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# Heritage Seekers

VOLUME 42. ISSUE 2

FALL 2020

## From the President



It is my pleasure to bring Christmas Greetings from your Branch Executive and offer Best Wishes for a festive, healthy seasonal celebration as we transition to a much Happier New Year.

About 2020, the less said, the better. I want to assure you that your Executive has tried hard to keep our genealogy community moving forward during this pandemic. There has not been a general meeting of the Branch membership since our Annual meeting in February and we regret the limited engagement caused by the loss of our normal schedule of meetings, speaker programs, field trips and a fall workshop during the pandemic. I appreciate the efforts of my executive colleagues and some active volunteers who participated in our meetings in June, August, September, October and November.

We look forward to a much more active program for members during 2021, recognizing that it will still be some time before face-to-face engagements around genealogy events become possible. As first steps we will become more active using virtual methods for speaker presentations and for member interaction. During the past months we have used, Zoom, Google Meet, and the virtual meeting feature of our Boardable subscription and are more confident that virtual methods can be a larger element in the way our Branch, our provincial society and our own research is conducted.

I would like to draw your attention inside this newsletter to the opportunity to join the 2021 RootsTech Virtual Conference. I hope we can use this conference for personal growth and to develop momentum for a very successful 2021 for our Branch. Inside, also, is my best effort to encourage your to renew your membership and continue to enjoy the benefits available in the Alberta Genealogical Society.

Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!

Al Bromling, President



# Alberta Genealogical Society Awards

At Annual General Meeting, held virtually in the spring, the AGS Awards were announced, then sent to the Branch to be presented to the recipients. Carol Thomson, Paulette Hrychiw and Joan Bowman of the Grande Prairie Branch were among those honored at this year's AGM for 40 years of service with a Long Term Membership Award. As well, Joan Bowman was a double recipient, winning the Kenneth Young Award for Best Local Content. Congratulations, Carol, Paulette and Joan!



## Carol Thomson

The Provincial Board award recognizes Carol's contributions to our Branch and the provincial organization during forty years of service. Carol was a founding member of the Grande Prairie and District Branch in 1978 and served as Branch President in 1978 and 1979. She was an active volunteer with many roles in developing a stronger Branch with a joint commitment to member service and community service. She was again president for 1985 and 1986. She served with the Branch Executive on several occasions and was Branch Treasurer for 2015 and 2016. Thanks for your contributions, Carol.

The Provincial Board award recognizes Paulette's contributions to our Branch and the provincial organization during more than forty years with the Society. Paulette was a founding member of the Grande Prairie and District Branch in 1978 and served as Branch Secretary in 1978 and 1979. Paulette was elected President for 1987-88-89. She was a very active volunteer with the Branch and served in various Executive roles. Paulette has tremendous expertise in genealogical research which she loves to share with others. She had a key role with Genies on Wednesday mentoring service for many years. Thanks for your contributions, Paulette.



## Paulette Hrychiw



## Joan Bowman

The Provincial Board award recognizes Joan's contributions to our Branch and the provincial organization during more than forty years with our Branch. Joan was an active member of the Grande Prairie and District Branch beginning in 1979 and developed the Branch Newsletter *Heritage Seekers* into a very strong vehicle for Branch growth and development. She was *Heritage Seekers* editor for 14 years. Joan also served as President for 1983 and 1984. She was a very active volunteer with the Branch and has continued to be a major contributor to the newsletter. In recent years Joan has served as Branch Research Chair and is the go to source for both local and international inquiries to our Branch. Thanks for your contributions, Joan.

Joan was also recognized with **The Kenneth Young Award for Best Local Content** in a branch newsletter. The AGS judges selected her article "*Our Stories: 100 Year Family Celebration*" in the Fall 2019 **Heritage Seekers** for this award.

In a related competition, the judges selected **Heritage Seekers** Spring 2019 edition for the Kenneth Young Award for Best Overall Newsletter. Congratulations to all!

# Old Newspapers

by B. Joan Bowman, AGS#1108



## Births, Marriages & Deaths as extracted from the "Grande Prairie Herald" newspaper. Continued from the Spring 2020 issue of "Heritage Seekers"

### June 15, 1932 Issue:

- "Goodfare News: On June 15, 1932, Dick **QUIDENFELT** of Winsor Creek, married Lydia **HALLER** who had just arrived from Germany. Ceremony officiated by Rev. **MOSS**."
- "Hythe News: June 14, 1932, a baby girl born to Mr. & Mrs. Ernie **CARLSON**"
- "Buena, Washington, USA news: Miss Opal **SCHAEFFER**, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J.J. **SCHAEFFER**, married D. ROLLIN **CARRELL**, formerly of Beaverlodge, AB, on June 10<sup>th</sup> in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George W. **KEITH**..... Ceremony performed by Rev. Mr. Orland **SCOTT** of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.... Attendants: Miss Mabel **BRUMBACK** (*spelling ?*) and Dalton **CLARK**. The wedding celebrated the brides' parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.E. **CARRELL**, wedding anniversary who were married in Beaverlodge in 1919...."
- "On June 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Beaverlodge United Church, Rev. Stanley R. **HUNT** married Frederick Ernest Collin **CLARKE**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. **CLARKE**, of Beaverlodge and Lillian Irene **ANDERSON**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry **ANDERSON** of Lipton, Saskatchewan. Attendants: Harold **POOL** & Miss Norah **CLARKE**."
- "In the Matter of the Estate of Stephen **TISSINGTON**, late of Grande Prairie, AB, Carpenter, Deceased.....who died 6 May 1932...."

### June 28, (Tues) 1932 Issue:

- "Glen Leslie News: An old timer, Mr. J. **KIMBERLEY** buried Saturday last. Rev. Mr. **McNEIL** of the United Church officiated."
- "Hermet Lake News: Mrs. E.L. **GILLESPIE** received news of her father's death at Duhamel, AB."
- "In the Matter of the Estate of Rebecca **BODE** of Clairmont, a Widow, Deceased 3 May 1930...."

### July 5, 1932 Issue:

- "Prestville News: Born to Mr. and Mrs. William **URHYN** of Prestville, a son born at the Spirit River Hospital."
- "Rycroft News: The funeral of the three year old son of Nick **BARBAVICH**, was held June 24<sup>th</sup>.... Interment in the Rycroft Cemetery."
- "Huallen News: On June 29<sup>th</sup> at the home of the groom's parents, Morley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Amos **SHERK**, was united in marriage to Elizabeth **ZIMMERMAN**, daughter of Mr. John **ZIMMERMAN** of Goodfare. Rev. A.L. **CARR** of Wembley officiated."
- "Wembley News: June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Wembley United Church Manse, James **RICKERBY** and Miss Alice M. **BOYCE** married. Rev. A.I. **CARR** performed the ceremony."
- "At St. Paul's United Church Manse, Miss Sarah **KLASSEN** of Wembley became the bride of Bennie Edwin **BJERKE** of Vallalla Center.... Rev. Nelson **CHAPPEL** performed the ceremony."

*Continued ....*

### Old Newspapers continued...

- "Funeral of Mrs. E. **KIRSTEIN** held at the Sexsmith United Church by Rev. Mr. **SIMONS** Tuesday last.... Burial at the Emerson Cemetery.... The deceased, age only 22, passed away at the Sexsmith Maternity Hospital June 23<sup>rd</sup>. She was born at Leduc and came with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. **MAYNE** to Teepee Creek three years ago.... Leaves an infant son, husband, and father & mother in Teepee Creek, as well as two sisters and three brothers: Mrs. Frang **EDMUNSON** of Sexsmith, Miss Frances of Teepee Creek, and Garfield, Sedgick, Morley and William living at home....."
- "In the Estate of James Henry **HOWE**, late of Halcourt, AB, Deceased..... 30 October 1931...."



## Volunteer of the Week!



Gail Prette was recently recognized as the Daily HeraldTribune/Tim Hortons **Volunteer of the Week** by the Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau. **Congratulations Gail!**

Gail has been an active volunteer in Grande Prairie for many years. She currently serves as Treasurer for the Grande Prairie and District Genealogical Society, a role she also had in 2008-2011. She has a joint volunteer assignment with the South Peace Regional Archives and our Branch. She collects and prepares index listings for all print based obituaries in the South Peace Region for the data base of each organization.

Gail gives generously of her time in support of both organizations.

## In Memoriam



### Verna Louise Hockey

Verna Hockey was a long term member of the Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society and was an active volunteer in our family research and community service activities. She served for many years as the Director of the Family History Library at the Church of Latter Day Saint and supported our many joint projects.

### Colin Hrychiw

Colin was the husband and a great supporter of Branch founding member Paulette Hrychiw. He was often a volunteer with the Branch projects such as fund raising and community service. He grew up in the Lake Saskatoon district and contributed to local history efforts





# A Plea for Membership Renewal!

By Al Bromling

As the calendar moves towards the new year it is tempting to lament pandemic and other challenges of 2020. I have. We all have.

But now is the time to look forward!

In the world of genealogy, it is the season once again for membership renewal and support for our friends and colleagues in the Alberta Genealogical Society. I renewed my membership. Why would I? Why would you?

Some of the benefits of membership have become temporarily thinned out due to the impact of pandemic restrictions. Other benefits have become less obvious due to the electronic transformation of family history research methods in a digital age.



So why renew with your Society?

For me, the continuing enthusiasm for family history research and my wish to share my passion with others is the enough reason to renew, along with many concrete and selfish reasons to renew:

- Our Branch Website and Facebook resources provide a great way to share access to data and learn new techniques for research.
- Our provincial journal *Relatively Speaking* is a valued window to the genealogy world
- Our Branch newsletter *Heritage Seekers* is a link to more local events and research
- Our Library resources hosted in Grande Prairie Public Library are accessed by members and the community as a whole
- Our local workshops and provincial conferences are great events to learn and celebrate with our colleagues in family research
- Local presentations and special interest group (currently suspended) provide opportunity to enrich and accelerate your research activity



Some of the above services are available to members as well as non-members; however our Branch/Society is committed to sustain some clear "members only" elements that add unique value to your AGS membership.

These include:

- The addition of MyHeritage SuperSearch and Newspapers.com subscriptions to your branch members only package in your account
- Member only access to the DNA Boot Camp webinar series (MacEntee and Eberle production)
- A selection of member discounts and promotions from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Journal Storage (JSTOR) archives, Shop the Hound, Vivid-Pix and others being negotiated
- A discount on membership if you are a member of BC, SK, MB or ON genealogical societies
- Members may apply for financial support (travel and fees up to \$600.00) to participate in genealogical conferences and other learning events

I hope this partial listing of benefits will encourage you to access available opportunities, to advance your family history projects, and I hope, to renew your membership and support your Society in 2021.

Happy New Year 2021

# Conference Opportunity: Best Deal on the Internet!

## About RootsTech

RootsTech, hosted by FamilySearch, is a global conference celebrating families across generations, where people of all ages are inspired to discover and share their memories and connections. This annual event has become the largest of its kind in the world, attracting tens of thousands of participants worldwide.

Normally, attending this conference would involve travel (OK, not necessarily a bad thing!), and (perhaps considerable) expense. But, given our current pandemic situation, it has become possible for all of us to attend this conference. Who knew this would be the year!! Read below to find out what is being offered and how to attend!

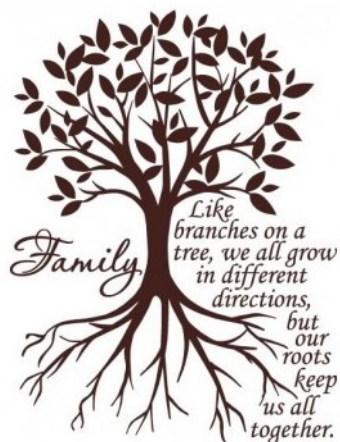
## FamilySearch Announces RootsTech Connect 2021: A Free Global Virtual Event

**FamilySearch** is thrilled to announce that the **RootsTech 2021 conference** previously planned for February 3–6, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah, will now be held on February 25–27, 2021, as a **free, virtual event online**.

**RootsTech Connect 2021** will enable attendees to participate from around the world and will feature inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of classes in multiple languages, and a virtual marketplace. Reserve your place today for free at [RootsTech.org](https://RootsTech.org).

“The pandemic is giving us the opportunity to bring RootsTech to a broader audience worldwide,” said Steve Rockwood, FamilySearch International CEO. “A virtual event also allows us to expand our planning to truly make this a global celebration of family and connection.”

RootsTech Connect 2021 will be global in scope while offering many experiences that attendees have come to know and love from RootsTech events—including inspirational keynote speakers, dozens of classes to choose from, and an expo hall.



Throughout the three-day **online** event, attendees will have the ability to interact with presenters, exhibitors, and other attendees through live chat and question and answer sessions.

“Classes will be taught in many languages, and presenters will teach from a number of international locations,” said Rockwood. “We will celebrate cultures and traditions from around the world, with activities that the audience can participate in from home—such as homeland cooking demonstrations, storytelling, and music performances. This is one virtual event you won’t want to miss.”

RootsTech Connect 2021 will offer a combination of both livestream and on-demand content to accommodate differences in time zone for participants. In addition, sessions will be available to view on-demand after the event concludes.

Rockwood says that FamilySearch is looking forward to the opportunity to deliver the signature RootsTech experience and helping tens of thousands of participants worldwide to discover, gather, and connect their family story.

RootsTech hopes to gather in-person again in the future but anticipates the RootsTech Connect virtual opportunity will become a regular addition to the event.

**Register for free at [rootstech.org](https://rootstech.org).**

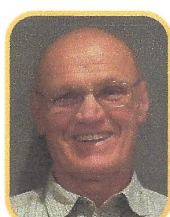
# Grande Prairie & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society



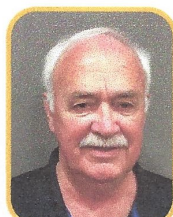
## 2020 Executive



**Vice President**  
Rilla Websdale



**President**  
Al Bromling



**Past President**  
Ed Hall



**Secretary**  
Maxine Maxwell



**Treasurer**  
Gail Prette



**Director-at-Large**  
Jay Sydoruk

### Staying in touch:



**Website:** [www.abgenealogy.ca](http://www.abgenealogy.ca)

This is the Alberta Genealogical Society website, which will link you to the Grande Prairie branch.



**Facebook:**

To join our Facebook group, you must have a Facebook account, then simply search for Grande Prairie & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society.



**Email:** [gp@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:gp@abgenealogy.ca)



**Mail:** GPAGS  
Box 1257 Grande Prairie AB T8V 4Z1



### Committee Chairs 2020

**Branch Website:** Nik Henke

**Casino:** Maxine Maxwell

**Cemeteries:** Jean Gray

**Facebook:** Nik Henke

**Genies:** Al Bromling/Jay Sydoruk

**Librarian:** Gail Schau

**Membership/Distribution:** Gwen Richards

**HS Newsletter Editor:** Freddi Bromling

**HS print copy distribution:** Ed Hall

**Obituary Indexing (Newspapers):** Gail Prette

**Obituary Indexing (Websites):** Jay Sydoruk

**Publicity:** Rilla Websdale

**Research:** Joan Bowman

**Volunteer Hours:** Maxine Maxwell

**Youth Project:** Gail Schau

**Technical Support:** Jay Sydoruk

**Program Planning:** Executive

**Branch Historian:** vacant

### Branch Meetings

Branch meetings have been suspended for the time being due to COVID19 restrictions.

### Genies in the Library

This program has been suspended for the time being due to COVID19 restrictions. We hope to have something in place as soon as we can put together something that is workable.

**Heritage Seekers**

is published by

**The Grande Prairie Branch of  
the Alberta Genealogical Society**

ISBN 0707-0708

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