



# Roots and Branches

## President's Message

### Special points of interest:

#### MEETINGS –

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, except December, July & Aug 7:00 pm at City Archives: 4904 – 50 Street, Wetaskiwin, AB

**LIBRARY** – located at City Archives  
Hrs. of Operation – Tuesday 1 – 3 pm  
(Branch volunteers at library)  
Library resources available during regular Archives hours

#### Contacts:

Alice Hoyle – 780-352-2150  
Syl Gauvreau – 780-352-5509  
Ken Campbell – 780-361-1914  
Marlene Scheffler – 780-352-6931  
Terry Milne – 780-352-7983  
Bill Hughes – 780-352-4549

#### MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE

##### President:

Don Brosius 780-352-0069

##### Vice President:

Syl Gauvreau 780-352-5509

##### Past President:

Alice Hoyle - 780-352-2150

##### Secretary:

Anne Wildcat 780-585-3772

##### Treasurer:

Ken Campbell 780-361-1914

##### Newsletter Editor:

Alice Hoyle 780-352-2150  
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### President's Report:

About 8 years ago Sharon Aney approached me about becoming President of the WGS. This opened my life to a whole new world of genealogy, adventure, and friends. I will never forget how Betty stepped down from the AGS as Vice President, leaving our club with a difficult decision: to host the GenFair or to step aside. We went for it and had a super conference. I have to give a big thank you to Ken Campbell and Donna Garvey who both stepped in to help me organize a great conference. One of the new speakers we introduced was Anne Wildcat.

Over the years, I also had the pleasure and opportunity to work with Alice Hoyle and Claudia Malloch. Their dedication and knowledge of genealogy is unbelievable and our club is very lucky to have members like this. They have also been a pillar of strength in helping me through many of my life trials. Thank you very much.

As I finish my term as President, I would also like to thank everyone else who has helped me throughout the years. I look forward to continue working with the club doing cemetery records and assisting in any way I can.

I am confident that the club will rally behind the new President to improve the program. Many hands working together will lighten the load and increase the fun and knowledge we share. Together We Can.

Don Brosius

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Our prayers and best wishes go out to Claudia Malloch, who will be undergoing her second hip replacement surgery the week of Feb. 15/10! We hope your recovery will be swift and we look forward to seeing you at our meetings in the near future! Editor, and all the Wet. Branch members

## Upcoming Meeting Topics:

**Feb:** Creative Memories –  
Bring a Project to work on!  
Also our AGM and Elections!

### Wetaskiwin Alberta Family History Center

Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints,

5410 – 36 Avenue,  
Wetaskiwin, AB

Hours:

Wed: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Thurs: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

6:30 pm-8:30 pm

### Dates to Remember:

**Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>: Beginner's Gen.  
Course in Camrose.**

**12:30-3:30. Course is free:  
pre-register by phoning  
780.672-4214. (Camrose  
Library)**

**Sat. Mar. 13: Drayton  
Valley Gen. Workshop  
9:00-3:15 Guest Speaker:  
Deanna Bullock (see more  
info. In this newsletter)**

**Apr.23-24: AGS GenFair  
2010 – Medicine Hat**

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### **IF:**

**You could have overheard a  
specific conversation between  
any two people, which people  
would it be?**

**You were to add a thirteenth  
month to the year, where would  
you insert it?**

**You could have said one thing to  
Harry Truman the day before he  
decided to drop the atomic bomb,  
what would you have said?**

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**FROM THE BOOK "LIVE AND  
LEARN AND PASS IT ON" –  
- I've learned that most of the  
things I worry about never  
happen.**

**- I've learned that couples  
without children always know  
just how you should raise yours.**

**- I've learned that trust is the  
single most important factor in  
both personal and professional  
relationships.**

**- I've learned that it's not what  
happens to people that's  
important. It's what they do  
about it!**

## Editor's Corner

By Alice Hoyle

My Uncle married an English woman in 1944, while he was serving overseas in England during WWII!

Not an 'uncommon' occurrence.....there were numerous War Brides brought back to Canada, several in our own community.

As a child growing up, my siblings and I knew of this marriage. We also knew that she didn't ever come to Canada, and in the end our Uncle and she were divorced and our Uncle re-married to the only woman we ever knew as his wife, our Aunty Arlene.

For me, there was always something curious and mysterious about this unknown woman in our Uncle's life. When my Uncle was in his 80's, I had the opportunity to talk to him about his time overseas and about his marriage and he was very honest about what happened and how the fact that she refused to come to Canada had affected his life. In our conversations, he told me her name (which I had never known prior to this) and I kept it in my memory bank (as well as my computer's genealogy records!). Her surname was the same as a very famous British Rock 'n Roll person and of course I wondered if perhaps it could be another *Eric Clapton* revelation!! Probably many or most of you know that Eric Clapton's biological father was a Canadian serving in England during WWII.

After my Uncle died, and out of curiosity (there goes that curious genealogy gene again!) I tried to find a record of his marriage on ancestry.com to no avail. Last week for some unknown reason, I plunked in my Uncle's name again on the BMD search section of ancestry.com and 'jackpot!' - there it was!! This gave me her full name and the location of the marriage. Naturally, I handed over the money and ordered the Marriage Certificate.

Then, of course, my curiosity got the better of me, and I started to search for information on her. I found out that she had re-married as well. By some little quirk of fate, both she and my Uncle re-married in the same year.

So now I wait for the documentation to arrive – I am anxious to see who her parents were, and where she was born. Some of you may wonder why I am bothering to research this person I never knew and who is surely deceased by now. In my saner moments, I wonder the same thing!! I find it hard to explain my "need to know" instincts, but those of you who have the same genetic makeup will understand totally.

If there is one thing this experience has taught me, it's that we should never give up on our research! If I had given up after not finding any record of the marriage last year, I wouldn't have known the information I now know about this event in my Uncle's life.

KEEP TRYING, AND NEVER GIVE UP!! ☺

Hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's Day and Family Day!

### Your Newsletter Editor

Alice Hoyle

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Chinese New Year began February 14<sup>th</sup>. It is the Year of the Tiger. The year 2010 is Year 4707 in the Chinese Calendar.



diplomats overseas, an extra House seat after the 2000 census, to the chagrin of Utah, deemed to have 856 fewer inhabitants despite its thousands of Mormon missionaries abroad.

from The Economist – The World in 2010 issue.

### **“Who Do You Think You Are?”**

This hit BBC television show will be broadcast by the American Network NBC, beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (Friday) at 8:00 pm Eastern. Check your local listings for details. The new series will feature some well known personalities, and Ancestry.com will be a major sponsor of the program.

### **GPS Replaces Headstones in Calgary Cemeteries:**

The City of Calgary has a new strategy for the city’s soon-to-be-full cemeteries: green burials and GPS locators for finding the dead.

Four of Calgary’s five municipal cemeteries are full, and officials estimate the Queen’s Park burial lands which opened in 1940, will run out of space within 10 years. A council committee has approved a strategy that incorporates technology, including GPS units and environmentally friendly techniques to make the most use of new cemetery land.

Two new cemeteries approved for the SE and the north of the city will have sections for green burials, where there won’t be any grave markers, according to Archie Lang, the city’s Manager of Cemeteries. A family visiting the cemetery will be given a hand-held GPS unit to find loved ones.

\*\* thanks to Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter dated January 31, 2010.

### **440 Years of London’s History Online at Ancestry.ca**

In case you missed it, in the Fall of 2009, Ancestry.ca announced that 18 million parish records from over 1000 London parishes went online. The records detail baptisms, marriages and burials from more than 1000 London parishes between 1538 and 1980 and reveal the names and stories of those who lived through major events in the city’s history – including the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London. The collection pre-dates Civil Registration – the British government’s system established in 1837 to keep accurate records of citizens’ lives. The only way to trace a baptism, marriage or burial before the 19<sup>th</sup> century is through parish records.

\*\*thanks to Ancestry.ca and to Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter dated Sept. 22, 2009.

### **From the book “Lovell’s Gazetteer of British North America, 1873”:**

#### **Edmonton:**

A fortified village in the North West Territories. It is built of red earth, enclosed by high pickets and entered by battlemented gateways. Its vicinity is rich in coal and gold, and other minerals.

#### **Winnipeg or Fort Garry:**

The seat of government of the province of Manitoba, situated at the junction of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, 40 miles S. of Lake Winnipeg, 65 miles from Pembina, U.S., 250 miles from Fort Abercrombie, 1180 miles from Montreal, via proposed Canada Pacific railway, or 1843 miles via Chicago and St. Paul. The city contains about 25 stores, several saw mills, 4 printing offices, a telegraph office, a theatre, a Church of England cathedral, Presbyterian and Wesleyan churches, two colleges, several schools, a bank and branch bank, government house, legislative buildings, many good dwellings and a strong and regular fortification. Winnipeg is the seat of the See of the Metropolitan of the North West. Opposite the town is St. Boniface, the seat of the See of Archbishop Tache. Total value of imports for 1872: \$942,247; exports: \$85,541. Population: 3,000.

#### **Places Not Listed:**

Regina, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Fort MacLeod, or even Wetaskiwin! ☺

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**Research Reminders and Information:**

Edmonton Branch, AGS, is soliciting suggestions for the 2011 AGS Conference. They would like to know:

- Which speakers are you interested in hearing?
- What topics would you like to see offered?
- What are your thoughts about the past conferences?
- What aspects of past conference did you like or dislike?
- Are there tips and techniques that you would like to see used in future conferences?

Please submit your suggestions by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to:

Shannon at [AGSConference2011@shaw.ca](mailto:AGSConference2011@shaw.ca)

Adele at [afgoa@telus.net](mailto:afgoa@telus.net)

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**A reminder, and once again I nag you about the resources available with your Public Library card!!!**

With your library membership card in hand – log on to <http://www.yrl.ab.ca>

This is the Yellowhead Regional Library website, of which Wetaskiwin (and Millet) are members! Once at their website, click on "Search", then E-Resources. You will now find listed a whopping 44 databases from which to choose, including Genealogy. On the Genealogy section, you can search HeritageQuest Online. You will be required to log in with your membership number and your password (your phone number).

HeritageQuest Online allows you to search and view the US census records from 1790 to 1930; as well there are 20,000 book titles you can search, 8000 family histories, 12000 local histories, 250 other Primary Source documents including Tax Lists, City Directories, Probate Records and more!!!

If this doesn't convince you to get a library card, I don't know what will!!! ☺

(As a matter of interest, this is where I found all the information for my niece: her ancestors were in Massachusetts in the early 1600's and they fought in the American Revolution. The original documents can be viewed and printed.)

**Library and Archives Canada:**

This site <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca> is continually evolving. Just when I think I have the difficult website conquered, they go and change it! It is, however, worth the effort you put in to figure it out as they are also adding new information regularly. Patience is a virtue (so someone once said!).

***WETASKIWIN'S FAMILY HISTORY CENTER:***

THE WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY CENTER has a new Director: she is Patty Caputo. Patty has joined the Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS, and we look forward to seeing her at our meetings.

As a reminder, there are numerous resources available at the Family History Center (see information on days/times of operation on page 2) as well as knowledgeable volunteers who are willing and able to assist you with your research.

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The following was submitted by Carole Koop. This information appeared in the "Perth County Profiles", Vol. 23 No. 4, Nov. 2005, P.58

**Did You Know** that the 1851 census was actually taken on 12 January 1852? The enumerator asked the informant, "How old will you be at your NEXT birthday?" The 1861 census was taken on 14 January, 1861. The person was asked, "How old will you be at your NEXT birthday?" The 1871 census was taken on 2 April 1871. The question this time was "How old are you on Census Day?" The 1881 census was taken on 4 April 1881 and the question was the same. The 1891 census was taken on 6 April 1891 and again the question about age was the same. The 1901 census was taken on 31 March 1901. This time the actual birth date was requested.

Very important information to keep in mind when trying to determine your ancestors' birth years, if you are referring to the census records of either 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, or 1891!

Thanks, Carole for the above information.

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## KUDOS – THANKS A BUNCH!!

**EXECUTIVE:** Thanks to everyone who has served on the Executive for the past 2 years. Our February meeting will be our AGM, and elections will be held to replace the current Executive. The term of office will not begin until Sept. 1, 2010, as we have traditionally operated on a September to August year.

To those who have allowed their names to stand for the 2010/2012 Executive, a big thank you from all of us. It is hoped that at our February AGM we will be successful in acquiring a full slate of officers without too much arm wrestling! ☺

Thanks to Don for stepping into the President's position last year when it became apparent that Claudia's health would not allow her to continue with the Presidency of our Branch.

**ARCHIVES STAFF:** Thanks to Carolyn and Angela for their assistance in opening the building for our meetings. We also appreciate their input and knowledge as presenters at our workshops!

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS:** Once again, your Editor thanks you very much for your contributions to this newsletter. I certainly welcome any and all contributions to the newsletter, so please contact me with information you feel our branch members would be interested in reading.

## RE M I N D E R S:

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Please remember to submit your volunteer hours to Ken. Our hours assist AGS with applying for grants that will assist us all. Email Ken at [kwayne1@telus.net](mailto:kwayne1@telus.net).

**DRAYTON VALLEY WORKSHOP, Mar.13 : Speaker – Deanna Bullock**

Fee: \$15 if a member of Drayton Valley Branch, AGS/\$20 for all others.

Topics: I Have Family Papers, Where Do I Start/Mapping For Genealogists/Using Google in Your Family History Research/Google Books and PERSI.

For more information, contact Miriam at 780-542-2215 or email [meiriona@telus.net](mailto:meiriona@telus.net)

## *Tickle Your Funny Bone*



(Thanks to Claudia for the following)

- ~ Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
- ~ I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.
- ~ Can a first cousin, once removed, ever return?
- ~ Searching for lost relatives? Win the lottery!
- ~ Do I even WANT ancestors?
- ~ Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.
- ~ Every family tree has some sap in it.
- ~ Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.
- ~ Genealogists never die, they just lose their roots.
- ~ Genealogy: A haystack full of needles. It's the threads I need!
- ~ Heredity: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools.
- ~ I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.
- ~ Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related.

Until next time, may your genealogical challenges be little ones; may your brick walls come tumbling down; may your ancestors finally come out of their hiding spots; and may you enjoy your time researching all these wonderful ancestors! Alice Howle Editor