

# RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Volume 41 Number 1 – February 2013

## *Summary of Feature Articles*

### **“The Formative Years” by Frank Easton**

Frank, one of the nine founding members of AGS, recalls how our society began and in so doing gives us all an entertaining story of AGS history.

### **“A Dark and Stormy Night” by Jim Benedict**

Jim joined the Guild of One Name Studies, his interest being his Benedict family's genealogy in America. In this article he chronicles his research into this family with roots in North America dating back to 1637, pointing out pitfalls and problem solving. This is a good 'how to' story that focuses on searching, researching, documenting and storing information.

### **“Experiences of an Online Parish Clerk: Examples of information gleaned from parish registers” by Wayne Shephard**

Wayne is the Online Parish Clerk (OPC) for four parishes in the southwest part of Devon. He shows us what his personal research has yielded, from which we can all learn techniques to use in our own family research.

### **“Shattered Dreams: The Blank's Lake Jewish Settlement in Central Alberta, 1893-1896” by Michael Dawe**

Michael tells us about a long lost Jewish settlement in Pine Lake and the plight of these settlers who tried so hard to succeed as a community in this area at this time.

### **“Researching Like a History Detective” by Gena Philibert Ortega**

Gena comments on the excitement that comes from learning the real story behind a historic artifact or heirloom as told on the PBS series *The History Detectives*. She tells who they are and how they proceed. She shows us the tools they use that we can also use in our research and highlights the importance of consulting experts.

### **“Connecting Asa and George: a Case Study” by Ronna L. Byam**

Ronna's 3X great grandfather was born in Canada circa 1800. A 1975 book showed the descendants of George Byam who came from England to America prior to 1640 but no mention is made of Asa. Ronna shows us how she connected her Byam family to the George Byam family, and in so doing solved a long standing puzzle. Perseverance pays off!

### **“Navigating Genealogy Websites” by Shannon Cherkowski**

Shannon details how to begin Internet research, where to look, what to look for, and how to utilize websites to maximum benefit.

### **Book Review**

- *Marriage Law For Genealogists: the definitive guide* reviewed by Ardis D. Kamra  
This publication provides assistance to those seeking marriage records in England and Wales.

### **“Checklist of Genealogical Research Resources”**

– this is a reprint of the beginning of a list prepared by C.D. Denney that appeared in RS in August 1989, to be continued in issues throughout this year.

### **Visiting Alberta's Past**

- Centennials – a number of centennials being celebrated this year are listed for quick reference

### **From the Branches**

- Drayton Valley provides a list of forthcoming presentations at their branch.

**Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley**  
**Co-editors – Relatively Speaking**

# RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Volume 41 Number 2 – May 2013

## *Summary of Feature Articles*

### **“Observing a Milestone” by Denise (Juchli) Daubert**

Denise provides personal insights and helpful hints from her Accarias family's 100th celebration that could help others in planning a similar event, even if not such an impressive milestone.

### **“George Henry Atherstone — may not have been such a ‘family black sheep’ after all!” by Hans-Henning Muendel**

This follow up to Henning's article that appeared in May 2011 (Vol. 39 No. 2), proves the value of continuing to pursue research even after it appears the end has been reached and reinforces the importance of keeping an open mind with all research.

### **“Birthday Books: The Longfellow Birthday Book” by Claudine Nelson**

This is a follow up response to an article that appeared in February 2012 (Vol. 40 No. 1) citing the wealth of information that can be gleaned from personal albums, diaries, etc. Claudine shares some of her personal finds, further endorsing this resource as a means to expand our knowledge and appreciation of our ancestors and their day-to-day lives.

### **“Birthday Books: Remember Me” by Denise Daubert**

Denise shares her French birthday book, commenting on some of the entries that have proved fruitful to her in coming to know some of her ancestors more intimately and providing 'meat on the bones'.

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

After a hiatus (part one appeared in November 2012), part two of Frank continues the tale of his ancestor, his love of Clydesdale horses and the life he forged for himself on the prairies. Frank's tale provides an in-depth portrait of an early Alberta settler and rancher.

### **“AGS Conference 2013 — Same Roots, Different Branches” by Shannon Cherkowski and Shirley Clarke, Conference Co-chairs**

This centre spread shows photos of just a few of the many 40th anniversary conference highlights with descriptive text provided by the co-chairs.

### **“Checklist of Genealogical Research Resources” by Charles Denney**

This is part two of a reprint of Denney's still-relevant research checklist for genealogists. Part one appeared in our February issue; the remainder of the checklist will be published in subsequent issues this year.

### **“AGS Trip to Remember” by Frank Easton**

Sometimes spring travel can be stressful. As part of the AGS 40th Anniversary, Frank, a founding member, recounts his travel experience en route to an early AGM held in Calgary.

### **“Barr Colonists” by Joan Wegert**

Joan states that the Barr Colony was “...the last great emigration scheme in English/North American history...” Here she presents the tale of her grandfather and her search to prove whether he was in fact a ‘Barr Colonist’, providing another valuable ‘how to’ research strategy.

### **“It’s All Greek to Me... Dr. George A. Baltis” by Leanne Balfour**

Leanne spent countless hours and resources to locate her great-grandfather, a mysterious and colourful ancestor. After many unsuccessful years she finally succeeded in breaking through her brick wall to find him; now her quest for related family members continues.

### **Book Review**

*Kisiskaciwan (Saskatchewan) — Tracing My Grandmother’s Foot Steps*, reviewed by Margaret Bendickson

In this historical fiction novel author Vernon Wishert writes, with love and sensitivity, about his Métis ancestry.

### **“Visiting Alberta’s Past”**

#### 1) “Childbirth and Healthcare for the Pioneers”

Midwives and nurses, typically with lengthy travel and uncertainty involved, assisted women settlers giving birth in the early 1900s.

#### 2) “At the End of the Victoria Trail”

The Victoria Settlement, now all but forgotten, existed along the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River south of the Town of Smoky Lake. This comment sheds light on the rise and demise of this place.

### **From the Branches**

- 1) AGS and Edmonton Branch Libraries: new books acquired by AGS and recent survey results from Edmonton Branch
- 2) Red Deer Cenotaph
- 3) Grande Prairie Branch

**Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley**  
**Co-editors – Relatively Speaking**

# RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Volume 41 Number 3 – August 2013

## *Summary of Feature Articles*

### **“Sheepskin Coats on the Prairies- Searching For My Ukrainian Ancestors” by Sharon Aney**

With this article, Sharon was the 2012 winner of the Kenneth Young Award for Best Original Article appearing in a branch newsletter. She tells how, as a descendant of immigrants, she traced her lineage back to her ancestral roots. This is an excellent 'how to' story for similar researchers.

### **“Getting the Mail – Rural Mail Delivery Comes to Bardo” by Donald Kauffman**

Donald recalls how mail was received in small town Alberta when he was a boy, and the excitement this event gave rise to. Especially with Canada Post now planning to cut back on service, this tale will bring back fond memories.

### **“Are You A ‘Mayflower Descendant’?” by Hans-Henning Muendel**

Henning tells how his wife Bev, with his help, discovered and proved her Mayflower Descendant roots. The process is stringent and Henning sets out the sequence to follow for anyone else who thinks they have such roots.

### **“Your History of Homes and the History of Your Home” by Marilyn M. Astle**

Marilyn poses the question: Do you ever drive by a former home? Do you still know the address? etc. She then sets out the spreadsheet method she used to chronicle her research into all the homes in which she has lived showing the provenance of each and its current status. This is an activity that would lend 'meat on the bones' to anyone's research.

### **“My Time with ‘Living the Poor Life’” by Ann Taylor**

Ann volunteered with The National Archives, Kew, London on a project to catalogue correspondence between various boards and guardians of poor law unions across London. She was taken with the detailed accounts of local and labouring poor and paupers and their struggles. For anyone researching in London and possibly suspecting a poor relative in their past, this would be a very informative article to peruse.

### **“Checklist of Genealogical Research Resources” by Charles D. Denney**

This is reprint of part of a list prepared by Charles Denney in 1989. His checklist remains current, which is why we decided to publish it in four parts throughout this year.

### **“AGS Memory – The Coat” by Frank Easton**

Frank, one of our founding members, has many recollections to share. This is one from an early AGS meeting, sure to bring a chuckle.

### **“A Flower for Oliver, a Friend for Me” by Denise (Juchli) Daubert**

Denise tells of an act of kindness that followed from her research to track the maternal grandfather of her aunt, born and raised in Birmingham, England. The search proved challenging until, through an Internet search, a kind stranger offered help; the gravesite was located and photographed - the quest completed and a new friend made in the process.

### **“United Empire Loyalists and Eventual Migration to Alberta” by Heather L. Traub**

Heather provides some history into the UEL population along the eastern seaboard of the US and why and how they came to Canada. She profiles, in particular, her great grandfather, his military service and eventual migration west to Alberta. This is a tale so many Canadians can relate to of coming here because of political differences and/or persecution. Our forebears were strong people.

### **“The Horror of the Black Death in Europe” by Leanne Balfour**

Leanne tells us of how serendipity played a role in her discovery of a book, written in Norwegian, that included a section on her Sillerud family. Once translated, it became clear that everyone on that farm had died of the ‘Black Death’. Leanne tells us about that epidemic in Norway and its spread across Europe - a very interesting bit of cultural history to round out her family history.

### **Book Review**

*Something to Remember Me By*, reviewed by Lesley O’Neil

A little book that tells of mementoes given to a child by her grandmother as something to be remembered by. It will no doubt bring back fond childhood memories for many of us.

Other Titles Encouraging Youth to Explore – a short list prepared by John Althouse to encourage young people to develop an interest in genealogy

### **Visiting Alberta’s Past**

Germans from Russia in Medicine Hat and the POW camp there.

### **From the Branches**

- Lynn Fogwill profiles Edmonton Branch participation at this year’s ELLA program. This was a first and a very successful venture. John Althouse lists some other recent branch events and positions filled.
- Drayton Valley’s recent activities were provided by Miriam Roberts.

**Marilyn Hindmarch/Peter Staveley**  
**Co-editors – Relatively Speaking**

## **RELATIVELY SPEAKING**

Volume 41 Number 4 – November 2013

### *Summary of Feature Articles*

#### **“The Great Border War: Swiss Border Patrol” by Denise (Juchli) Daubert**

Denise feels she and her paternal grandfather are kindred spirits because of their shared independent natures. Charles Juchli was born in Switzerland and joined the Swiss Border Patrol, military service being mandatory in that country. He also worked in his family's horticultural business which was to prove useful to him after he immigrated to Alberta. Denise provides a glimpse into the interesting life this man lived in Switzerland, England, and Canada.

#### **“Trench Art; Beauty from Death” by Dwayne Kostura**

Dwayne is a long time collector of trench art, a passion that began in boyhood and has flourished since. Dwayne provides the history behind some of the items in his collection and what attracted him to them. He has also provided photos to show the decoration on these objects. Anyone interested in militaria and hand-made mementoes, most of them utilitarian, will find this a rewarding article.

#### **“Genealogy Angels” by Joan Conley**

Joan recounts how a couple of research friends helped her uncover sought after information on her great uncle who was killed during WWI. Because of help from her two 'genealogy angels' Joan now has the 'meat on the bones' that make all our stories so much more interesting. This is a useful 'how to' article for anyone unsure of how to locate information beyond military records on the lives of ancestors who were killed during wartime.

#### **“Sons of Cornelius Thompson, UEL: Veterans of the War of 1812-1814” by Barbara Purin**

Barbara culled information from this family history, published in 1936, of her ancestor to share with other local UEL descendants in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812-1814. She then prepared this written version of the life of Cornelius Thompson and his sons for RS. This account of one UEL family showcases an important part of our Canadian history.

#### **“Fort Garry Horse Regiment Ring” by Susan McKeen**

Susan has responded to an article from last November by Marilyn Hindmarch showing a variety of cap badges from her uncle's collection. Susan has a ring showing the same detail as one of these cap badges that she found among her father's effects. She is still no closer to knowing how this Fort Garry Regiment ring came into her father's possession and/or the meaning behind it. However, it is always good policy to keep such items and hope that eventually information will come to light. Seeing a matching cap badge may be a first step in this process. Susan looks forward to hearing from anyone who can shed further light on the meaning of her ring.

#### **“A Vimy Veteran's Last Wishes Granted” by Grant Nicol**

Grant recalls the very heartfelt tale of a Vimy Veteran who died without family to pay tribute to him and his service, and to bury his ashes with due respect. This truly speaks to the meaning of 'Remembrance Day'.

### **“Checklist of Genealogical Research Resources” by Charles Denney**

This is our final installment of the genealogical research checklist that founding member, Charles Denney, compiled many years ago and remains so useful to us today. We have enjoyed republishing this list throughout this AGS 40th Anniversary year.

### **“AGS Memory- Mother Teresa” by Frank Easton**

Throughout the AGS 40th Anniversary year, founding member Frank Easton has recounted brief stories from the early days of AGS. This one shares the tale of founding member John Hughes and the caring he had for people, especially other volunteers. (Frank may have another for 2014.)

### **“Prairie Memories of an RCAF Officer’s Wife” by Lesley (Dalrymple) O’Neil**

When Lesley’s parents lived in married officer’s quarters in Dafoe, Saskatchewan, her mother corresponded with other family members and friends. These surviving letters, along with photos from that time, offer a glimpse into the lifestyle, hopes and complaints of a WWII training officer and his young wife.

### **“100th Anniversary of Stanger Farm” by Martha (Moore) McGivern**

George Henry Moore moved, with his wife and young family, from Oregon to Stanger, Alberta in 1913. His brother Harry also relocated to Stanger and the two families flourished as farmers in this area. The author, Harry’s granddaughter, tells their story and of their success. George’s descendants, fourth generation Moore family, continue to reside on the original farm. This location has proven to be a magnet for family gatherings, most recently the 100th anniversary celebration with about 100 family members in attendance. Photos enhance Martha’s account.

### **Book Review**

“The Genealogists Internet” reviewed by Marilyn Spilchen

Reviewed here is the fifth edition of this comprehensive collection of Internet sources. It is a very up to date compendium, most useful to experienced researchers although also providing guidelines to the novice. The UK is the main focus, other countries being dealt with only peripherally.

### **Visiting Alberta’s Past**

1) “The First Century of Government House”

A brief history of this historic building with exterior and interior photos to illustrate the architecture and design features.

2) “High Level ‘Light the Bridge Campaign’”

A personal account of how this fundraiser to place led lights along the High Level Bridge was incentive to one AGS member as a means to honour a relative’s 100th birthday. Anyone interested in making a donation to this project can go to their website for further information.

### **From the Branches**

- 1) Grande Prairie Genealogy Workshop
- 2) Red Deer Branch Meeting highlights
- 3) AGS and Edmonton Branch library acquisitions

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