

Roots and Shoots

Camrose Branch – Alberta Genealogical Society

Summer 2025

Volume 22, No. 2



2025 is our 25th
Anniversary!

In this issue:

- **Page 2** – Co-Presidents Message
- **Page 3-5** – Iron Creek Museum Visit
- **Page 6** – 25th Anniversary Events
- **Page 7** – In Memoriam
- **Page 8,9** – 25 Years of Photos
- **Page 10,11** – 25 Years of Articles
- **Page 12** – Genealogy Info in Church Records
- **Page 13** - Webinars
- **Page 14** - Gleanings

Upcoming Events:

- **Cemetery “Crawl” and Potluck lunch, Sat August 16, Noon** – See details in Janine's activity email. In the Armena area, NW of Camrose.
- **Community Registration Night in Camrose, Sept 4th:** Come and see our display.
- **25th Anniversary Party, Sunday Sept 21st.** See details in this newsletter.
- **25th Anniversary Workshop, Sat Oct 4th.** See details in this newsletter.

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:

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.

Fay 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!



St. Thomas-Duhamel Roman Catholic Church

Message from our Co-President - Deb Trout

I can't believe it's August already – the summer has gone by so fast.

With fall approaching, our group has been busy planning our anniversary celebrations in September and October. September 21 will be our anniversary dinner for current and past members. October 4 is our workshop at the United Church in Camrose. We have three interesting speakers booked to instruct us in organizing our research and bringing it to life. There will be display tables and a vendor. I hope you can join us.

Meetings have been planned for the next months with speakers and some interesting topics. Guests are welcome anytime. Follow our Facebook page for details.

Our writer's group met in July for our annual writing retreat. A fun time was had by all, and some actual writing was accomplished!!



Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you again in September ready to tackle those research goals.

➤ Deb

From the Editor--

I recently found this website <https://www.herdingcatsgenealogy.com/>. Aside from the amusing and apropos name, it is a website of blogs that are chock full of helpful tips and tricks. It is American based but also has links to helpful genealogy blogs and sites across the globe.

Take a peek!

Maureen

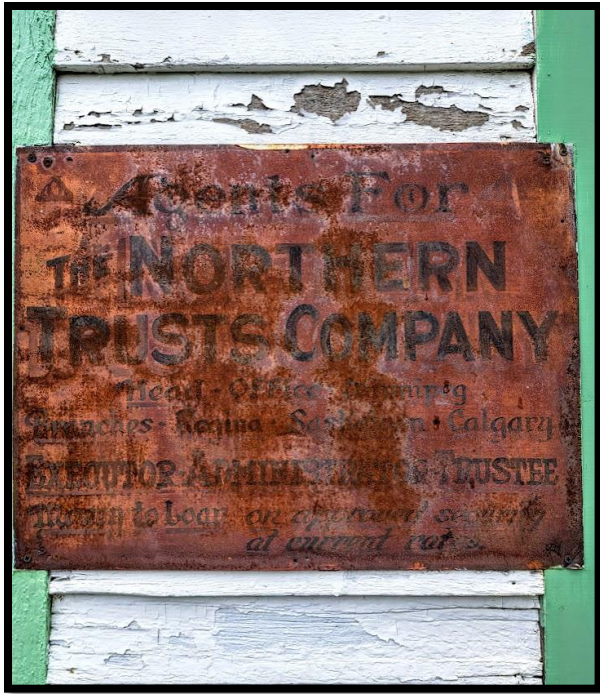
Iron Creek Museum: Lougheed, Alberta -- July 19, 2025

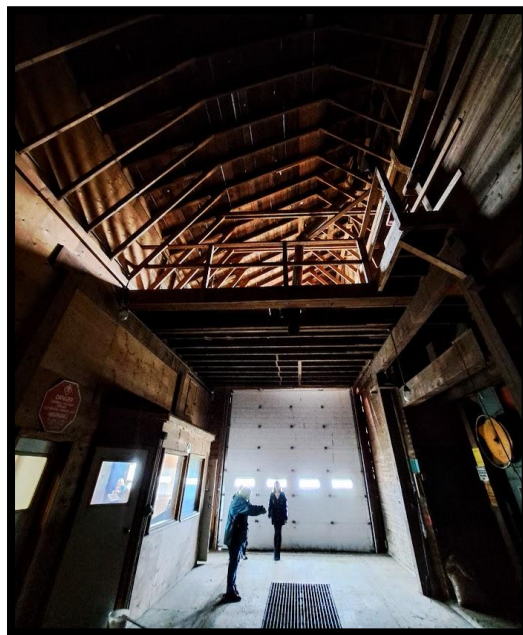
Some members of Camrose Branch of AGS visited this varied museum in the village of Lougheed. It was a little rainy, but members persevered!



The Sons of Norway Log Hall

- This Log Hall was built in 1937 on the SW corner of 4-46-12 W4 by the Sons of Norway, a group of people of Norwegian descent.
- The group first got together in 1934 and were meeting in the Overleigh School located at NW 11-46-12 W4.
- Initial members included Sigvall Willumsen, Ole Osbak, Ludvik Amtzen, Ted Berge, Harold Christenson, Leif Osbak, Lars Anderson, Helga Willumsen, Jens Osbak, Odd Olson.
- The group celebrated their rich Norse heritage by staging performances and other cultural events in Norwegian.
- After construction was complete it was known as Polarstjerna, Lodge No. 394.
- When WWII started in 1939 the group found it difficult to meet and host events; many members enlisted or had other obligations.
- The Sons of Norway Polarstjerna Lodge remained until 1946 when disbandment was granted due to low membership.
- In 1968 the Log Hall was sold to the Iron Creek Historical Society for \$1.00 for use as a museum and plans were made to relocate the Hall to the Iron Creek Museum site in Lougheed.





WE ARE 25!

Here are some upcoming events!

Use these dates as a placeholder in your calendars. You don't want to miss the information, fun and reminiscing about the 25 years of the branch.

Anniversary Party & Lunch Sunday, September 21, 2025

**Camrose Senior Centre at Mirror Lake Centre
(5415-49th Avenue, Camrose) from 1 pm – 4 pm**

The cost for members and for those invited, for themselves and for their plus one is \$20/person (the Branch will be paying the additional cost for the meal and all other expenses). It's going to be a feast (by Mad Platter caterer). Please add it to your calendar and make plans to attend!

Pre-registration and payment are due by September 1st, 2025. RSVP and e-transfer to president@camr-abgenealogy.ca or call for more information 780-781-5100.

Speaker Workshop Saturday October 4, 2025

**Camrose United Church
(4829 50 St, Camrose) from 11 am – 4 pm**

11:00am Bob Layton (in person). "How to Write Your Life Story". This legendary broadcaster was an Edmonton news icon for 50 years and is an entertaining speaker! We'll have one of his books as a door prize, and they'll be available for sale.

1:00pm Thomas MacEntee, via Zoom. "Creating an Ancestor Sketch."

Thomas is a genealogy professional who's also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder and more. His presentations are entertaining and super informative.

3:00pm Ellen Thompson-Jennings (in person) will be talking about "Organizing Your Genealogy".

Ellen is the self-proclaimed Family History Hound and has three passions: genealogy, genetic genealogy (DNA), and preserving her family legacy. She'll deliver a thought-provoking talk and will be donating a forever box to our door prizes.

Camrose Branch will have a table full of FREE history, genealogy and community history books.

Other door prizes include two 2026 AGS memberships, which can only be won by non-members, so if you know anyone who has been thinking about getting into the craft, invite them to the workshop!

This is a FREE event with Door Prizes!

In Memoriam: Larry Gregorwich

Larry joined AGS Camrose in 2019 to search for his Ukrainian ancestors and to get the information for his Canadian relatives. Some of his living Canadian relatives were the most frustrating to him. They either couldn't be bothered or didn't want to share.

Larry was always happy to help the club, joining us at our booth at the Sedgewick Gathering of the Clans in his first year of membership. He was a newbie, but he helped wherever he could.

He was a great help when we cleared out the branch's library although I suspect he was also there for whatever books he could find.

Larry was born on the family farm at Kelsey, AB in 1952. In 1972 he decided to backpack through Europe. Finland was one of his stops and in 1973 he returned there to live permanently. He met and married his wife Anneli in 1980, and they went on to raise five children. Larry worked as a mental health nurse until retirement in 2014.

Larry began to miss Canada when he reached middle age and after retiring, he returned to the farm, living and caring for his aged mother.

He loved his farm and his animals. He was very active in the United Church in Killam, always helping with whatever event they had planned. Many stories were recounted during the memorial held in June.

Larry was an expert at sarcastic humour, and his emails were always good for a laugh.

He will be missed.

by Deb Trout



Through the Lens, The Last 25 Years



2004 Judy Anderson and Jerry Adam



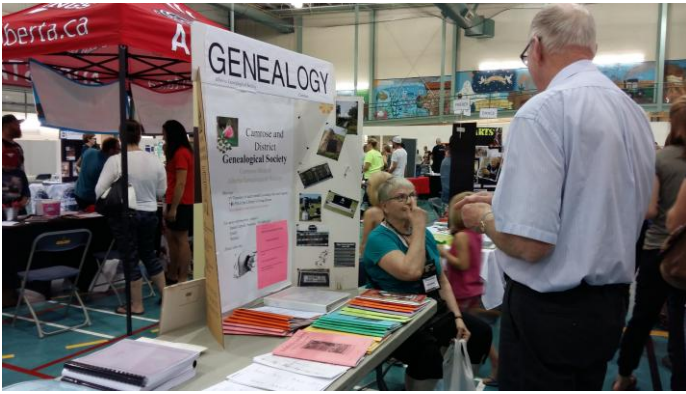
2007 Fay Carlson, Sharon Olsen, Ruth Day



2011 Christmas Social



2014 Cemetery Visit



2017 Registration Night



2018 GenFair



2020 Covid Meeting Night



2022 President's Award



2024 Writing Retreat

25 Years of Roots and Shoots!

From February 2015 Newsletter

Tidbits

"In the year 1916 it snowed every month in the year and one morning in July the farmers milked cows in a snowstorm. The weather was cold and damp all summer and the crops were frozen up tight in the fall. So don't kick if you get some cold days in May as the Alberta climate can give you much worse and much better than that". - From the "Stettler Independent" newspaper

Old British coinage: 3d. Threepence. Threepenny bit, pronounced 'thrupenny bit' (short u), or Thrupenny Joey – Source: QI Talk Forum blog

Scottish Tidbits

"In yer ain wirds – What might we lose if we all began to speak like each other?"

"The 2011 (Scotland) Census included a question about ability to speak the Scots language" (i.e. dialects) "and information about that should be available later in the year." The Scottish government "has put a number of initiatives in place to encourage the use of Scots and Gaelic and to increase the profile of both languages." - From an 8 October 2012 article by Gillian Sharple, BBC Scotland News – titled "In yer ain wirds"

From Winter 2012 Newsletter

2011 – 2012 C.G.S. Happenings

By Joan Conley, editor

For the month of December 2011, thanks to a joint effort between C.G.S. and the Camrose Public Library, we displayed the British Home Children Travelling Quilt at the Library. The quilt was made by Claresholm, Alberta resident Hazel Perrier who is a descendant of two British Home Children. The display was well received.

Our April 2012 meeting topic was "Black Sheep" and we heard many intriguing stories about our members' ancestors. Some of those stories were published in earlier 2012 issues of our newsletter. Look for another "Black Sheep" story in our next issue.

In June, we held a very successful Beginners' Genealogy Course with 20 attendees.

Camrose Founders Days is held annually in August, when we honour our Camrose Founding Fathers. C.G.S. member Bev Webster researches each founder and then talks to the families for additional background information. These founding fathers are honoured at a public ceremony with family descendants present. For three days, we celebrate the men and women who discovered and built what is now the City of Camrose.

In November, C.G.S. presented two "Genealogy for Teens" workshops at the local library. A small group showed interest, and we were able to help them. We hope to present another workshop for teens or 'tweens in 2013.

December 13th was our annual Christmas party for members and the public, 7:30 p.m., Irving Meeting Room, downstairs Camrose Public Library, 4710-50 Avenue in Camrose. It was "Bring a Friend" night, and we had a good turnout of members and guests. Our theme was "20 in 20". Members did slide or power point presentations which contained 20 pictures, each one to be described in 20 seconds. One member also did a "Hat Presentation", showing the different "hats" that her ancestors would have worn. Coffee and goodies brought by members were later enjoyed.

"Pearls From the Past"

by Fay Edenloff Carlson

I am just starting on my journey to the past, but when I have uncovered new information, I feel like I have discovered gold! Genealogy is history, social studies, math, geography and English all rolled into one. Everyone has a past and history that is unique. I am researching the Ruggles family on my mother's side and the Edenloff family from father's family. Some information has been free, some costly. I have used the internet, the postal service, phone and personal visits as my tools.

My cousin, Sharon Fehr, compiled Ruggles history into a book, called, "Preachers, Politicians and other Storytellers". I discovered that a niece of one of our direct ancestors, Bathsheba Ruggles Spooner, was tried, convicted and hanged for the murder of her husband, Joshua Spooner, in Massachusetts, U.S.A., in the year 1778. The three men she had hired to kill her husband were executed with her. She left three small children, the youngest three years old. She will go down in history as the last woman to be executed for murder in Massachusetts.

I have found Generals, Sergeants, Senators and lawyers. My current project is to prove the Ruggles connection to the Mayflower, so that I can become a member of the Mayflower Society.

One thrilling discovery was when I found Great-grandfather's 1876 homestead record from Minnesota. I was able to print a copy of that original record. My great-grandfather, Peter, left his family in Sweden in 1868, came to Minnesota, America, with his oldest son, Peter. He was 49 years old, and his son was 19.

Old Peter returned to Sweden but left for America again in 1873. This time, he brought with him our Grandfather Nils, 20 years old, and Nil's sister, Dorethea, who was 14.

Our Great-grandmother, Martha, stayed in Sweden, with the youngest, Sigrid, who was three years old when her father left the first time. These two never came to America!

I contacted the relatives of Sigrid in Sweden. After I finished writing and printing a book about the family in 2003, I took it to Sweden. I met and stayed with the newly found relatives. What an incredible experience to be welcomed like this! I have been told that my visit has brought them closer to each other. Hopefully this connection will continue and grow.

I have lots to learn and know it takes time and patience, but it is worth it. Try to find out all that you can from all the older members of the family, before it is too late. Remember, when an old person dies, it is as if a library has burned down.

Genealogy Information in Church Records - unknown author

Prior to the recording of civil records and even now, Church Records have become a necessary and valuable category of collections that should be researched. They provide information that often cannot be found anywhere else. Baptisms, marriages, and funerals are commonly thought of when we discuss church records, but there is so much more. For example, I found the death date of one of my relatives in Berlin, Germany via a Church Newsletter!

Here is a list of the valuable information contained in Church Records and why you should be researching them:

- Baptisms and Christenings** – Names of godparents and witnesses are often included, as well as the names of the child and parents, parish where the family is residing, the legitimacy of the child, etc. These additional names may provide relationship clues
- Marriages** – church weddings are documented. In more modern times, witnesses are required in order to civilly record the marriage and may be required in some religions.
- Deaths and Funerals** – If the funeral “ceremony” is conducted in a church, it is generally recorded
- Burials** – if it is a church-affiliated cemetery, the burial information will be recorded in the church’s records.
- Confirmations, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs** – these are generally recorded by the church or synagogue
- Membership Lists** – Members and congregants are kept on membership lists. These are quite useful to compare year to year, as an absence from the list may indicate that a member may have moved their residence, passed on, or joined another church.
- Admissions of New Members** – will be recorded in the membership list and/or church newsletter. The date of entry may indicate when someone moved to a new location
- Transfers of Memberships Out of the Church** – there even may be a formal document indicating that the member leaves in good standing with the church

- Letters of Introduction** – a current church official might write to assist the member and family in joining a new church within the denomination, but in a different area
- Disciplinary Actions Against Members** – might be recorded in the Church Minutes
- Dismissals** – for whatever reason, an individual or family may be dismissed from the church. These would be recorded.
- Church Minutes** – the church officials often would conduct meetings to discuss the administrative and business side of the church, and the meetings would be recorded in official minutes of the meetings.
- Church Directories** – similar to membership lists, these might include residence information and other contact information of the church clergy and all members.
- Sunday School Lists** – lists of children who attend Sunday School, as well as the teacher’s name.
- Church Newsletters** – regularly published documents that discuss events of the church, new members, transferring members, birthdays, anniversaries, births, marriages, and deaths of members
- Clergy Admissions and Dismissals** – might be included in the church minutes; they also, could be formal documents from the higher-ups in the church organizational structure for a larger area.
- Church Newspapers and Magazines** – a more recent phenomenon; essentially another way, similar to a newsletter, to communicate between the church and congregants and members
- Family Relationships** – may be specifically documented in membership lists, or can be determined from people attending baptisms, weddings, or funerals.
- Church Cemetery Records** – includes the name of the deceased, date of death, burial date and place, sometimes age, and cause of death.
- Newspaper Obituaries and Other Articles** – Clues to church membership can be found in historical newspaper articles such as obituaries. Also, upcoming and past church events will be documented in newspapers.

Upcoming Webinars



Clues to Conclusions: Can You Prove It? Intro to the Genealogical Proof Standard

with Marian Burk Wood

Tue, August 19, 2025, 6 pm (MDT)

This how-to presentation defines and demonstrates the use of the Genealogical Proof Standard for planning research, analyzing sources and details, resolving conflicting clues, and coming to a credible solution with higher confidence.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7182520569005984858>



Using AI To Translate and Manipulate Foreign Language Documents

with Natalie Webb

Thursday October 2, 2025, 5 pm (MDT)

This class will show you how to leverage AI to make foreign language interpretation faster, easier, and more accurate.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlkc-6rrzMvGNdwtxfjOi3Mg8BUodljJfoV#/registration>

Minnesota Genealogical Society

Genealogy Smart Start: Things I Wish I'd Known

with Elizabeth Williams Gomoll

Wednesday September 3, 2025, 6 pm (MDT)

Get some great tips from this genealogist who had to learn the basics the hard way, plus a few smart tricks she picked up from experts along the way.

<https://mngs.org/event-6255583>



Ireland's Undiscovered Past: the 1800's

with Gillian O'Brien

Friday October 3, 2025, 7 am (MDT)

Explore the nineteenth century history of Ireland.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ireland-1485-1798-colonial-laboratory-tickets-1363216058929?aff=presale&utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Pre-sale+Q2+29.05.2025

Genealogy Gleanings:

Canada's oldest surviving Methodist Church was built in 1792 in the rural township of Adolphustown, Ontario.

<https://oldhaybaychurch.ca/>

10 Top Websites for Finding Death Records and Obituaries

<https://familytreemagazine.com/records/vital/10-obituary-web-sites/>

Leaving the Past to the Future 3: Going Paperless

<https://discovergenealogy.blogspot.com/2024/04/leaving-past-to-future-3-going-paperless.html>

10 Things You Should Never Do with An Old Photo + What To Do Instead

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/old-photo-care/>

10 Genealogy YouTube Channels You Shouldn't Miss

<https://www.thefhguide.com/blog/10-genealogy-youtube-channels-you-shouldnt-miss/>

How to Make a Basic Family History Binder

<https://familytreemagazine.com/organization/how-to-make-family-history-binder/>

Estate Planning for Family Historians & Genealogists

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

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

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

How to hire a genealogist

<https://www.genealogyexplained.com/how-to-hire-a-genealogist/>

British Columbia city directories, 1860-1955

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=44495>

Entire collection of Toronto city directories, 1833-2001

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=44473>

How To Use Catholic Christening and Baptism Records Around the World

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/catholic-christening-baptism-records>

RETEROactive, Exploring Alberta's Past

<https://albertashistoricplaces.com/>

15 Quick Genealogy Tasks to Do in 15 Minutes

<https://lusalisson.com/free-printable-quick-genealogy/>

AGS Camrose Branch
Mailing Address: 6130 39 Ave
Camrose, AB T4V 3B1

camrosegeneo@gmail.com
facebook.com/CamroseGenealogy
www.abgenealogy.ca

Camrose Branch Executive

Co-President	Deb Trout
Co-President	Janine Carroll
Secretary	Lilyon Lundy
Treasurer	Alora Nelson
Director at Large	Bev Webster
Webmaster	Deb Trout
Membership	Wendy Roth
Event Coordinator	Cindy Mailer
Newsletter	Maureen Scrutton

***Roots and Shoots is published 3 times a year. The Editor reserves the right to edit.
Articles appearing in this newsletter may be used in other publications with attribution to the Camrose Branch of
the Alberta Genealogical Society. Prior to publishing, please notify the editor and credit the author.
Respect copyright where indicated.***