



Heritage Seekers

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2020

President's Message



Welcome to the Spring edition of Heritage Seekers - the Socially Distanced edition! The past few months of COVID19 related challenges has been hard for all of us and the next period of efforts to establish a more normal lifestyle looks to be equally challenging. I hope that you and yours are well and continue to thrive.

The first half of 2020 has been a quiet one for our Branch. We did manage to hold our Annual General Meeting before the COVID19 events stalled our activities. We have our new executive in place. I would like to welcome Gail Prette, Rilla Websdale and Jay Sydoruk to the Executive, and thank Maxine Maxwell and Ed Hall for agreeing to continue their work with us.

On the last page you will find a list of Branch Committee Chairs. A special thanks to these important volunteers who deliver services and programs for our Members and the public. The position of Branch Historian remains open - if this is something that appeals to you, we would welcome your participation!!

I wish I could tell you how and when the Branch will resume more 'normal' operations. We have taken first steps. The Executive met in early June using Zoom (interactive video conferencing) technology. We will soon try a face-to-face meeting, with social distancing.

Regretfully, we have halted all planning for the expected Fall workshop. There are just too many known and unknown risks to proceed. We do hope that we will be able to host Branch meetings and small programs later in the fall. We look forward to once again having access to the Grande Prairie Public Library and we hope that health restrictions can be eased enough to take advantage of the facilities.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy and take some time to 'Stop and smell the Roses' (or Marsh Marigolds)!

Al Bromling



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Old Newspapers

by B. Joan Bowman, AGS#1108



Births, Marriages & Deaths as extracted from the Grande Prairie Herald Tribune Newspaper. Continued from the Fall 2019/Winter 2020 issue of "Heritage Seekers"

May 20, 1932 (Friday) Issue:

- "Hythe News: Mrs. J.N. **RASMUSSEN**, age 40, passed away last Sunday. Born August 24, 1883 at Cambria, Minnesota and came with her husband to Canada twelve years ago and settled in the Hythe District where she resided until her death. Leaves to mourn her loss, a husband and four sons: Tremaine, Lewis, James and Thomas all residing at Hythe. The remains were shipped to Lake Crystal, Minnesota...."
- "Births at Pouce Coupe Hospital:
 - o "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Gus **HENDERSON** May 14th, a son."
 - o "Born to Mr. and Mrs. **MEYER** May 14th a son."
 - o "Born to Mr. and Mrs. **BENNINGTON** May 2nd, a daughter."
- "DeBolt News:
 - o "Miss Amma **FEHR** and Mr. Leonard P. **BROOKS** married at Grande Prairie May 2, 1932."
 - o "Mr. and Mrs. D.D. **MCARTHUR**, a girl May 8, 1932."
- "Born at the Grande Prairie Hospital:
 - o "To Mr. and Mrs. Medley W. **POLLOCK** of Clairmont, May 15, a son."
 - o "To Mr. and Mrs. Oliver **MENARD** of Bezanson on May 12, a son."
 - o "To Mr. and Mrs. Hubert **BLACK** of Halcourt, May 14, a daughter."
- "Flying Shot Lake News: Mrs. **HENDERSON** passed away at age 95 Sunday. Born in the Parish of Tovarín, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1837. Left Scotland 46 years ago with her husband to join sons in Oak Lake, Manitoba.... Mr. **HENDERSON** predeceased her 41 years ago, also two infant children in Scotland..... Survived by six children: William and Thomas of Edmonton, Mrs. J.R. **HATCH** of Birtie Lake, Minnesota, Mrs. R. **MITCHELL** and Mrs. T. **WATERMAN** of the Flying Shot District..... Mrs. **HENDERSON** was the daughter of the late Alex **CHRISTIE** of Tornvin, Aberdeenshire, Scotland..... Funeral at the home of Mrs. R. **MITCHELL** May 17th and interred in the Flying Shot Cemetery...."

May 27, 1932 Issue:

- "Goodfare News: Born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur **BARRE**, May 18, a girl."

June 7, 1932 Issue:

- No births, marriages or deaths found.

June 7, 1932 Issue:

- "Funeral of Mrs. E. **BLANES** of North Kleskun..... Died May 28 at the Grande Prairie Hospital. Leaves a husband and nine children and a sister Mrs. **SORKENS**.... Service at the little Lutheran

Old Newspapers continued....

Chapel at the North Kleskun District.... Interment at the adjoining church yard by Rev. E.H. **NIBEN**, the church Pastor, conducted the service."

- "Glen Leslie News: Born to Mr. and Mrs. O. **MINARD**, son."

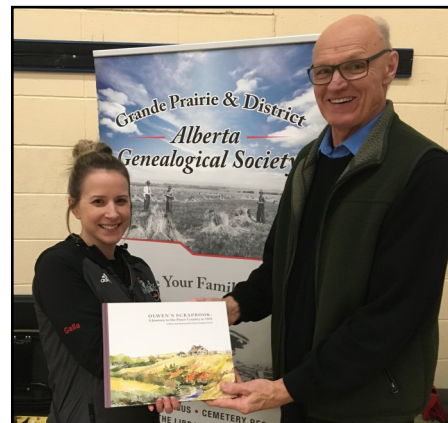
June 14, 1932 (Tues) Issue:

- "Elmworth News: Mrs. **OGMAN** passed away last week...."
- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Noei **MCLEAN** of Wembley, June 10th, a son."
- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ian **WATT**, of Grande Prairie, a daughter, June 10th."
- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jas. **GAIR** of Hythe, June 13th, a son."
- "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. **GASSON**, Peace River (formerly of Grande Prairie) June 4, a son."

In the Community: GPAGS at Mighty Peace Teachers Convention 2020



In early February, before COVID19 shut down such gatherings, the annual Mighty Peace Teachers Convention took place, and GPAGS was once again on hand.



Maxine Maxwell manning the information booth,
and Al Bromling handing out the door prize,
Olwen's Scrapbook: A Journey to the Peace Country in 1933.

Research: 2019 Volunteer Researcher Report

By B. Joan Bowman AGS #1108

2019 was a busy year of researching. A total of 38 queries were received, all of which I replied to, racking up 87 volunteer hours. Twelve of those queries required obtaining obituaries from the microfilm of the old Grande Prairie newspapers, several were replying to general questions and/or related information, one looking for five news items regarding marriages and then an unusual request asking for the date and time of their "live" birth.

Other queries replied to were:

- Providing information on how to find Homestead Records.
- Another was looking for help with Austria research which Al Bromling provided.
- One DNA query was replied to with the help of Debbie Was of the Edmonton Branch, previously of the Grande Prairie Branch. I learned from helping with that query, all those who get their DNA done should be prepared for the results possibly being a surprise or not what they expected.
- A query for the Morinville, AB area was forwarded to the Edmonton Branch.
- Four queries were looking for grave locations – one at the Rosedale Cemetery at Crooked Creek, AB, one at Lake Saskatoon cemetery of two family members, another of the location of a grave at Blueberry Mountain, AB for a family coming from England in August 2019 wanting an obituary and to see the family grave while here. And then a query regarding a burial at the Wanham, AB cemetery. The obituary for that person stated the 1969 burial was at the Wanham Cemetery, but the information of that cemetery on line had no such person listed. The Birch Hills County looks after that cemetery and confirmed there was no one in that cemetery with the surname I was looking for. In doing some further research, I learned that burial had been a cremation and that Grande Prairie did not have a crematorium until 1979. The procedure prior to 1979, when someone was to be cremated, was to have the casket at the funeral and then it was shipped by train to Edmonton for cremation. Following that, the ashes were returned to Grande Prairie. However records at the time did not keep track of who took or picked up the ashes/urn. There may have been intention of those ashes being placed at the Wanham Cemetery, but it did not happen, so then the question remains as to where they may be. Another learned query done.

In Memoriam

Members of the Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society express their deepest sympathies to family and friends of Mary Nutting and Ralph Grey.



Mary Nutting (nee Gerligs) grew up on her Dutch homesteader parents' farm at Webster, north of Grande Prairie. She attended school in Sexsmith, Peace River Bible Institute and later obtained a BA from Athabasca University. Mary maintained a public service focus throughout her life, and in 2000 became the founding Executive Director of the South Peace Regional Archives. She was a strong supporter of and collaborator with the GPAGS, even after she retired to enjoy family time, hobbies and travel.



Ralph Grey is remembered for his dry sense of humour, interest in politics and love of books. He moved with Jean to Grande Prairie in 2009 so she could return to the big blue skies of the Peace Country. With his background as a mechanical engineer and willingness to pitch in and help out, he was a dependable and steadfast GPAGS supporter and volunteer.

Good News!



Volunteer of the Week

Joan Bowman was recently recognized as the Daily Herald Tribune/Tim Horton's/Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau **Volunteer of the Week. Congratulations Joan!!**

Ed Hall wrote the following nomination:

I would like, on behalf of the Grande Prairie Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society, to nominate Joan Bowman as volunteer of the week. Joan has been a member of the Branch for 40 years and during that time she has remained involved in many aspects of the functioning of the Branch. She has served in most of the positions on the Executive. Presently she is the Researcher, a function she has served for many years. As Researcher, she responds to the many requests from the public all across Canada and from many parts of the world for information on friends and family who lived and died in this area.

Joan is a regular contributor to our semi-annual newsletter. She writes articles on people and places of genealogical interest in the Peace Region. Her work has received Provincial Recognition: she has received best article awards a number of times.

Joan's willingness to donate her time and energy to research information requested by the public is second to none. She is a dedicated, committed and very knowledgeable researcher. Her commitment to attendance at meetings and to the betterment of the Branch is also exemplary. All in all, Joan is a most worthwhile candidate for this nomination and honor.



Kenneth Young Awards

Certificate for Best Local Content

Joan Bowman, #1108

"Our Stories: 100 year Family Celebration"

Heritage Seekers

Vol. 41, No. 2, p. 4-5

Grande Prairie & District Branch

Alberta Genealogical Society (Posted on the AGS Facebook page)

Kenneth Young Award for Best Local Content went to Joan Bowman. This article is found in the Grande prairie & District Branch's newsletter "Heritage Seekers." Congratulations Joan! This award was announced at the virtual AGM on Saturday, April 25.



ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

14315 118 Ave NW #162
Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4S6
Phone: (780) 423-8902
Fax: (780) 423-8980

DISCOVERING OUR ROOTS – SHARING OUR STORIES

Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) is launching live **WEBINARS** beginning June 29th 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

With the exception of the first, the presentations will be held the 4th Monday of each month.

The **FREE** presentations are for **MEMBERS ONLY** and will be broadcast live via BlueJeans.

Register by June 26th to socialmedia@abgenealogy.ca

You will receive instructions on how to log into the session when you register. **Limit 100 members.**

June 29th 7:00 – 9:00 **Finding My Ancestors:**
From the plains of Western Canada, to New France, British Isles and France
Presentation by Sheila Genaille

July 27th **Presentation will be given by Lianne Kruger. Poster will be sent the end of June.**

JOIN US!

The Grande Prairie and District Genealogical Society's Fall Workshop, planned for October 2020, has been cancelled. Hopefully this type of event will be possible in the not too distant future!!

However, there are alternatives

Here is an initiative by our provincial organization that might be of interest. Both Sheila and Lianne are excellent, knowledgeable presenters, and these are sure to be informative and interesting sessions.

And ... a little
more
good news!



Kenneth Young Awards

Best Overall Newsletter Heritage Seekers

Spring 2019, Vol. 41, No. 1
Grande Prairie & District Branch
Editor: Al Bromling, #5493

Alberta Genealogical Society (Posted on the AGS Facebook page)

Kenneth Young Award for Best Overall Newsletter for 2019 went to "Heritage Seekers" newsletter from Grande Prairie & District Branch. Editor: Al Bromling. Congratulations to Ed and all.

Award was announced at the virtual AGM held Saturday, April 25.



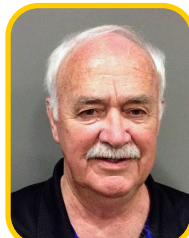
2020 Executive



Vice President
Rilla Websdale



President
Al Bromling



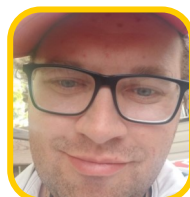
Past President
Ed Hall



Secretary
Maxine Maxwell



Treasurer
Gail Prette



Director-at-Large
Jay Sydoruk

Staying in touch:



Website: www.abgenealogy.ca
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



Mail: GPAGS
Box 1257 Grande Prairie AB T8V 4Z1

Committee Chairs 2019:

Branch Website: Jean Grey
Casino: Maxine Maxwell
Cemeteries: Jean Gray
Facebook: Patricia Greber
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.

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Please email submissions and articles to
freddi@telusplanet.net

Or mail to
GPAGS, Box 1257, Grande Prairie AB T8V 4Z1