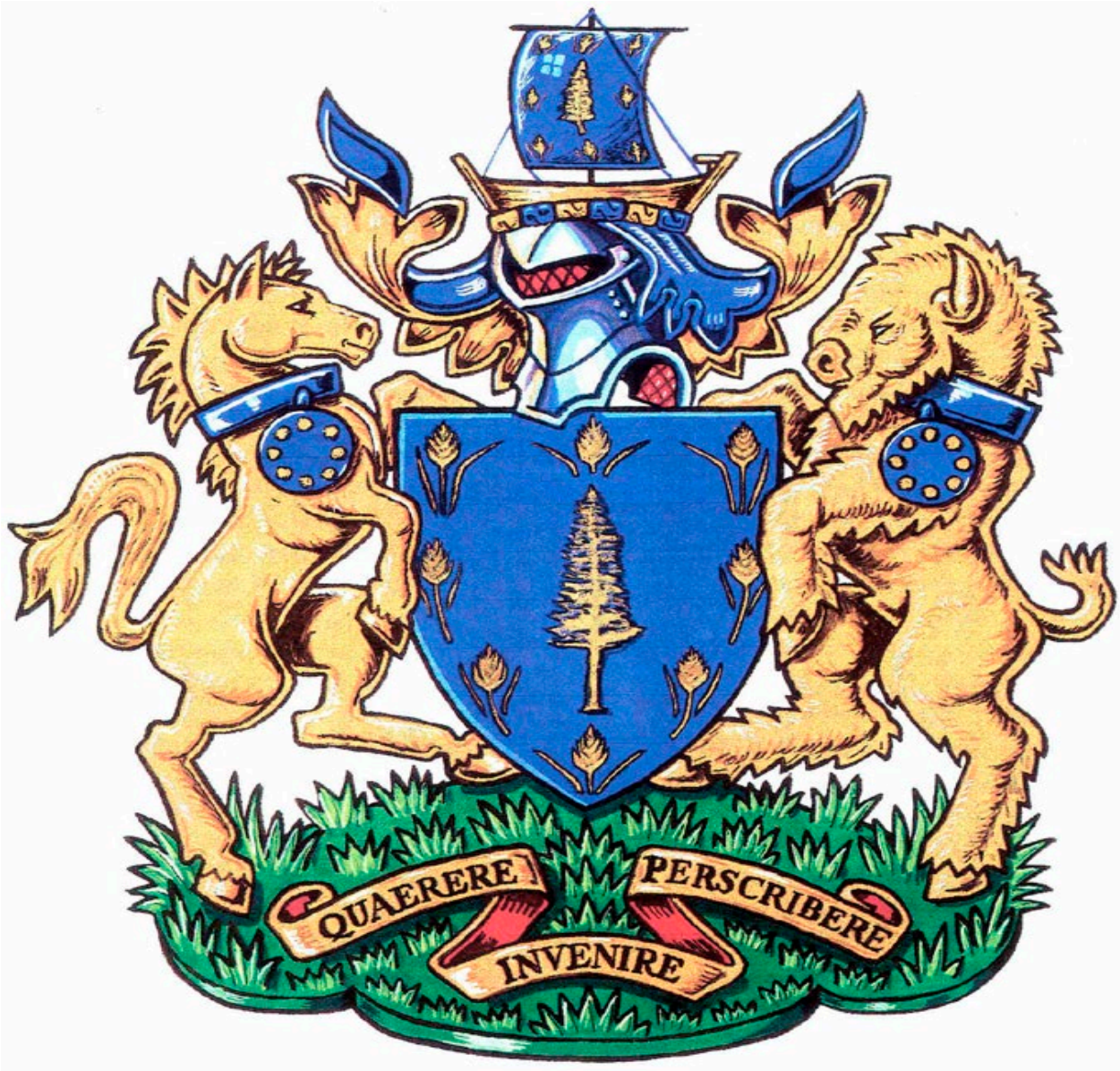


Alberta Genealogical Society



2021 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual General Meeting

23 April 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS as of Dec. 31, 2021

Officers

President	Lynne Duigou
Past President	Jock Howard
1 st Vice President	Sheila Genaille
2 nd Vice President	Al Bromling
Treasurer	Marion Rex
Secretary of the Society	Debra Wickham

Directors

Brooks	Vacant
Camrose	Deb Trout
Drayton Valley	Connie Stuhl
Edmonton	Les Campbell
Fort McMurray	Tammy Grantham
Grande Prairie	Jean Gray
Lethbridge	Marilyn Astle
Medicine Hat	Dwight Brown
Red Deer	Lauranne Hemmingway
Wetaskiwin	Alice Hoyle

Standing Committees

Finance (Chair)	Marion Rex
Nominations (Chair)	Jock Howard
Policies & Procedures/Bylaws (Chair)	Al Bromling

Other Committees and Appointments

AGS Surname Database	Norma Wolowyk
Archivist	Norma Wolowyk
Communications	Vacant
Electronic Services	Vacant
EPL Cemetery Digitalization Project	Kurt Paterson
Facilities	Vacant
Gaming	Laura Turnbull
GenFair 2022	Al Bromling
Conference 2023	Edmonton Branch
Grants & Other Funding	Marion Rex
Historian	Vacant
Legal Advisor	Randy Simpson
Library & Resource Centre	Claudine Nelson
Membership	Vacant
Parliamentarian	Patrick Reid
Publications	Norma Wolowyk
Relatively Speaking	Lynne Duigou
Relatively Speaking Mailing	Terry Terlesky
Research Services	Norma Wolowyk
Retreat	Susan Haga
Social Media	Lianne Kruger
Webmaster(s)	Lianne Kruger Deb & Bruce Boelstler

AGS Office

Office Coordinator	Jackie Pearson
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

Historic Resources Management Branch

***For \$29,000 in funding
received through the Government of Alberta.***

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

Alberta 

**Our
Sincere
Gratitude**

Alberta Genealogical Society
gratefully acknowledges the support of the

Edmonton Heritage Council

***For \$26,964 in Operational Funding and
\$19,480 in Change Capital Project Grant Funding
received through the City of Edmonton.***

The sponsorship received from EHC helps
to provide operational and resource development 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 2021 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.

\$501-1,000

Edmonton Community
Foundation.
Rex, Marion

\$251-\$500

Benevity Community
Impact Fund
Ensminger, Margery
Hirning, Lorraine
Scott, David & Ingrid

\$101-\$250

Bender, Melvin
Heritage Chapter NSDAR
Jabusch, Donald & Patricia
Nex, Margaret
Prescott UU Fellowship
Tichkowsky, Roy
Walton, Ellen
Websdale, Rilla

\$76-\$100

Adie, Beverly
Eagleson, James
Easton, Francis
Javorsky, Larry W.
Kuntz, Shannon
Lowing, Raymond A.
Moller, Lynda Jean

\$51-\$75

Bird, Patricia

Friedel, Cathy
McNiven, Myrna
Phipps, Anne
Romanow, Mathew
Wasylik, Eugene
Yakimets, Walter W.

\$26-\$50

Akgungor, Allison
Allen, Joanne
Borgstede, Arlene
Buchko, Sandy
Caldwell, Darlene
Cathcart, George & Gloria
Edwards, Susan
Harasewich, Tillie
Hergot, William & Barbara
Lowe, Graham
McConkey, Rosemary
McEwan, Sara
McInall, Margaret
Pearson, Jackie
Pohranychny, Edward &
Paulette
Ross, Carolynne
Trumpour, Ivy &
Jack Twells
Wolanski, Laurel
Wolowyk, Norma

\$11-\$25

Bauer, Adena
Browse, Jean

Harker, Wayne
Iwaasa, Clara
Kreznoski, Irvin
Mallett, Ken`
McKelvie, Edna
Perkins, Louise
Redford, Marcia
Sarango, Annemarie
Schwering, Nick & Marilyn
Stolte, Bernadette
Thomson, Blanche
Walton, Garry & Bonnie
Woychuk, John & Iris

\$10

Boelstler, Deborah & Bruce
Bourassa, Lois
Bunning, Al & Betty
Connelly, Douglas & Sally
Durda, Herbert
Martyniuk, Carol
Nelson, Neil & Mavis
Parsons, George & Carol
Rosa, Nestor
Smith, Marlene A.
Youngman, Shirley &
Douglas

*We also give out sincere thanks
to 14 donors who wished to
remain anonymous.*

WITH SINCERE THANKS FOR
DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of
Lorraine Cameron
Rex, Marion

In Memory of
James Robert Doyle
Anonymous

In Memory of
Doreen Easton
Rex, Marion

In Memory of
Mollie Podlubny
Rex, Marion

In Memory of
Beatrice (Berube) (Fillion) Rowe
Rex, Marion

In Memory of
Mary Waugh
Rex, Marion

VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2021

The combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten Branches of the AGS realized a total of 19,288 volunteer hours that were reported in 2021.

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

ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
49th Annual General Meeting – Saturday, 23 April, 2022
Hybrid Delivery - Via ZOOM and in person

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order, Land Acknowledgment – President Lynne Duigou
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting, 24th April 2021
4. Introduction of the Executive Committee and Directors of the Board:
 - a) President – Lynne Duigou
 - b) 1st Vice President – Sheila Genaille
 - c) 2nd Vice President – Al Bromling
 - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
 - e) Secretary – Deb Wickham
 - f) Past President – Jock Howard
 - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks & District – Bob Franz (Director)
 - Camrose – Deb Trout / Janine Carroll (Director)
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Kurt Paterson (Trustee)
 - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
 - Grande Prairie & District – Jean Gray (Director)
 - Lethbridge & District – Marilyn Astle
 - Medicine Hat & District – Don Zimmer
 - Red Deer & District – Lauranne Hemingway
 - 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 – Marion Rex (Treasurer)
 - a) 2021 Audited Financial Statement
 - b) Adoption of Financial Statements
 - c) Budget 2022-2023
 - d) Approval of Budget
 - e) Appointment of Auditor for 2022
7. Election and Bylaw Results – Jock Howard, Past President
8. Introduction of New Executive – Jock Howard, Past President
9. Resolution of Respect – Doug McLeod
10. Courtesy Motions – Kurt Paterson
11. Presentation of Awards – Lynne Duigou
12. Adjournment

Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS)
48th Annual General Meeting – 24 April 2021 – Draft Minutes
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

80 AGS members attended the 48th Annual General Meeting

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** The 48th AGS Annual General Meeting was called to order at 3:03pm by Lynne Duigou, President. Lynne welcomed all to the AGM.
2. **Approval of Agenda:**
MOVED by Marilyn Astle that the Agenda be accepted as presented in the 2020 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Patricia Proskurniak **CARRIED**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting – 22th April 2020:**
MOVED by Deb Wickham that the minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting be accepted as presented in the 2020 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Laura Turnbull **CARRIED**
4. **Introduction of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors – Lynne Duigou**
 - a) President – Lynne Duigou
 - b) 1st Vice President – Sheila Genaille
 - c) 2nd Vice President – Vacant
 - d) Treasurer – Marion Rex
 - e) Secretary – Doug McLeod
 - f) Past President – Jock Howard
 - g) Directors – Branch Presidents
 - Brooks – Maurice Landry
 - Camrose – Deb Trout / Janine Carroll (Board Representative)
 - Drayton Valley – Connie Stuhl
 - Edmonton – Les Campbell
 - Fort McMurray – Tammy Grantham
 - Grande Prairie – Al Bromling
 - Lethbridge – Marilyn Astle
 - Medicine Hat – Dwight Brown
 - Red Deer – Lianne Kruger
 - Wetaskiwin – Alice Hoyle
 - h) Committee Chairs – as listed on inside cover of the Annual Report
5. **Acceptance of the Executive, Branch and Committee Annual Reports**
MOVED by Linda Darby that the Executive, Branch and Committee reports be accepted as presented in the 2020 Annual Report.
SECONDED by Liz Edmond **CARRIED**
6. **Financial Reports – Marion Rex, Treasurer**

Following the presentation and discussion by Marion Rex of the 2020 Audited Statements and the 2021 Budget, the following motions were made.

1. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2020 showing an income \$174,991, expenses of \$170,751 and excess of revenue over expenses of \$4,236 be adopted as presented.
SECONDED by Lianne Kruger **CARRIED**

2. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the Notice to Reader for AGS Provincial Office 2020 with an income of \$107451, expenses of \$102,489 and excess of revenue over expenses of \$4,962 be adopted as presented.
SECONDED by Alice Hoyle **CARRIED**

3. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that the AGS 2021-2022 budget be adopted as presented.
SECONDED by Dwight Brown **CARRIED**

4. **MOVED** by Marion Rex that Kouri, Berezan & Heinrichs (KBH) Chartered Accountants be retained for 2021.
SECONDED by Doug McLeod **CARRIED**

7. Election and Bylaw Results – Jock Howard – Past President.

As there was only one nomination for each of the two positions, the following were declared elected by acclamation.

2nd Vice President – Al Bromling
Secretary – Deb Wickham

There were nine Bylaw changes this year.

The number of ballots sent out – 638
The number of ballots returned – 181
The number of spoiled ballots – 5

All nine Bylaws were accepted.

MOVED by Jock Howard to destroy the Bylaw ballots.
SECONDED by Bob Franz

CARRIED

8. Introduction of the new Executive

- President – Lynne Duigou
- 1st Vice President – Sheila Genaille
- 2nd Vice President – Al Bromling
- Treasurer – Marion Rex
- Secretary – Deb Wickham
- Past President – Jock Howard

9. **Courtesy Motions** – Kurt Paterson

MOVED by Kurt Paterson that to all who serve the Society so willingly and selflessly with their gifts of time, energy, enthusiasm and expertise, we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the combined efforts of the Officers, Board of Directors, Committee members and volunteers in all ten branches of the AGS for contributing 17,559 volunteer hours in 2020.

SECONDED by John Althouse

CARRIED

MOVED by Kurt Paterson that we express our sincere appreciation for the tremendous support provided by the dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced AGS support staff: Linda Winski, Jackie Pearson, and Shirley Keller.

SECONDED by Claudine Nelson

CARRIED

10. **Resolution of Respect** – 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, as members of Executives, library volunteers, lecturers at educational courses, and volunteer efforts in community leadership, as well as the support of spouses, and/or partners, 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:

Allen Ronaghan	#1914	Edmonton	Jan 21, 2020
Colin Hrychiw	#534	Grande Prairie	Feb 1, 2020
Ralph Gray	#5697	Grande Prairie	Mar 30, 2020
Doreen Gauvreau	#5409	Wetaskiwin	Apr 6, 2020
Mary Nutting	#4697	Grande Prairie	Apr 20, 2020
Richard Hugh Nash	#659	Fort McMurray	May 18, 2020
William John Dowler	#1884	Medicine Hat	Jun 22, 2020
Mary Lydia Burkholder	#3415	Brooks	Jun 27, 2020
Randall (Randy) Thompson	#6465	Wetaskiwin	Jul 18, 2020
Alexander (Sandy) Payne	#5622	Fort McMurray	Aug 9, 2020
Joffre (Jeff) Plaquin	#5468	Wetaskiwin	Sep 1, 2020
Carol Breakell	#3415	Brooks	Nov 4, 2020
Verna Hockey	#2357	Grande Prairie	Nov 18, 2020
Norma Jean Bosman	#1237	Lethbridge	Nov 28, 2020
Doris Nadon	#4590	Edmonton	Dec 5, 2020
Sylvio Gauveau	#5409	Wetaskiwin	Dec 12, 2020

And that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the Minutes.

Please pause for a minute of silent tribute to their memory.

Thank you.

MOVED by: Frank Easton **SECONDED** by: Doug McLeod **CARRIED**

11. Presentation of Awards – Lynne Duigou, President

Long Term Membership Certificates – Twenty-five Years

Marion Rex	#3341	Edmonton Branch
Brent Long	#3436	Edmonton Branch
Deborah & Bruce Boelstler	#3454	Edmonton Branch
Brian Hutchison	#3524	Edmonton Branch

Long Term Membership Certificates – Forty Years

Barbara & William Hergot	#1144	Edmonton Branch
Clara Iwaasa	#1150	Brooks & District Branch
Vivian & Merven Ety	#1216	Edmonton Branch

Kenneth Young Newsletter Awards – Excellence in Branch Newsletters

- **Certificate for Best Original Article** – “*Benefits of Using Local History Books*” by Susan Haga, #5223, *Yesterday’s Footprints*, May 2020, Vol. 37, #2, pp. 3-4, Lethbridge Branch
- **Certificate for Best Local Content** – “*Our COVID-19 Pandemic Experience – 2020*” by Sharon Aney, #4148, Editor, *Roots & Branches*, September 2020, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 11-14, Wetaskiwin Branch
- **Plaque for Best Overall Newsletter & Certificate for the editor to keep**
Brooks & District Branch, *B & D Heirlines*, Spring 2020, Vol. 34, No. 1, Editor: Bob Franz, #5741

*Thanks to the Judging Committee:
Marilyn Astle, Jock Howard, and Connie Stuhl*

Peter Staveley Memorial Award – Relatively Speaking Article

- **Name on Peter Staveley plaque & Certificate for best article**
“*Vanishing Prairie Icons: Where Main Street Meets Railway Avenue*” by John Althouse, #5530, May 2020, Vol. 48, No. 2, p. 56

*Thanks to the Judging Committee:
Marilyn Hindmarch, Brenda Nugent, and Donna Wyatt*

Certificates of Appreciation

- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Edmonton Heritage Council** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for Operational Funding for Genealogical Resources and Programming 2020 (\$22,276)
- Certificate with heartfelt thanks to **Historic Resources Management Branch** for their generous support to the Alberta Genealogical Society for funding of Genealogical Resources and Programming 2020 (\$14,750)
- Certificate in appreciation of the dedication of the **AGS Research Services Team** who earned \$2,974.72 for AGS through their efforts in assisting family history researchers

Special Mention Awards

- **Special Mention Award – Charlotte Curtis #6486, Camrose Branch**
In recognition of her donation of 2400 cemetery and obituary records for the County of Flagstaff

- **Special Mention Award – Claudine Nelson #2592, Louise Perkins #5157, Norma Wolowyk #243, Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of completing a deep clean of the AGS Resource Centre and Library, as well as the setup for use of the library according to AHS COVID-19 Protocols
- **Special Mention Award – Sheila Genaille #1436, Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of developing, implementing and overseeing the *Discover Your Roots, Share Your Stories* AGS webinar series
- **Special Mention Award – Deb Trout #5208, Camrose Branch**
In recognition of taking on the website calendar and making all the bookings for Zoom meetings and sending out all the links to the meeting chairs while being President of Camrose Branch
- **Special Mention Award – Doug McLeod #5386, Lethbridge & District Branch**
In recognition of transporting *Computers for Schools* computers, monitors and printer to Brooks & District Branch, Medicine Hat & District Branch, and Lethbridge & District Branch
- **Special Mention Award – Alice Hoyle #4137, and Wetaskiwin Branch**
In recognition of organizing GenFair 2020 which was cancelled due to COVID-19. and GenFair 2021 “A Virtual Affair”
- **Special Mention Award – Marion Rex #3341, Edmonton Branch**
In recognition of her dedicated work as Treasurer, Grants and Funding Chair, and executive team member

President’s Award

- **Denise Daubert, #4976** – In recognition of exceptional volunteerism for 12 years of service on the *Relatively Speaking* editing team, as well as many years of writing the “*Spinning Webs*” column for RS

Retiring Members of the Executive

- **Doug McLeod, #5386, Secretary, April 2019-April 2021**
Doug has been secretary for the AGS for two years, and a long-time member of the AGS board representing Lethbridge before that. His work on the AGS Executive and his thoughtful comments have helped to make our organization stronger. Many thanks for your years of service to our organization.

12. Adjournment

MOVED by Doug McLeod to adjourn – Lynne Duigou declared the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Genealogical Society adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Doug McLeod, AGS Secretary

Lynne Duigou, AGS President

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

President – Lynne Duigou



Volunteer Hours: 697

Executive Organizational Structure 2021-2022

I proposed an organizational structure for the Executive committee which focus on the four goals laid out in the in Strategic Plan developed in 2020. Four of the executive members each focussed on one of the goals and worked on concrete actions towards achieving that goal. The Executive accepted the following structure. These are the assigned goals and member working on that goal.

1. Goal 1, Education – Sheila Genaille, 1st VP
2. Goal 2, Membership – Deb Wickham, Secretary
3. Goal 3, Research – Jock Howard, Past President
4. Goal 4, Collaboration – Al Bromling, 2nd VP
5. Overall Administration – Lynne Duigou, President
6. Financial – Marion Rex, Treasurer

The committees' work on the goals and recommendations was discussed and ratified at the September and November meetings of the Board of Directors.

AGS Surname Database – Norma Wolowyk and Shannon Cherkowski volunteered to begin working on standardizing the database with the intention of updating it and making it more accessible. I coordinated a planning meeting with Norma, Committee chair Lianne Kruger, the Executive liaison Jock Howard and the chair of the EPL Cemetery digitizing project, Kurt

Paterson. I contacted Dwayne Holmberg of *Other Machines* who has hosted the database since 2007. He submitted a proposal to update the information, add new data collected and incorporate the features the committee suggested. Marion Rex, Treasurer submitted a grant proposal to Edmonton Heritage Council. Word was received September 7, 2021 that EHC had granted the money (\$19,480) and we went ahead with the project. I signed the letter of acceptance for the EHC grant and hand delivered it. I contacted Dwayne Holmberg to advise him that we were now able to sign a contract with *OtherMachines* for the work and begin. We have one year to complete the project.

Bylaw Amendment Ballots 2021 – With the help of Marion Rex, Jock Howard, and Lou Duigou, we prepared the ballots, folded, imprinted, and initialed each of the 638 ballots while observing the COVID-19 protocols. Office Coordinator, Jackie Pearson, printed the name and return address labels and purchased the envelopes and stamps. Lou and I folded the ballots and stuffed the envelopes. We mailed them prior to March 24 so that they were postmarked the required 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The 181 returned ballots (five spoiled) were counted by Norma Wolowyk and Claudine Nelson. All bylaw amendments passed, were submitted to and approved by Alberta Registries.

Land Acknowledgment - I attended three meetings of the ad hoc committee co-chaired by Janine Carroll and Al Bromling. Other committee members were Dwight Brown, Medicine Hat Branch, Les Campbell, Edmonton Branch and myself, President, Ex-officio member. The committee recommended that the following statement “*Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges Alberta’s Indigenous People, on whose traditional territory we gather.*” be used at all Board meetings, the

Annual meeting and placed on the Society website and in *Relatively Speaking*. The committee motion was approved and the statement was used in the November Board meeting and has been placed in *Relatively Speaking* and on the front page of the AGS website.

COVID-19 Restriction Exemption Program (REP) – In September, in collaboration with Les Campbell, Edmonton Branch President we implemented the REP program with the continued requirement that everyone wear a mask and observe social distancing for the AGS/Edmonton Branch Library. Members have indicated that they feel safe coming to the library and we were able to keep the library open for the remainder of 2021 until the Christmas break.

Family Search Affiliate Library – I assisted Edmonton Branch, Lethbridge & District Branch and Fort McMurray Branch to complete the paperwork to be able to offer this additional research benefit to their Branch members. All three Branches now have this research capability available in their libraries.

Presentations – In order to achieve the goal of education, supporting our members and encouraging new membership, I have agreed to present a webinar on *Introduction to Genealogy – Tracing Your Family Tree, Immigration, Emigration and Naturalization*. I will also be presenting a webinar – *Genealogy 101* to the Lacombe and District Museum Society on May 18, 2022. I will describe the Alberta Genealogical Society and its Branches, the resources, library and volunteer researchers who can assist anyone seeking to discover their family history.

Meetings – Executive – 5
Board – 4
AGM – 1
Committee – 6

Past President – Jock Howard



Volunteer Hours 74

The primary role of the Past President focusses on ensuring positions on the Executive Committee and Board Committee Chairs are occupied, attending Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings, being responsible for gathering award nominees, and liaising with President's Advisory Council.

Other roles may be taken on as directed by either the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board.

1. Vacancies on the AGS Executive Committee were filled by acclamation at the AGM 24 April 2021:
 - a. 2nd Vice President – Al Bromling, Grande Prairie
 - b. Secretary – Debra Wickham, Medicine Hat

Filling out the rest of the Executive Committee

- c. President – Lynne Duigou
- d. 1st Vice President – Sheila Genaille
- e. Treasurer – Marion Rex

An executive meeting was held in the weeks following the AGM to assign responsibilities for the various chairs to each of the executive members.

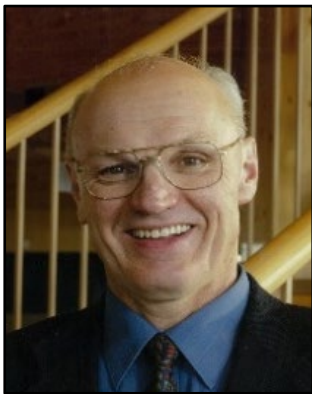
2. Following the AGM, Chairs for all AGS committees were contacted to determine who wanted to stay in their positions. Vacancies were filled (some by acting chairs), except the Conference Chair. Due to COVID-19, the Conference will not be held until 2023. Committee Chairs were ratified by the Board at the May Board Meeting.

3. The Fall Retreat for 2021, originally scheduled to take place at Providence Centre, was cancelled due to COVID-19. Plans for the Retreat for 2022 are solidifying to be in-person, but can still be cancelled due to the uncertainties of COVID-19.
4. There was no meeting of the President's Advisory Council.

1st Vice President

The 1st Vice-President worked on Society policies, procedures and bylaws, then organized a successful monthly “*Discovering Our Roots – Sharing Our Stories*” series held on Zoom. The webinars were held the fourth Monday of each month with an average of 80 registrants from January through August.

2nd Vice President – Al Bromling



The membership approved, by special resolution at the Annual General Meeting, the amended Society Bylaws that had been presented for consideration by the 1st Vice President and Policy & Procedures / Bylaws Committee.

The amendments were focused on Article 6 and intended to clarify matters of governance.

The President submitted the Amended Bylaws per the Societies Act which were accepted by the Provincial Registrar of Companies on May 10, 2021. These have been prepared and published in the revised Operations Manual, the AGS Website, and communicated to the membership.

The 2nd Vice President was also involved in other initiatives in 2021:

- The Indigenous Acknowledgement Statement committee;

- Preparation of Investment of Society Funds Policy (VIII-200) which received Board consideration and approval.
- Drafting a revision of the Margaret Kay Scholarship (Bursary) Policy (VIII-170) which received Board approval. It includes a name change that more accurately reflects fact that it is a bursary fund rather than a scholarship fund;
- Collecting and adapting contracting templates for inclusion in Section X-Forms of the Operations Manual to facilitate society officers working with Policy VII— Contracting with Outside Parties.

More details about these initiatives are found in the Report of Policies & Procedures / Bylaws Committee.

Treasurer – Marion Rex



Volunteer Hours 437

Audit 2021

As a provincial organization, we prepare a consolidated financial statement including income and expenses for AGS Provincial and all ten branches. Each year,

AGS provincial gets audited, as well as Edmonton Branch which is the largest branch, and a couple of other branches on a rotating basis. In the 2021 audit, AGS Provincial, Edmonton Branch, Brooks & District Branch, and Medicine Hat & District Branch were audited by KBH Chartered Professional Accountants. KBH also reviewed the finances of the other seven branches. Thanks to Louise Chauvet, CPA, CA, and her team at KBH for a great working relationship during the audit process. They have prepared an audit report of AGS Consolidated, as well as a Compilation Engagement (formerly called Notice to Reader) for AGS Provincial. AGS Provincial shows a surplus of \$18,789.37 as at December 31, 2021. This is due, in large part, to the following:

Income **\$127,800.35**

Variations made up, in large part, to: (*only major variations shown)

- Higher than anticipated donations 1,148.75
- Higher than anticipated Historic Resources Management Branch (** Note: We received \$29,000 rather than the anticipated \$14,750. \$21,750 has been recorded for the period April 1-December 31, 2021, with \$7,250 being deferred to the period January 1-March 31, 2022 leaving a net surplus of \$7,000) 7,000.00
- Higher than anticipated revenue from an unbudgeted Edmonton Heritage Council Change Capital Project Grant for the records name database index being prepared for our website by OtherMachines. (*We received \$19,480 for the entire project, using \$9,110.78 in 2021 and deferring \$10,369.22 for remainder of the project which will be completed in 2022.) 9,110.78
- Higher than anticipated research income 2,659.50
- Unexpected demutualization benefit from insurance premiums 4,717.84

Expense **109,010.98**

Variations made up, in large part, to: (*only major variations shown)

- Lower than anticipated Grants & Other Funding expenses (no presentation due to COVID-19) (600.00)
- Investment in *My Heritage Library Edition* as a membership benefit (unbudgeted member benefit purchased when a surplus in 2021 was evident) 3,407.21
- Higher than anticipated expenses for the records name database index being prepared for our website by OtherMachines (*We received \$19,480 for the entire project, using \$9,110.78 in 2021 and deferring \$10,369.22 for remainder of the project which will be completed in 2022.) 9,110.78

- Lower than anticipated President’s Discretionary Fund (1,823.74)

Excess of revenue over expenses **\$18,789.37**

The level of materiality in the audit was based on a percentage of expenditures and is unchanged from last year at \$6,000. This figure represents 1% of the consolidated assets.

The GST Return and T3010 Registered Charity Information Return were filed with Canada Revenue Agency in a timely basis.

Membership Revitalization Reserve Fund

This year, AGS Provincial set up a *Membership Revitalization Reserve Fund* for the purpose of investing in revitalization of membership and enhancing member benefits. We transferred \$15,000 of the \$18,789.37 surplus from this year into this reserve fund for the purpose of unbudgeted projects that would enhance membership and member benefits.

Bookkeeping

This year was the seventh 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 so we can report to Canada Revenue Agency. She also completes the GST and charity returns. In 2021, she demonstrated an excellent working relationship with our Office Coordinator Jackie Pearson, in balancing funding raised through memberships, registrations, and donations. 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 charity status reports for Canada Revenue Agency, which used to be done by the auditors at much greater expense.

Peace River Branch Dissolution

Five years ago, when Peace River Branch dissolved, their remaining funds (\$2,759.14) were transferred in trust to AGS for a period of 5 years ending April 23, 2021. At that time, since the

branch did not reestablish, the money was transferred through internal transfer into the AGS general account. It is unfortunate that Peace River Branch dissolved.

GICs

We continued buying \$7,000 GICs each month. That means that at any time, we should be no more than 30 days from a GIC coming due for renewal should we need to access the funds. GICs give us a higher interest income than the savings account did.

Canada Emergency Business Account(CEBA)

We applied for, and were granted, \$40,000 in CEBA funding made available to not-for-profit organizations during COVID-19. It was intended as a loan with \$30,000 to be repaid by December 31, 2022 and the remaining \$10,000 going into the income stream of the organization if the loan was repaid in full by the deadline. This was invested into a GIC which came due in 2022. Since then, the deadline was extended to December 31, 2023—so the maturing GIC was reinvested into another 14-month GIC coming due in 2023.

Casino

In 2020, when it became evident that we didn't need to pay insurance costs from casino income, we brought less casino funding into the income stream. That left us more of our dwindling casino funding available for 2021. Because of COVID-19, we applied for, and were granted, an extension to our casino funds through to April 2022. This aligned with the casino which became scheduled for March 20-21, 2022 (rather than second quarter – a bonus for us).

Grants & Other Funding

The Alberta Genealogical Society—Provincial is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Historic Resources Management Branch (HRMB) **\$29,000** (up from \$14,750 in 2020) and the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) **\$26,964** (up from \$22,276 in 2020). The sponsorship received from HRMB is applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations and general administration. AGS metrics and annual report were submitted to the HRMB Board of Directors, but no presentation was scheduled due

to COVID-19. Funding received from EHC helps provide both staffing and operational support. The application process occurs in the fall each year.

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses and other non-profit associations, AGS Provincial \$3,748.75 (\$3,809.50 in 2020) and its branches \$4,618.12 (\$3,854.87 in 2020) received \$8,366.87 (\$7,664.37 in 2020) in donations. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report. Please see the Grants & Other Funding report for more information.

Richard Nash Estate

AGS has been named as a beneficiary in the estate of Richard Nash, a long-time member of Fort McMurray and Edmonton branches. AGS will be advised when the estate is settled.

Research

- In 2021, AGS consolidated raised a total of \$9,457.06 by answering research queries, as follows:

Provincial Office	\$5,409.50
Edmonton	2,158.43
Lethbridge	1,839.22
Medicine Hat	<u>49.91</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$9,457.06</u>
- As noted above, AGS Provincial raised \$5,409.50 by answering 205 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 Services report for more information.

Lease

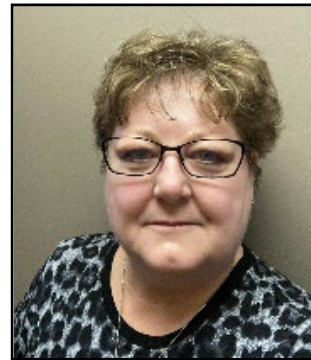
Lynne Duigou worked with me to negotiate a one-year extension to our lease with Nearctic to November 30, 2022 so that future leases fall in line with our casino funding.

Finance Committee

One of the projects that the Finance Committee took on this year was to review the *Imagine Canada* standards, comparing them to ours. We have started the process of implementing those standards that we believe will be beneficial to AGS, especially in the area of financial accounting. We have a working group that will continue this process and will be making recommendations to the Board based on standards that may improve general operations for our board.

My thanks to the Finance Committee: Claudine Nelson (Library & Resource Centre Chair), Laura Turnbull (Gaming Chair), Norma Wolowyk (Research Services Chair), Les Campbell (Edmonton Branch President), Tammy Grantham (Fort McMurray Branch President), and Kurt Paterson (Edmonton Public Library AGS Cemetery Recording Books Digitization Project) 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. This marks the end of my 6 years as Treasurer for AGS, serving the maximum of three two-year terms—it has been an honour and a privilege to serve this organization. I have learned a tremendous amount and have thoroughly enjoyed working with a wonderful team—including my bookkeeper and right arm Shirley Keller, the staff (Linda Winski in the past, and Jackie Pearson in the present) at the office, the members of the Finance Committee and the members of the board. The friendships I have made have been life-changing. While my job as Treasurer is ending, I will offer to continue in my role as Grants & Other Funding Chair.

Secretary – Debra Wickham



Volunteer Hours 120

As Secretary, I attended four Executive, and one committee meetings, and three Board of Directors meetings. At those meetings, I recorded the minutes and sent out the draft and final approved versions of the minutes. I also maintained the official record of the minutes and the record of the motions made at the meetings.

BRANCH ANNUAL REPORTS

Brooks and District Branch



Maurice Landry



Volunteer Hours 637
Membership 19

2021 was an interesting and challenging year for our organization. As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, we were not able to hold any programs for our members. Also, our

plans for an Open House to celebrate 40 years as a branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society had to be cancelled.

Executive Committee

President	Vacant
Past President	Maurice Landry
Vice President	Eileen French
Secretary	Henry Najda
Treasurer	Karyn Norden

January: Nothing to report – no meetings held due to COVID-19.

February: Nothing to report – no meetings held due to COVID-19.

March: Nothing to report – no meetings held due to COVID-19.

April: The AGM was held at Clara Iwaasa's backyard following COVID-19 guidelines. Eight members were present and the executive remained the same except the position of President is vacant for the time being. Group

photos were taken of the 2019 and 2020 executive. Thanks to Bob Franz, the 2021 spring edition of our newsletter "B&D Heir Lines" was completed and digital copies sent to our members.

May: Outdoor meeting to plan for 40th Anniversary celebration.

June: Outdoor meeting to further plan for 40th Anniversary celebration and take executive committee pictures.

July: No meeting held.

August: Maurice finished putting together the Brooks Walking Tour pamphlet and Karyn completed the Third Addendum on the Obituaries Index 2009 – 2019.

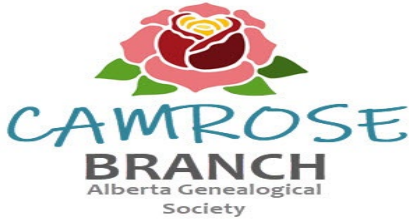
September: We met in September to finalize our program for the 40th anniversary celebration. We planned to have an Open House with display tables, exhibits, viewing of genealogical library resources available, and a continuous slide show presentation of historic Brooks buildings. Due to continuing COVID-19 concerns, it was decided to cancel our celebrations for this year.

October: No meeting held.

November: Bob Franz presented the fall issue of Brooks & District Heir Lines to the executive. This was his last issue as he will no longer be the editor. Glenn Michell agreed to serve as editor for the spring issue.

December: We had a Christmas dinner at PD's restaurant for members and their partners. A good time was had by those attending.

Maurice Landry, Past President



Camrose Branch

Deb Trout



Volunteer Hours 1515
Membership 26

Executive Committee

President	Deb Trout
Vice President	Janine Carroll
Secretary	Lilvon Lundy
Treasurer	Alora Nelson
Librarian	Bev Webster
Newsletter Editor	Joan Conley
Webmaster/Facebook	Deb Trout
Membership Chair	Wendy Roth

Our AGM was held in March 2022. The board remained the same.

September 9, 2021: The ever so popular "*What I've been doing this summer*" topic.

October 2021 – Education – The Family Search Wiki Discussion: Skeletons & Secrets. The title says it all – unexpected things that you've learned on your research journey and perhaps through DNA.

November 10, 2021 – Our Military History – We brought photos, and stories of our ancestors/contemporaries who were/are in the military.

December 2021 – We held a hybrid meeting; some of us met in person, and some were on Zoom. It wasn't ideal but it was nice to see members in person. Members shared Christmas memories as prompted by a writing prompt sheet: favourite gift, favourite meal, favourite Christmas movie, etc.

January 2022 – John Althouse's presentation on *How to use the Family Search Catalogue*. A most under-utilized tool.

February 2022 – *Disaster Proofing Your Genealogy* was the education session. Discussion on our ancestors and romance.

March 10, 2022 - Education: Our member, Cindy Mailer, hosted a presentation on creating a family history book. Discussion: What pets did you or your ancestors have? Bring photos and tell their stories.

We are still working on getting our digitization project off the ground. AGS has agree to host it on the website. We are working to get a grant from the City of Camrose to buy equipment.

Our projects of the BMD for the Camrose Canadian and Obituaries for Flagstaff County are ongoing.

Deb Trout, President
Janine Carroll, Vice President

Drayton Valley Branch

Connie Stuhl



Volunteer Hours 261
Membership 6

For 2021, we were able to meet with a combination of Zoom and telephone. It wasn't ideal, but better than not meeting at all.

A few members did some research on Drayton Valley's first murder to give a clearer picture of those involved and their families, and what happened after the event. An article was written by Miriam Roberts which appeared in *Relatively Speaking*.

In the past, we were involved in a committee to preserve the local newspaper, the *Drayton Valley Western Review*. Their office is now closed, and since the Municipal Library did not have enough space to house the collection, which included negatives of pictures that had been taken over the years, the collection was given to the Drayton Valley Museum. It is hoped that in the future the library would be able to expand and house this valuable resource. The museum is also limited in space, so the collection is being stored there at this time, but is not really accessible for research.

The Drayton Valley Municipal Library applied for and is now an Affiliated Library with Family Search. Since we have had restrictions due to COVID-19, there has not been a demonstration made yet for members. I have tested and was delighted that we now have this resource in Drayton Valley.

I have been working with the Program Manager at the Library to make the Genealogy for Youth program accessible through kits, which include the workbooks, books associated with the workbooks, a letter inviting them to share their experience through a story and pictures, and a certificate for those who complete the workbook. In December, I provided the bins, workbooks, letters and certificates to the library and we have them available for loan through the library. The bins are not available through interlibrary loan, but are restricted for loan from Drayton Valley only. There has been interest generated by the local home school association in accessing these kits.

I have also developed an escape room, using some of the resources that were shared by the Wetaskiwin Branch (thank you!) I have tested it out on one group and they had fun with it. Hopefully we can set it up for others to utilize. The surfaces are all able to be cleaned, and any paper has been laminated, so it can easily be cleaned as well.

We have received a couple of queries, which we were able to respond to, and provide some information from the resources we have.

Our members continue to collect obituaries for our collection, which is housed at the library with our books.

Connie Stuhl, President

Edmonton Branch



Les Campbell



Volunteer Hours 6302
Membership 355

Executive Committee

President	Les Campbell
Past President	Sheila Genaille
Vice President	Judy Bradley
Secretary	Thea Hawryluk
Treasurer	Ken Fearnley
Genealogical Courses	Liz Edmunds
Library Coordinator	Pam Forsyth
Membership	Claudine Nelson
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Genaille
Program	Lisa MacKenzie
Publicity	Sharon Dyer
Research	Norma Wolowyk
Webmaster	Courtney Laframboise

This year has been another difficult year for the Edmonton Branch due to COVID-19 health measures that do not allow members to meet face to face and socialize at Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and General meetings.

In April 2023, AGS will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary of the Alberta Genealogical Society. Edmonton Branch was going to host the 50th Anniversary conference but due to the

lack of volunteers this is not possible. Other options are being considered that will hopefully allow the conference to move forward.

Virtual Meetings

The Board recognized there is a need for updating and improving how we should do things differently. What has the Board done during these difficult times? Due to present day circumstances, we had to change our meeting requirements for General Meetings, Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, and *Tracing Your Family Tree* (TYFT) workshops. These meetings took the form of a virtual meeting and have been well attended. We invested in Zoom technology for meetings and webinars. To successfully conduct the meetings and webinars, our Board as well as SIG leaders were trained in the use of this virtual technology, with the support of Zoom hosts, a new role that was created to support this new technology.

Membership

Membership has been declining over the past few years and has reached a level that concerns me. We need your support by renewing your membership for 2022. How do you renew your membership? Membership forms for 2022 can be downloaded from the following AGS website <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/become-a-member> or you can visit the Alberta Genealogical Society office and pick up the form at Unit 162, 14315-118th Avenue, Edmonton. You can mail the form to the Alberta Genealogical Society, Unit 162, 14315-118th Avenue, Edmonton AB T5L 4S6 or Fax: 780-423-8980 or phone 780-423-8902.

Tracing Your Family Tree (TYFT)

Tracing Your Family Tree (TYFT) series began January 31, 2022. There are 8 one-hour webinars for those who are just starting their family history research. The webinars are 75 minutes each, including a 15-minute Q & A. Webinars include PowerPoint presentations and emailed handouts. Each topic is illustrated by navigating

key online database websites (Ancestry, Family Search, etc.) To view and register for any of the workshops, visit the Events page on the website.

Virtual Open House

In January 2022, we intend to hold a Virtual Open House which was well attended. The Open House will consist of 8 virtual rooms where branch volunteers will be available to answer questions regarding Edmonton Branch resources and services.

Website

The website was updated in June 2021 to meet and exceed today's technology requirements. The update has resulted in an increase of visitors to our website. To determine the branch activities, visit the Events page at the Main Menu of the website.

Edmonton / AGS Library

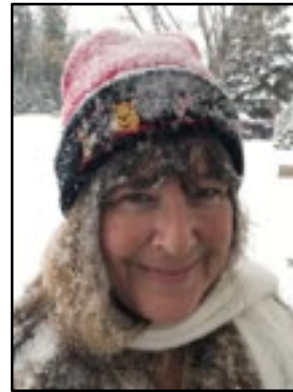
The Library was closed a few times during 2021 due to COVID-19. The library volunteers have been great and stepped forward and kept the library open during the weekdays from Tuesday to Thursday. In addition to weekdays, the library is also open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

I will not be serving for another term as President and wish you all the best for 2022-2023. It has been a pleasure to serve the Edmonton Branch as President during these unprecedented times. Thank you.

Les Campbell, President

Fort McMurray Branch

Tammy Grantham



Volunteer Hours	197
Membership	12

Executive Committee

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

Unfortunately, 2021 has not been any better than 2020 for People vs. COVID-19. Due to government regulations, our library has been closed more than it was open. When we were open, we kept strict COVID-19 protocols in place, such as occupancy limits, sanitation of hands upon entry, cleaning of equipment after use, and isolating books or other materials for a period of time before being reshelved. Once vaccines became available, we made it mandatory to show proof of vaccination in order to come into our library. This condition might have lost us a couple of patrons, as we would be messaging with a person and once they found out we required vaccinations to enter our library, they cut off communications with us. Oh well, our higher priority is to protect our compromised members.

We held a virtual AGM in February, and as you can see, nothing changed in the executive for the year. In August, we renewed our lease for a two-year period with the hopes that we find a new executive before then to keep things going.

September brought us good news in the fact that we officially became an LDS Family Search Affiliate Library. This affiliation will enable patrons extended access to some records that are only viewable in a Family History Center. The FHC in Fort McMurray closed down some years back, so we hope this new feature to our library will bring in some new patrons that just may become members.

In our never-ending battle to gain new members, we tried a new approach in November. We had a library family member come up with ideas to make short ‘reels’ that we could post to our Facebook page and our Instagram account. With guidance, and a little digging into our own resources, we came up with about 5 little videos’ (or reels) paste onto our pages. They were certainly well-received and definitely increased traffic on our *Facebook* page, but so far, we have not seen any new members join our library. So, we continue on with that battle, and maybe in time some new members will show up.

On a sadder note, in February we lost another dear friend. Jean Waniandy passed away on February 2, 2021. Jean was a long-time past member of the Fort McMurray Branch, and although she had moved away and had not been a member for quite a while, her presence was still felt with us. Our hearts went out to her family and we said our own quiet goodbye to a wonderful lady.

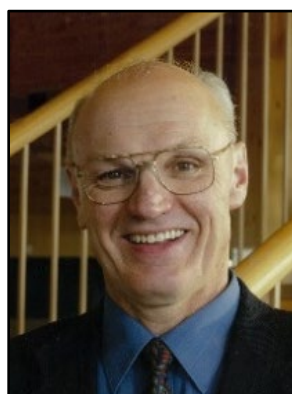
Here's hoping that 2022 will be a much better year. I hardly remember what ‘normal’ really is, but let’s try to get as close to it as we can.

Tammy Grantham, President

Grande Prairie & District Branch



Al Bromling



Volunteer Hours	940
Membership	41

Meetings: Meetings are normally scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month, the format being a business meeting followed by a genealogical program. This pattern has been broken during the pandemic period.

During the pandemic period the Branch Executive was expanded to an Executive Committee of ten members who were able to meet using virtual platforms and sustain the non-public facing operations of the Branch. This Committee met seven times during 2021. As well, the Branch Annual General Meeting and one general membership meeting were hosted in virtual format.

Programs and Community events participation: These offerings were canceled due to COVID-19. In 2021, the Branch purchased a Zoom subscription and began planning for general meeting and public presentations on the virtual platform.

Queries and Research: This volunteer service remained active at a reduced level due to the pandemic restrictions. Volunteers contributed more than 100 hours and generated three

hundred and forty dollars (\$340) in Branch revenue.

Branch Newsletter: Two editions of the Branch newsletter *Heritage Seekers* were published, free to members and shared with other Branches.

Volunteer Recognition: The Grande Prairie Regional Association of Volunteer Organizations acknowledged five Branch members through their volunteer of the week program sponsored by Tim Hortons. One member was selected as volunteer of the month. Congratulations.

Branch Databases: There were modest expansions of our databases as some indexing work continued for the Branch's *Obituary Index*. There are 4860 entries in this index. There was no increase in *Grave Markers of the Northwest* images this year. This database contains 815 marker images from 21 cemeteries in the area.

Social Media Accounts: There are 150 participants on the Branch private *Facebook* group, providing a platform for members to keep up-to-date on upcoming events, genealogical resources, and stories.

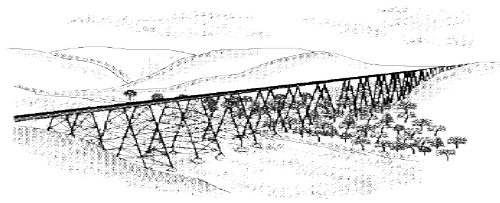
Website: Our Branch Website showed a modest increase in member and public access in 2021. It is a popular gateway to our free obituary and grave marker databases. The follow-up with me link is the means for family historians to request help from our Research Services Team. The Members Only feature is used to access Branch subscriptions to Newspapers.com, the MyHeritage.com search engine, and the DNA Bootcamp Webinars.

Margaret Kay Memorial Bursary: The 2021 Bursary was awarded in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500) to assist a member enrolled in the *National Institute for Genealogical Studies Program*.

Awards and Donations: During 2021, the Branch donated five thousand dollars (\$5000) to the *South Peace Regional Archives (SPRA)* in support of their relocation to a larger facility. We also made a small donation to the *Archives at the Peace River Museum*, acknowledging their valued support to our Branch research projects.

Al Bromling, President

Lethbridge & District Branch



Marilyn Astle



Volunteer Hours	2705
Membership	48

Meetings: We held monthly general meetings by videoconference January through June, with February being the annual general meeting, and then September through November. The AGM returned the previous executive for another two-year term.

Velda Sjovold became our new speaker coordinator in 2021. Speakers for the meetings included:

David Tyler – *Using North American Records to trace European Ancestors*

Wendy Aitkens – *Toys through the Ages*

Marilyn Astle – *Can learning about ancestors contribute to our well-being?*

Ryan Uytdewilligen – *Research Methods that Help Tell the Story*

Trish Perkins – *World War II Music in Lethbridge*

Joyce Schortinghaus – *How to Save Your Old Photos and Stuff into Digital Format*

David Tyler – *Finding Records that are Not Online*

Gordon Tolton – *Healey's West: How to Write a Story*

Our Monday *Legacy* group met three times in June and weekly from October 25 to December 6.

Projects & Activities: In mid-March, we were finally able to hold a work bee to put our Resource Centre back together after the carpet replacement in late 2020. We took the opportunity to get rid of some unneeded materials and furnishings. Members with keys were again able to access the centre for research, other members by arrangement. In April, government regulations changed once more and libraries were again closed, meaning our centre was not available even to members for some weeks.

Our Resource Centre was not open to the public during 2021. Each time we thought of opening, new pandemic-related restrictions were announced. Win Evans continued to recruit volunteers to staff the centre and reported everyone has been very cooperative about volunteering and then having their shifts canceled.

Volunteer hours at year end were 2,705 hours. This compares to year end totals for 2020 of 2,113 hours and 2,019 of 3428 hours.

Our Resource Centre was approved as an Affiliated Library of the Family History Library meaning that certain records can be viewed in our centre that cannot be viewed from home with a FamilySearch registration. We are listed in the FamilySearch wiki as an Affiliated Library.

Our newsletter *Yesterday's Footprints* was published three times as usual and is publicly available on our website. *Benefits of Using Local History Books*, an article our newsletter editor Susan Haga wrote for the newsletter in 2020, received the 2021 AGS certificate for best original article in a branch newsletter.

Our *Facebook* group, *Lethbridge Genealogy*, increased to 136 members from 89 at the end of 2020 and 50 at the end of 2019.

Research queries continued to be answered. Eleanor McMurchy has responded to more than a dozen requests for help with family research and earned approximately \$1,750 for the branch from research. Subscriptions have been paid and extended. A few more purchased and donated books have been added.

Our ongoing project of collecting and digitizing obituaries and funeral cards has continued. A major reorganization and updating of our existing databases led to the launch of a new *Southern Alberta Obituary Collection Index* on our website in June. The collection is now in excess of 101,000 entries and will, it is hoped, encourage research requests. We continue to work with the Cemetery Office on updating St. Patrick's Cemetery Records as well as assisting them with requests for all city cemeteries.

As we were able to respond quickly when casinos reopened, we got the opportunity to volunteer at a casino in mid-July and did better than expected financially. Doug McLeod coordinated our casino participation. The ongoing pandemic necessitated the cancellation of our usual October International Dinner for a second consecutive year.

Our major concern as 2021 ended was to find a facility in which to continue our in-person operations. In November, we received word that the provincial government was ending our 35-year rent free status and demanding rent to retain the space. Exploration of options began, continuing into 2022.

Lethbridge branch member Wendy Warren and I have joined the *Relatively Speaking* editorial team.

A number of our members participated in the webinars offered by AGS in the first half of the year, and in the online AGS GenFair and the AGM that followed on April 24th. Doug McLeod was recognized at the AGM for his years of service at the provincial level as he retired from the position of AGS Secretary.

Conclusion: We have been pleased to have members residing at a distance taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in the video conference branch meetings.

Thank you to all who have helped us meet the challenges of 2021.

Marilyn Astle, President

Medicine Hat & District Branch

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



Dwight Brown



Volunteer Hours 2062
Membership 65

Executive Committee

President	Dwight Brown
Vice President	Donald Zimmer
Secretary	Faye Knoblick
Treasurer	Debra Wickham
Past President	Doreen Schank

Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month; format being the business meeting followed by a genealogical program. Our AGM is the first Wednesday of February.

Monthly meetings via Zoom were held September through December, with no meetings in July and August.

Library

Due to COVID-19, the library was closed from March to October 12 then open on Tuesday and Wednesday for two hours from 1:00–3:00 p.m. through first week in December. The Library has been closed since then due to COVID-19.

Four members volunteered to help look up requests from their home through our subscriptions to Genealogy Bank, Newspaper Archive, and Ancestry Newspapers.

Projects:

TELUS/AGT Phone Book: continued scanning of phone books. The White Pages are online as are a lot of the Yellow Pages. This project as well as others have slowed considerably due to COVID-19. There was 280 hours spent scanning.

Yearbooks: continued scanning school yearbooks.

Programs and Community Events: these were canceled due to COVID-19.

Queries

We are still handling queries as before but the number of requests are reduced.

Sammis Seeker

Three issues of *Saamis Seeker* were published this year. Many of our members contributed feature articles to *Saamis Seeker*. Submissions are welcome at any time from any of AGS branches which our Editor will keep on file for future *Saamis Seeker* issues.

Social Media Accounts

At present, we have 234 followers on *Facebook* and 102 followers on *Twitter*. These platforms provide members with upcoming events, genealogical resources and stories.

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Computer, Germans from Russia, and Genealogy Family Tree are not meeting but keeping in touch with others on the committees.

Website

We have had 20,535 new users with a total of users 21,928 in 32,183 sessions. This amounted to a bounce of 42.08%.

Dwight Brown, President

Red Deer & District Branch



Lauranne Hemmingway



Volunteer Hours 1286
Membership 52

Executive Committee

President	Lauranne Hemmingway
Vice President	Lianne Kruger
Secretary	Patricia O'Neill
Past President	Janice Duffy & Diane Lehr
Treasurer	Raymond Cyr
Membership	Jean Boxer
Library	Kelly Fairholm
Publicity	Joan Schmelke
Cemetery	Vacant
Genealogy Queries	Carren Ross
Newsletter	Patricia O'Neill

Membership:

- 52 members
- Volunteer Hours: 1286 hours were recorded for the attendees at Zoom meetings. We forgot to log the hours for attendees at September meeting. I expect we are missing many volunteer hours because fewer members have been attending the Zoom meetings than attended meetings previously. It is difficult to estimate the hours uncaptured.
- All Red Deer Branch meetings have been by Zoom in 2021.

Activities to Support Membership and Attract Members

- Announced a contest for all new and existing members who paid their membership dues by the end of January/2022.
- Survey to all members to determine the location of ancestors they are researching and what topics they would like presented at meetings.

Scotland 19	Canada 28	England 23
Ireland 12	USA 19	Quebec 4
Germany 10	Ukraine 4	Sweden 3
Poland 2	Croatia 1	Denmark 2
France 2	Australia 6	New Zealand 1
India 1	Iceland 1	Jamaica 1
Prussia 1	Norway 1	Austria 1
Belarus 1		

- All members who have e-mail are sent copy of meeting agenda and minutes.
- Attempted to have a 6-month plan of meeting topics/speakers listed on website, but have not been successful with executing this plan.

Educational Opportunities and Research:

- A speaker or webinar for each meeting. Topics are driven by the needs expressed in the survey.
- Members receive an e-mail promoting educational opportunities offered by SIGs of other Branches of AGS by Zoom.

- Promoted *Tracing Your Family Tree* series offered by Edmonton Branch for the 13 members who said they wanted a Beginner Genealogy Class.
- Promoted WebFair, GenFair, AGS website MyHeritage free for all members.
- Promoted joining Genealogy Societies of other provinces where ancestors lived.
- Updated our library holdings at the Archives and will have the list on our website so members know what is available before making the trip to Red Deer Archives.
- Red Deer Genealogy Society's computer at the Archives has the Newspaper Archives free for members to use.

Collaboration

We have been contacting other branches to inquire about best practices and possibilities for speakers, but this area has been limited due to COVID-19 and restrictions.

Lauranne Hemmingway, President

Wetaskiwin Branch



Alice Hoyle



Volunteer Hours 1595
 Membership 26

Executive Committee

President
 Vice-President

Alice Hoyle
 Lorraine McKay

Secretary
 Treasurer

Patty Caputo
 Lee Koop

Projects:

Archives – our branch is still involved with Archives activism. The City of Wetaskiwin Archives continues to be closed. The management firm that reviewed the Archives collection, systems and procedures gave a very favourable report on what had been done in the past. Wetaskiwin City Council has now asked the Administration to prepare an analysis on the feasibility of two of the three possible options for the Archives that were suggested by the management consultants.

We have been advised that the final report on the two possible options for the Archives going forward, will be presented to City Council at the end of the third quarter, 2022. This means that there is no possibility of the Archives reopening until at least 2023. Sad news for all people who regularly use this facility for their research.

Branch Library – currently closed as it had been housed within the City Archives.

Community Outreach:

As with most of the branches, Wetaskiwin branch's options for community outreach were greatly reduced because of the pandemic. In December, the Family History Centre did open with reduced hours and some of our members volunteer as consultants at that facility

Education and Training:

All our branch meetings were via Zoom during 2021. However, at each of our meetings our Program Coordinator, Claudia Malloch, has provided us with webinars, training sessions or group information sharing sessions after the business part of our monthly meetings. Many of our members also regularly attend webinars hosted by genealogical societies in various locations. We have all gained a wealth of knowledge from these webinars, including those hosted by AGS.

GenFair 2021:

After GenFair 2020 was cancelled, we rallied around the preparations for a GenFair 2021. This all came to fruition with the help of the committee and especially the cooperation and hard work of the three people who did presentations during the day. Zoom was the format for the day; the presenters were able to stay at home to avoid contact with people during a time when we were basically locked down. A big thank you to the three presenters, to the AGS members who assisted with the technical side of Zoom, and to all who attended. A bonus of the Zoom format was that the AGM had a record number of attendees for a GenFair.

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

January – “Using Pinterest for Genealogy” and “Using the Maps Option on the Family Search website”.

February – “What’s new on Ancestry website” as well as a presentation from Diahn Southard about DNA – different categories of testing and how they are each important tools in connecting with relatives.

March – “How to Set up your Download Folder”; “How to increase the size of the text on your computer screen”; “Using Family Search Image Search option for your research”.

April – We had several short ‘techie’ videos – tips on using Google gmail; how to combine multiple documents into a PDF format; how to download and use Google Keep.

May –

- *Get it Together – 5 tips to make Google calendar work for you*
- *How to do a screen recording on your Android Device*
- *What is Genetic Distance as it relates to DNA?*

June – Webinar on the 1918 pandemic and how it affected the world.

September – Our newsletter editor, Sharon Aney, spoke to us about the latest branch publication, *Memories of the 2020-2021 COVID-19 Pandemic*. Seventeen of our branch members contributed their stories for this latest publication. In addition, we had a sharing portion with branch members recapping their summer 2021 experiences.

October –

- *Diahn Southard – how to interpret DNA testing results, specifically relating to YDNA testing*
- *What is WATO – What are the Odds*
- *Become Symbol Savvy: 3 Easy Ways.*

November – *World War I – Women’s Lives During the War* – a webinar by Gena Philibert-Ortega

No meeting in December

ALL meetings in 2021 were via Zoom format, courtesy of the AGS subscription to this format.

Volunteerism

Our branch members still volunteer their time doing research for the requests that are sent to us via the AGS website, phone calls, or emails. As well, several members do volunteer research for those who contact them personally. Our volunteer research members have encountered roadblocks with access to information due to the closure of the Archives in Wetaskiwin.

Branch Members’ Contribution to our Branch Newsletter and to RS:

In 2021, our branch members contributed several articles to our branch newsletter as well as to the AGS publication *Relatively Speaking*.

New Wetaskiwin Branch Publication

Spurred on by our newsletter editor, Sharon Aney, 17 members of our branch contributed articles for the latest branch publication *Memories of the 2020-2021 -19 Pandemic*. The contributors shared their thoughts and personal experiences during this difficult time. We hope

this will be a reminder in years to come, of how the pandemic affected us all.

Awards 2021:

At the April 2021 AGM, Wetaskiwin branch and Wetaskiwin branch members were presented with the following awards:

- **Special Mention Award** – presented to the branch for organizing and hosting GenFair 2021.
- **Kenneth Young Newsletter Award** – For best article in a branch newsletter in 2021, presented to our newsletter editor, Sharon Aney
- **Peter Staveley Memorial Award** – For best Relatively Speaking Article, “Vanishing Prairie Icons: Where Main Street meets Railway Avenue” – Presented to John Althouse

Thank you to the branch members who volunteered to be on the Executive, the Committee Chairs, those who contributed articles to our newsletter, and all our members who continue to share their wisdom and knowledge with the branch members. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Alice Hoyle, President

Edmonton Public Library /AGS Cemetery Digitization Ad Hoc Committee

- Kurt Patterson

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) has over 65 AGS cemetery items created since the 1970s. Branches may have some of these individual books. However, the entire print collection is no longer available at the AGS library.

The idea of recording cemeteries started in Alberta with the formation of the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) in 1973, long before online access. In Volume 2 Number 1 (November 1973) issue of Relatively Speaking (RS), the editor, John Hughes wrote "*we hope to print lists of graves in some of the smaller local graveyards. The type of cemetery we should be interested in is the fifty square foot plot at Mosquito Creek, Alberta which is overrun with*

weeds, the fence is falling down, one half of the gravestones are tipped over. These are the cemeteries that will soon disappear." For the next several years, over fifty individual cemetery recordings were published in *Relatively Speaking*. All of the past issues of *Relatively Speaking* — from 1973 to the present — have been fully digitized and are now available for viewing and downloading and searching in the AGS *Relatively Speaking* Digital Library. (www.abgenealogy.ca/rs-digital-library). This is a great example of digitized genealogy content.

Many cemeteries in Alberta have been registered by various names at varying times, creating confusion in identification. AGS created a directory with lists of cemeteries with the name currently in use, the legal location of the cemetery, the name of the town village or city nearby and the name of the Municipal Division (Improvement District, Special Area, Municipal District or County) in which the cemetery is located. (Master Data Bank Cemetery Recording Index 1988)

Later, individual cemeteries were recorded and assigned a unique AGS cemetery key number, then published with their own unique ISBN number. As the number of cemeteries recorded increased, it was decided to group the cemeteries by geographical area, publishing directories with a number of cemeteries within one publication, also with unique International Standard Book Number (ISBN) identifiers.

By the end of December 1996, AGS had recorded 1,250 of the approximate 1,800 cemeteries in Alberta. All of these names were recorded in the computerized cemetery database, known as the AGS Surname Database. Today, this AGS member only online surname database contains in excess of 800,000 records. (www.abgenealogy.ca/surname-database) An updated version of this database will be available online by September 2022.

This project to digitize the print library cemetery library books is ongoing with expected completion in 2022-2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gaming

Laura Turnbull



Volunteer Hours: 55.5

We received notification on December 18, 2021 that our next casino event is scheduled for March 20-21, 2022 at Century Casino in Edmonton.

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 May 2022. 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 casino events:

Only one Branch had a casino event take place in 2021. All others are waiting for a casino event in 2022.

GenFair 2021

Alice Hoyle



Volunteer Hours: 67.5

After the in-person event we had planned for 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic, GenFair 2021 went ahead with Wetaskiwin Branch hosting this event. GenFair was held Saturday, April 24, 2021 and it was a virtual event due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and the status of the pandemic. Attendees did not have to pay to attend GenFair 2021.

There were three presentations given by the following individuals:

1. *What's in a Name?* – Discover how this region of Canada was settled and why Wetaskiwin was known as *Siding 16* – Dr. Karen Aberle, PhD.
2. *Finding Richard* – The search for an unknown gentleman only known as “Dick” – Sandi Ratch, MA., Heritage Consultant
3. *The Legacy you Leave* – Things to tell your grandchildren – Claudia Malloch, Family History Consultant

We were very pleased with the number of people who registered and attended as well as the record number of people who stayed online for the AGM of the Alberta Genealogical Society which followed the above presentations. Thanks to the willing presenters and those who volunteered their time and expertise on behalf of the branch and AGS, this event was a success.

We look forward to virtually attending GenFair 2022, hosted by Grande Prairie Branch.

Grants/Other Funding Committee

Marion Rex



Volunteer Hours: 172

Sponsorship

The Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) is forever grateful for the funding received through sponsorship from the Government of Alberta 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 February, 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 coordinator, as well as face-to-face and virtual meetings held by the Finance Committee.

Grants

The Alberta Genealogical Society is very appreciative of the funding received through sponsorship from the Historic Resources Management Branch, and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

- **Historic Resources Management Branch (HRMB) Sponsorship**—The Provincial Heritage Organizations are under the umbrella of the Historic Resources Management Branch, funded by the Government of Alberta through the Heritage Division of Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism, and Status of Women. In 2021, AGS received **\$29,000** (\$14,750 in 2020) which was applied to expenses incurred for our publications, training programs, professional consultations, and general administration.

- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Sponsorship**—In 2021, AGS received **\$26,964** in operational funding from the EHC funded by the City of Edmonton (\$22,276 in 2020). This funding helps provide both staffing and operational support.
- **Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Change Capital Project Grant**—At the May meeting, AGS decided to apply for a change capital project grant for the Alberta Records Name Index project. I applied to EHC for a Capital Project Grant based on a proposal for the project received from OtherMachines. We received notification on September 7, 2021 that we were the successful recipients of **\$19,480**. The project must be completed within 12 months from the date that we signed the contract with Edmonton Heritage Council. Things are progressing very well on the project.

General Donations

Thanks to the generosity of its members, businesses, and other non-profit associations, AGS Provincial \$3,748.75 (\$3,809.50 in 2020) and its branches \$4,618.12 (\$3,854.87 in 2020) received \$8,366.87 (\$7,664.37 in 2020) in donations. Donations given in memoriam are listed with the acknowledgement of donations earlier in this annual report.

• Provincial Office	\$3,748.75
• Brooks	20.00
• Camrose	-
• Drayton Valley	-
• Edmonton	1,382.15
• Fort McMurray	-
• Grande Prairie	598.67
• Lethbridge	370.00
• Medicine Hat	2,027.30
• Red Deer	185.00
• Wetaskiwin	35.00
TOTAL	<u>\$8,366.87</u>

Thank you letters and donation receipts were mailed to all individual donors in February 2022. We are grateful to all those on the list of individual donors published in this annual report.

Genealogy for Children & Youth

Drayton Valley Branch is to be commended for their work with the Program Manager at the Drayton Valley Library to make the Genealogy for Youth program accessible through kits, which include the workbooks, books associated with the workbooks, a letter inviting them to share their experience through a story and pictures, and a certificate for those who complete the workbook. They provided the bins, workbooks, letters and certificates to the library and we made them available for loan, restricted for loan to Drayton Valley only. There has been interest generated by the local home school association in accessing these kits.

Edmonton Branch continued their work with youth. Certificates were awarded to 25 students for Social Studies posters created about either their First Nations history or their immigrant family's journey to Canada. As well, 25 certificates were given to students who completed a Language Arts project documenting the history of a family heirloom. Seven of the above projects were published as articles in the Youth Write-On column of the *Relatively Speaking* journal.

Library & Resource Centre

Claudine Nelson



another time.

Unfortunately, the Edmonton Branch AGS library volunteers have not been able to fill all positions so some volunteers have been doing extra shifts. Some are working by themselves instead of the

usual two volunteers per shift. For safety reasons, it helps having the Office Coordinator working at the same time.

The Library and Research Center was closed from 1 January 2021 to 8 March 2021 and 2 April to 9 June 2021. The Library was closed 10 December 2021 for its annual closure with the expectations that it would reopen 4 January 2022. However, it did not reopen until 15 January 2022 due to cold weather and COVID-19.

- Number of users during **COVID-19 CLOSURE's** include staff, society administration duties and acquiring supplies: **232**
- **Library Users** during open dates:

990

Library usage: TOTAL 1,222

This number does include 36 non-members using the library.

Membership

Janine Carroll Volunteer Hours 30



A membership committee has become active with an invitation going to all Branches. In cases that the Branch doesn't have an individual in their local membership position, the president was invited to participate. We've had one meeting thus far with a mandate of creating a draft role and responsibilities of a "Branch Membership Representative". The Nov. 16, 2020 Bluejeans meeting was attended by six people representing five Branches. Branch representatives suggested that the AGS policy should be kept general, as specific circumstances affect various Branches - size, urban/rural location create unique communication variances. It would be advantageous therefor, that each Branch further have a membership representative role and a responsibility document tailored to themselves. Medicine Hat and Edmonton have these as part of their policy manuals and are willing to share. Our

discussion included topics which we would like to further discuss - how to elevate community awareness of Branches, for example. We talked about the advantage of combined efforts from Branch executive, their membership representative and all members to contribute towards a healthy membership. I attended the AGS Membership Strategic Plan meeting, chaired by Marion Rex and attend also by Lianne Kruger and Susan Haga on September 19, 2020. It was a fruitful meeting in which we updated the strategic plan, set goals and outlined a sample questionnaire to get feedback from members and former members. Branch reps are happy with the AGS membership renewal options and ease. There was a suggestion that email addresses be dropped from the AGS data base after a certain time.

A discussion was held about how Branches can become more visible in their community. And about how distant Branches can better utilize the AGS library. It was noted that setting membership goals is very individual to each Branch. We looked at creating a membership renewal strategic plan.

Thanks to the various Branch Membership representatives, Claudine Nelson, Tammy Grantham, Henry Najda, Wendy Roth, Connie Stuhl, Jean Smith Gray, Patrick Barry, Teresa Parasynchuk, Judith Machtans, and Leroy Koop for their work on this committee.

I am stepping down from the position of Provincial Membership Chair as of November 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Carroll
AGS Membership Chair

Policies & Procedures/Bylaws

Al Bromling



There were three policy initiatives developed and submitted for approval by the Board. The policy development process was different in each case and various committee members were involved, in consultation with the 2nd Vice President. A fourth initiative was an ad hoc committee set by the Board.

A draft **Investment of Society Funds Policy** (VIII-200) was presented for Board consideration and gained approval. This Policy is intended to formalize current investment practice and provide Society Officers with a framework for future investment decisions. Thanks are extended to the members of the Finance Committee for valuable assistance with this project.

A draft revision of the **Margaret Kay Scholarship (Bursary) Policy** (VIII-170) was presented and gained Board approval. It includes a name change to 'Bursary' that more accurately reflects the intention and operation of this fund. The new Policy allows the Branch to award up to one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) annually to qualified candidates. Thanks are extended to Grande Prairie & District Branch executive members for their assistance with this amendment initiative.

Our Society has an **Agreements with Outside Parties Policy** (VII-10). To assist Society Officers in negotiating these agreements, three contracting templates were identified and adapted for Society use. These templates were approved by the Board for inclusion in **Section X – Forms** of the Operations Manual. Special thanks to Lianne Kruger and Kurt Paterson for assistance with this improvement in our procedures.

Early in 2021, following previous discussions of the item, the Board asked an ad hoc committee to research the matter of societal relationship with Indigenous Peoples and recommend positive steps that AGS might take. The **Indigenous Acknowledgement Committee** was established by Board motion on May 29, 2021. The six members were: Janine Carroll, Les Campbell, Lynne Duigou (ex-officio), Al Bromling, Sheila Genaille, Dwight Brown. The initial meeting of the Committee was held June 23rd, via Zoom. Al Bromling and Janine Carroll were named to Co-Chair the Committee.

There was consensus that AGS should have an Acknowledgement of Indigenous traditional lands because:

- we care about Alberta’s Indigenous Peoples,
- we want to be part of the reconciliation/solution,
- we want to be more educated on the history of Indigenous Peoples, and
- we want to act and educate to better understand the concerns of Indigenous communities.

It was agreed our AGS statement should be:

- respectful, hopeful, positive,
- not apologetic in tone, and
- celebratory in tone.

The statement agreed upon was **“Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges Alberta’s Indigenous People on whose traditional land we gather.”** Approved at the November meeting for use at all Board of Directors meetings and the Annual General Meeting. Branches are free to use the statement as they see appropriate.

Relatively Speaking

Lynne Duigou

Volunteer Hours: 153

I continue to act as the Editor of *Relatively Speaking* in 2021. We



have found and mentored an experienced volunteer, Linda Bolton-Holder, was appointed as *Relatively Speaking* Editor November 27, 2021 and will take on the position in 2022. We produced four issues

this year on the following themes:

- February – My Favorite Ancestor,
- May – Work/Occupation,
- August – Breaking Down Brick Walls,
- November – Researching Canadian Soldiers War Records.

My thanks to the Editing Team, Denise Daubert, Marilyn Wales, Janet Cooper and Suzanne Maynard, Marilyn Astle and Wendy Warner, Layout – Marie Vieira, the Mailing team – Terry Terlesky and Jo Nuthack the Library volunteers who, when possible, stuff the envelopes for each issue. The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging as it has meant that everything is done online. During lockdowns, there are no volunteers to stuff envelopes ready for mailing as no gatherings were allowed. My husband, Lou, and I stuffed the envelopes ready to mail. Jo Nuthack trained Terry Terlesky to do the RS mailing tasks and retired. Thanks to Jo for his years of service to AGS and *Relatively Speaking*.

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. In 2021, as in 2020, we were unable to meet Fridays due to COVID-

19 lockdown periods 1st January to 8th March and 2nd April to 9th June.

Participating during 2021 were Gordon Berdahl, John Hazelwood, Claudine Nelson, Louise Perkins, Pat Pettitt, and Norma Wolowyk. Shannon Cherkowski, again, gave incredible support to the team during 2021 by searching her numerous genealogical indexes when requested.

During COVID-19, queries were forwarded to researchers who then responded by e-mail from their home computers. 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.).

205 queries (146 in 2020) were processed for AGS during 2021. As Edmonton Branch AGS processed 150 (171 in 2020) the total queries handled by the Committee during 2021 was 355 (317 during 2020). There was an increase in requests for copies of homestead files during 2021; this is very rewarding to see as it makes the many, many dedicated hours given by AGS volunteers in creating indexes to the microfilms held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta so very worthwhile. Hopefully this trend will continue into 2022.

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. Then using the *Request for Copies* button on the website an email is sent to the AGS Research Committee. It became difficult during the COVID-19 pandemic to supply copies of homestead records in a timely manner. The Provincial Archives was closed to the public from the 18th March to the 23rd June 2020. Upon reopening in June, restrictions were placed on accessing the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). The microfilm reader/printer was available for use on Tuesdays and Fridays for two-hour appointments. Only four microfilms could be requested for each appointment. On the 8th December 2020, the PAA again was closed to the public due to further pandemic restrictions. Researchers were notified that their requests would be handled when the PAA was accessible in 2022.

Thank you to Jackie Pearson, AGS Office Coordinator, for handling the mail and phone calls for the Research Committee and collecting payment information. Her prompt and efficient attention to these matters during another difficult year is very much appreciated.

Retreat

Susan Haga



Our Retreat Committee for the past year has consisted of Co-Chairs Susan Haga and Jock Howard (Past President). The past couple of years our annual retreat has been suspended due to our pandemic situation. Although this past year has been quite unusual because of the pandemic, we currently are planning to hold our September Retreat 2022. In absence of our Annual Retreat, we've continued to hold our usual board meeting in place of our it but usually a virtual one through Zoom videoconferencing.

Previously in the past board meetings, there has been a lot of discussion on the Retreat and 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. Back when we were still holding our Retreat in person, we invited an additional Branch member to attend to meet with us as a board and as committee members to allow them to see the process of our Retreat and our board meetings hoping they will one day want to volunteer on the provincial level.

Our next Retreat may be held September 23-25, 2022, hoping that our pandemic situation has been resolved by then. Otherwise, we may hold another virtual September Board meeting in place of it.

Webmaster

Lianne Kruger



Volunteer Hours - 463

WEBSITE CHAIR

As Website Chair, when a branch changes board members, I change the name and information on the website and also edit the email address.

I have continued to make editing changes to the website to update and clean up, specifically the resource pages. I have included some and am working on the other branches resources with links to their search website. I find the links for each and add them.

While working with Norma Wolowyk on the layout of the *Homestead Database page*, I added a search button with instructions at the top of the first page. I have added this resource to the FamilySearch wiki pages and will add other resources to wiki in the future.

When there is a problem with the website or with emails comes up, I send the problem immediately

to MediaShaker. Therefore, the problem will be dealt with immediately because we pay for this service from MediaShaker. Thank you to Deb Boelstler, Deb Trout, and Nik Henke who help with the website tasks.

These are some of the changes I made during 2021 to the AGS website and the members databases: On the home page for the AGS Library and Edmonton Branch, I fixed the layout, added GenFair info with a webpage link, fixed the footer, updated Executive introductions, updated Library Research Center dates and information with a link to the calendar, Newspaper Indexes updated. AGS News and Events updated with Added GenFair 2022 info and link to the page. Educational Opportunities re: Conference seminars added, logos updated, Rootstech connect logo, Ontario Ancestors logo, added AGS 50th Anniversary Conference April 2023, Margaret Kay Scholarship. Added winners of the scholarship to the webpage, updated information changes for the scholarship. Membership Benefits added links and information for benefits. Branch Resources – fixed background colours and added some branch resources. Executive list: changed / updated emails and names for branch representatives, chair directors list. Volunteer Opportunities updated to available volunteer positions for this year. Membership time to Renew 2022 form sent out. AGS Nominations updated to 2022 President, 1st VP, and Treasurer. Relatively Speaking-updated the description of RS on the page available to everyone and to members only and updated the image for the latest version, and the list of articles and sent out RS in mass email. Removed Surname Queries from the Resources menu, added and removed members to the board members list and their emails.

Deb Boelstler continues to be a great support, uploading late reports and making changes to when the library is open and the requirements because of COVID-19!

Deb Trout continues to create Zoom meetings for the executive, board and branches by requests to abgenealogycalendar@gmail.com. Deb Trout and I have created a AGS Zoom *gmail account* which we can both use. Zoom requires a

verification code occasionally. With a joint email either of us can verify.

DATABASE CHAIR

Norma Wolowyk



The surname database has been available for members to use since 2007 when Dwayne Holmberg created the online database for us. He has hosted the database since that time on his server at no charge to AGS! We would like to thank Dwayne for this

wonderful service! Many genealogical answers have been found by our research team for the public and our members because this database was available online. FYI: We pay \$300.00/year for the hosting of the Homestead Database by MediaShaker.

A meeting was held to decide what to do with this database. During the meeting, Norma Wolowyk, Shannon Cherkowski, Kurt Paterson, Jock Howard, Lynne Duigou and I discussed: where the current back-ups of the database are located. We listed them and identified, how the editing and standardization would be accomplished. Norma and Shannon will pick different cemeteries to work on. Each cemetery is identified by the Cemetery Number called a Key.

They will do the following:

Check the data to make sure all the data is there for that cemetery. They will check the paper files at AGS to see that all data has been entered as there may have been some new data submitted since 2007, correct mistakes and standardize data for dates - month, day, year, and abbreviations, add a third column for the cemetery name and add any new information.

All AGS members will continue to have full access to the database! Whereas, non-members will get an index, list of names with no information.

After the meeting, Lynne Duigou talked to Dwayne Holmberg, OtherMachines, and he is willing to host the database. I had a meeting with Dwayne to describe what we would like for the new updated database. He prepared a proposal to submit to AGS for updating and hosting the database. The new website page will look similar to what ANI (Alberta Name Index) looks like on the Edmonton Branch website.

Included in the proposal will be a way for anyone to search and receive a list of possibilities. To see the specific information on a name the searcher, would then either contact our Research Team and ask for the information and donate to AGS, or become a member of AGS. The AGS member would then have the ability to see all records and all the information on the record. All item types in the database will be listed, such as cemetery, books, maps, etc. similar to the list in ANI.

The new database is being constructed by Dwayne Holmberg of OtherMachines at a cost of \$19,980.00. It is being paid for with a grant from Edmonton Heritage Council. Norma Wolowyk was appointed Database chair at the November Board of Directors Meeting. I have agreed stay on the committee as technical support.

Name of the surname database has changed a couple of times. The title does not accurately describe its contents. The database committee will present their choice for a new name on May 28, 2022 at the Board meeting.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR

Lianne Kruger



Thank you to all of those managing and posting to the various social media platforms in the branches and AGS.

We have another platform for AGS, Instagram that is maintained by Bradley Pierson. Thank you, Bradley for taking this on.

<https://www.instagram.com/abgenealogy>

Monthly Webinar

When monthly webinars started, I created a google form for registrations. I emailed Sheila Genaille the link for the registration and the poster to all participants each month. We had to have a deadline so that I could gather all those who had registered and email them the link to the session.

We used BlueJeans in 2020 and in 2021 used Zoom for the sessions. We converted to Zoom registrations. I sent a mass e-mail with the registration link. This allowed participants to register up to the last minute and saved time sending out the link to everyone who registered, even after the deadline.

Each month, I met with the presenters a week or two before the session to ensure that each speaker knew how to share their screens as well as sound. Also, I was the technical support during the sessions, turning off mics and cameras of the guests so that it didn't interrupt the speakers and distract the other participants. I also hosted the Q&A after each session replaying the questions from the participants. Since September, I have been teaching in the evenings so was unable to continue this service. Webinar series has ceased to be offered since summer 2021.

I sent copies of examples of speaker contracts for inclusion in the Operations Manual for future reference.

Mass Emails

I continue to send out mass emails for the monthly webinars, Relatively Speaking etc.

GenFair

I met with the three GenFair speakers in April 2021 before their sessions on Zoom to prepare them by practicing sharing and speaking so they were prepared for their sessions.

Membership Benefits

I sent the signed contract to MyHeritage and put connection information into the members only area. I also worked with Your DNA Guide. Uploaded code to get 20% off book and mentoring sessions. Code is now on the membership page. Vivid-Pix contract was signed, and sent to Vivid-Pix.

FamilySearch

Edmonton, Lethbridge and Fort McMurray Branches now have FamilySearch Affiliated Library on their library computers. Some branches now have Family Search Affiliated Library access through their local public library that has the Family Search Affiliated Library.

AGS 2023 Conference

Les Campbell



I am having difficulty getting volunteers to help with the planning of the AGS 2023 Conference. I sent three general announcement notices to all members of the Edmonton Branch (MailChimp stats show 67% of members are viewing the notices) but received a limited response. In addition to sending general announcement notices, I have called members and have received various responses as to why they cannot volunteer.

Due to the limited response by Edmonton Branch members, I propose collectively that all Branches host the AGS 2023 Conference.

On February 24, 2022, I will be resigning my position as Edmonton Branch President and AGS 2023 Conference Chair due to health concerns.

Alberta Genealogical Society																			
Membership Statistics																			
for the year 2021																			
Branch	Primary Branch	Other branches added	Added branches	Total Branch Members	2021 New Members	2021 Deceased Members	Membership Type										RSE	RSP	Total Members
							I	F	S	S+	L	L+	ST	H	K	S			
AGS Only	31	0	0	31	12	0	11	0	17	2	0	0	1	0	0	19	12	31	
Brooks	16	3	0	19	2	0	5	2	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	9	7	16	
Camrose	22	2	2	26	3	0	5	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	4	22	
Drayton Valley	5	0	1	6	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	
Edmonton	346	8	1	355	36	4	78	5	199	40	15	6	0	2	1	197	149	346	
Ft. McMurray	7	4	1	12	1	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	7	
Grande Prairie	32	8	1	41	3	0	9	1	16	3	3	0	0	0	0	17	15	32	
Lethbridge	40	5	3	48	4	2	7	0	23	8	1	1	0	0	0	27	13	40	
Medicine Hat	58	4	3	65	2	2	17	4	30	7	0	0	0	0	0	43	15	58	
Red Deer	48	2	2	52	7	0	6	0	32	9	0	0	0	0	1	28	20	48	
Wetaskiwin	22	2	2	26	0	0	3	0	12	6	1	0	0	0	0	17	5	22	
Totals	627	38	16	681	70	8	146	14	355	76	24	7	1	2	2	383	244	627	
LEGEND																			
Primary Branch	Memberships purchased with just one branch (Home branch)																		
Added Branches	Number of branches added by branches members (\$10 each)																		
Branch added	Members who have added this branch to their membership																		
Total Members	Total Branch members (Primary + branches added)																		
	Note: By adding Branch plus Home plus Associate equals Total Memberships															#	Cost	Total \$	
I	Individual Membership															146	50	7,300	
F	Family Membership (additional members in the household)																		
S	Senior Membership															355	45	15,975	
S+	Senior Plus Membership (Additional members in the household)																		
L	Life Membership															24	-	-	
L+	Life Plus Membership (Additional members in the household)															7	-	-	
ST	Student Membership															1	5	5	
H	Honourarium Memberships															2	50	100	
MKS	Margaret Kay Scholarship recipient															2	-	-	
RS E	the number of members in that branch preferring a electronic copy of RS															383			
RS P	the number of members in that branch preferring a print copy of RS															244	10		
	Other branches added to membership															54	10	540	
	Membership Purchased																	\$ 23,920	
	Membership																	627	
	Life & Life + Members																	31	
	Total Paid memberships																	596	
	(Membership - (Life & Life +) = Memberships purchased)																		



2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision: AGS supports and motivates people to engage in accurate genealogical research that enhances family connections and stories.

Mission: To be the trusted source of genealogical resources and to provide proven genealogical methods through education, assistance, promotion, resource development, and collaboration.

Values:

Initiative: We celebrate and support people who are curious and take the initiative to research their family history.

Research: We recognize and value proven methods in effective genealogical research process.

Community: We support one another in the pursuit of genealogical research.

Respect: We welcome diversity and seek to find ways to support family roots from all cultures.

Strategic Goals 2020-2022:

Educational Opportunities: Provide educational opportunities that motivate and support genealogical research.

Membership: Support current membership and attract new members to the Alberta Genealogical Society.

Research: Develop and maintain trusted sources for genealogical research.

Collaboration: Establish province-wide collaborative efforts of our common goals.

Bringing the past, to the present, for the future.

Alberta Genealogical Society

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

Phone: (780) 423-8902 Fax: (780) 423-8980

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

“Alberta Genealogical Society respectfully acknowledges Alberta’s Indigenous People on whose traditional land we gather.”

2022 Branch Contact Information

Brooks & District Branch

President: Vacant
Box 1538, Brooks, AB T1R 1C4
Phone: (403) 362-8819
Website: www.AGSBrooks.com
Meets 2nd Saturday of the month,
1:30 p.m. JBS Canada Centre in the
Brooks Public Library
323 First Street East, Brooks

Camrose Branch

President: Deb Trout
c/o 6130 – 39 Avenue
Camrose, AB T4V 3B1
Phone: (780) 781-5100
Website:
www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com
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
Website:
www.abgenealogy.ca/drayton-valley-branch
Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month,
7:00 p.m. Drayton Valley Library,
5121 - 52 Street, Drayton Valley

Edmonton Branch

Trustee: Kurt Peterson
Unit 162, 14315 – 118 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S6
Phone: (780) 424-4429
Fax: (780) 423-8980
Email:
president@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:
www.abgenealogy.ca/ft.-mcmurray-branch
Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month,
7:00 p.m. 9B, 10019 MacDonald
Avenue, Fort McMurray

Grande Prairie & District Branch

President: Maxine Maxwell
P.O. Box 1257
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z1
Phone: (780) 512-4463
Email: gpagspresident@gmail.com
Website:
www.abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch
Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month,
6:45 p.m. Grande Prairie Public
Library
101, 9839 – 103 Avenue, Grande
Prairie

Lethbridge & District Branch

President: Marilyn Astle
Rm. 128, 909 – 3rd Avenue North
Lethbridge, AB T1H 0H5
Phone: (403) 328-9564
Email: lenthags@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: Don Zimmer
Box 971,
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 7G8
Phone: (403) 526-1163
Email: mhgs@shaw.ca
Website: mhgds.ca
Meets 1st Wednesday of the month,
7:30 p.m. Medicine Hat Monumental
Co. Ltd., 974 – 13th St. SW, Medicine
Hat

Red Deer & District Branch

President: Lauranne Hemmingway
5612 – 49 Street Close
Innisfail, AB T4G 1Y7
Email: rdbtags@gmail.com
Website:
www.abgenealogy.ca/red-deer-district-branch
Meets 4th Wednesday of the month,
7:00 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)
7:00 p.m. LDS Church, Wetaskiwin
(Use NE Door)



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Alberta Genealogical Society – Bringing the past to the present for the future!

- Active since 1973, 2021 was our 49th year of providing genealogical services to the community.
- COVID-19 challenged AGS and branches to stay connected to meetings and webinars via Zoom. Members were successful in using the isolation to expand our knowledge using technology for research and finding new resources.
- Membership for 2021 totalled 681 compared to 724 in 2020, 678 in 2019, and 678 in 2018.
- Members reported 19,138 volunteer hours in 2021, compared to 17,559 in 2020 and 34,132 in 2019.
- We held four Board of Directors meetings, five Executive meetings and 1 AGM virtually this year.
- GenFair 2021 and AGM held virtually April 24, 2021 hosted by Wetaskiwin Branch had record attendance.
- The Annual Fall Retreat was cancelled due to COVID-19. Work was done on the action plan to implement the four goals of the Strategic Plan through online committee meetings, then reported, discussed and ratified at the September and November Board of Directors meetings.
- We continued a very popular new series of webinars entitled *Discovering Our Roots, Sharing Our Stories* held the fourth Monday of each month to members and non-members.
- The total number signing into the AGS Library and Resource Centre in Edmonton including daytime visits and evening meetings was 1,222, compared to 1,306 (2020) and 2,972 (2019). Numbers were down because the library was closed 11 December 2020 to 8 March 2021 and 2 April 2021 to 9 June 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions but continued to work online with Edmonton Public Libraries on digitizing Cemetery Records.
- The Research Committee responded to 355 research queries from around the world (317 in 2020).
- We published four issues of *Relatively Speaking* including 17 first-time authors and 7 children / youth authors.
- Drayton Valley Branch worked with the Program Manager at the Library to make the Genealogy for Youth program accessible through kits available for signout. 50 certificates were presented to elementary youth for successfully completing a youth genealogy report in Edmonton Branch. Seven articles were features in *Relatively Speaking* as part of the Youth Write-On section.
- The Policies and Procedures / Bylaws committee continued their work, updating policies and bylaws.
- We secured a project grant from the Edmonton Heritage Council to digitize, standardize and update the 650,000 entries in the master surname database so it could be put online.
- Branches across Alberta continue to work on genealogical resources. Brooks & District Branch put together a walking tour pamphlet and completed the obituary index from 2009-2019. Camrose Branch is working to digitize the Camrose local newspaper from 1950s to 2021. Edmonton Branch launched a new website and database “ANI” Alberta Name Index in July. Lethbridge & District Branch launched the Southern Alberta Obituary Collection Index on their website with 101,000+ entries. Medicine Hat & District Branch continues to digitize 100 years of TELUS / AGT phone books and school yearbooks. Wetaskiwin District published *Memories of 2021 COVID Pandemic, Personal Thoughts and Experiences During this Difficult Time*,
- Seventeen Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in Camrose (2), Edmonton (11), Lethbridge (1) and Medicine Hat (3) provide valuable research and discussion groups for attendees.
- AGS secured funding through membership fees, donations, gaming events, research queries, and grants from the Edmonton Heritage Council and Heritage Resources Management Branch of the Department of Alberta Culture and Tourism.
- The Society continued to employ one part-time office coordinator and one part-time bookkeeper.
- AGS membership follows the calendar year so RENEW your Membership in November / December.

*Proud beneficiary of the Historic Resources Management Branch through the Government of Alberta,
and the Edmonton Heritage Council through the City of Edmonton.*

