



# PAST FINDER

DRAYTON VALLEY BRANCH  
ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



**DRAYTON VALLEY BRANCH  
OF  
ALBERTA GENEALOGY SOCIETY  
CELEBRATES 20 YEARS  
AS A BRANCH**

**Volume 21 Issue 1  
February 2015**

**ISSN 1920-9703**

Drayton Valley Branch  
 Alberta Genealogical Society  
 PO Box 115  
 Rocky Rapids, AB T0E 1Z0

Meetings held 7:00 pm  
 Third Wednesday of each month  
 Except July, August and December  
 In the library at Wishing Well Apartments  
 5208 – 47 Ave Valley, AB

The Branch library and resources are located at Wishing Well Apartments and are available to members seven days a week from 9:00am to 9:00 pm. The library is on the second floor. Members are given an access code to open the key lock box which will give them access to the building and another key lock box by the library door will give them access to the library.

#### EXECUTIVE

President	Connie Stuhl	780-542-9288
Past president	Colleen Andersen	780-542-2787
Vice President	vacant	
Secretary	Bev Wright	780-542-7292
Treasurer	Bev Wright	780-542-7292
Historian	Vacant	
Library	Colleen Andersen	780-542-2787
Newsletter	Miriam Roberts	780-542-2215
Publicity	Miriam Roberts	780-542-2215
Fund Raising	Vacant	
Volunteer Hours	Colleen Andersen	780-542-2787
Communication	Vacant	
Parliamentarian	Vacant	

#### TWIGS, BARK & KINDLING

Please send me some articles for the Pastfinder, I need some input.  
 I request anyone who will be celebrating 25 years as a member of AGS in the coming year, please notify the executive.

We are hoping to get some new members this year.

**NB** Past Finder will be published in Spring and Fall x 2 a year.

#### Upcoming events

Annual General Meeting, February 18. 2015



***The Drayton Valley Branch of  
The Alberta Genealogical Society***

**Learning to Navigate the Family Search and Ancestry.com Websites/Databases**

**March 21, 2015**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Norquest College, Drayton Valley  
5056- 50Ave, Drayton Valley, AB**

Price \$40.00 includes a book of the presentations and lunch.

Presenter ***Deanna Bullock***

*Credentials Experienced Alberta Genealogical Society Speaker, BA from Brigham Young University, MA from University of Alberta in Social History*

This workshop is for anyone who would like to know how to navigate the popular websites Family Search and Ancestry.com. There will be a presentation on each followed by hands on opportunity to research these two databases.

Important Information

FamilySearch.org -Do you have a current account?

Yes-please bring user name and password.

No-please create one before workshop

Ancestry.com account-Do you have an account?

Yes-please bring username and password

No- we will have a limited number of usernames and passwords for the workshop, or you can register for a free 2 week trial account.

For more information on registering for the above 2 websites or workshop please contact [ags.dvbranch@gmail.com](mailto:ags.dvbranch@gmail.com)

Send fee to D.V. Community Learning, Box 6321, Drayton Valley, AB. T7A 1R8.

For more information contact [info@dvcommunitylearning.ca](mailto:info@dvcommunitylearning.ca)

Registration Deadline March 16th, 2015. Late Registrations pay by cash only.

Please indicate if a receipt is needed.

## President's Report

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. Our Branch is still struggling with our few members. Hopefully we will attract a few more members in the coming year.

Looking back on 2014 we have changed our meeting format to be focused more on research with some guest speakers added in. This included a workshop in March with guest speaker John Althouse, a visit from the AGS President Susan Haga and Secretary Mary Ann Legris, a trip to the Family History Centre, as well as reviewing what resources we have in our own Library.

On November 19, the Drayton Valley Branch celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being a Branch of the AGS. We had guest speaker Paul Spurrell who spoke on his role in the Military and some of the military artifacts that he brought along with him. We ended the evening with cake and coffee. It was nice to see Debra Bossert, Town Councillor at this event.

In 2015 we will be hosting a workshop with guest speaker Deanna Bullock. Watch for the details further in our newsletter. We hope to see you there!

Watch our facebook page for details of plans for the meetings as we go forward.

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

Connie Stuhl

### Paul Spurrell speaks on his roll in the military for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Paul Spurrell Demonstrating headgear



Miriam Roberts with Branch Display



Acadians in Nova Scotia and Louisiana by Miriam Roberts #4339.

I first heard of The Acadians when we went as a family to Nova Scotia in 1987. As we traveled around we visited, Port Royal and Fort Anne National Historic Park and Grand Pré, which had been Acadian settlements. The area known as Acadia included New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Maine. The Acadians were originally from West Central France and were mainly city dwellers. They settled with the help of the Mi'kmaq Indians (Micmac in English and there are different spellings depending on the area they live in) of the area, in turn the Acadians helped the Micmac Indians, their main economy revolved around agriculture.

I had heard of the conflicts in North America between the British and the French in school in Wales. I had not heard about the suffering the deportation of the Acadians caused, because they had refused to swear allegiance to the British Crown. The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht abolished Acadia forever. The deportation occurred between 1755 and 1764. Some went to the British colonies of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and some survived in hiding with the help of the Micmac Indians. While others went across the Atlantic to France and Great Britain, some of these people were placed in internment camps for 20-30 years. While some were invited to live on Belle Ile en Mer off the coast of Brittany, these suffered from drought and harsh climate and delayed subsidies, which were promised to them. The Acadians that evaded transportation fled to Quebec, some survived with the help of the Micmac Indians before surrendering to the British and were imprisoned in Halifax. Some returned to Nova Scotia.

Meanwhile Louisiana, a Spanish colony in the southern part of North America off the Gulf of Mexico welcomed Acadian exiles, they began arriving in 1764 from Halifax and the colonies. In 1785, 1600 people who were exiled to England and France were brought by Spain, to Louisiana, some of these were from Belle Ile en Mer, near Brittany.

In September 2014 my husband and I took a tour, which ended in New Orleans, Louisiana. We were meeting friends in St. Louis, Missouri, so we decided to travel through Louisiana and with the research I did, I found out that the Acadians had settled in St. Martinville area. With the rented car we hired from New Orleans airport we did find the museum, which is called Acadian Memorial (Monument Acadian) with the help of the locals, in St. Martinville.

We spent about 2 1/2 hours at the Acadian Memorial and area, which is situated along Bayou Teche. We walked around the Evangeline Oak Park where the famous and most photographed oak tree is growing. There is a statue of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in the park, he wrote the poem, which relates the history of the Acadians and about Evangeline and her lover in the poem, who last met beneath the branches of the Evangeline Oak, so the legend goes.

Part of the museum relates the story of the Acadians living along side the free Blacks in the area, who contributed to the Creole food and culture in the area. In another building

there is a large interactive mural, which depicts the story of the original Acadians. It talks of how the Acadians had to adapt to the cold temperate climate in Nova Scotia and then when they arrived in Louisiana they had a totally different climate to adapt to- a sub tropical humid climate. They had probably had some experience draining land in the Minas Basin by Grand Pré, which would be helpful in the swamps they found themselves in.



*Model of Memorial at GrandPré*



*St. Martin en Tours, St. Martinville*

On the opposite wall is the “Wall Of Names” of the original settlers in the St Martinville area. There was also a book with the names of the families. More information is available on their website [www.acadianmemorial.org](http://www.acadianmemorial.org) and their email is [info@acadianmemorial.org](mailto:info@acadianmemorial.org). The address is 121 South New Market St., St. Martinville, LA 70582.

In 1988 an apology was sought from Queen Elizabeth 11 of England for the deportation of the Acadians from Nova Scotia by the Acadians in Louisiana, and an acknowledgement that the expulsion was wrong under English law. On July 28, 2003 the British and Canadian governments approved the proclamation. July 28<sup>th</sup> is now considered a special day.

We walked a short distance to the church St Martin de Tours, where there was another statue, that of Evangeline, we had a beautiful hot day to visit the town, we were glad it was not as humid as it was in New Orleans.

Acadians in Louisiana became known as “Cajuns”. The French Acadien was shortened to “Canadien” pronounced Cajien (The letter ‘D’ is pronounced like a ‘J’ in French) Cajiens when Anglicized became “Cajuns”. We did sample some of the Cajun food, but we would not make good Cajuns we don’t like spicy food, we did like the shrimp but could not eat too much because of our diets!

Louisiana was claimed by explorer René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle for France. It was given back to Spain in 1762. In 1803 Louisiana, a territory almost as large as the original United States was sold to the USA for \$15 million, it went as far north as the



southern part of the Canadian Prairies. The southern part of the territory became a state in 1812. Louisiana is the only state in the United States with political divisions in parishes.

The descendants of the original Acadians celebrated 250 years of the arrival of their ancestors on August 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> 2014. Their presence was noticed in the community while we were traveling around, we saw posters of people with Acadian surnames for the upcoming civic elections.

I do not have any connection to the Acadians, but have an interest in family history and do have a French Connection dating back to the 1100s.

While looking up on [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) I found the website [www.acadian.org](http://www.acadian.org) which also tells the story of the Acadians, with many links to other websites.

\_\_\_ *Wall of Names of Acadians*

*Statue of Evangeline*



### **Vivian Maier photo legacy in Limbo (From Chicago Tribune Sept 09, 2014)**

Vivian Maier, an amateur photographer took photographs of everyday life in Chicago. Her prints have been shown from Chicago to Moscow. Five years ago she died at 83 yrs of age. Her collection of photographs were bought for \$400 at an auction. The question of copyright arose until they found the rightful owner of her collection. John Maloof who now owns the vast majority of the collection was blindsided by litigation of reproducing the collection without consent, by Cook County Probate Court. The county's public administrator's office issued citations to the purported owners warning them of "widespread potentially unauthorized use of Maier's works."

David Deal an attorney with knowledge of Maier's collection, who is behind the litigation, also studied copyright law. A genealogist was hired to find an heir to the collection. The heir was found in France, who signed over the rights for an undisclosed sum. Now Maloof is working on registering the copyrights. The process of finding an heir and registering the copyrights is a costly procedure.

David Deal gave credit to the new owners of the photographs that they did not discard them, and they know the importance of the valuable collection. Unfortunately the court case could result in being a large expense for taxpayers, while the public will not be able to enjoy the photographs until the case is resolved.

### Postscript

I receive a catalogue from Collectables, it has a DVD for sale called “Finding Vivian Maier”. It states that John Maloof has crusaded to put Vivian Maier in the history books.

### Abbreviations of Provincial/Territorial Names in Canada and State Names in The United States of America

#### Canada

AB Alberta  
 BC British Columbia  
 MB Manitoba  
 NB New Brunswick  
 NF Newfoundland  
 NS Nova Scotia  
 NT North West Territories  
 NU Nunavut  
 ON Ontario  
 PE Prince Edward Island  
 PQ Quebec  
 SK Saskatchewan  
 YK Yukon

#### United States of America

AK Alaska  
 AL Alabama  
 AR Arkansas  
 AZ Arizona  
 CA California  
 CO Colorado  
 CT Connecticut  
 DC District of Columbia  
 DE Delaware  
 FL Florida  
 GA Georgia  
 HI Hawaii  
 IA Iowa  
 ID Idaho  
 IL Illinois  
 IN Indiana  
 KS Kansas  
 KY Kentucky

#### USA cont'd

LA Louisiana  
 ME Maine  
 MD Maryland  
 MA Massachusetts  
 MI Michigan  
 MN Minnesota  
 MS Mississippi  
 MO Missouri  
 MT Montana  
 NB Nebraska  
 NV Nevada  
 NH New Hampshire  
 NJ New Jersey  
 NM New Mexico  
 NY New York  
 NC North Carolina  
 ND North Dakota  
 OH Ohio  
 OK Oklahoma  
 OR Oregon  
 PA Pennsylvania  
 RI Rhode Island  
 SC South Carolina  
 SD South Dakota  
 TN Tennessee  
 TX Texas  
 UT Utah  
 VA Virginia  
 VT Vermont  
 WA Washington  
 WI Wisconsin  
 WV West Virginia  
 WY Wyoming



### **Query in Relatively Speaking replied by Miriam Roberts**

In the August 2014, Vol 42, No 3 Issue of Relatively Speaking there was a query from Gloria Cathcart looking for the Watters and Korber families, who had come from Kansas, and May Ellen and George Korber who were buried at South Park Cemetery, Sangudo.

Since I know two people who came from Sangudo, and live in Drayton Valley, I called them both. They vaguely remembered them, but the first person I called brought me her book, The Lantern Era, she had marked the Korber names in the book. She had lived on the farm where the South Park Cemetery is located. We do have a copy of the same book in The Drayton Valley Branch of Alberta Genealogical Society Library.

The story covers the Korber family until about 1960. It stated that the oldest, Herschel, had moved to Edmonton and had passed away fifteen years before the book was published in 1978.

My next step was to check the [www.call411.ca](http://www.call411.ca) website for Korbers in Alberta. There were four, the first was in Hinton, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Edmonton, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> were in Sherwood Park. I called the Korber in Edmonton, he did not offer any information. The third Korber was a descendant of May Ellen and George Korber, and the fourth Korber was the father of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Korber.

I called the 4<sup>th</sup> Korber, and explained why I was calling. He was quite interested in the reunion in Kansas in September, but did not think he would go at such short notice, it was August 26<sup>th</sup> when I called him, given his age of 82, it was not surprising.

I emailed Gloria with the phone number and she replied saying she had spoken to him for an hour.

I scanned the information from The Lantern Era, and sent it to her, and she replied on her way down to the reunion in Kansas.

### **Book Report by Miriam Roberts.**

#### Family Tree By Barbara Delinsky

This book is a novel, but the author did a lot of research about genetics, and sought help from Genetic Counselors to make the book authentic.

The story is about a white couple from the New England States, Dana and Hugh, who had a daughter born with brown skin, which was a total surprise to them and their families.

There were some accusations made that the Dana had been unfaithful to Hugh. A DNA test was done, which proved the father was Hugh. In turn this made Dana feel she was not trusted, which caused hard feelings between the couple.

A test for the Sickle Cell Trait was also done, and one parent was positive, which proved there was an African American in the ancestry. This fact had been concealed from the family involved.

The results shattered the myth that one side of the family had pure “white” heritage. Fortunately even with the upheaval in the family the parents did love the child, she had a lovable nature

The reputation of the family, and the subject of racism did arise in the discussions between the families and friends.

This kind of scenario could arise in any family, and it is difficult to know how the people involved would react.

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**Eluned Roberts Story, from Ruthin, Wales. (This came from the Ruthin newspaper *Y Bedol*, not related to- *Miriam Roberts*. Translated from Welsh by *Miriam Roberts*)**

John William Roberts was my grandfather’s brother, he came from Cefn Griafolen, Llanelidan, Ruthin, and he was killed on August 29, 1918 three days after his 34<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had moved with his cousin to Southern Alberta, Canada at the beginning of the century. He voluntarily joined the army- The Canadian Infantry- and it is believed he was killed at Arras. His grave is in the extension of the Aubigny Community Cemetery, Pas de Calais, French and Welsh are on the stone. His name with others is also seen on the monument in the Llanelidan Church cemetery. It has been said that his mother was reading a letter from him from the battlefield saying he was talking about coming home at the same time his father was reading a letter from the War Office saying he had been killed. This affected his mother’s health for the rest of her life. In my possession I have his testament, his medals, the Death Penny, a small silver cross, he wore from time to time and a photo of himself. These are treasures to all of us as family. It is likely that the testament was in his uniform pocket when he was killed.



*John William Roberts and his cross.*