

Roots and Shoots

Camrose Branch – Alberta Genealogical Society

Fall 2025
Volume 22, No. 3



2025 is our 25th
Anniversary!

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Upcoming Event:



Christmas Social is drawing near! Thursday December 11th at 7 pm at the County Ag Building (4238-37 St). Bring a potluck item from your family's past. Perhaps a recipe that is dear to your heart that your family always used to enjoy. We will compile the recipes to share!

Don't forget - there are no regular meetings in January and February. SIGs are ongoing.

DAYS AND LOCATIONS TO REMEMBER FOR CAMROSE MEETINGS:

Regular Monthly Meeting:

2nd Thursday of each month, 7 pm. Held at Camrose County Agri Bldg. 4238-37 Street. Sept-Dec & Mar-Aug

Members Helping Members SIG:

1st Monday of every month, 1 pm. Held at Camrose County Agri Bldg. 4238-37 Street.

Military SIG:

3rd Wednesday of every month, 1 pm. Held at Camrose County Agri Bldg. 4238-37 Street. Sep-June

Writing Your Family History

SIG: Every Monday at 10 am; Second Session - held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 2-4 pm VIA Zoom.

Faye Carlson Friday Social

On the last Friday of the month, we meet at the Days Inn (formerly Norsemen Inn) in Gravity Lounge at 5 pm for beverages and free snacks. See you there!



Long abandoned homestead near Rosalind

Message from our Co-President - Deb Trout

Where has the year gone? Our club has been so busy this fall, and suddenly the Christmas Season is just around the corner.

In September, we hosted a reunion lunch at the Mirror Lake Centre for past and present members and their guests. It was well attended, and it was good to see some past members. The catered meal was delicious, and the conversations and shared memories were wonderful.

Our 25th Anniversary Workshop, featuring three speakers on October 4th, was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our crowd was a mix of Alberta Genealogical Society members and members of the public. The event sparked interest among many, and we have gained 4 new members, and one former member was inspired to renew their membership.

In this issue, we are sharing members' accounts for searching for an ancestor's burial place, which was the topic of our October meeting.

In November, there was a roundtable meeting where members shared the name and story of their first Alberta ancestor. Look for these stories in our newsletters in 2026.

December 11th is our last meeting of the year and our Christmas Social. The theme is Family Recipes. Attendees are encouraged to tell us their family's favourite potluck contributions over the years, along with the recipes. We are hoping to compile a booklet of AGS Camrose Favourites. Guests are welcome, so please bring a friend and a snack to share. As usual, the meeting will be streamed via Zoom, so if you can't attend in person, you can still share your family's favourite.

We will be taking a break from regular meetings for January and February. Our Special Interest Groups will take a break for December and will resume in January. Contact us at camrosegeneo@gmail.com for more details.

That's all for now. I wish one and all a happy and safe holiday season and remember – this is a good time to record those family stories and interview relatives.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

-Deb



Family History Month Meeting – October 2025

In attendance: Deb Trout, Iyrsh Snow (techie), Lilyon Lundy, Wendy Roth, Janine Carroll, Betty Lohner, Heather Smiley, Sandra Darling, Bonnie Kultosky, Alora Nelson, Maureen Scrutton

**Our focus at October's meeting was to honour Family History Month.
The topic was to tell a story of a visit one has made to an ancestor's burial place.**

How did you come across it?

Did you always know it was there and finally got to visit?

Did you discover something or someone?

- ✚ Wendy shared a story about a relative buried near her hometown in Central Alberta.
- ✚ Alora shared cemetery discoveries in three countries, Ukraine, Slovakia and Scotland.
- ✚ Bonnie told of searching for a great-grandmother in a cemetery in Brandon, Manitoba, but instead found a great Aunt.
- ✚ Maureen visited a cemetery in Kenora, Ontario, that contained many of her French-Canadian ancestors.
- ✚ Janine told about discovering her husband's military ancestor's grave in BC.
- ✚ Deb explained about her ancestor's grave in Ontario. *(see following story)*
- ✚ Lilyon told of going all the way to India to discover her relative's gravesite. *(see following story)*

- ✚ Sandra shared a story of a cemetery in England with ancestor headstones and stacked burials which were not uncommon. *(see following story)*
- ✚ Heather brought a photo book that she published about her journey to Britain where she discovered ancestor's graves. *(see following story)*



Family History Month Meeting Stories

Finding Bob and Lydie by Deb Trout

Bob and Lydie are one set of my paternal great-grandparents. I am likely to be haunted for using nicknames, but c'est la vie.

Robert Braithwaite Ogram, born on October 9, 1844, was the second-to-last child of Robert and Mary Ogram and their first child born in Canada. He took over the family farm when Robert and Mary retired. He died on November 4, 1923, in Kitchener and was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in that city.

Lydia Ogram (nee Bailey) was born on December 22, 1850, to John and Harriet Bailey, their second child. She and Robert were married in 1875. They farmed until the early 1900s, at which time they moved from Linwood to Bridgeport, Ontario. In their retirement, they moved to Albert Street in Kitchener, buying a home a couple of doors down from Lydia's sister Rachel. Lydia died January 11, 1934, and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

In 2004, I flew to Ontario to visit my daughter, Kris, and took her on a road trip to the family cemeteries. We had good luck finding graves in Linwood and in Hawkesville, but Mount Hope in Kitchener was another story.

Mount Hope is the oldest cemetery in Kitchener, with its first burial dating back to 1855. There are currently over ten thousand graves over the fifteen acres which straddle the boundary of the twin cities of Kitchener and Waterloo. It is a favourite walking/jogging spot as it is laid out like a city park.

We arrived later in the afternoon, and as there was no map, we began the search. We walked and walked and then walked some more.

Finally, out of frustration, I said out loud, "Where are you? Show me." I was compelled to turn left and start down the path, and voila!! There they were.

A few years later, my great-niece, Samantha, was interning in Kitchener, and I suggested she look up her 3x great-grandparents. She had absolutely no trouble finding them. They were waiting for her.

Nicholson Cemetery by Lilyon Luntz

Locating my great-grandmother's grave in Delhi was an ecumenical and international experience, and, finding it was an adventure!

My father, Eric Hale was born in Peshawar, Northwest Frontier, British India in 1897. Shortly before he left for Canada, his grandmother died in Delhi and was buried at Nicholson Cemetery.

My husband, Neil, and I were traveling in India in 1998, and we searched for places where my father's family had been. We had an acquaintance at the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi who had his secretary, Sukrine negotiate a taxi for us to find Nicholson Cemetery. By now we had been in India for nearly a month, and we were weary of having to always pay "baksheesh". Sukrine was to negotiate an EXACT fare for us to pay (so that the driver couldn't demand more). A Sikh taxi driver pulled up. Sukrine and the driver haggled over the price. It was a heated discussion as her bright sari fluttered in the breeze and his blue turban bobbed up and down. At last, a fair price was determined – it was to the driver's advantage to get us there as quickly as possible so as he could pick up another fare.

Driver did not look pleased as he sped off with us hanging on (no seatbelts!) in the backseat.

Cont'd

We entered the Kashmiri Gate traffic circle where there were about six lanes of traffic converging. The road was delineated, and it appeared that vehicles were constantly coming toward or beside us. I shuddered when he motioned that he would like the map we had – he looked at it while pedestrians, mopeds, cars, tuk-tuks, donkey carts, cows, and huge trucks spewing noxious fumes sped by our Humber taxi. Eventually, he tossed the map back to me and we sped off out of this chaos. Soon we found ourselves hurtling down a back-alley dodging people, animals and mopeds. Driver looked very disgusted as he slowed down, and we entered the grounds of an orphanage.

Driver got out and motioned for us to get out. I thought we would never be seen again! As he talked to a few nuns (dressed like Mother Teresa), some children came to see us. They shyly approached us, and with the approval of a nun, they reached out to touch our white skin. A smile goes a long way, and they giggled as we tried to talk to them.

Suddenly Driver reappeared with a smile on his face (he knew where he was headed!) and motioned for us to get back in the Humber. One of the nuns who spoke a bit of English, came and told us that he came to the orphanage because he knew they were Christian, and would likely know where the cemetery was. Most people in India are Hindu or Sikh who cremate their dead. Many of those faiths feel that cemeteries occupy land that the living could utilize more effectively. Back we hurtled down the crowded alley and reentered the Kashmiri Gate traffic circle. If Mother Teresa herself crossed the traffic, I wouldn't have been surprised! We quickly scooted out an exit and found ourselves approaching a narrow portal in a stone fence. The groundskeeper (a misnomer) of the cemetery wouldn't let us enter "HIS" grounds until we paid some baksheesh. We relented, paid him a few rupees, and entered an extremely ill-kept area.

The grass hadn't been mowed and goats roamed about munching on whatever foliage they could find.

The groundskeeper's many children kept following us and begged for more baksheesh. Driver kept shooing them away as Neil and I searched for the grave.

We were told that the grave we sought was 17 steps from General Nicholson's grave which was well marked. The graves were not laid out in an orderly fashion and 17 steps for my husband are quite different from mine. We fanned out to search. Driver kept tapping his foot and impatiently looking at his watch. Eventually he approached me with a piece of paper and a pen, indicating that he wanted me to write grandma's name. Carefully, and with my best printing I wrote: CAROLINE GOODMAN.

He approached each grave looking carefully at the letters and shaking his head as he realized that this wasn't the one.

Soon Neil located her grave and whistled for us to come. Driver had got there before me and kept looking at the grave and the paper that I had written upon. His eyes sparkled as he realized the words were the same – it was like when a child learns to read! He kept pointing at the grave, saying "Grandma, Grandma!" (We didn't get into semantics! Caroline was my great grandmother).

Driver was happy for us and watched as I laid a poppy and two yellow roses on her grave and sprinkled some Canadian soil upon her plot. Eventually Driver indicated that I should give him the camera and that he would take a photo of "you, the man and Grandma!" It was a special moment.

We left the cemetery, with the groundskeeper wanting more baksheesh for his "trouble". I don't know what Driver said, but it was a heated exchange of words. Out we went, back into the Kashmiri Gate Circle and the cacophony of sound and chaos.

Driver wondered if we wanted to go to his relative's carpet shop. We politely declined and the rest of the journey back to our hotel was in complete silence. The exact fare was given, and no smiles were shared.

Cont'd

The inscription on the headstone read:

In Loving Memory of Caroline Goodman

***The beloved wife of Henry Augustus
Goodman***

***Commissariat Dept who died at Delhi on the
2nd Dec 1923 in her 90th year.***

***There is a god of pity
And loveth he knows best
Leave all to his compassion
And rest our dear one rest***

***Erected by her sorrowing children
& grandchildren***



Lilyon at Nicholson Cemetery, India

Thomas Dunn Darling by Sandra Darling

My paternal grandparents, Thomas Dunn Darling and Jane Milburn, were buried in St. James Church cemetery in Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England. Thomas was born in Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland in 1877. He married Jane in 1909 in Morpeth, Northumberland, and they had four children. I never met Thomas as he died in 1939, several years before I was born. I know very little about him other than he was an excellent artist.



Thomas and Jane Darling

Thomas joined the Coldstream Guards and was captured at Ypres, France, on November 2, 1914. From there he was transferred to a POW camp in Gustrow, Michlemburg, Germany. He was a prisoner of war for four years and the family believed that he attempted to escape three times. After two attempts he was told that he would be executed if he made a further attempt. Apparently, he did make a third attempt and when a German Officer went to execute him the gun misfired and he was told that it was his lucky day! I gather no further attempts to escape were made.

Cont'd

In 2019, I learned that a friend was part of a team of volunteers who were attempting to restore the grounds of the cemetery, a mammoth task but very worthwhile. Years before I had attempted to find where my grandparents were buried with no success, so it seemed the perfect time to make another attempt to locate the grave.

My request was forwarded to one of the other volunteers, Janet. She and her husband were keen genealogists and took an interest in my family tree. They not only gave me information on the grave and its location but also additional information that I did not have about my family. Janet and I met up at the cemetery to visit the grave and to my surprise I learned that two other people were buried along with my grandparents. I was given a list of the four buried there: Ayden Ramsay, 27, buried on December 11, 1910; Margaret Duncan Hodges, 67, buried on December 17, 1924; Thomas Dunn Darling, 61, buried January 18, 1939; and Jane Milburn Darling, 66, buried on January 17, 1952.



Margaret Hodges Duncan

Before heading home, I met up with Janet for a final visit to the grave. While we were chatting Janet handed me a photo of Margaret Hodges Duncan who was the second person to be buried there. Along with the photo, Janet shared one more interesting piece of information. It turns out that Margaret Hodges Duncan was Janet's great grandmother! What are the odds that two strangers should meet up and, although not related, be connected in such a unique way through genealogy!

England Trip 2023 by Heather Smiley

In September 2023, my husband and I were fortunate to travel to England. Given my interest in genealogy, it was inevitable that a few cemetery visits would find their way into our itinerary. We visited the following graves:

Donald Emil Elliot — August 13, 1917 – May 12, 1943

Stratford-upon-Avon Cemetery

Our first visit was to the gravesite of my husband's uncle, Donald Emil Elliot. He was killed in WWII when his plane crashed near Compton Verney during a training mission. All four RCAF crew members died in the crash and subsequent fire. For many years, my husband and I knew little about the circumstances of Donald's death, as it was rarely spoken of by his family. Through his WWII personnel records and the Library and Archives Canada database, we finally learned the details of the accident and the location of his grave.

Donald was 25 when he died and had been married just over a year. We are not aware of other family members having had the opportunity to visit his burial site, making our visit especially meaningful.



Grave of Donald Emil Elliot

Cont'd

After WWI, Stratford Borough Council set aside land for future war graves. During WWII, 137 service members—mainly RCAF airmen—were buried there. We were impressed by the immaculate condition of the cemetery and the care provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

John Thomas Coxon — February 14, 1878 – September 8, 1908

Church of Our Lady Cemetery, Seaton Delaval, England

Our second stop was the grave of my great-grandfather, John Thomas Coxon. He died at age 30 in 1908 after being struck by a car while riding his motorcycle home from work. At the time, he was married with four young children, and a fifth was due the following spring. He is buried in the churchyard of a 900-year-old parish church.

His grave lies beside a cenotaph honouring his younger brother, William, who was killed in the Boer War in 1901. Uncannily, the accident that took John Thomas's life occurred only metres from a memorial fountain that also commemorated his brother. Staff from the historic church met us and shared stories about its past. We also connected with a cousin and a local man who has been tending the Coxon graves.

John Thomas's widow and all five of their children immigrated to Canada in 1928. The eldest child was my maternal grandmother. My mother, who was always very close to her grandmother, had visited John Thomas's grave in 1954. She passed away a year before our trip, and I brought some of her ashes with me to bury at the foot of her grandfather's grave—an especially emotional moment.

William Coxon — April 13, 1880 – September 5, 1901
Cenotaph at Church of Our Lady Cemetery

(Buried in Groot Marico Cemetery, South Africa)

As mentioned above, a cenotaph in memory of my great-grand-uncle, William Coxon, stands in the same churchyard. Although he is buried in South Africa, the monument was erected in his honour in



1902. During our visit, one of the men we met with presented me with a bespoke lapel pin he had commissioned featuring the emblem of the Imperial Yeomanry, the unit in which William served during the Boer War. I treasure this little reminder of our visit.



Grave of John Thomas Coxon and Cenotaph in memory of William Coxon in Seaton Delaval, UK

A Backup Reminder – from Family Tree Knots article by Ken McKinlay (September 2025)

When was the last time you backed up your important genealogy and family history related information stored on your computer?

- Was it today?
- Possibly yesterday?
- Hopefully last week?
- A month ago?
- Can't remember?
- Never?

If you have been actively working on your genealogy research and you also store the information on your computer, I'm really hoping it was one of the first three options.

In my case, I have over 120 GB of genealogy related information and, of course, a lot of personal information that I don't want to lose in the case of a disaster or an act of stupidity.

There are several ways out there to make sure your own data is protected from loss and each have their own pluses and minuses. I'm not going to go into the details about the various ways to back up your information. But I will share what I do to safeguard what I have saved on my computer.

First, no matter how you do your backup, it important that your backed up information is placed somewhere other than where it came from. For example, I use Legacy Family Tree for my genealogy database on my desktop computer. It has a built-in backup system that I use. However, instead of saving that backup to the same hard disk where my database is, I send it to a folder on Dropbox. That folder is somewhere out on the Internet on servers maintained by Dropbox.

Second, try to have your backups stored in more than one place. It could be in the cloud, on an external hard disk, on USB memory sticks, or another computer.

Finally, do your backups on a regular basis.

Since I am a Windows user, I can't speak to the options that Mac users have.

So, how do I backup up my important data?

I use two programs; both have free versions for home or non-commercial users:

I use two programs; both have free versions for home or non-commercial users:

1. [SyncBackFree](#) by 2BrightSparks.
2. [Paragon Backup & Recovery Community Edition](#) by Paragon Software.

In SyncBackFree, I have created several backup tasks that I can quickly and easily click to backup my genealogy information.

- The first backup task I have within SyncBackFree is to copy the information to Google Drive. I spend about \$50 CDN a year to get 200 GB of storage space on Google Drive. I generally use this task after a busy day or two of research since I don't want to have to redo my research again. Much like with Dropbox, this backup is stored somewhere out on the Internet on servers owned and maintained by Google.
- The other task I have within SyncBackFree is to mirror my genealogy files to a USB memory stick. I actually have two USB memory sticks that I rotate between. I try to do this every week or so depending on the amount of research I've been doing. I keep the USB memory sticks on my desk so that I can quickly grab them if I must suddenly leave my home in case of natural disaster or fire. I really don't want to lose 20+ years of research! I also use these USB memory sticks to copy my genealogy information from my desktop to my laptop.

Cont'd

The difference between what I send to Google Drive and what is placed on the USB memory sticks, is that my Google Drive backup generally only holds my genealogy database and the directories of the images of the records I've downloaded. That's about 80 GB of files. What is stored on my USB memory sticks is all that plus the other folders that are important but not critical for my genealogy research.

Once a month I also backup my whole computer to an external hard disk using the Paragon Backup & Recovery software.

This hard disk is only connected to my computer when I'm doing a backup. That way, if I ever get attacked by ransomware that encrypts my desktop's hard disk, they can't get to that external hard disk and those backups. To make sure I do this backup on a regular basis, I have set up a calendar task for the first of every month to remind me to do it.

Great, I now have the information backed up — I hope!

But I've been burned in the past when it comes to backups where I thought the information was being safeguarded on magnetic tape (yes, I'm that old) but it turned out I was dreadfully wrong. It turned out that tape had a crinkle on the edge and I couldn't restore information from it. Now, at least once a year, I also attempt to restore a file or two from a backup I've created with Paragon Backup & Recovery. Aside from making sure the data is being backed up, it also refreshes my poor brain on how to do a restore when I'm not in a panic.

I don't really have to do the same for the backups I've created with SyncBackFree since that software just copies the files to where I tell it. That means I can drag and drop those backed up files from my Google Drive or USB memory stick to my computer without too much thinking.

There are all kinds of options for backing up your important information. There are programs out there that automatically copy your information to the cloud or to connected external hard disks without you having to do anything. You set it up and it does its job. You can also save all your work to the cloud by default using OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc. and not have any data solely on your laptop, tablet, or desktop system.

As an aside, why don't I just use the built-in Windows backup since it is free? For a long time, before Windows 11, I did. But I found the version on Windows 11 just didn't give me the flexibility that I wanted. So, I looked at several programs and Paragon Backup & Restore had the features (and price) that fit my needs.

Yes, I can be a bit paranoid when it comes to backing up my computer. But that's from over 30 years of working in IT and getting burned when the backups didn't work.

All I ask from you is to...

Back up your information now!



The Commonwealth War Grave Commission Volunteer Program – reported by Deb Trout

In August 2025, one of my many genealogy emails mentioned a volunteer program for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. I was intrigued and went to their website. It sounded like something I could do, so I sent off an email for more information. I didn't hold much hope as the wording on the site indicated they didn't need volunteers from Alberta.

Imagine my surprise when I received an email on September 8th thanking me for my interest and providing more details.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was established by Royal Charter in 1917. Before that, in WWI, Sir Fabian Ware, concerned that the final resting places of the dead would be lost forever, directed his unit to begin recording all the graves they could find. By 1915, their work had received official recognition from the British War Office and was subsequently incorporated into the British Army. Today, the CWGC cares for the graves and memorials of 1.7 million servicemen and women who died during the two World Wars.

The markers are in both urban and rural areas. In some cases, extensive travel over long distances is required to complete the inspections. With the increase in global warming-related weather events, monitoring the stones on a more frequent basis is necessary. It was decided that a volunteer program, which promotes community involvement, would be the best fit for this initiative.

The program was established in April 2025. In November, we are 400 members strong!

Volunteers visit their assigned cemeteries at least once a year to collect information about the condition of the graves and the cemetery itself. They assess the stability of the stone, determine if it requires more than a surface cleaning, verify the legibility of the inscription, and determine if the area around the stone needs to be trimmed or cleared. All this information is loaded into a special smartphone app, which coordinates with the CWGC database.

I was accepted as a volunteer and completed Zoom training on October 15th. Shortly afterward, additional training material arrived, and before I could complete it, my first assignment came along.

Two of the rules we must follow are not to work on stones after November 10th and not when the temperature is zero degrees or lower. I reviewed my orientation again and planned to visit the cemetery on October 24th. There was a teacher's strike, and therefore, there was no school, so I asked my granddaughter Irysh if she wanted to go on a road trip with me. Her mother's reaction told us she wanted to go too. I think these visits will be family events.

On October 26th, we loaded up my cemetery kit and headed to the Bethany Lutheran Church Cemetery, located north of Donalda.

The weather was perfect for a Sunday drive, sunny and warm. The backroads were in good condition, and Google Maps didn't lead us astray.

I was nervous about performing this first inspection, but I didn't need to be.

Cont'd

My first veteran was Arthur Lien.

Private Arthur Lien's memorial was easy to find. It is clean, sturdy, and requires no further attention. The cemetery is immaculate. The grass is perfectly trimmed. The stones are clean and mounted on cement beams, and the plots are well laid out. I couldn't have asked for an easier first assignment.



I decided to do some research to learn his story. Private Arthur Lien was born on October 30, 1899, in Bergen, Norway. At the age of twenty-one, in 1921, he began his mandatory service in the Norwegian Army. He completed his service in 1924 and left his home for Canada that same year.

He crossed the country to Donalda, Alberta, where family had previously immigrated. He lived and worked with his uncle, Jens Jerstad, on Jens' farm 10 km north of town.

In 1927, Arthur travelled to New York City to visit his brother. While there, he met Jennie Arneson, who had recently arrived from Norway. In early 1930, they were married in Brooklyn. Their honeymoon was a trip across Canada to the

family farm. They had two daughters, Margaret and Ruth.



Arthur and Jennie Lien

The Bethany Lutheran Church, located half a mile from their home, was an important part of the Lien family's life. Arthur rose early on Sunday mornings to fire up the furnace so that when the rest of the congregation arrived, they could worship in comfort. Often, meetings and worship would be held in their home to save the Church money on their utilities.



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On November 14th, 1940, at the age of 41, Arthur enlisted in Calgary. He was assigned to the Ordnance branch of the Army.

However, on the 19th of the same month, he was admitted to the Mewata Hospital on the training base, and on the 20th, he was transferred to the Colonel Belcher Hospital in Calgary.

He had suffered a pain in his chest in August 1940 and saw a doctor, but the pain didn't last. It returned during the strenuous training. The doctor at Colonel Belcher could find no cause, although they thought it could be an aftereffect of influenza.

Arthur was taken on strength at the Ordnance Corps Training Centre in Barriefield, Ontario, on December 6, 1940, but was returned to Calgary on January 20, 1941.

An electrocardiogram was performed on January 29th, and it was discovered that he suffered from Myocarditis, likely caused by a bout of influenza. The doctor recommended that he be discharged from the Army as unfit for service.

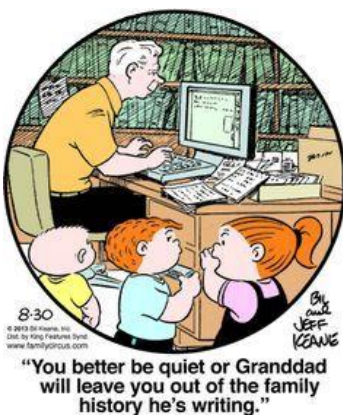
Arthur was posted to the casualty section on February 4th and discharged ten days later.

He died on February 27th, 1941, after just 93 days of service.

Thank you for your service, Arthur. You are remembered.

For anyone interested in the program, this is the link to their website.

<https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/volunteer/volunteering-in-north-america/>



"You better be quiet or Granddad will leave you out of the family history he's writing."

25th ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



**Lunch Buffet Event at the Camrose Senior Centre. This event was for former and current members and their guests.
September 2025**



**Genealogists and family historians
always have a lot to talk about!**



Nadine Leming, Camrose Booster
As part of recognizing the Camrose Genealogy Society's milestone anniversary, a special luncheon was held a few weeks ago to honour and appreciate all past and current members of the society.

**The Camrose Booster was there
to report on our event.**



Genealogy Society celebrates 25 years in Camrose



Nadine Leming, Camrose Booster

The Camrose Genealogy Society has been celebrating its 25th anniversary in the community with several events. Part of the celebrations included a one-day workshop with several presenters talking about how to preserve your family's heritage and genealogy. Edmonton icon Bob Layton kicked the day off by sharing stories from his life and books. He used humour mixed with practical advice on how to write your family history in book form. Other speakers included Thomas MacEntee (this was one of his last presentations) and Ellen Thompson-Jennings, who has trained with leading minds in genetic genealogy.



Nadine Leming, Camrose Booster

The Camrose Genealogy Society had a full house at their recent one-day workshop as part of its celebration as a community organization. Janine Carroll and Deb Trout did an amazing job of organizing the day and were pleased with the turnout.



Upcoming Webinars



Radical Cartography: How Changing Our Maps Can Change Our World

with William Rankin

Wednesday, December 3, 2025
4-5 pm (MST)

Maps are ubiquitous in contemporary life, used not just for navigation, but for making sense of our society, our environment, and even ourselves. In an instant, huge datasets can be plotted, and we can explore faraway places in exacting detail.

This is an author event, will be discussing his book.

<https://hubs.americanancestors.org/radical-cartography-how-changing-our-maps-can-change-our-world-with-william-rankin>



Scattered Leaves: Reconnecting family branches with DNA

with Fiona Brooker

Wednesday December 10, 2025
6 pm (MST)

When our families scattered across the globe, they often left close family behind. The family connections were lost over the subsequent generations. Now through family history research and DNA we are reconnecting with the branches of our family tree as shown in these case studies.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/scattered-leaves-reconnecting-family-branches-with-dna/>



Christmas Ideas to Celebrate your Family History

with Sharlene Habermeyer

Thursday December 11, 2025
11 am (MST)

Discover how Christmas and holiday traditions from around the world connect us to our family history and heritage. This festive livestream explores global Christmas celebrations, foods, music, and stories passed down through generations.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/christmas-ideas-to-celebrate-your-family-history>



Heritage Travel: Best Practices for Planning an Itinerary

with Kyle Betit

Wednesday December 17, 2025
11 am (MST)

Discover the value of visiting your ancestral home on a heritage trip and learn how to effectively plan an itinerary. Discover practical tips about what kind of locations, experiences, and other elements you can include in your journey. We'll also discuss when professional help can be beneficial and describe the journeys Ancestry ProGenealogists offers.

https://events.zoom.us/j/3jZXgcg_QTKlhrUgD4VCrw/purchase

Genealogy Gleanings:

5 Questions to Determine Your Ancestor's Correct Birth Date

<https://familytreemagazine.com/records/vital/5-questions-to-determine-your-ancestors-correct-birthdate/>

7 Steps for Fact-Checking Online Family Trees

<https://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/fact-check-family-trees/>

Genealogy Sleuthing Part II: Using Women's Fashion to Date Old Photos

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/womens-fashion-date-old-photos>

Genealogical Proof Standard

<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/basics/genealogical-proof-standard/>

Y Chromosome DNA Test

<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/dna-testing/y-dna-test/>

Mitochondrial DNA Testing (mtDNA)

<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/dna-testing/mitochondrial-dna-testing/>

Beyond Names and Dates: Adding Color to Your Family's Story

<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/beyond-names-and-dates-adding-color-to-your-familys-story/>

Tips for Using Social Media to Connect with Long-Lost Relatives

<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/blog/tips-for-using-social-media-to-connect-with-long-lost-relatives/>

Testing Ancestry's Photo Facial Recognition

<https://atreewithnoname.blogspot.com/2024/05/testing-ancestrys-photo-facial.html>

Advice from a Recovering Blowhard: A Genealogist's Guide to Getting Over Yourself

<https://ancestralfindings.com/advice-from-a-recovering-blowhard-a-genealogists-guide-to-getting-over-yourself/>

Tracing Your Ancestors in Colonial America

<https://www.thefhguide.com/blog/tracing-your-ancestors-in-colonial-america-2/>

Lots of learning opportunities on the Virtual Genealogical Association's YouTube channel

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=43239>

Tech Tips - Wildcard Searching!!

<https://mailchi.mp/familytreetech.com/family-tree-tech-black-friday-special-15582557?e=894111b346>

A new not-for-profit activist group of genealogists, historians, researchers, and open government advocate.

<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

From Vikings to Beethoven: what your DNA says about your ancient relatives

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02536-w>

Estate Planning for Family Historians & Genealogists

<https://wheatonwood.com/2024/08/02/estate-planning-for-family-historians-genealogists/>

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