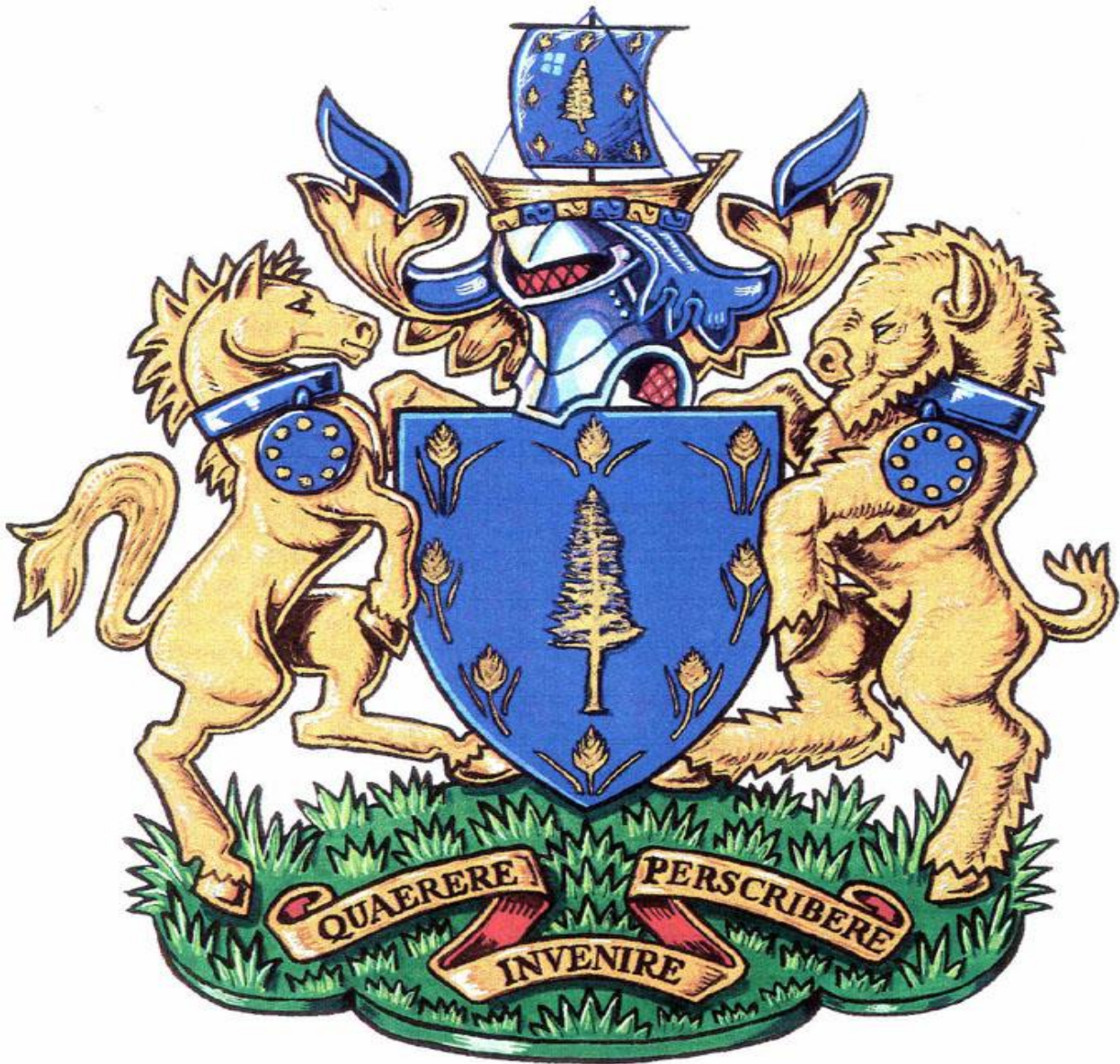


Alberta Genealogical Society



2018 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

27 April 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Dec. 31, 2018

Officers

President	John Howard
Past President	Robert Franz
1 st Vice President	Lianne Kruger
2 nd Vice President	Lynne Duigou
Treasurer	Marion Rex
Secretary of the Society	Norma Wolowyk

Directors

Brooks	Glenn Michell
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	Alice Hoyle

Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Marion Rex
Nominations (Chair)	Robert Franz
Policies & Procedures/Bylaws (Chair)	Lynne Duigou

Other Committees and Appointments

AGS Surname Database	Lianne Kruger
Archivist	Vacant
Communications	Vacant
Conference 2019 Chair	Lianne Kruger
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	Lynne Duigou
Parliamentarian	Vacant
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking	Editorial Team
Relatively Speaking Mailing	George Shreeves
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
	Robert Franz
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster(s)	Lyn Meehan, Deb & Bruce Boelstler

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 as a Society 4 April 1973

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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 \$18,075.62 in funding
received through 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 2018 and agreed to have their donation acknowledged.

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

\$251-\$500

Benevity Community Impact Fund
Edmonton Community Fdn.
Royal Bank of Canada

\$101-\$250

Easton, Frank
Hollands, Dorothy
Rex, Marion
Tichkowsky, Roy

\$76-\$100

Anderson, Ruth
Edmunds, Liz
Javorsky, Larry
Lowing, Raymond
Nicolson, Noel
Robbins, Melva
Scott, David
Wales, Marilyn
Willoughby, Vic

\$51-\$75

Cockwill, Gail
Dick, Glen
Harasewich, Tillie
Nex, Margaret
Pape, Alfred
Todd, Judy
Wasylik, Eugene

\$26-\$50

Akgungor, Allison
Althouse, John
Buchko, Sandy
Chambers, Doug
Dawson, Leo & Martha
Ervin, Joyce
Lockhart, James
P & T Farms
Perkins, Louise
Phipps, Anne
Roberts, Lorraine
Rolls, David

\$11-\$25

Allen, Joanne
Avery, Arthur & Sylvia
Brown, Laura
Browse, Jean
Caldwell, Darlene
Clamp, Bernice
Ensminger, Margery
Forsyth, Pamela
Harrison, Alice
Houston, Charlotte
Keown, Claudette
Kreznoski, Irvin
Meunier, Alberta
Nicol, Herb
Pohranychny, Edward
Rowat, William & Marion

Sinclair, Patricia
Splett, Marion
Stefaniuk, Nick

\$10

Adams, Donald
Bilawchuk, Nellie
Boelstler, Deb & Bruce
Carrozza, Frank
Eisenbarth, Bruce
Garson, Margaret
Kober, Phyllis
Manning, Roslyn
Marlowe, Patricia
Nicholson, Marjorie
Pasay, David
Redford, Marcia
Tetzloff, Laureen
Wilson, Maureen

Sincere thanks to 10 donors who wished to remain anonymous.

WITH SINCERE THANKS FOR CASINO FUND TRANSFERS

The Alberta Genealogical Society gratefully acknowledges transfers of casino funds within the organization. These funding allocations help AGS to fulfill its mission: to promote genealogy and the study of genealogical research in the Province of Alberta.

Grande Prairie & District Branch – \$1,848 for upgrades to the Homestead Database to make it more functional

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
46thAnnual General Meeting – Saturday, 27 April, 2019
Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre
4520 – 76 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order – President John (Jock) Howard
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting, 21st April 2018
4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and Directors of the Board:
 - a) President – Jock Howard
 - b) 1st Vice President – Lianne Kruger
 - c) 2nd Vice President – Lynne Duigou
 - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
 - e) Secretary – Norma Wolowyk
 - f) Past President – Robert Franz
 - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks – Maurice Landry
 - Camrose – Janine Carroll
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Sheila Genaille
 - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
 - Grande Prairie – Ed Hall
 - Lethbridge – Marilyn Astle
 - Medicine Hat – Doreen Schank
 - Red Deer – Janice Duffy
 - Wetaskiwin– Alice Hoyle
 - h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the Annual Report
5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports
6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Marion Rex
 - a) 2018 Audited Financial Statement
 - b) Adoption of Financial Statements
 - c) Budget 2019
 - d) Approval of Budget
 - e) Appointment of Auditor for 2019
7. Election and Bylaw Results – Robert Franz, Past President
8. Introduction of New Executive
9. Resolution of Respect – Frank Easton
10. Presentation of Awards –Jock Howard
11. Adjournment

**Alberta Genealogical Society
Annual General Meeting – 21st April 2018 – Draft Minutes
Camrose, Alberta**

Attendance at the 45th AGS Annual General Meeting:

Sharon Aney	Arlene Hedlund	John Squarek
Bob Atcheson	Jock Howard	Connie Stuhl
Melvin Bender	Alice Hoyle	Blanche Thomson
Al Bromling	Arlene Johnson	Deb Trout
Janine Carroll	Carole Koop	Laura Turnbull
George Cathcart	Leroy Koop	Shona Wards
Gloria Cathcart	Lianne Kruger	Bev Webster
Joan Conley	Diane Lehr	Norma Wolowyk
Lou Duigou	Elwyn Lock	
Lynne Duigou	Claudia Malloch	Office Coordinator: Linda Winski
Frank Easton	Maxine Maxwell	
Neal Finn	Doug McLeod	
Bob Franz	Alora Nelson	Guests:
Eileen French	Claudine Nelson	Wei Wong with two family members
Jean Gray	Janet Nichols	
Susan Haga	Norman Prestage	
John Hazelwood	Marion Rex	

Members – 42 Staff – 1 Guests – 3 Total in attendance – 46

1. Welcome and Call to Order: The 45th AGS Annual Meeting was called to order at 2:53pm by Robert Franz, President. Bob welcomed members to the AGM and thanked the Camrose Branch for hosting a wonderful GenFair.
2. Approval of Agenda:
MOVED by Doug McLeod that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

SECONDED by Bob Atcheson **CARRIED**
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting:
MOVED by Claudine Nelson that the minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented.
SECONDED by Jock Howard **CARRIED**
4. Introduction of Executive Committee and Directors of the Board by Robert Franz:
 - a) President – Robert Franz
 - b) 1st Vice President – Lianne Kruger
 - c) 2nd Vice President – Lynne Duigou
 - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
 - e) Secretary – Norma Wolowyk
 - f) Past President – Susan Haga
 - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks – Glen Mitchell
 - Camrose – Deb Trout
 - 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 – Alice Hoyle
- h) Committee Chairs – as listed in 2017 Annual Report
- i) Office Coordinator – Linda Winski

5. Acceptance of Executive, Branch and Committee 2017 Annual Reports:

MOVED by John Squarek that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the Annual Report.

SECONDED by Lynne Duigou **CARRIED**

6. Financial Reports – Treasurer – Marion Rex:

Following the presentation and discussion by Marion Rex of the 2017 financial reports the following motions were made:

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the audited Consolidated Financial Statements for 2017 be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Bob Atcheson **CARRIED**

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Provincial Office Financial Statements for 2017 be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Doug McLeod **CARRIED**

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the budget for 2018 be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Laura Turnbull **CARRIED**

- **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the firm of Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs Chartered Accountants be retained for 2018.

Seconded by Lynne Duigou **CARRIED**

A round of applause was given to Marion Rex for all the dedication and hard work she contributed in preparing the AGS 2017 financial reports and a balanced budget for 2018.

7. Election Results/Bylaw Changes – Susan Haga, Past President:

1. **Election Results** – Susan Haga, Past President

Installed by Acclamation:

- President: Jock Howard for a two-year term
- 1st Vice President: Lianne Kruger for a two-year term
- Treasurer: Marion Rex for a two-year term

Susan noted that the Committee Chairs will be appointed at the May Board Meeting. The following positions are vacant: Archivist, AGS Surname Database, Historian, and Parliamentarian.

2. **Proposed 2018 Bylaw Changes and Voting Results** – Lynne Duigou
 700 Ballots were printed, 679 mailed. Returned 209 – 30.78%
 To pass a resolution needed 70% (146 Yes votes)
 All fourteen changes were passed.

Bylaw	Topic	Yes	No
4.1.4	Student Membership –Open to grade school children of grades one (1) to twelve (12) Proposed: Add "without voting rights." Rationale: This change, in conjunction with 4.1.5, restricts members from voting while in grade school unless aged eighteen and over.	205 Yes	No 2 Blank 2
4.1.5	Young Adult Membership. Open to young adults up to age 23 Proposed: Delete "... up to age 23" Add "... aged eighteen (18) to twenty-three (23) years." Rationale: This change better defines the ages associated with this category.	204 Yes	Blank 3 Spoiled 2
4.3	Rights and Privileges of Members Any member in good standing, except as defined in Article 4.1.5, is entitled to: Proposed: Delete "4.1.5" Insert "4.1.7" Rationale: Bylaw changes in 2016 added Article 4.1.4 and Article 4.1.5 to the Membership categories, thus moving the Honourary Membership to Article 4.1.7. This change will then correctly point to the restrictions that are to apply to Honourary Membership.	203 Yes	No 1 Blank 5
5.4	General Meeting Quorum – Attendance by 20% of the members or 30 members.... Change to “shall equal the number of members in attendance. Rational – It is difficult to get the numbers in GenFair years and AGM almost did not happen.	179 Yes	No 23 Blank 5 Spoiled 2
5.5.5	Add 5.5.5 Honourary Members and Student Members have no voting rights. Rationale: To re-confirm that members under Article 4.1.4 and 4.1.7 are restricted from voting but have all other privileges as outlined in 4.3.	204 Yes	No 3 Blank 2
6.1.3	3rd Bullet Board of Directors Appoint such committees as it deems necessary, however, shall always be required to appoint a Nominating Committee, a Finance Committee and to fill vacant positions on the Executive Committee. Proposed: Insert " and Policies and Procedures / Bylaws Committee" after "...a Finance Committee..." Rationale: The Policies and Procedures / Bylaws Committee was added as a Standing Committee with a Bylaw change in 2013 (see Article 6.5.4), therefore the committee needs to be included in this clause as well.	205 Yes	Blank 4

6.1.5	<p>New: Insert new Bullet after 1st Bullet Election of the Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election for the office of Second Vice-President and the Secretary of the Society shall be held in years ending in an odd number. <p>Rationale: A previous change deleted the 1st Bullet and only replaced it with the first half referring to the election of officers in years ending in an even number. This will reinstate the process for election of officers in years ending in an odd number.</p>	206 Yes	Blank 3
6.5.3	<p>3rd Bullet: Finance Committee Is responsible for advising the Vice President of Finance on all financial matters pertaining to the Society Proposed: Delete "...the Vice President of Finance "Insert "...the Board of Directors ..."</p> <p>Rationale: This change outlines the responsibility of the Finance Committee, a member of which is the Vice President of Finance (name changed to Treasurer in 2016)</p>	206 Yes	Blank 3
6.5.4	<p>1st Bullet Policies and Procedure/Bylaws Committee Consists of: A designated member of the Executive Committee as Chair and additional members as required (detailed in the Organizational Chart Sec. III of the AGS Operations Manual) Proposed: Delete "... (detailed in the Organizational Chart Sec. III of the AGS Operations Manual)..." Rationale: Remove words in parentheses "()" as they are not required. The AGS Operations Manual is continually updated and sections reordered so any change could require a Bylaw change. The AGS Operations Manual must reflect the approved Bylaws of the Society.</p>	204 Yes	Blank 4 Spoiled 1
6.5.4	<p>2nd Bullet Policies and Procedure/Bylaws Committee Is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As outlined in Policies & Procedures Section VII #190 <p>Proposed: Delete and replace with: "Is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing Policies and Procedures for the smooth operation of the Society" <p>Rationale: To better define the responsibility of the committee and remove reference to a specific section of the AGS Operations Manual. The AGS Operations Manual is continually updated and sections reordered so any change could require a Bylaw change.</p>	206 Yes	Blank 3
7.3.2	<p>Dissolution Notwithstanding anything in 7.3 above, dissolution cannot take place until the Branch has been dormant for at least one year, and:</p> <p>Proposed: Delete "...in 7.3 above, ..." Insert "... in 7.3.1 above, ..."</p> <p>Rationale: This corrects the reference from the entire article of which 7.3.2 is already a part to the first clause of the article thus putting restrictions on when the Board may dissolve a Branch.</p>	201 Yes	No 1 Blank 7

7.3.2	Dissolution 2nd Bullet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shall, within 30 days of the dissolution, forward to the Vice President of Finance of the Society all monetary assets and records of any kind of the Branch <p>Proposed: Delete "... Vice President of Finance..." Insert "...Treasurer ..."</p> <p>Rationale: The title of "Vice President of Finance" was changed to "Treasurer" in 2016 in all but 2 places in the current bylaws.</p>	201 Yes	No 1 Blank 7
7.3.2	Dissolution 5th. Bullet Assets, other than monetary assets, will be redistributed at the discretion of the Board to other Branch libraries or community libraries, museums or archives after a period of at least five years from the date of dissolution. <p>Proposed: Delete "at least five" Insert "at least three"</p> <p>Rational: Some print materials become dated and of no use if kept too long.</p>	203 Yes	No 3 Blank 3
12.2.2	<u>Finance and Auditing</u> The books of the Society must be audited once each year. The auditor will be appointed by the Annual General Meeting (Article 5.1.2) and audited statements will be presented to the Annual General Meeting by the Vice President of Finance (Article 6.3.4) <p>Proposed: Delete "... Vice President of Finance..." Insert "...Treasurer ..."</p> <p>Rationale: The title of "Vice President of Finance" was changed to "Treasurer" in 2016 in all but two places in the current bylaws.</p>	209 Yes	

Ballots counted by Laura Turnbull, Lou Duigou and Lynne Duigou. Frank Easton was scrutineer.

- **MOVED** by Lynne Duigou that the ballots be destroyed.

Seconded by Doug McLeod **CARRIED**

8. Introduction of New Executive:

Jock Howard, as incoming President, thanked Bob Franz for his work as AGS President over the past two years and indicated he will move forward on the initiatives started by Bob during his Presidency.

A round of applause was given to Bob for all his work and dedication during the past two years.

9. Resolution of Respect 2017 – Frank Easton:

Whereas: The success of our Society has been, is, and will be, dependent upon many factors, including dedicated membership, professionalism in our research; the volunteer efforts of individuals who have provided dedicated service on Committees, Boards of Directors, members of Executives, library volunteers, lecturers at educational courses and volunteer efforts in community leadership as well as the support of spouses, therefore,

Be it resolved:

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

Elizabeth (Betty) Smyth	#2628	Drayton Valley	Jan 20, 2017
Ingrid Pasay	#3105	Edmonton	Jan 22, 2017
Wayne Nelson	#5507	Camrose	Feb 15, 2017
Janet Lorraine Coatham	#2775	Red Deer	Aug 10, 2017
Robert James Coatham	#2775	Red Deer	Aug 15, 2017
Elmer Ensminger	#854	Medicine Hat	Nov 1, 2017

And do stand in silent tribute to their memory and that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes of the meeting.

Moved by Frank Easton and **Seconded** by Laura Turnbull

10. Presentation of Awards – Robert Franz, President (See attached list for complete details of awards)

Long Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five years 1993 – 2018

Jean Browse	#2998	Wetaskiwin Branch
Mary-Joan Cornett	#2983	Red Deer & District Branch
Dianne Fallow	#2963	Red Deer & District Branch
John Hazelwood	#2955	Edmonton Branch
Leroy & Carole Koop	#2031	Wetaskiwin Branch
Sylvia & Igor Lozynsky	#2985	Red Deer & District Branch
Henry Stephens	#2979	Edmonton Branch

Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards – Excellence in Branch Newsletters

- **Certificate for Best Original Article** “Searching for Henry” by Arlene Johnson
Clandigger, Vol. 39. No. 7, October, p. 22-25, Edmonton Branch
- **Certificate for Best Local Content** B & D *Heir Lines*, Vol. 31, No. 2, Fall 2017, Brooks & District Branch. Editor: Bob Franz
- **Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter** (*plaque & certificate for the editor to keep*)
Heritage Seekers – Grande Prairie Branch. Editor: Freddi Bromling

Thanks to the Judging Committee: Peter & Linda Darby, Madeleine Fischer and Connie Stuhl

Peter Staveley Memorial Award – *Relatively Speaking* Article

- **Name on Peter Staveley plaque & certificate for best article** – Ging Wei Wong
“Retlaw and Bark G.Wong’s Razor by Ging Wei Wong, *Relatively Speaking*, August 2017, Vol. 45, Page 10

Thanks to the Judging committee: RS Editorial Committee

Certificates of Appreciation

- Grande Prairie & District Branch
- AGS Research Services Team from Edmonton Branch
- Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
- Edmonton Heritage Council

Special Mention Award – Forty Years

- Red Deer & District Branch, 1978-2018.

Special Mention Awards

- Gloria Cathcart
- Shannon Cherkowski
- Lynne Duigou
- Bob Franz
- Susan Haga
- Lianne Kruger
- Maxine Maxwell
- Lyn Meehan

President's Award

- Marion Rex

11. Adjournment

Bob Franz, President declared the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Society adjourned at 3:59pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Norma Wolowyk, AGS Secretary

Robert Franz, AGS President

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President – Jock Howard

Volunteer Hours: 186.5

I stepped into the President's role in April 2018 at the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS). My sincere thanks to Bob Franz who, as the previous President, did much to promote the growth of the Society over the previous two years. Within the three pillars of his presidency, he worked on the health of the organization and left it in much better shape than when he arrived. His shoes have, indeed, been very big shoes to fill.

In April 2018, Bob Franz had planned to attend the Archaeological Society of Alberta Conference and AGM in the week following our GenFair. Health issues foiled his plans, so I quickly altered my plans and took his place. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (AHRF) has requested that each of the Provincial Heritage Organizations (PHOs) make efforts to collaborate with the others. There are crossovers as shown by Dylan Reade who did a session about using Homestead records at the archaeological dig Long Lake Métis Settlement at his conference. (Dylan has since become an AGS member and agreed to present sessions at our conference in 2019.)

During the summer, Lynne Duigou (2nd VP) connected with Helen Edwards (of Victoria, BC) to help us with the production of *Relatively Speaking*. This demonstrates that the Internet can help us in ways other than simply allowing members to search for their families.

Our retreat in September was successful in starting the work of updating our long-term Strategic Plan. Hats off to our moderator Kim Ghostkeeper for guiding us to a good start. The three strategic priorities that we established included:

1. Expanding our visibility through outreach opportunities.

2. Providing interesting, informative, and relevant educational opportunities.
3. Engaging those who are interested in genealogy and inviting them to become active members.

In late October, our Treasurer, Marion Rex, and I made a presentation of the 2018 AGS metrics to the AHRF board supporting our application for funding for 2019.

Later that evening, the AGS received the prestigious *Heritage Awareness Award 2018* from AHRF for our work with youth during Canada's sesquicentennial. My hope is that this will inspire branches to continue reaching out to youth. In turn, this may encourage parents of youth to become members now and in the future, the students themselves become active members as they mature.

Our videoconferencing provider, BlueJeans, has revised their sales models and we are able to take advantage of a considerable price reduction (~60%) while maintaining our existing plan. We tested another, slightly cheaper, provider (Zoom) as suggested by our bookkeeper, but they have no toll-free line for those who wish to participate by phone so we decided to stay with BlueJeans.

Interest in using BlueJeans is increasing. Edmonton Branch plans to use it for all their board meetings. One Edmonton Branch SIG meeting used BlueJeans to connect with Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray. More are planned; however, there are still some wrinkles to work out.

Our auditors are pleased with the ease with which they were able to conduct their work, thanks to some excellent preparatory work by our bookkeeper, Shirley Keller.

At this point, I'd like to give a special thanks to Linda Winski and Shirley Keller for the work they do to make the business of the society run smoothly. Their knowledge and expertise are

valuable assets as they manage our day-to-day business.

I would also like to thank all Board members, branch executives, committee chairs and committee members for being so willing to give their time and talents to the AGS. Many hands make light work as is evidenced by the incredible number of volunteer hours that are contributed each year. The Alberta Genealogical Society is a strong entity because of its people. Thank you for all you do so that people in Alberta and from around the world can trace their family tree and find their roots.

Past President – Robert Franz

Between January 1 and April 21, I completed my second year as President of this Society. In January, I was invited as your President to a consultation meeting with the Honorable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Minister of Culture and Tourism. This two-hour meeting was held in Calgary on January 15. The message from the Government: the economy is slowly improving but we must continue to exercise restraint in spending so cut where you can and don't expect any grant increases though they will attempt to protect those in the culture and tourism sector and focus on health and education. The message from those attending: thank you for your protection, we are cut to the bone and any reduction in grants will hurt. Most of my last four months were spent on updating information, making recommendations on our services, and summarizing the relationships we have or would like to aim at having in my report *Making Connections*.

During March and April, my main focus was on preparation for the AGM and the preparation of final reports, including the President's Report to the AGM, the highlights of the 2017 year in the Annual Report, and the April issue of "Let's Talk" on the AGS website.

The last official act as President was attending the GenFair in Camrose. It was well-attended and featured two excellent speakers. It was uplifting to be able to hand out the various awards to individuals and groups. This

recognition is a valuable service provided by AGS and a reminder of the great people who make up this organization and the great things that have been achieved this past year.

Since April 21, I have been serving as AGS Past President. Three days into this position, I suffered an ischemic stroke, the result of a heart condition (atrial fibrillation), but fortunately Treasurer Marion Rex and Incoming President Jock Howard were able to step in and attend the Archaeological Society of Alberta conference.

As Past President, I attended the executive meeting called April 24 and the virtual executive meetings of May 12 and September 15. For health and personal reasons, I was unable to drive to Edmonton for the May Directors' Meeting and instead attended by computer. As President, I initiated contact with Alberta Culture and Tourism and arranged for Kim Ghostkeeper to provide the workshop at the September Retreat. As the Retreat falls under the oversight of the Past President, I was able to follow this up and arranged for Kim to address the nuts and bolts of implementing our strategic plan, and in correlation with the plans of the incoming President, to address the matter of succession planning and the roles and responsibilities of the Executive, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs, all of whom are invited to the retreat. Of course, I have been in constant touch with Susan Haga, Retreat Chair, in whose capable hands the responsibility of this year's retreat lies.

I also attended the first meeting of the Master Surname Database Committee chaired by Lianne Kruger via BlueJeans in that a considerable percentage of my time over the past two years involved resolving issues with the former Cemetery Database. My purpose in attending was to provide any background information and recommendations to the new committee based on that experience. The committee is well underway and at the conclusion of the meeting, I stepped away from the committee and will no longer be attending as I felt my presence was no longer required.

First Vice President – Lianne Kruger

GenFair

Camrose did a great job at hosting the GenFair in April and the AGM. They had two speakers.

GenFair 2020

I am looking for a branch to organize the 2020 GenFair. Please email me if you are willing to help. There is no cost to the branch.

Conference 2019

I have a great team of over a dozen volunteers working on planning the conference for 2019. They have already spent an amazing amount of time preparing and organizing this event including contacting vendors and sponsors, producing a website, budget and task lists. The venue for the event is the same as in 2017 with the same number of sessions and keynotes. We look forward to a very successful event.

Social Media

Laura continues to do a great job on Facebook. This is good PR for AGS. The followers continue to grow as do they on our Twitter account.

FamilySearch Our logo is on the Alberta page.

Many branches have a Facebook page and a couple have Twitter accounts as well.

Website

Our amazing website continues to look great and functionally well. We have a wonderful team working well together, of Lyn, Bruce and Deb.

Second Vice President – Lynne Duigou

Volunteer Hours: 538

Membership

2018 – 678

In 2018, with feedback from the Branches, we created a new membership form, updated the Membership Chair Policy and the New Member

kit. We also tried launching the membership drive for 2018 in the November 2017 issue of *Relatively Speaking*.

Policies and Procedures/Bylaws

The committee met five times to create, update and bring forward seventeen policy changes and sixteen Bylaw changes. My thanks to the committee which was comprised of Sandra Vaneldik, Jo Nuthack, Janine Carroll, John Squarek and Laura Turnbull.

Relatively Speaking

I chaired the *Relatively Speaking* Editorial and Production Committee which produced four issues of the Journal in 2018. Thanks to Denise Daubert, Gloria Cathcart, Suzanne Maynard, Janet Cooper and Helen Edwards for their dedication to the Journal.

Treasurer – Marion Rex

Volunteer Hours: 377

Audit 2018

In the 2018 audit, AGS Provincial, Edmonton branch, and Fort McMurray branch were audited. All other branches were reviewed. AGS Provincial finished the 2018 year with a surplus of **\$12,088**. This is due, in large part, to the following:

Income

- Higher than expected membership income +\$2,897
- Higher than expected casino income from other branches +\$1,848 from Grande Prairie and District Branch
- Higher than anticipated *Relatively Speaking* income +\$112 for subscriptions and +\$205 for hard copies
- Lower than anticipated research income -\$375
- Lower than anticipated interest -\$183

Expense

- Higher than anticipated *Relatively Speaking* costs +\$435
- Lower than anticipated board travel and accommodation in the amount of -\$4,624 because some members joined Board meeting via BlueJeans, our videoconferencing interface (comprising of

-\$2,526 AGM travel/accommodation, -\$768 Board meeting travel, and -\$1,330 Board meeting accommodation)

- Lower than anticipated expenses from President's Discretionary Fund -\$1,570
- Lower than anticipated employee wages and benefits due in large part to lower hours and CPP expenses -\$2,594

Thanks to KBH Chartered Accountants for their work on the 2018 consolidated audit.

Bookkeeping

This year was the fourth full year that Shirley Keller, our 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 in preparation for our annual audit. She also completes the bi-annual GST rebate application. 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, including completing the annual charity return for Canada Revenue Agency, which used to be done by the auditors at much greater expense.

Gaming

AGS members worked a casino in 2017 at Century Casino in Edmonton. The proceeds from that casino helped fund our 2018 year. 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 (\$18,075.62). The sponsorship received from AHRF is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training

programs, professional consultations and general administration and operations. AGS metrics and annual report were presented to the AHRF Board of Directors on October 25, 2018. Funding received from EHC helps provide both staffing and operational support. The application process occurs in the fall each year.

In 2017, AGS received funding from Alberta Canada 150, Community Initiatives Program through Alberta Culture and Tourism for a project entitled: *Youth Workshops for Canada 150: In Search of My Family's Past* in the amount of **\$15,219**. \$11,758 was spent in 2017, with the remainder being carried forward and expensed in 2018.

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS provincial (\$1,947) and its branches (\$3,294) received \$5,241 in donations. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report.

According to the auditor, casino funding can no longer be treated as a donation, but can be transferred from one branch to another. Thanks to Grande Prairie & District Branch who transferred \$1,848 to AGS Provincial for the upgrades to the cemetery database.

Please see the Grants & Other Funding report for more information.

Research

- In 2018, AGS consolidated raised a total of \$7,204.26 by answering research queries, as follows:

Provincial Office	\$3,425.21
Edmonton	2,840.10
Grande Prairie	298.95
Lethbridge	535.00
Medicine Hat	<u>105.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$7,204.26</u>

- As noted above, AGS provincial raised \$3,425.21 by answering 192 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.

- Please see Norma Wolowyk's Research report for more information.

Lease

We are in the middle of a two-year lease running 2017-2019. A new lease will need to be renegotiated in the fall of 2019 for the period 2019-2021.

Finance Committee

My thanks to the Finance Committee: Sheila Genaille (Edmonton Branch President), Claudine Nelson (Library & Resource Centre Chair), Laura Turnbull (Gaming Chair), and Norma Wolowyk (Research Services 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.

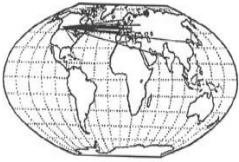
VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2018

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten Branches of the AGS realized a total of **32,510** volunteer hours that were reported in 2018

*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



2018 Membership 19
2018 Volunteer Hours 1878

Monthly Public Programs

January: The year began with members sharing their latest personal research. Clara Iwaasa thanked the Branch for recognizing the contributions of Iwaasa Industries in providing printing services for the Branch since its inception.

February: Henry Najda gave a presentation on his visit to Poland with his sister and their connecting with 16 cousins and a total of 153 relatives they had never met before.

March: As the AGM was cancelled due to poor weather it was held in March and the executive was returned except for Bob Franz who stepped down as Branch President and the position was accepted by Glenn Michell. Iris Dunham, Mary Burkholder, Eileen French and Karyn Norden formed a committee to update the Branch website. They will be contracting a local expert to assist in doing this.

April: Leroy Nelson provided a very interesting presentation on the 100th Anniversary of the town of Scandia. The spring edition of B & D Heirlines was printed. Four members attended GenFair in Camrose. Bob Franz received a well-deserved certificate for his tenure as provincial

president and our branch won the Ken Young Award for best local article for the Fall 2017 issue of *B & D Heirlines*.

A major development was the moving of the Branch headquarters to the second floor of the new Brooks Public Library. This was a very labor-intensive effort and most of the members contributed time and energy to accomplish it.

May: Mary Burkholder gave a detailed and interesting presentation on the 100 Year History of the Mennonite Church in Duchess Alberta. Iris Dunham gave a presentation at the Brooks Public Library on the genealogy tools and assistance available to patrons at the Branch headquarters now located at the Brooks Public Library.

June: The Brooks and District Branch organizes one field trip a year for members and guests. This year the group went to Rosebud to see the play Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors which included a great meal before the theater performance. Members had the opportunity to tour the museum in Rosebud which houses many articles and history of the area.

July: Several members including Maurice Landry, Clara Iwaasa, Carol Anderson, Karyn Norden and Henry Najda were on hand at the Brooks and District Museum Canada Day celebrations to showcase the History of Street Names of the City of Brooks display. This was a very popular attraction the previous year and the Branch was requested to reprise it for another year. Articles on the various street names appeared as a regular feature in the Did You Know column in the Brooks Bulletin for over a year and half.

September: The Branch's traditional September meeting has been a sharing of personal research or other events members have engaged in. Glenn Michell gave a detailed history of his ancestors and others also shared their progress on research conducted during the summer. Eileen French, Clara Iwaasa and Karyn Norden spent part of the summer taking photos of headstones at the Brooks Cemetery.

October: The Branch celebrated its grand opening in October. The mayor Barry Morishita and County of Newell reeve Molly Douglas gave speeches as did Brooks Public Librarian Lisa Patton. President Glenn Michell gave a tremendous speech during the opening and there was a good turnout for the three-hour event providing good photo ops for the local newspaper the Brooks Bulletin. Members spent a lot of time putting up pictures and displays for this event and our new home is starting to feel like a home.

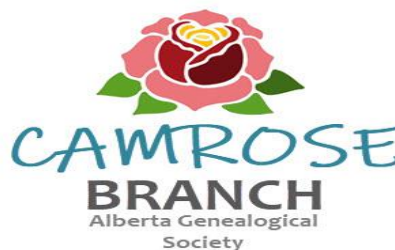
November: Henry Najda gave a presentation on his father, Marian John Najda, and his service with the Polish 2nd Army during World War II.

December: Once again members of the Brooks and District Branch gathered with their spouses at a local eatery for their annual evening of good cheer and fellowship and once again, we had a gift draw with the proceeds donated to the local foodbank.

Throughout 2018 the Website committee has been very busy compiling and consolidating information that the committee has collected, spending many hours in the library sorting through our files and updating our website

With the challenges of this year in relocating and adapting to our new home Branch members continue to contribute their time and energy to the achievement of the Society's goals.

Maurice Landry, President



2018 Membership 24
2018 Volunteer hours were in excess of 1200.

Meeting Topics

"Taking a Legacy Cruise"
"My to visit Grosse Isle"
"Genealogy Software"
"What do I do with my Stuff?"
"Intro to DNA"
"What I researched over the Summer"
"Land Records and Your Genealogy"
"Photo Care, Scanning, Sorting & Storage"

Those attending meetings, members and guests, had the opportunity to contribute to our theme (or bring up other topics)

BMD Project

We completed recording the Births, Marriages and Deaths from the *Camrose Canadian*, Volume 3, 1941-1946.

GenFair

The Genealogy GenFair was held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 in Camrose. It was a good experience for our Branch to host this event. We enjoyed ourselves immensely and were able to increase public awareness of our organization locally.

Summer Projects & Socials

Members of the Branch were invited twice to give a genealogical presentation to the Library day camp. Children ranged in age from 5-12; we learned a lot from the first session and were much more effective the 2nd session.

Our summer social took place at the New Norway Cemetery about 10 km south of

Camrose. Members brought snacks, tables and chairs (a feast!) sitting in deep shade of some shrubs because the temperature was about 33 degrees. Janine Carroll brought notes from a past cemetery tour she had prepared for the New Norway 100th anniversary several years previous, and the group shared stories about people dead and alive.

Our Branch supplied a table display at the Clan Gathering/Highland Games presented by the Flagstaff Scottish Club in Sedgewick, AB.

Our Branch participated once again in the annual Community Registration Night on September 6, 2018. About 900 members of the public attended plus about 100 displayers.

Logo

Thank you to Lyn Meehan who developed a new Camrose Branch logo. We appreciate it very much!

Fall Workshop

Our fall workshop was held on September 15 at the Camrose Public Library with guest speaker Wayne Shephard. The topics were “Genealogy and the Little Ice Age” and “Using Parish and Other Records to Determine How Natural Phenomena Affected People & Communities”. The event was attended by 17 people with the weather contributing to low attendance. Those who attended were pleased with the presentation.

Special Interest Groups

The Camrose Branch has moved ahead with the development of 2 Special Interest Groups: “Writing Family History” and “Organizing your Genealogy – papers and electronic”, each meets monthly! Neither group is organized, nor do they have presentations. It gives us time to concentrate on our own research and has really contributed to motivation.

Our meetings and workshops now begin with a Statement of Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory.

Janine Carroll, Branch Representative to AGS

Drayton Valley Branch



2018 Membership	10
2018 Members	12
2018 Volunteer Hours	306

Drayton Valley Branch continued to assist members with research and promote genealogy in our community in 2018.

Meetings, Speakers and Presentations

January: For our January meeting, we held Beginners Genealogy, covering some basic research techniques.

February: Our Annual General Meeting in February did not result in any changes to our Executive.

March: We visited our local Family History Centre to conduct some research,

April: We discussed researching women in our family trees.

May: We asked members to bring any questions that others may be able to assist with.

June: We toured the Drayton Valley Museum and their Archives, discovering what resources they have to offer genealogists.

September: We held a round table discussion.

October: There were many away, so a meeting was not held.

November: We highlighted Ancestry.com Library Edition which was recently added to our local Municipal Library, where we are located.

December: We do not hold a meeting in December as it is too close to Christmas.

Projects

Drayton Valley Branch continued to collect obituaries and place them on index cards for research. We also maintain a Facebook page.

Outreach

We continued to reach out to assist those researching their family tree. Sometimes this happens at one of our meetings, or meeting one-on-one as time permits.

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.

We have a good working relationship with our local Museum; one of their Directors is also a member of the Drayton Valley Branch. They forward any queries they receive to us for investigation.

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

Connie Stuhl, President



2018 Memberships	380
2018 Members	431
2018 Volunteer Hours	10,533

The past year has been a busy one and without the volunteers who work tirelessly every month we would not be so successful. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank those members.

Speaker Requests: Edmonton Branch received an increased number of requests for speakers from various organizations in 2018 and members have presented several talks from beginning genealogy to more advanced sessions. Included in each presentation is information of what Edmonton Branch does and the benefits of membership in the Society.

A **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch** was held in January. There was indication that the volunteers would like orientation and perhaps an additional session on 'what is new' once a year. As well, the Board of Directors passed a motion that if the *Tracing Your Family Tree* sessions are not full, the seats be offered free of charge to the volunteers on a first-come-first-served basis.

Métis Workshop: The president led a Métis research training workshop to 21 library volunteers in March and at the conclusion of the session there were many questions. The volunteers were provided a written and electronic version of the workshop.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Edmonton Branch has 11 SIGs. The French SIG (January) was offered to be broadcast to other Branches. Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray signed in;

however; the sound was not working in either place, so the glitches have to be worked out before the next one can be broadcast.

Membership: As of October 2018, the Edmonton Branch had 381 memberships and 431 members. Life Memberships are granted to those that have made significant contributions to the Society and, at present, we have 14 individuals that have been given this honour. Long-term certificates have been given to anyone who has been a member for 25 years.

Library: Edmonton Branch acquired a *Find My Past* library-edition subscription. A new, much improved, online search interface for the library catalogue database is now accessible. In addition to being open on the 3rd Saturday of each month, the library will begin opening on the first Saturday of the month in 2019 and will include a social gathering/communal learning aspect. A pre-selected webinar will be shown in the morning, with regular open library time to follow.

Patrons have warmly received the staggered table layout that has been in practice now for over a year, and delight in the small touches of seasonal décor that mark the seasons and holidays. A pin-up board for posting memories and photos of military ancestors was erected for Remembrance Day.

A Special Interest Group contributed to the purchase of a sizeable atlas that they were keen to see added to the collection. Lists of new acquisitions are routinely published in the branch newsletter, *Clandigger*. The map collection and its finding aids are being surveyed. The indexing project continues as well as re-cataloguing and shortening of call numbers (in order to make spine labels simpler and easier to read).

New Volunteers Needed: The library committee is actively seeking volunteers, as the core members that have dedicated ten, twenty or more years are increasingly facing life changes, sight and mobility challenges. We

thank all our volunteers for their dedication and commitment to opening the library for visiting and local researchers.

Courses: *Tracing Your Family Tree* began with the following sessions: “Using Online Resources Effectively”, “Canadian Vital Records” and “East European Genealogy”. The remaining sessions will begin in February 2019 as follows: “Introduction to Research and Working with Records”, “Quebec, Acadia and France”; “Scotland” and “DNA: Ancestry or Family Tree – Ask the Expert”.

Research Services: The Research Committee meets every Friday to address queries received the previous week. The members did research in the AGS library and at other local institutions such as Provincial Archives of Alberta, the Legislature Library, University of Alberta Library, Edmonton Public Library, City of Edmonton Archives, etc. They also accessed family history information, on behalf of clients, through their own subscriptions to paid genealogical sites. Each request was responded by e-mail or Canada Post. A query database was maintained of surnames researched, submitter’s name, locality of inquiry, the ID number assigned to each query and a description of where the query originated (e.g. AGS submission form, Edmonton Branch email, phone call to Library, etc.).

Monthly Programs: The program chair was vacant, however, the President requested from the membership and Board, names of presenters, then contacted the potential presenters and arranged for the following speakers at the general meetings:

- “Hello Grandfather - In Search of my Seafaring Ancestor” by Louise Perkins
- “Take a Little Walk Through the Cemetery” by John Althouse
- “Genealogy Resources at the City of Edmonton Archives” by Paula Aurini-Onderwater
- “Edmonton Catholic Schools District Archives” by Helen Scarlett

- “What’s New in FamilySearch” by Dr. Walter Meyer
- “Three Authors – Showcasing Books They Have Written” by Shirley Lowe, Allan Shute and Tom Monto
- “It all Started With a Scrap of Paper” by Jean Crozier
- “London Trippers 2018” by Deb Was.

Communications: Each month, the communications chair sent out approximately fifty meeting and course notices to various public libraries, seniors’ centers, archives and other organizations including the Edmonton Journal, the City of Edmonton website and the Seniors Magazine. Posting on the Edmonton Branch Facebook page is done daily.

Projects: The Edmonton Branch Unified Search Project is the development of a search tool that will search a database of all of the genealogical indexes created by Edmonton Branch members at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). These indexes, created between 1989 and 2018, relate to various collections at the PAA. The project’s progress was delayed this year due to issues with the AGS Homestead Index search which had to be resolved. It is now felt we are ready to move forward on the search project to see its completion during 2019. There are currently 487,106 records in the database ready to be searched. The developer would like to set up a couple of testing stages so that details can be worked on before a website launch.

Website: The edmontongenealogy.ca website is undergoing changes to make it more user friendly and update the information that is posted. When the new Edmonton Branch website was launched in February 2017, there were pieces of functionality that still needed to be developed, such as: a) *the library catalogue*, b) *view/post/query*, and c) *database searches*. The Executive Committee granted approval to move forward with development and implementation of all items. In conjunction with 4WEB, our website hosts the

library catalogue and the *view/post/query* function. An independent developer began working on: c) *database searches*. The initial target date for completion of items a) and b) was to coincide with the expiry of the old domain registration (agsedm.edmonton.ab.ca) on October 6, 2018. 4WEB began development late June 2018 and items a) and b) will be tested and implemented mid-January 2019.

Twenty standardized email addresses [@edmontongenealogy.ca] and mailboxes (250 MB) are hosted by 4WEB for the executive officers and committee members, and for a few SIG leaders.

The webmaster issued approximately 100 email campaigns; the *Clandigger* consistently tops the readership chart with 72.07% unique opens, while the monthly general meeting notices run a close second at 63.24% and each Special Interest Group sends out regular notices.

Sheila Genaille, President

Fort McMurray Branch

2018 Membership	17
	11 in town
	6 out of town
2018 Volunteer Hours	591

2018 Executive:

President	Tammy Grantham
Vice President	Laverne Cormier
Treasurer	Cathy Marriott
Secretary	Vacant

It has been a fairly quiet year for our Branch this year. Our membership number did increase by 3 members over last year. I believe this increase was a carryover from the previous years (2017) sessions on DNA that we presented.

We had our AGM in February. All people stayed in the same positions as the previous

year. Even with a few extra new members, it seems we cannot get anyone who would like to participate and be on our executive.

We held our Casino on April 25 & 26. We had no issues getting volunteers, and a good time was had by all. Everything ran smoothly and we are scheduled for our next Casino in the 4th quarter of 2019.

In trying to garner new members and expand the knowledge that our Genealogy Library even exists, we participated in a little project called “Fort Mac Rocks” during September and November. It is a project that relies on a Facebook page called “Fort Mac Rocks” and the basic premise is that people of all ages and talents paint and decorate rocks of all shapes and forms and then hide them around the City. When you find a rock, you can keep it or re-hide it. So what one of our members did was put a picture of a tree on some rocks, with our name and library information on the back of it, and invited the finder of the rock down to our library to ‘trade’ in the rock for some new treasure (ours were geared towards children finding the rocks). We put out 4 rocks, and within the first week, all four rocks were returned. We hid them three times, and in the end, all but one rock has been returned. Have we gained any new members? No. Do more people now know about our library? Yes. Did Laverne have fun painting and handing out the prizes? Yes! We will definitely consider participating in this fun activity again in the spring or summer, or whenever our snow melts.

We did have four requests for information come into our Library over the last year. Three came from a link on our webpage, and one came in letter form. We were able to completely help one person, i.e. give them all the information they requested. Two of the requests we were not able to directly answer their specific question, but were able to give them other information related to their question, and one, unfortunately, we were unable to help at all. Their mystery person really wanted to remain a mystery.

We finished off our year, as always, with a Christmas celebration. It is always a nice time to sit back and share stories and have a relaxing evening with friends both old and new.

Tammy Grantham, President



Grande Prairie & District Branch

2018 Membership	47
2018 Volunteer Hours	2,958

2018 Branch Executive:

President	Ed Hall
Vice President	Fern Dyck
Treasurer	Jean Gray
Secretary	Maxine Maxwell
Past President	Al Bromling

Monthly Public Programs

January: We had a presentation by a local retired historian, Duff Crerar, entitled “Peace Country, Cutting Edge of Progress in the Early 1900s.”

February: We had our annual general meeting and elected a new executive committee. Jean Gray led us in completing the Citizen Test which was designed to test the knowledge of Canadian history, current practices and institutions. It was well-received and challenging.

March: The meeting dealt with Branch business with some discussion on our outreach plans and changing meeting times to the afternoon during the winter months. This would allow members to drive home while still daylight.

April: After the regular meeting, a webinar entitled “Google Earth or Genealogy” by Lisa Louise Cooke was presented.

May: This month’s program, “Tracing Your Elusive Female Ancestor” was introduced and led by Jean Gray. All attendees were asked to talk about a female ancestor they were having trouble finding or had trouble finding.

June: Members and guests attended a guided tour of the Grande Prairie Museum and Heritage Village.

July and August: No meetings.

September: Maxine Maxwell and Jean Gray led a presentation entitled “Create Our Personal Research Plan”.

October: Celebrated the 40th anniversary of the branch. Al Bromling created and conducted a 40-year Branch quiz. Charter members Cathy Phillips and Paulette Hrychiw were honored along with 3 long-term members, Joan Bowman, Fran Moore and Nora Hassel. Cake and refreshments were served.

November: Josephine Sallis from the South Peace Regional Archives and Wanda Zenner, a local historian led us through a presentation on researching data bases to discover the history of WW I and WW II soldiers from the Peace Country. The presentation was entitled “Help Recognize a Peace Country Soldier”

December: No meeting in December. However, we did take part in a SIG entitled “Filles a Marier - Filles du Roi” presented by Sheila Genaille. This presentation was hindered by technical difficulties beyond Sheila’s control and caused us to end our participation early. We are very grateful to Sheila for taking the time and energy to develop and present this SIG. We hope and trust there will be technical support available to the next presenter.

Activities/Projects

Publicity: Maxine ensured meetings and activities were published in local newspapers as well as being sent to Regional Libraries, Senior Centers and Regional Archives/Museums. Gwen Richards informed members of meetings etc. by email.

Heritage Seekers: Al Bromling took responsibility for producing two excellent editions of the newsletter.

Library and Research Centre: We continued to have an excellent relationship and Gail Schau works hard to make this happen.

Cemeteries/Newspaper Obituaries: We continued to collect relevant information from around the region and Jean does a huge amount of work to make sure the information is collected and passed on to Lyn for database updates.

Genie Service: We continued to have branch members knowledgeable on matters genealogical available on Wednesday evenings for people requiring assistance with their research.

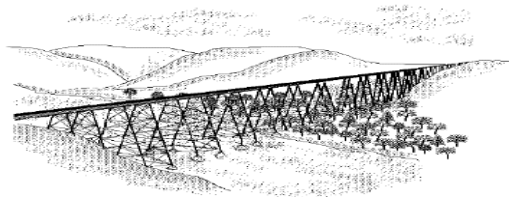
Research: Joan Bowman fielded all requests for research information and either answered the queries or passed them on to the person best qualified to respond.

Youth Genealogy Project: Maxine, Gail and Jean continued to be involved with some rural schools in supporting, developing and encouraging this project.

Outreach: The branch had displays and manned (peopled) tables at: 1. The Teachers’ Convention, 2. The Retired Teachers’/Retirees’ Convention, 3. The Grande Prairie Heritage Fair, 4. Rupert’s Land Conference and 5. A trip to Debolt to help people with Genealogical Research.

Ed Hall, President

Lethbridge & District Branch



2018 Membership 51
2018 Volunteer Hours 3042

Executive Committee Feb 2018 to Feb 2019

President	John Squarek
Vice President	Win Evans
Secretary	Julie Miller
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Past President	Doug McLeod

Monthly Meeting Lectures and workshops

January: “Why Publish a Family Newsletter”
by member Marilyn Astle

February: Our AGM. There were no elections
and no speaker.

March: Meeting cancelled due to weather.

April: “Using New Web Tools to Further your
Family Study” by Jim Benedict, Guild of One
name Studies, Regional Representative, from
Calgary.

May: “Searching with Familysearch.org” by
Jean Fletcher

June: “Networking to Find my Mother’s Polish
Family” by member Len Ross

July and August: Meetings were not held and
the library was closed for summer.

September: “Researching Scottish Records”
by member Colleen Orr

October: We held our annual International
Supper. Members and guests were invited to
bring a dish from a country they are
researching. Speaker Andrew Chernevych,
Head Archivist from the Galt Museum &

Archives, spoke on identifying unknown
photographs.

November: “Listen to your Grandmother” by
members Bob and Anne Baines

December: No meeting.

On-going Projects

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

Our research volunteers continue to respond to
requests for information.

Several members attended the Annual General
Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society
and seven members attended the genealogical
conference hosted by Medicine Hat Branch.

We continue our Monday afternoon Legacy
Family Tree sessions where we focus on using
the Legacy program, member’s DNA test
results and other genealogical topics.

Marilyn Astle, President

Medicine Hat & District Branch

Web: <http://mhdgs.ca/>
E-mail: mhgs@shaw.ca



2018 Membership 63
2018 Volunteer Hours 3760

2018 Branch Executive

President:	Melvin Bender
Vice President:	Doreen Schank
Secretary:	Leanne Balfour
Treasurer:	Deb Wickham
Past President:	Lloyd Robinson

Meetings

Meetings were scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of the month, January to June & September to December. No meetings were held over the summer.

Programs and Presenters

“British Home Children” by Kathy Dawson
“PowerPoint Case Study” by Deb Wickham
“Family Heirlooms” by members
“Mayflower Descendants” by Lloyd Robinson
“Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church Tour” by Paul Nederveen & Ron Payne
“Exchange of Summer Family History Activities” by members
“German-Russian Research and Travels” by Melvin Bender
“The Pilgrimage of Remembrance” by Sheila Donner
“Christmas Memories” by members

Projects

- **TELUS/AGS phone book project** – Thanks to Clark Lang’s many volunteer hours with assistance from Leanne Balfour, great progress has been made on digitizing the collection of 100 years of Alberta phone books.
- **Obituary Records** – Eileen Stahl, Norm Collard, and Uwe Krickhahn have continued their work on updating our obituary records.
- **Branch Scrapbooks & High School Yearbook Project** – Scanning has concluded on the Branch scrapbooks. Doreen Schank and Eileen Stahl have started a Medicine Hat & District Junior and Senior High School Yearbook Project. Yearbooks are being digitized for genealogical research.

Other Branch Activities

MHDGS is a closed Facebook group administered by Leanne Balfour and Doreen Schank.

MHDGS Twitter is an open group administered by Doreen Schank.

Saamis Seeker – Thanks to Madeline Fischer for the four newsletters this year.

Thanks to all the members for your many volunteer hours.

Events

July	Canada Day display
August	Medicine Hat/Brooks Casino
October 12-14	40 th Anniversary Conference.
This was very well attended thanks to Deb Wickham, Chair, and her committee	
November	Remembrance Day – Wreath laying – Lloyd Robinson, donation sent
December	Potluck dinner

Melvin Bender, President

Red Deer & District Branch



2018 Membership	59
2018 Volunteer Hours	1613

Red Deer Branch Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month in the LDS Church 3002 – 47 Ave Red Deer. We do not meet in July, August or December.

For our last two meetings of the year, we invited members to share ideas, brick walls and information.

Executive for 2018

President	Sonya Miller
Vice President	Lianne Kruger
Secretary	Judith Machtans
Past President	Linda Darby
Treasurer	Ray Cyr
Membership	Judith Machtans
Library	Joanne Allen
Publicity	Joan Schmelke
Cemetery	Vacant
Genealogy Queries	Betty Barnhill
Newsletter	Sonya Miller
	Larry Johnstone

Program Committee

Mary Joan Cornett, Sonya Miller and Diane Lehr

2018 Meetings:

January: Peter Darby provided an update on Family Search

February: Michael Dawe presented "Sources of Genealogy in Central Alberta"

March: Helene Paquin presented about "How I came to be coordinator of our North American PAQUIN family records"

April: No regular meeting as we attended the Annual Family history Fair on April 7

May: Sharing night

June: On June 20, 2018, we held our branch's annual pot luck night and this was also our 40th anniversary celebration. The event was attended by both past and present members, including our special guest Betty Barnhill who is one of our founding members. We enjoyed stories, looking at old photos, and some delicious food. Door prizes included: Michael Dawe's Red Deer book donated by The Red Deer Major and a year's membership donated by AGS. Lianne Kruger presented Betty Barnhill with a 40-year certificate and Ev Fairbrother gave a great presentation about our branch's 40 years and Betty's contribution to the Society.

Summer: The branch does not meet over the summer months (July and August). During this time, we did receive some sad news that two of our members, Peter Darby and William Rowat, had passed away.

September: Lianne Kruger will be sharing stories from her husband's South African family.

October: Sharing night with members

November – Photos, storing and organizing genealogy

Research Support Available

The hour before each branch meeting, we open the Family History Library and help members/guests solve their genealogical problems. Betty Barnhill also answers queries sent by email.

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; the computer provides free access to Ancestry.

Sonya Miller, President

Wetaskiwin Branch

2018 Memberships	25
2018 Members	31
2018 Volunteer Hours	2415

2018 Executive

President	Alice Hoyle
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Lorraine McKay
Treasurer	Lee Koop

Projects

Our "pet" project (if it can be called a project) was our Archives Activism. We found out early in 2018 that the building housing the City of Wetaskiwin Archives had been put up for sale by the City of Wetaskiwin. This caused much concern with our members and with the community as a whole. The City did not have a definite plan about what it would do, if and when the building sold. There wasn't a plan for where the Archives would be placed if the new owners did not agree to continue to house the Archives.

Letter writing to the City Council did not result in any positive assurances that it realized the

value of the Archives and the contents within. The Archives has a temperature and humidity-controlled vault in which documents and photos more than 100 years old are stored in an approved archival manner. This room would have to be moved should the City's plan to sell the building come to fruition. Our concern increased when we heard from some of the City councillors that they didn't see the value of the Archives. This caused us to further our efforts to make sure that the public became aware of the situation.

We put up posters and talked to people in the community. We made sure that organizations, churches, school boards, etc. who had placed their documents in the Archives for safekeeping, realized that their records could be in jeopardy. Alice Hoyle was interviewed by CBC Radio as well.

On June 25, 2018, a large contingent of interested citizens gathered at the Wetaskiwin City Hall to support a presentation made to City Council by Sharon Aney and Alice Hoyle on behalf of the Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society. Although the City would not give us a positive response regarding the future of the Archives, it adopted our presentation as 'information'. We were told by one of the Councillors that every new Council looks at the City's facilities and determines the value of that facility, and she reminded us that we might have to be making the same presentation four years in the future when a new Council was in place. While we thought that was disturbing news, we decided this meant we would have to continue being vigilant about the Archives; making sure Wetaskiwin City Council realizes how important it is that our community's historical documents and photographs are preserved for future generations.

Community Outreach

In May, Claudia Malloch and Alice Hoyle made a presentation at the Millet Public Library on "Using the Family Search Website". Several members of the Leduc Genealogy group attended. As a result of this initiative, several

members of the Leduc group came to the Family History Center in Wetaskiwin to do further research and familiarize themselves with the resources available at the Family History Center.

Alice has been in touch with the Program Coordinator at the Wetaskiwin Public Library and the branch will be doing 2 presentations at the Library in March, 2019. Wetaskiwin Public Library has recently gained access to Ancestry, Library edition, thanks to the Yellowhead Regional Library. As our library hasn't previously offered Ancestry.com to its patrons, we felt that we could put on a course, outlining how to use the website. We will also be promoting our branch and AGS and advising of the benefits of membership in the Society.

In November, Alice attended an Inter-Agency meeting in Wetaskiwin and spoke to those in attendance about genealogy and the research options available to our community.

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

January: Ask a Family History Center Consultant". Members were invited to submit questions prior to the meeting. We moved the meeting to the Family History Center, and FHC Consultants assisted those who had requested help with their research.

February: "My Favourite and Most Effective Sites, Websites, Tools, etc." Members were asked to talk about the websites, tools, etc. that they found the most effective in their research. Many new ideas and suggestions came up and we all benefitted from the experience of others.

March: We spent a considerable amount of time discussing the status of the City Archives. Also, Claudia (our Program Coordinator) talked about the RootsTech conference and suggested some of the useful sessions we all could enjoy and learn from.

April: "Family History in 5 Minutes a Day". This RootsTech presentation was filled with ideas about how to use just 5 minutes to work

on your family history. A very informative presentation.

May: “Reconstruct your Ancestors’ World with Google”. This was a Lisa Louise Cook presentation and she really packed a lot of information into the one hour. She displayed the free resources that are available by using Google.

June: Dr. Karen Aberle from the Heritage Museum in Wetaskiwin spoke to us about the logistics of forming a support group for the Archives (‘Friends of’, etc.). After Karen’s presentation, we had a round table discussion about what we had accomplished over the year in respect to our genealogy research.

September: “Converting Older Style File Formats into a Newer Version”. Our resident Tech Expert, Dan DeWolf, gave us some amazing information on how to convert older data/photos, etc. to a newer version, most of the methods being free.

October: We watched a webinar entitled “Immigration and Canadian Border Crossings”. Although much of the information was geared to the USA, a great deal was also applicable to Canadian research.

November: “Share the Wealth” was a round table sharing and help session, followed by Christmas themed refreshments and snacks.

Volunteerism

Some of our branch members volunteer at the Family History Center located in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Wetaskiwin. Some also volunteer at the City Archives. Our branch members volunteer their time doing research for the requests that are sent to us via the AGS website, phone calls, or emails. At our branch level, we do not use research requests as money-making projects.

Awards

Branch members Jean Browse, Carole Koop and Lee Koop all received Long-Term

Membership Certificates recognizing 25 years of membership. These were awarded at the GenFair held in Camrose, April 2018. Congratulations!!

Website

We continue to be blessed with the talents and creativity offered by Lyn Meehan as she monitors and updates our branch website.

We look forward to attending the AGS Conference in April 2019.

Alice Hoyle, President

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gaming

Laura Turnbull

Volunteer Hours: 35.5

A total of over 50 volunteers are needed to fill the positions required by Alberta Gaming. Proceeds from this event will be received near the end of August 2019. This event is a major fundraiser for the Society and helps with major operating costs for AGS including rent for our library facility and insurance costs for all branches.

Branch gaming events

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

At present, Brooks/Medicine Hat, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, and Lethbridge hold casino events to help raise funds.

We received notification on November 1, 2018 that our next casino event was scheduled for April 11 & 12, 2019 at Century Casino in Edmonton.

Raffle or 50/50

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

Grants/Other Funding Committee

Marion Rex

Volunteer Hours: 364

Sponsorship

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

I attended the May, September, and November AGS board meetings, as well as the AGM and Fall Retreat in order to be current with AGS board business. I also met regularly with the bookkeeper and office manager, as well as 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.

1. **Alberta Historical Research Foundation (AHRF) Sponsorship**—In 2018, 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. AGS 2017 metrics, presented to the board members of AHRF on 25 October 2018 in Edmonton, were very well received. Thanks to all branches for their excellent record-keeping in keeping statistics about their branch.

2. **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2018, AGS received **\$18,075.62** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (down \$13,562.88 from 2017 due to changes in what EHC deems as eligible expenses). This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support.

3. **Community Initiatives Program Grant (Canada 150)**—In 2017, AGS applied for and was the happy recipient of an Alberta Canada 150, Community Initiatives Program through Alberta Culture and Tourism for a project entitled, “*Youth Workshops for Canada 150: In Search of My Family’s Past*” in the amount of \$15,219. Of the \$15,219 received from this grant, \$11,758 was spent in 2017, with the remaining \$3,461 carried forward and spent in 2018.

- **Certificates** – In our proposal, we suggested that we might reach 150-300 youth in this project. The results of this project far exceeded our expectations. Congratulations to the **424 students** who successfully completed a youth genealogy project and were awarded a *Canada 150* certificate.
- **Resources** – Branches now have a collection of 3 youth resources written by John Althouse and 52 library books that will support youth programs.
- **Relatively Speaking** – The February and May 2018 issues of our genealogical journal were devoted to publishing youth stories arising from the Canada 150 Youth Genealogy Project. One of the results of this project was the implementation of *Youth Write On*, a regular column featuring youth projects in *Relatively Speaking* commencing with the August 2018 issue.
- **Award** – The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation presented President Jock Howard, on behalf of the Society, the **2018 AHRF Heritage Awareness Award** at Government House on 25 October 2018 for our work on the Canada 150 youth project.

- **Final Report** – The final report was submitted to Rea Trinidad-Penton, Accounting Coordinator, Alberta Culture and Tourism.

General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS and its branches received \$5,241.23 in donations.

Provincial Office	\$1,947.00
Brooks	55.00
Camrose	405.00
Edmonton	1,544.51
Fort McMurray	150.55
Grande Prairie	160.00
Lethbridge	572.00
Medicine Hat	92.23
Red Deer	179.84
Wetaskiwin	135.00
TOTAL	<u>\$5,241.23</u>

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2019. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report.

According to the auditor, casino funding can no longer be treated as a donation, but can be transferred from one branch to another. Thanks to Grande Prairie & District Branch who generously transferred \$1,848 to AGS Provincial for the upgrades to the cemetery database.

Genealogy for Children and Youth Project

John Althouse

In 2018, we completed **In Search of Your Immigrant Ancestor! A Resource to Introduce Youth ages 12 to 14 years to Genealogy at Home, in School, or in Youth Groups**. This is the third resource manual created for this project. After having it evaluated by teams of teachers, significant modifications were made resulting in the final 58-page resource. Permission to use certain histories and photographs used in the

resource as well as the copyright for AGS have been secured.

With the funds remaining from the Canada 150 grant, we were able to purchase additional books for the project. These were compiled into sets and together with a copy of the new resource manual, they were provided to the branches for their use in carrying this initiative forward. Additional copies of the new resource are available at the AGS Library. A digital version of **In Search of Your Immigrant**

Ancestor... has been sent to the AGS Webmaster to place on the website where it may be accessed by all who wish to use it free of charge. I have also submitted an introduction for the resource and a list of supplemental books to Webmaster for inclusion with the new resource.

In Alberta, our resources were recognized with an award from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. Marion Rex has been instrumental in securing funding for the genealogy for children and youth project and Lynne Duigou in applying for the award. Their knowledge and work in these areas is greatly appreciated. *Relatively Speaking*, the quarterly journal of the AGS has provided a forum for articles by children and youth. These articles have been warmly received. Thank you to the RS committee for this initiative.

Another positive result of this project is the appointment of Youth Coordinators in a number of branches and they have carried out interesting youth events. These will help our society lift the veil of mystery about genealogy and introduce it to many young people. While the results may take a good deal of time to be fully realized, these initiatives may well aid in bringing future members to our society. More resources are in the planning stage.

Library & Resource Centre

Claudine Nelson

The library was kept open by the Edmonton Branch AGS volunteers weekly Tuesday through Thursday, and the third Saturday each month. Kate Binder categorizes and catalogues acquisitions, donated and new, and puts on the appropriate labels.

AGS has removed erroneous information regarding library holdings from the AGS website. Check out the new searchable Library page.

The total number of people signing in to the Library during 2018, including daytime visits and evening meetings, was 3223.

All AGS members can contact me if they want pages copied from a Local or Family history.

Membership

Lynne Duigou

Membership STATS 2015 - 2018	2015	2016	2017	2018
AGS Only/No Branch	34	32	29	31
Brooks	18	21	20	19
Camrose	18	27	23	24
Drayton Valley	9	12	11	10
Edmonton	407	431	389	380
Fort McMurray	8	15	14	17
Grande Prairie	48	53	48	47
Lethbridge	48	45	48	51
Medicine Hat	49	64	66	63
Red Deer	61	55	69	59
Wetaskiwin	27	28	25	25
AGS All Members	727	783	742	726
Life memberships	26	19	34	28
New members (2018)	77	135	116	94

In 2018, as the Membership Chair, I contacted all the Branches and asked for feedback on the methods they used to retain members and attract new members. Using the feedback I received from the Branches and members, we created a new membership form. This was an attempt to

make the form user friendly and as clear and simple as possible. We still have some fine-tuning to do in the 2020 Membership form, but the changes seem to be working. The Policy and Procedures committee updated the Membership Chair Policy to bring it in line with current practice. The New Member kit was reviewed and updated to include more information regarding new databases and services/benefits available at the AGS Library. We also tried a membership drive for 2018 by inserting a centrefold in the November 2017 edition of *Relatively Speaking*. The centre four pages of that issue were devoted to Membership and included a letter from the AGS President, a note from the Membership chair listing the benefits of membership as well as a current membership form.

Policies & Procedures/Bylaws

Lynne Duigou

The committee was comprised of Lynne Duigou, Sandra Vaneldik, Jo Nuthack and Laura Turnbull (Edmonton Branch), Janine Carroll (Camrose Branch), John Squarek (Lethbridge Branch), and Linda Winski. My thanks to them for their insight and wisdom in creating and amending policies/forms to make AGS run smoothly, fairly and efficiently for all members. The committee met five times via BlueJeans video conferencing and worked on seventeen policies/forms for the Board to consider. These included:

- III-B-1 AGS Calendar update
- IV-B-1 Office Coordinator
- IV-B-4 Annual Performance Evaluation – Office Coordinator
- IV-C-1 Bookkeeper Duties and Responsibilities
- IV-C-2 Bookkeeping Services Contract
- VI-35 Standing Committee Policies and Procedures/Bylaws
- VI-70 Webmaster(s)
- VI-80 Conference
- VI-180 Committee Chair – AGS Surname Database
- VI-190 Committee Chair - Membership
- VI-210 Committee Chair – Communications

- VII-20 Members Awards
- VII-90 Intellectual Property – sent back to committee
- VII-170 Nominations and Elections
- VII-190 In Camera Meetings
- IX-C.2 Procedure for Nominations and Elections
- 2019 AGS Membership Application Form
- 2019 AGS Awards Nomination Form
- Website Permission form – sent back to committee

Relatively Speaking

Lynne Duigou

I chaired the *Relatively Speaking* Editorial and Production Committee which produced four issues of the Journal in 2018. Thanks to Denise Daubert, Gloria Cathcart, Suzanne Maynard, Janet Cooper and Helen Edwards for their dedication to producing this publication. Gloria retired this summer after many years on the committee and Janet joined us in her place. Jock Howard also filled in on the editing team as time permitted.

We are still searching for an Editor. I have been filling this role on an interim basis since May 2017. We have had four editors since that time and for various reasons, none have been the right fit for RS. We are certain there is a volunteer who would love the challenge of leading this dynamic editorial and production team.

This year the editorial team set four themes, arranged the contents of the Journal, edited the articles two or three times and then sent them to the Production Editor who lives in Victoria, BC. Each Journal takes the team about 100 hours to produce. We want a high-quality product so are very particular about clarity, grammar, spelling and layout. Once the layout is complete the entire issue is edited again. Printing is currently done by Edmonton Public Schools Printing Services. Linda Winski, Office Coordinator, prepares all the envelopes and any inserts and the mailing crew stuffs the envelopes for the print edition. The webmasters put the issue on the

website and notify members that it is ready for their reading pleasure.

Research Services

Norma Wolowyk

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

Participating during 2018 were Gordon Berdahl, Shannon Cherkowski, Gail Cockwill, Natalie Edwards, John Hazelwood, Carol Martyniuk, Claudine Nelson, Pat Pettitt, Jeneane Roberts, and Norma Wolowyk.

Each Friday committee members selected queries, did research in the AGS library and at other local institutions, and responded by e-mail from their own home or by mailing correspondence. A query database was maintained of surnames researched, submitter's name, locality of inquiry, the ID number assigned to each query and a description of where the query originated (eg. AGS submission form, Edmonton Branch email, phone call to Library, etc.).

276 queries (192 in 2017) were processed by AGS during 2018. As Edmonton Branch AGS processed 159 (196 in 2017) the total queries handled by the Committee during the year was 435.

Clients were charged for copies of documents and postage if applicable. Also, they 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.

AGS revenue generated by Research Services is raised mainly through responding to requests for copies of homestead records from microfilms held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Researchers first visit the AGS website and use the Alberta homestead index created by AGS

volunteers. In late 2017, it became apparent that the index search was not functioning properly. In 2018, Research Committee members worked with Lyn Meehan (AGS MediaShaker contact) to develop an efficient, effective search. A request for copies button was added to the search results. Immediately after implementation of these suggested improvements, the requests for copies of files increased. In fact, we "created a monster". It became evident that people were searching the index, getting hits and requesting copies but when contacted and made aware of costs involved, they were no longer interested. At our request, MediaShaker added two lines to the Request Form; one listing the costs of obtaining copies, and the second indicating that PAA Accession 1970. 313 files are online at Ancestry. Immediately, the number of requests coming to the committee became manageable.

The Alberta Genealogical Society is very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of dedicated researchers. They respond to clients from their home computers, sit patiently at PAA microfilm readers copying land files (some up to over 100 pages), package up materials and deliver to post offices for mailing.

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

The Retreat Committee consisted of Co-Chairs Susan Haga and Bob Franz (Past President). Some years for our Retreat, we've tried to invite an additional member from each Branch to attend the Retreat for a special training session. We've held sessions for Treasurers and Secretaries in the past inviting representatives from each Branch to attend. In 2017, we invited Youth Reps from each Branch for a special youth training session prepared by John Althouse and taught by Gloria Cathcart. These workshops

and training sessions are a great opportunity for members from various branches to meet and mingle with the AGS Executive and Board members and observe first-hand the process of Board meetings. The hope has been that this experience may inspire a person to step forward and volunteer for an Executive or Committee position in some capacity.

For the 2018 Retreat held September 29-30, we invited Kim GhostKeeper from Alberta Culture and Tourism to facilitate a session on Saturday morning. Her workshop focused on the planning process and implementation to help us fulfill our Strategic Plan more effectively. Kim helped us devise an action plan with three priorities, there was a lot of participation from the Branch Presidents and other Board members who were present. The three priorities named were:
First: Expand visibility through outreach.
Second: Provide educational opportunities.
Third: Engage those who are potential members.

After lunch on Saturday, there was a one-hour session to continue discussion of Kim Ghostkeeper's workshop. Comments were favorable and Kim was invited back to attend our next Retreat which will be held September 20-22, 2019 to present Part II of her workshop presentation.

For our Saturday evening session Jean Crozier, author of *No Corner Boys Here* and a member of Edmonton Branch gave an intriguing presentation titled "It All Started with A Scrap of Paper" during which she discussed her journey of family history research in writing her book. Jean had brought several copies of her book for sale and not one book was left! Afterwards, all the attendees remained to visit while enjoying some refreshments supplied by Wetaskiwin and Fort McMurray Branch.

In the past year, there has been a lot of discussion on the Retreat at our board meetings, especially with regard to what its focus should be. It was agreed that the Retreat was beneficial to our Executive and Board members and that we needed to continue holding it and to focus on

having training workshops for our Executive and our Board members. As usual at the end of the Retreat, we handed out our Feedback Evaluation forms for all in attendance to write their comments about it. Thank you to Bob Franz, our Past President, for compiling the results from this feedback form. There were 22 members in attendance and the Retreat received an overwhelming positive evaluation this year!

Webmaster (s)

Lyn Meehan, Deb and Bruce Boelstler

Volunteer Hours: 625

Highlights for the Year

- Creation of the SIG logo
- AGS GenFair at Camrose
- Grande Prairie Mennonite Research webpage
- Wetaskiwin Youth Genealogy webpage
- Medicine Hat's Celebrates 40th Anniversary
- 2019 Conference design
- Workshop and new logo for Camrose
- New "Library and Research Centre" webpage

January to May: 2018 AGS GenFair

The year began with two new additions to the webmaster team: Deb and Bruce Boelstler.

Training began in November 2017 and proceeded into 2018. Lyn continued designing new webpages for both AGS and the Branches, while Deb and Bruce uploaded Board reports and AGS Calendar information plus updated conference dates, webinars, etc. under *News and Events* >> "Educational Opportunities". The couple have volunteered over 88 hours in 2018 and have been a tremendous asset to the team; Lyn's addition was 537 hours, a total of 625 hours.

Development for the AGS GenFair began in late 2017, and over December and January more growth and refinement to the webpages emerged. New this year were adding hotel and restaurants for attendees to enjoy while visiting beautiful

Camrose. Wetaskiwin had a webpage added with contrast and splash featuring Youth Genealogy from the original article written by Patty Caputo published in *Roots & Branches Newsletter*, v16:1 (Jan 2018).

Theme pages, i.e. researching for Chinese, Mennonite, NWMP, Métis ancestors, etc. were a thought a few years back when working with Wayne Shephard. It was a way to build creditable resources to frequently used websites and books especially for AGS members and an incentive for potential members. Again, this subject was suggested at the November 2018 Board meeting that something AGS Webmasters could accomplish.

May to September: AGS Surname Database

In July, the newly formed Database Committee met regarding the growing concerns with the cemetery/surname database and how the Society could improve on it and move forward. Hours were spent reviewing three editions of the database plus AGS resources in print or electronic format that may add or correct supplementary information. Valid points were discussed and a twelve-page proposal presented at the September's Board Meeting was tabled until November and then approved.

September to December: Conference and Advertising

Preparation for the 2019 AGS Conference advertisement and syllabus started in October. This included gathering graphic material and developing layout. This was the first time Communications asked Branches to submit a description about their region and the specialized collections they hold for a centerfold piece. We hope the advertising in the conference syllabus will be a successful opportunity for the Branches.

New webpages were developed for this conference such as Door Prizes and recognizing Conference Committee members for their

volunteerism. Arlene Johnson and Lianne Kruger did a wonderful job inviting world-class businesses to support the conference through sponsorships, donating swag and door prizes or simply reserving tables.

The Board was asked to vote on a vertical retractable conference stand in November. This type of communication portrays general information about the Society, with design elements that are consistent on the website and in print media. The purpose of this type of advertisement is to drive individuals to our website, [Facebook](#) and Twitter for more information. Vertical banners are an attractive way to grab an attendee's attention at conferences or conventions to attain brochures, swag and ask specific questions about the Society. This was Board approved. Much of the web-team's time is donated to designing, uploading, maintaining the website and databases, plus communicating with customers. *Have a wonderful year researching!*

AGS Website Statistics—2018 (Google Analytics)

- Overall Users: 30K, increase of ~5K
- Number of sessions: 47K, increase of ~4K
- Bounce rate: 43.8%, increase of 4%
- Average Session: 3.05 min, decrease of 0:45 seconds
- Average active users: 3.8K monthly, 1.1K weekly, 207 daily
- 80% of our customers came from Canada, 16% U.S., 2% UK, 1% France

2018 Membership Stats --- from Shout as of December 31st (by Lyn)

	Branch	Primary Branch	Multiple Memberships				2018 New Members	Membership Type								P	PDF		
			Primary Branch plus	Associate to Branch	TOTAL Memberships per BRANCH	I		F	S	S+	L	L+	ST	YD	MKS				
	AGS only	31	0	0	31	12	19	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	19		
1	Brooks	15	0	4	19	0	3	1	10	1	4	0	0	0	0	8	11		
2	Camrose	21	1	2	24	6	7	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	15		
3	Drayton Valley	8	1	1	10	2	4	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	6		
4	Edmonton	354	15	11	380	40	86	11	215	46	14	6	1	1	0	170	210		
5	Ft. McMurray	13	2	2	17	2	8	1	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	14		
6	Grande Prairie	35	4	8	47	5	6	3	27	5	5	0	0	1	0	18	29		
7	Lethbridge	40	2	9	51	7	8	1	28	11	1	2	0	0	0	23	28		
8	Medicine Hat	55	2	6	63	8	19	3	32	9	0	0	0	0	0	22	41		
9	Red Deer	50	6	3	59	6	15	0	37	7	0	0	0	0	0	29	30		
10	Wetaskiwin	23	0	2	25	2	4	0	13	6	1	0	1	0	0	7	18		
	SUB-TOTAL	645	33	48	726	90	Lost 158 members bridging from 2018 to 2019											305	421
		TOTAL	678		NOTE: Balanced	Lost 123 members bridging from 2017 to 2018													

There were 692 memberships minus life memberships purchased in 2018. NOTE: this is based on membership types and does not include spouses (e.g. plus) or extended family members (e.g. Family package)

What does all this mean?

Primary Branch = memberships dedicated to one Branch with no associated (\$10) membership to another

Primary Branch plus = members dedicated to their "primary or home Branch" plus one or more associate memberships

Associate to Branch = members who have an associate (\$10) membership with that Branch, but their Home Branch is elsewhere

Total Memberships = having memberships in one or more Branches

Note: By adding Branch plus Home plus Associate equals **Total Memberships**

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 in that branch preferring a print copy of Relatively Speaking
PDF = the number of members in that branch preferring an electronic PDF) copy of Relatively Speaking

LEGEND

NOTES:

Alberta Genealogical Society

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

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

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

2019 Branch Contact Information

Brooks & District Branch

President: Glenn Michell
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4
Phone: (403) 362-2732
Website: <http://agsbrooks.com/>
Meets 2nd Thursday of the month,
7:30 p.m. Community Cultural Centre
Main Floor, Room 122
327 Third Street West, Brooks

Camrose Branch

President: Deb Trout
c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue
Camrose, AB T4V 3B1
Phone: (780) 781-5100
Website:
<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/camrose-branch>
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
Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month,
6:30 p.m. at Drayton Valley Library,
5121 - 52 Street, Drayton Valley

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
Website: www.edmontongenealogy.ca
Meets 4th Thursday of the month, 7:30
p.m., Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue,
Edmonton

Fort McMurray Branch

President: Tammy Grantham
9B, 10019 MacDonald Avenue
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1S9
Phone: (780) 743-8904
Email: ftmacgen@telus.net
Website:
<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~abfmags/>
Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month
7 p.m., 9B, 10019 MacDonald Avenue

Grande Prairie & District Branch

President: Ed Hall
P.O. Box 1257
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1
Phone: (780) 539-7005
Email: gp@abgenealogy.ca
Website:
<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch>
Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month,
7 p.m. Grande Prairie Public Library
101, 9839 – 103 Avenue

Lethbridge & District Branch

President: Marilyn Astle
Rm. 128, 909 – 3rd Avenue North
Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5
Phone: (403) 328-9564
Email: lethags@theboss.net
Website:
www.lethbridgeags.theboss.net
Meets 3rd Thursday of the
month, 7:00 p.m. Provincial Admin.
Building
909-3rd Avenue North, Lethbridge

Medicine Hat & District Branch

President: Doreen Schank
Box 971,
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8
Phone: (403) 526-1163
Email: mhgs@shaw.ca
Website: <http://mhdgs.ca>
Meets 1st Wednesday of the month,
7:00 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental
Co. Ltd., 974 – 13th St. SW

Red Deer & District Branch

President:
c/o 38 Hearthstone Drive
Lacombe, AB T4L 1P6
Phone: (403) 350-6880
Email: rdbags@telus.net
Website:
<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch>
Meets 3rd Thursday of the month
7 p.m. LDS Church
3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer

Wetaskiwin Branch

President: Alice Hoyle
R.R. #3, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 1X1
Phone: (780) 352-2150
Email: wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca
Website:
www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch
Meets 3rd Tuesday (except July,
August and December) at 7 p.m.
LDS Church, Wetaskiwin (Use NE
Door)



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

OUR MISSION: To promote the study of genealogy and provide support and services for genealogical research in the province of Alberta

- Active since 1973, 2018 was our 45th year of providing genealogical services to the community.
- Membership for 2018 totalled 678, compared to 692 in 2017 and 743 in 2016.
- Members reported **32,510** volunteer hours in 2018.
- Our journal, *Relatively Speaking*, resumed publication under a dedicated editorial team publishing four issues in February, May, September and November.
- AGS continues to offer *Relatively Speaking* in both hard and digital copy (\$10 discount to the membership fee). The number of members choosing digital continues to increase.
- A new membership form was created and the New Member kit was updated.
- All branches of the Society continued to provide diverse programming and learning opportunities.
- Branches across Alberta continue to work on fabulous genealogical resources. For example, Medicine Hat & District Branch has been digitizing 100 years of TELUS/AGT phone books.
- Seventeen Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in Camrose (2), Edmonton (11), Lethbridge (1) and Medicine Hat (3) continue to meet regularly and provide valuable research and discussion groups for attendees.
- We held four board meetings: three face-to-face and one virtual using videoconferencing. We also use videoconferencing for executive/committee meetings, and tried sharing SIG content (French genealogy) between branches through videoconferencing for the first time.
- The Policies and Procedures/Bylaws committee continued their work, updating policies and bylaws.
- The total number signing into the library including daytime visits and evening meetings was 3,223.
- The Research Committee responded to 435 research queries from around the world.
- The biennial GenFair was held in Camrose April 21, 2018. A GenFair is held in the year opposite the conference.
- The Annual September Retreat combined the directors' meeting with a workshop on strategic planning offered by the Alberta Culture & Tourism Community Development.
- A total of 3 Youth Resources and 52 books were given to each Branch over 2017 and 2018 for the Canada 150 Youth Project entitled *Youth Workshops for Canada 150: In Search of My Family's Past* which saw 424 certificates being presented to youth who successfully completed a youth genealogy project.
- The Alberta Heritage Resources Foundation presented AGS with the **2018 Heritage Awareness Award** at Government House on October 25, 2018 for its work on the Canada 150 project.
- The AGS webpage saw ~30,000 users (an increase of ~5K) in ~47,000 sessions (an increase of ~4K).
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, gaming events, research queries, and grants from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, the Edmonton Heritage Council and Alberta Culture and Tourism. Casino revenue has decreased, placing additional demands on the board of directors.
- Congratulations to Red Deer and District Branch which celebrated its 40th anniversary in June.
- Congratulations to Medicine Hat and District Branch which celebrated its 40th anniversary in October.
- 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.

