

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Volume 40 Number 1 – February 2012

Summary of Feature Articles

40 Years of Publication - The First Decade

This being the 40th anniversary of the publication, Relatively Speaking is reprinting articles from each of the four decades that will be published in each issue throughout 2012. In this first issue two articles are featured written in 1975 and 1979 by founding member Charles Denney: his story of Margaret Groat – an old timer with a history, followed by the tale of the "Gipsy Queen" in the life of well-known Albertan Grant McEwan.

“Searching For Charlotte” by Marilyn Lappi

In the first of this three part series Marilyn tells what led her to research the missionary exploits of Charlotte French, her pioneering great great aunt, and of her serendipitous encounters while researching in the northern settlement of Fort Selkirk.

“The Search for Pocahontas” by Rob Milson

In his opening sentence Rod writes, "I find it very difficult to brag about being a 10X great grandson to Pocahontas" – how can this be? In this story he explains this and how his research connected him with this most famous lady known in England as "la belle sauvage" or "the beautiful savage." He also recounts his emotional visit to Gravesend, Kent in England where he discovers of her burial location and the associated tributes to her.

“Family Treasures – A Birthday Book Holds Unique Revelations” by Marilyn Hindmarch

This birthday book was owned by Marilyn's grandmother and, as she writes, it yields more than just nostalgia. Page after page is filled with information and notes that has allowed her to verify key dates in her family research and form a mental image of the life of some of her ancestors. This book truly is a treasure!

“Valentine, Will You be Mine” by Denise Daubert

Have you ever wondered how valentine cards came into being? Do you have a collection of cards collected and treasured by yourself or your family? Denise has, and it prompted her research into the history of this special day. She writes of the results of this research and also shares with us the background behind some of her most favourite cards.

“"Feathers" in the Family: The Story of Magdeleine Pewadjiwonokwe” by Lynne Duigou

As a child Lynne listened to her grandmother recount the stories of her grandfather as having "feathers back there." Her narrative concerns her research into the life of a distant relative who was a fur trader for the North West Company. Lynne's article will describe the meaning of why Magdeleine was called his "country wife" and the story of their family and travels.

“A Poignant Mystery Solved” by Lesley O'Neil

In this truly poignant tale Lesley explains how a poem found in her mother's box of Family treasures clarifies the tragic story of a child lost to their family as an infant.

Book Reviews

Remember Me As You Pass By: Stories from Prairie Graveyards by Nancy Miller
A collection of tales from the graveyard and visits to graveyards in western
Canada

Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors – Relatively Speaking

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Volume 40 Number 2 – May 2012

Summary of Feature Articles

“Attracting Youth to Family History” research by Marilyn Hindmarch & Peter Staveley

Personal anecdotes from each of the editors serves to introduce this new theme.

40 Years of Publication - The Second Decade:

“A Search for a McCloy Family in Ireland” by Thomas R. (Pat) McCloy

Originally published in 1991, Pat McCloy bemoans the trap we have all fallen into at one time or another — that of not asking questions of older family members. Pat took what few (and unreliable) notes he had to the Belfast PRO in an attempt to learn more about his paternal lineage. He was surprised and gladdened with what he was able to find and impressed with the people who assisted him along the way. The route he travelled remains useful to anyone researching in Ireland today.

“My Personal Journey Along The Path of Ancestry” by Sarah Murphy

This article, reprinted from the QFHS, was written last year by their then-youngest member. We think this one-page account should provide inspiration to other young people as well as their parents and grandparents looking to pass the genealogical torch to the next generation.

“If You Build It... — One AGS Branch’s Success Attracting Youth” by Judy Bradley

Judy chronicles how AGS Grande Prairie Branch used their outreach program to attract youth to family history. Their success should provide encouragement to other branches in extending a welcome hand to younger residents in their area.

“Using Computers in Edmonton” by Gloria Cathcart

Gloria Cathcart was a long-time teacher in Edmonton schools and a pioneer in introducing computers into elementary classrooms. In this article she tells us her surprise at how easily the students grasped the concepts put to them, their attentiveness, and eagerness to work with this then-new tool. Gloria’s experience speaks to the importance of engaging young people at an early age, how computers have molded the curriculum over the past 30 years, and hint at what lies ahead. How will family historians be affected by ever-increasing on-line data? Food for thought.

“Searching For Charlotte, Part II — The Voyage North” by Marilyn Lappi

Part II of this three part series describes Charlotte’s trip north from Winnipeg to Fort McPherson. The route she travelled would be a long drive today; having done so in 1886, paints this woman as remarkable. Diary entries chronicle hardships only stalwarts could endure.

“Looking For Family History in Minnesota and Wisconsin” by Margaret McInall

Our families do often tend to move around. Clayton Sauvé’s family originated in Quebec but some family members relocated to Alberta by way of Minnesota and Wisconsin, some of them remaining in those U.S. locations. Last summer Margaret and Clayton set out to revisit places his ancestors were known to have lived in. They met some very interesting people along the way, saw some exciting sights and located some even more exciting family treasures!

“Your London Research Trip” by Lynn Fogwill

Lynn, a frequent research traveller to London and organizer of several AGS Edmonton Branch research trips, has set out a useful list of tips for before embarking on your own personal trip, then added a brief summary of many locations in which to search. So, anyone going to London this summer to attend the Olympics with the plan to do some research while there, might want to consider reading this article first.

Book Review

The Life of Rebecca Jones, reviewed by Miriam Roberts

Written as a novel in both Welsh and English (on opposite pages), this book has met with acclaim for telling a true facts in this literary style.

Visiting Alberta’s Past

- 1) “A Challenge to Heritage: St. John’s Lutheran Church of Heimthal”
The threat to this historic church is documented.
- 2) “German Prisoner of War Camp”
The remains of a little known POW camp west of Edmonton en route to Jasper is highlighted.

From the Branches

- 1) Edmonton Events
- 2) Peace River Branch

Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors – Relatively Speaking

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Volume 40 Number 3 – August 2012

Summary of Feature Articles

40 Years of Publication - The Third Decade

Walter Meyer, long time AGS member and Past President of Edmonton Branch, wrote of the investigative work he did to identify previously unidentified pictures of his ancestors that he received from his mother in a beautifully bound family photo album. Much of the 'detective' work which he describes in this 1966 article is still very valid today.

“Searching For Charlotte” by Marilyn Lappi

In the conclusion of this three part series Marilyn tells of the experiences of Charlotte French, her pioneering great great aunt, during her life in the north.

“First Presbyterian Church, Edmonton” by Dr Kenneth Munro

On the 100 year anniversary of this beautiful church in its present location Dr. Munro, a professor of history and a member of the history committee of the First Presbyterian Church, takes us back in time to its origins and construction, reminding us of the official grand opening on June 2, 1912.

“Doctor A.G. Scott: Western Canada's First Flying Doctor” by Merv Scott

Dr. Alexander G. Scott was the great uncle of the author of the fascinating story about the life of this pioneer in the medical field in western Canada. One quote describes the faith homesteaders and urban dwellers alike had in the competence of Dr Scott — *“They deeply admired and appreciated him and had complete confidence in his calm and efficient manner.”*

“Meeting Oklahoma Cousins” by Arlene Hedlund

Each year *Relatively Speaking* reprints the article awarded the Kenneth Young Best Newsletter Article of the year. It is always a pleasure to share these quality stories and this year is no exception. Arlene's description of her travels to Oklahoma with her sister to meet with their cousin gives us pause to realize why we engage in this family research addiction.

“Early Canadian Newspapers” by Lynn Fogwill

Lynn start her article writing; "Having started down the addictive genealogy trail, it doesn't take long before you turn to historic newspapers to fill out your births, marriages and deaths." Her article outlines many examples of this and the methodology used to locate and search these historical newspapers.

“Catholic and Lutheran Research” by Irmgard Hein Ellingson

This article is a response to "Genealogical Research in Germany", an article written by Al Bromling published in the August 2010 issue of *Relatively Speaking*. Irmgard clarifies one area of Al's article while also providing a lot of very valuable additional information for those researching their German ancestors.

Book Reviews

- Oxford Companion to Scottish History edited by Michael Lynch
- Family History on the Net by Colin Waters

These two books were originally reviewed for publication by FFHS by AGS members Ardis D. Kamra. The first provide insight and assistance

to those researching in Scotland while the second identifies the most recent websites, both free and those requiring a fee, available for researchers.

Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley
Co-editors – Relatively Speaking

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Volume 40 Number 4 – November 2012

Summary of Feature Articles

“Early Days in the AGS” (Vol. 27 No. 3 Page 22, August 1999) by John Hughes

John recounts his introduction to genealogy, the AGS and RS with fact, humour and anecdotes we can relate to even a decade later.

“40 years of Publication — the Second Decade: Two Tea Bags” by Terry Gregory

First published in RS in 2007 and subsequently in other publications, Terry's story reminds us of the poignant moments families lived through during WWII. Fortunately for the Gregory family, this tale had a happy ending.

“Zeb Croteau — “Trapper from Pouce Coupe” 1877-1933” by Lynne Duigou

In this article, Lynne tells a very Canadian winter tale of an ancestor who died on his trap line during the winter of 1934. However, the trapper, Zeb Croteau, kept a journal which has subsequently helped, along with various newspaper clippings and documents, to piece together the life of this quite colourful character.

“Three dollars and seventy-eight cents — C.O.D.” by Denise (Juchli) Daubert

If any reader has a “Certificate of Service in the Second Great European war” this article may be an important aid to discovering the significance behind it. For Denise's family, research into the back story of this unique document has added to putting meat on the bones of her research.

“Cross of Honour of the German Mother” by Marilyn Hindmarch

This is a brief snippet of information about a hitherto unknown (at least to RS editors) German decoration bestowed by Hitler to deserving women from 1939-1945. The cross is also shown.

“Cap Badges — A Trooper's Point of Pride” by Marilyn Hindmarch

When Marilyn's uncle, a WWII trooper with the XII Manitoba Dragoons, died last year, she acquired his collection of cap badges. Research into individual badges has provided her with interesting facts on the history of the regiments represented in this unique collection, some of which is displayed on our centre spread.

“A Real Cowhand From The Land of Scots: A Story About John Barbour” by Frank Easton

This is Part I of one of Frank's Scottish ancestors, a farmer who came to Alberta as a young adult where he continued his interest in animal husbandry. John Barbour raised Clydesdales, travelling back and forth to Scotland by ship to acquire good breeding stock. This is a quintessential Alberta tale of hardship and success, Part II of which we will eagerly anticipate in a forthcoming issue.

“Shoulder to Shoulder” by Peter Williams, from recent conversations with Alice Airriess

Peter recounts, from his aunt Alice's WWII reminiscences, her time with the CWACs and her role during this time in Canada and England. This is a unique look into the life, at that time, of one female military member.

Book Review

A Place of Meadows and Tall Trees, reviewed by Miriam Roberts

Written as a work of fiction, this book can add meat to the bones for those pursuing Welsh family history.

Visiting Alberta's Past

- 1) Unmarked and Alone in Fort Saskatchewan
A small cemetery with historical significance is described.
- 2) Every City Has a Dark Side
POW camps in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, and their significance, are described.

From the Branches

- Edmonton outreach events

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