



# 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  
[alihoy@xplornet.com](mailto:alihoy@xplornet.com)

I had the pleasure of attending the Gen Fair in Medicine Hat last month. Brooks and Medicine Hat AGS Branches hosted the event which brought about 100 attendees from across the province. Our Branch Newsletter won the Ken Young AGS Newsletter Award for best local content. On behalf of the club I would like to congratulate Sharon Aney who had the idea, Sharon and Elaine Young who put together the information, and to Alice Hoyle who puts the newsletter together. A job well done.

This is a good indication of what we can accomplish when we work together as a group. Another indication is our October Workshop. A small dedicated group puts together a great learning opportunity every October for the last 7 years. This year will be no different. I look forward to attending and I encourage everyone to attend and bring a friend.

As my time as President comes to an end I would like to thank my executive for their support and dedication to the club. I would like to welcome Anne Wildcat and her executive and offer them my support.

Don Brosius

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Our prayers and best wishes go out to Claudia Malloch, who will be undergoing another round of surgery on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope your recovery will be swift. We really enjoyed seeing you at our April meeting!  
Editor, and all the Wet. Branch members

## Upcoming Meeting Topics:

**May: "Recognizing & Overcoming Fallacies in Genealogical Research" – Sharon Aney, Presenter**

**June: Our final meeting until Sept. – bring a small snack, juice, etc. and we will have a round table discussion about our year's successes, trials and tribulations, brickwalls, etc.**

### 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:

**May 18: May meeting**

**June 14: Branch Bingo –**

**Evening Bingo...14**

**workers required**

**June 15: June meeting**

**Sept.8: Parade of**

**Programs at the Drill Hall**

**Sept.21: Sept. meeting**

**Oct. 19: Oct. meeting**

**Oct. 23: Gen.Workshop in Wetaskiwin ☺**

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**FROM THE BOOK "LIVE AND LEARN AND PASS IT ON"**

- I've learned that the man who says he can do as much at 60 as he could do at 30 wasn't doing very much at 30!

- I've learned that people are in such a hurry to get to the "good life" that they often rush right past it.

- I've learned that we grow only when we push ourselves beyond what we already know.

- I've learned that kind words and good deeds are eternal. You never know where their influence will end.

## Editor's Corner

By Alice Hoyle

Imagine my surprise when President Don called me after he returned from the AGS GenFair in Medicine Hat, to convey the good news that our Branch newsletter had won an award!

This was so unexpected! The Award was for Best Local Content, and the idea was the brainchild of Sharon Aney. She thought an article on the local resources in our area would be a good idea. She and Elaine Young researched the information, compiled and forwarded it to me for insertion in our newsletter. Thanks to their work, we now have a lovely Award to grace the shelves of our Resource Centre.

The resourcefulness and cooperation of the genealogy community is truly amazing. I have recently heard of remarkable discoveries made by volunteers at the Family History Center, as well as some "Ah-ha" moments experienced by our branch members. When we work together we can truly accomplish the seemingly impossible tasks.

As this will be my last newsletter, I would like to thank everyone who so willingly submitted articles to me for publication. My job as newsletter editor was certainly less stressful because of you!!

I look forward to reading the newsletters that our next editor, Sharon Aney, will be producing. She does an awesome job of story telling, so I think this will be her 'cup of tea'.

I encourage you all to continue submitting articles to the newsletter editors – the variety really keeps the publication interesting.

### Your Newsletter Editor

Alice Hoyle

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### **Technology, isn't it great!!!**

This is now my second production of the May, 2010 newsletter!!

Late last night, after working diligently for 4 hours straight, I was horrified to find out that my computer had zapped my newsletter.....it is now in never-never land somewhere!! So here I am again, trying to re-create what I had already done.

I must confess, it **isn't** easier doing it the second time around! ☺

A.H.



**April, 2010:**

The presentation at our April meeting was on Using Your Public Library for Genealogical Research. Alice Hoyle was the presenter. The branch members were shown in detail, how to use the tracpac.ab.ca site, with special emphasis on how to find books, order them from the comfort of your own home, re-new books, etc.

Alice also showed those in attendance, how to use the databases available at the tracpac website, especially the Heritage Quest site which contains a lot of information about the U.S.A. (census records, family history books, military records, etc.)

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**DID YOU KNOW?****MONOPOLY!!**

**(You'll never look at the game the same way again!) Article submitted by Claudia Malloch**

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now, obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks – they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into "CARE packages", dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

- A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
- A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
- Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POW's who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this

The story wasn't de-classified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honoured in a public ceremony. It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!!

### ***DID YOU KNOW, CONTINUED.....***

#### **Scottish Miners in the Ayreshire Region**

If you know or think you have ancestors who were miners in the Ayreshire region of Scotland, you might want to check out this website. The website gives information about their lives, including a description of their housing.

<http://www.scottishmining.co.uk/133/html>

#### **U.K. Maps Online**

If you are interested in obtaining maps of the various regions in the U.K., you can access this information at the website below.

<http://www.cassinimaps.co.uk>

#### **Angus Council, Scotland – Burial Records**

If you have ancestors from the Angus area of Scotland, check out this site. I personally did a surname search for some of my ancestors and found a long list of burial records!

<http://www.deceasedonline.com>

#### **U.K. Medieval Battle Records Online**

Detailed service records of 250,000 medieval soldiers. The database of those who fought in the Hundred Years War reveals salaries, sickness records and who was knighted!

<http://www.icmacentre.ac.uk/soldier/database>

#### **California Digital Newspaper Collection**

Okay, this is really quite the collection! You can search by surname and/or narrow your search according to the different newspapers on the website. In researching this site, I entered a surname of ancestors who I suspected were in California: BINGO!! I found an article in the Los Angeles Herald, dated 3 April, 1905 – the article goes into great detail about my great-great grandmother's brother who was 93 in 1905, and had undergone surgery. The article gives a lot of details about his life, his ancestry, etc. What an amazing find for me!!!

Check it out @ <http://cdnc.ucr.edu>

**\*thanks to Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter for the above website suggestions\***

#### **Reminders and Information:**

The following sites are always useful, and are constantly evolving – it's worth checking them out periodically to see what is new.

#### **Library and Archives Canada:**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>

Although sometimes difficult to figure out, it is, however, worth the effort as they are adding new information regularly.

#### **Family Search:**

<http://www.familysearch.org>

What a wealth of information at this site. The massive amount of information available on this site, encompassing research ideas, databases, training, free forms that you can print off, etc. makes it worth the time you spend checking it out on a regular basis.



**WETASKIWIN'S FAMILY HISTORY CENTER:**

THE WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY CENTER'S new Director 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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 (thanks to Danny Lucas for the following)

**BROWSING CEMETERIES: Some Fascinating things found on old tombstones**

**Harry Edsel Smith** of Albany, New York:  
 Born 1903 – Died 1942.  
 Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the  
 Car was on the way down. It was.

In a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery:  
 Here lies an Atheist, all dressed up and  
 no place to go.

In a London, England cemetery:  
 Here lies **Ann Mann**, who lived an old maid  
 But died an old Mann. Dec. 8, 1767

In a Ruidoso, New Mexico cemetery:  
 Here lies **Johnny Yeast** – Pardon me  
 for not rising.

In a cemetery in Hartscombe, England:  
 On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, **Jonathan Fiddle**  
 Went out of tune.

In a Uniontown, Pennsylvania cemetery:  
 Here lies the body of **Jonathan Blake**.  
 Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

In a Silver City, Nevada, cemetery:  
 Here lays The Kid.  
 We planted him raw.  
 He was quick on the trigger  
 But slow on the draw.

**John Penny's** epitaph in the Wimborne,  
 England, cemetery:  
 Reader, if cash thou art in want of any,  
 Dig 6 feet deep and thou wilt find a  
 Penny.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**MAY MEETING:**

Sharon Aney's presentation will be on "Recognizing & Overcoming Fallacies in Genealogical Research". Sharon attended a conference in St. George, Utah during the winter and would like to share with us, the information presented there. Should be a very interesting presentation and one we can all learn from!

**JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 – BINGO!**

Our Branch works **one Bingo per year**, as a fundraiser. The next Bingo is on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. This is an evening bingo. Plan to arrive approximately 5:00 pm if you would like to have your evening meal there (the branch pays for the meals), or arrive about 5:20 if you are just coming to work. Syl will be asking for volunteers at our May meeting, and he needs a minimum of 14 workers for that evening. Please mark this on your calendar and volunteer to assist with this important fund raising project.

(thanks to Claudia Malloch for this article)

## A "Twelve Days of Christmas" Family History

**W**riting a personal or family history can be a daunting task, one that I have studiously procrastinated about for many years. This past Christmas I inadvertently made marvelous strides in doing that family history in a relatively painless undertaking that brought a very special spirit to our Christmas.



The Gahan Family

My sister is a widow. Her unmarried grown son and only child lives over an hour away and was working until Boxing Day night. Christmas isn't her favourite time and I thought the 12 Days of Christmas might help...but how to do it from 3,000 miles away. My daughter suggested Christmas memories and that's how the idea was born.

I started by contacting my brother and all of our children for input. They all wanted to be copied on the project and enjoyed it very much.

The next step was writing up a memory I had and sending it to my brother for additions. Once I Emailed it in earnest, I got input from my sister and updated the document. This happened with each memory I used and the ones the others instigated.

We didn't stop at Christmas memories but were able to incorporate other youthful memories into the topics. For newer memories, I consulted my journals and obtained a lot more information. I also went through old photos and added them to the applicable memory. Where I could find appropriate ones and didn't have photos, I used clip art.

These were some of the topics I used to have childhood memories included with Christmas memories:

- ❖ I Believe in Christmas Past was the main title
- ❖ A Collage of Memories (in three parts)
- ❖ Here Comes Santa Claus
- ❖ Making a List...Checking It Twice – naughty things
- ❖ The Taste of Christmas Past (recipes for our favourites were included)
- ❖ Traditions Our Families Have Made
- ❖ I'll be Home for Christmas

There was no doubt that the idea was successful. We ended up with 42 pages of family memories all formatted into Word documents. I printed them and placed them in sheet protectors in a binder. Writing vignettes in conjunction with others is something I can do. My next project is to put these memories into an actual hard covered book and use it as a gift.

A wonderful bonus was the number of memories it triggered in all of us. It truly made ours an old fashioned Christmas.

Claudia Malloch

## Oops!

*In the November, 2009 issue of this newsletter, I printed the local resources available for research. It was indicated that this would be part one of two parts. It appears that I inadvertently inserted all the resources, rather than half of them!! However, if you have sources that you would like to share with our branch members, please advise the newsletter editor. She would be interested in adding these to an upcoming newsletter.*

### SOME WETASKIWIN HISTORY:

1883	FIRST MAIL AND FREIGHT SERVICE THROUGH AREA, ALONG CALGARY-EDMONTON TRAIL. FIRST STAGECOACH SERVICE.
1884	FIRST WHITE WEDDING IN DISTRICT, AT PEACE HILLS AGENCY FARM. FORT ETHIER BUILT ON LUCAS FARM (PEACE HILLS AGENCY FARM)
1891	RAILWAY CONSTRUCTED THROUGH SIDING 16, CONNECTING EDMONTON AND CALGARY
1892	WETASKIWIN TOWNSITE SURVEYED AND SUB-DIVIDED. FIRST BUSINESS – A GENERAL STORE OWNED BY J.Z.C. MIQUELON. FIRST POSTMASTER – J.Z.C. MIQUELON, IN HIS STORE. C & E RAILWAY BUILDS STATION. FIRST DRIARD HOTEL IS BUILT.
1894	FIRST CITY SCHOOL BUILT ON PRESENT SITE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL. FIRST WHITE BABY BORN IN WETASKIWIN, GLADYS (COMPTON) PAYNE.

## REMINDE RS:

**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).

## Tickle Your Funny Bone



**Did I Read That Sign Right?**

**TOILET SEAT OUT OF ORDER, PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.**

In a Laundromat:

**AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT!**

Outside a Second-Hand Shop:

**WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING – BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?**

Sign Seen During a Conference:

**FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE FIRST FLOOR.**

Notice in a Farmer's Field:

**THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.**

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 Hoyle, Editor