



# Roots and Branches

Vol. 9 No. 1

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## Branch meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month,

7:00 pm at

City Archives: 4904 – 50 Street,  
Wetaskiwin, AB  
except December, July & Aug

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## It Is Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

On October 3, 2000 about 25 people met at the public library and decided to form a branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society in Wetaskiwin.

15 people took out memberships.

The Charter Executive was: President: Leah Jaburek, Vice president: Denise Franklin, Secretary: Sharon Aney, Treasurer: Marilyn Valkenburg.

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## President's Message

Anne Wildcat

Recently, I experienced some serious clarity that I took the role of the AGS-WB Presidency for granted. I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the past Presidents and Executives. I hope I can do you all proud. I am excited to serve with a fine group of individuals.

The opportunity to participate in the annual AGS Retreat was incredibly helpful and provided a better sense of my role. There is concern that membership numbers are decreasing across the province. The AGS Retreat has encouraged all branches to focus our priorities in four areas which include increasing membership, Programs / Education, Marketing / Advertising and Special Projects. It was clear to me that Wetaskiwin Branch has been working on these priorities for sometime now. Yay, Wetaskiwin Branch! These four priorities were initially identified in 2008.

I want to thank Alice Hoyle, Sharon Aney, Don Brosius, Joan Krueger and last but not least Claudia Malloch for their work on our Annual AGS Conference in October. In reference to Special Projects, thank you to Don Brosius on the work done over the last year in getting several cemeteries indexed. I also love the work done by our Branch Historians. It is those little things that make a world of difference for us now and our progenitors.

Genealogical research is in continual motion. There is more and more information becoming available on the internet so because of this much research can be done from the comfort of our homes. As our family circle increases in diameter we see how small our world really is.

Best of luck in your genealogical endeavors.

**EXECUTIVE****President:**

Anne Wildcat 780-585-3772

**Vice President:**

Syl Gauvreau 780-352-5509

**Past Presidents:**

Claudia Malloch 780-352-0685

Don Brosius 780-352-0069

**Secretary:**

Joan Krueger 780-387-4978

**Treasurer:**

Elaine Young 780-352-2864

**Newsletter Editor:**

Sharon Aney 780-352-2156

[sharonaney@incentre.net](mailto:sharonaney@incentre.net)**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

**Upcoming Meeting****Topics:****Oct 19: familysearch.org****Nov: Workshop Recap****Jan: TBA****Feb: TBA****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:**

Oct. 23, 2010

Genealogy Workshop in  
Wetaskiwin

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Apr 16 &amp; 17, 2011

AGS conference in  
Edmonton**Editor's Corner**

Sharon Aney

As the new Editor for Roots & Branches, I am feeling somewhat daunted by the shoes I have to fill. Several years ago, when I was President, I asked Claudia Malloch to undertake a newsletter for our branch – never dreaming what a professional product she would produce....but at the same time, not surprised. Alice Hoyle has kept up the same standard of excellence. Many thanks to both of you ladies!!

I feel strongly that this newsletter belongs to all of our members, and this issue is chock-full of contributions by our own members. I encourage everyone to continue to share your genealogical, successes, challenges, knowledge and problems.

As colleagues we want to congratulate you, but we may also need to take a hint from your experiences. In short we need you to brag a bit in order to help the rest of us out. Email them to me for inclusion in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

I am delighted to find out that some of our members are writing their stories: for their own families, for publication by historical organizations, or just to pull together their various pieces of information.

If you haven't yet, why not start your story this Christmas season? Open a "Word" document and start describing some of the traditional foods, decorations, church services, fun and games that have been part of your family since your childhood, especially those that included your grandparents.

This may be the best Christmas gift you'll ever give yourself and your children!

I will be preparing and emailing the February 2011 issue from our winter home in St. George, Utah. My email address will reach me there. I hope to hear from you.

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“When we die we become stories in the minds of other people”

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“If you are lucky enough to be a genealogist, you are lucky enough”.

**Ruth Padilla**

## *8<sup>th</sup> Annual Genealogical Workshop: Oct. 23, 2010*

The organizing committee composed of Alice Hoyle, Claudia Malloch, Don Brosius, Anne Wildcat, Joan Krueger and Sharon Aney scored a coup by arranging a repeat booking of **Lyn Meehan** as the feature presenter.

Lyn will introduce us to and / or remind us of the tools and methodology for effective genealogical research. She also will be guiding us in co-ordinating resources we have always found in archives and can now locate on the internet. By the way: Lyn will also be a presenter at the annual conference of Alberta Genealogical Society in Edmonton April 16 & 17, 2011. Check out her website <http://lynmeehan.com>

Secondary presenter, Sharon Aney will present ideas of how to analyze and evaluate compiled genealogies that may come our way.

### **Norquest College @ 8:30 am is the place to be!**

Fee: \$25.00 includes lunch & handouts

\$10.00 fee for members of Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS

Contact: Alice@ 780-352-2150, Claudia @ 780-352--6850



## *Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS : Recap of Meeting Presentations*

### **May 2010:**

Sharon Aney gave a recap of a presentation she attended at the Family History Expo in St. George, UT this winter. She used notes provided by professional genealogist, Kory Meyerink to make us aware of some genealogical fallacies, especially, poor research methods that lead to false conclusions.

### **June 2010**

Traditionally the June meeting is a social and wind-up for the season. We shared genealogical experiences, and most of the time was spent discussing written family stories.

### **September, 2010**

New chair, **Anne Wildcat** welcomed about 20 enthusiastic genealogists to the new season. **Lee and Carole Koop** are planning for groups of our members to tour the Provincial Archives in October and November. **Alice Hoyle** reported that arrangements are in place for the Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> workshop and volunteers are in place. **Don Brosius** reported that he has completed recording and photos of the Nashville Cemetery, SE of Wetaskiwin, and the CD is now in our library. The **Library** is open again on Tuesday afternoons with the same roster of volunteers.



### **Gather your family stories before it is too late!**

My sister wrote to me: "At the shop during coffee break, the guys were discussing dealing with elderly people. Morris said that several years ago they took his father-in-law, who had symptoms of Alzheimer's, to Saskatoon for an assessment by a psychologist. When they got to the building Mr. B said, "You guys go ahead; I'll just wait in the car!"

## *My Scottish Search*

by Lloyd Johnston

It is my hope that some of this article will either assist or inspire a member to never give up when searching for their elusive Scottish relative.

My search started a little over one year ago, inspired in part by Sharon Aney who willingly shared her story, encouraged joining the Wetaskiwin Branch of the Alberta Genealogy Society and offered some research methodology. There I met two wonderful and committed researchers: Alice Hoyle and Claudia Malloch. Both of these ladies, with the exceptional services of the Family History Centre at the Church of Latter Day Saints extended my family tree from 4 grandparents to 7, 7, 5 and 5 identified and confirmed generations from myself. Another person who provided some direct assistance and offered some real insight to research techniques was Barbara Roth, who I met at the workshop in Wetaskiwin in 2009. A special "Thank you" to all these folks.

Resources I have used include the Library and Archives Canada, the Alberta Library system, Ellis Island website, Alberta Archives, Scotlandspeople website, Saskatchewan Archives, Saskatchewan Cemeteries, Saskatchewan Genealogy Society, Automated Genealogy, Ancestry.com, and ship records. I visited cemeteries, town and church records to examine census data, birth, death and marriage records. In general I found that one needs to be well organized in order to decide what to look for next. However being lucky and finding an unexpected piece of information is a bonus. Luck is often enhanced by having an investigative mind and always looking for clues.

Speaking of good fortune, the following incident led to more information than I could ever hope for and became the impetus for our trip to Scotland this summer. While visiting cemeteries in Saskatchewan and viewing the associated records we stopped for coffee at my cousin Audrey's home. In discussion of my mission she recalled a letter sent to her late father from a relative in Scotland. The letter set out some relatives and ancestors of my grandfather. The letter was several years old, however it had an email address. I initially discounted any value in an old email address but did try it. Within 12 hours a reply came telling me that he, Alan Johnston, is my second cousin, and that he too is an active genealogy researcher of the Johnston's. After several communications Marlene and I decided that we should visit Scotland.

Our tour started with an invitation to stay with John Johnston, one of four brothers, who are my second cousins, living in Scotland. We met his two sons, their spouses and children. They include Colin a railway engineer and Sandy a Glasgow detective (SGT), and his wife Alison who is an intelligence officer with the Glasgow police department. We shared several family interests and learned of their life and family.

We next met Alan, the family researcher and his wife, Susie who hosted us for two days. We enjoyed two day trips, one to the location where my Great Grandmother was raised. We attended the Kirk and cemetery where she attended and is buried. This is in the Parish of Glenbuchat. Next we went to Auchterless where my paternal Grandmother was raised. This area is Northwest of Aberdeen. The area is a beautiful rolling hilled farming district that appears to be one of the most fertile and prosperous areas of Scotland. We also met with the other two brothers and their wives, George and Isabella and Gordon and Saddle, where we again shared family history stories.

What is of real interest to me is what people did with their lives and what motivated them. What did move me was that the earlier generations who lived in the Glenbuchat area had so little. I guess if everyone is poor no one knows they are in hardship!

Most of my ancestors were farmers; however John decided he was not going to be a farmer

Japan. Alan became an engineer and later in life pursued teaching. Alan is an academic by most definitions. George farmed and Gordon is a joiner (carpenter). Alan and Susie are both in their 70's have climbed all the mountains over 3000 feet and now are partially through their pursuit of the next 120 mountains of a slightly lower height.

In addition to playing general tourist and playing golf on The Old Course at St. Andrews we saw several castles, including Balmoral; Loch Ness (without the monster); Loch Lomond; the Isle of Skye with sunshine and clear blue sky (somewhat unheard of according to the locals); and attended a pipe band competition where my third cousin, Sandy and his ten year old son, Duncan were competing.

The final genealogy attempt was a visit to the community where my maternal relatives (McDonald) originated. In 1815 they departed for Canada with seven children (the youngest was three) on the ship Dorothy. The voyage lasted from July 12th to September 4th. This visit offered no additional information as was the case in all cemeteries. The grave markers erected earlier than the mid-1800's are so badly deteriorated that they are illegible. All the Parish records, including plot plans, if they exist, reside in Edinburgh. These records are not conveniently accessed, I am told.

To round out the trip my second cousin Alan and I traded our research findings. He had a gold mine of information about the Scottish ancestries, complete with over eighty references supporting his findings. These records include descendants of three brothers, of whom one was my Grandfather who immigrated to Canada in the early 1900's. I offered the Canadian connection so both our records are complete for nine generations of Johnston's that includes my grand children. Included in the Scottish records are traditional child naming protocols that will offer new clues as one attempts to pursue other ancestors.

We believe the family connection will result in more transatlantic visits which offers potential for future generations to personalize genealogy. This visit definitely confirmed that genetics plays a significant role in behaviour, mannerisms and appearance. It was quite uncanny to discover how much we share in common.

The inspiration derived from this visit will feed my search for other family lines of both my and those of my wife Marlene. We highly recommend a genealogy study tour combined with the tourist attractions that are offered in the country.

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## Cemetery Research in County of Wetaskiwin

Cemeteries in Wetaskiwin County (28 of them) are listed on the website of the County of Wetaskiwin [www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca](http://www.county.wetaskiwin.ab.ca)

Across the top of the home page are various headings. Hover your cursor over "Living". A drop down menu will include "Cemetery Listings". Click on it.

The page will include the name of each cemetery, legal address, contact person's name, phone # and mailing address.

**Note:** Thank You Alice Hoyle for providing us with this information that you discovered while answering a genealogical query addressed to our branch.  
**Ed.**

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**Genealogy:** Collecting dead relatives, and sometimes a live cousin.

## *Honoring a Vet*

Sharon Aney

My grandson, Erik has picked up on his Dad's interest in WWII; stories of battles and history and other events are often discussed. As a Cub Scout in Onoway, AB he has participated in several Remembrance Day celebrations, and is always fascinated by the presence of military personnel from a nearby base. Two years ago, when he was ten, he noticed an elderly Vet and approached him to ask about his experiences. The Vet kindly responded and agreed to arrangements for Erik's mother to bring Erik to the Vet's home on a later Saturday afternoon for more discussion.

A one hour appointment stretched into three hours as they talked. Erik's mother quietly took notes, and when they returned home Erik transcribed them as a project for a Scout badge. End of story? Not quite.

The following June the Legion approached Scouting parents for assistance at an event in the Legion Hall. There was going to be a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the Vet. Thinking that Erik might like to see him again, his mother volunteered, and suggested that Erik prepare the stories he'd received from the Vet as a birthday gift to him.

On that afternoon, Erik asked one of the family members if he could give his gift to the Vet and found himself included on the official program with Government, Legion and other dignitaries. He nicely explained why he was there and presented his stories back to the Vet.

Family members had tears in their eyes. None of the Vet's children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren had heard any of those wartime stories! They asked Erik if they could have copies of those very important experiences in the Vet's life, and in their family history. These stories might have been lost, but for a 10 year old boy with an interest in WWII.

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## *Acts of Genealogical Kindness*

by Claudia Malloch

Whenever I see an article on the benefits of joining a genealogical society or a mailing list, I think of the many things I've learned and the help I've received because of my membership in both.

This summer I went to Nova Scotia for a visit. My sister and I travelled to Halifax to visit my nephew and to spend an hour or so at the Provincial Archives...not much time but better than nothing.

Before leaving for Halifax, I sent an e-mail to Malcolm Silver telling him when I would be at the Archives. Malcolm is a researcher who I originally met through a mailing list while I was researching my husband's "Silver" line. Some time later, we met in person during Lunenburg's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Family Reunion in 2003. Both Malcolm's ancestors, and mine, were among the founding families of Lunenburg and we have kept in touch occasionally ever since.

Malcolm arrived at the Archives as I was looking over some books I can't get out here. One, "History of the Dartmouth Quakers" is out of print. He copied the information on the books I wanted and said he sometimes went to used book stores and would check for it. I thanked him, we chatted awhile and he left.

After I arrived back at my sister's that evening, I had an Email from Malcolm. He had found the out-of-print book and bought it for me. He came back to the archives but missed us by ten minutes. He arranged to mail it to me at home and I would send a cheque when I returned. It was very exciting when it arrived.

These are the kinds of friendships one makes with other researchers, and they are invaluable. Malcolm's act multiplied many times the worth of an hour in the archives.

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## ORDERING FILMS FROM THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY – RIGHT FROM HOME !

By Claudia Malloch

There is a new era for Family History Centre patrons, or for anyone who would like to order microfilms or microfiche of the records stored at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Microfilms and microfiche can now be ordered from your own computer.

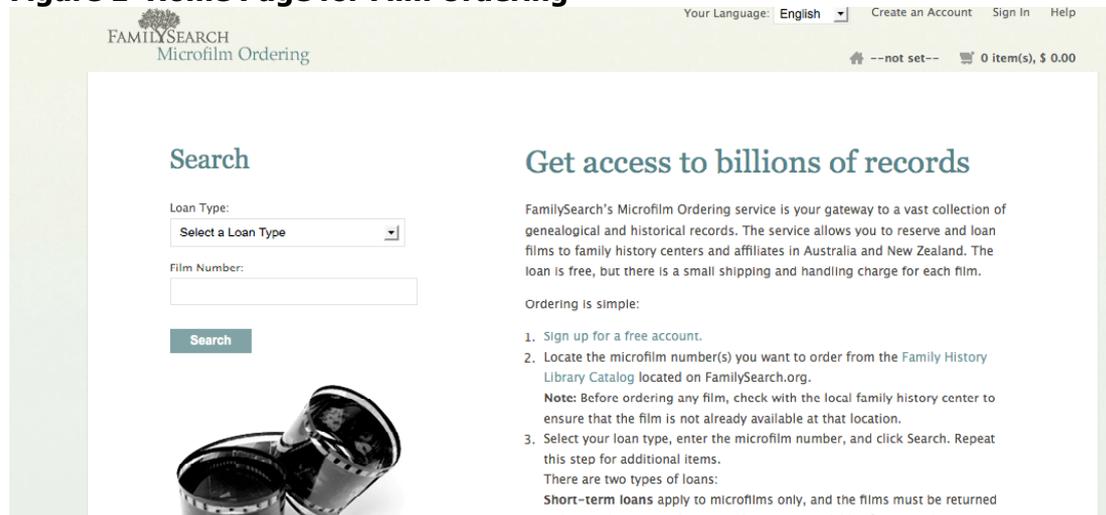
The FamilySearch Microfilm Ordering Web site provides services to family history centre patrons in some parts of the world. On this site, a patron may place loan orders for microfilm and microfiche, create an account, retrieve a password, place an order, and cancel an order.

The idea of doing the ordering yourself may seem a bit daunting at first, but the procedure has been made quite easy.

**To see the FamilySearch Microfilm Ordering Web site,** go to:

<https://film.familysearch.org> This is what you will see:

**Figure 1 Home Page for Film Ordering**



Ordering is simple:

1. [Sign up for a free account.](#)
2. Locate the microfilm number(s) you want to order from the [Family History Library Catalog](#) located on FamilySearch.org.  
**Note:** Before ordering any film, check with the local family history centre to ensure that the film is not already available at that location.
3. Select your loan type, enter the microfilm number, and click **Search**. Repeat this step for additional items.

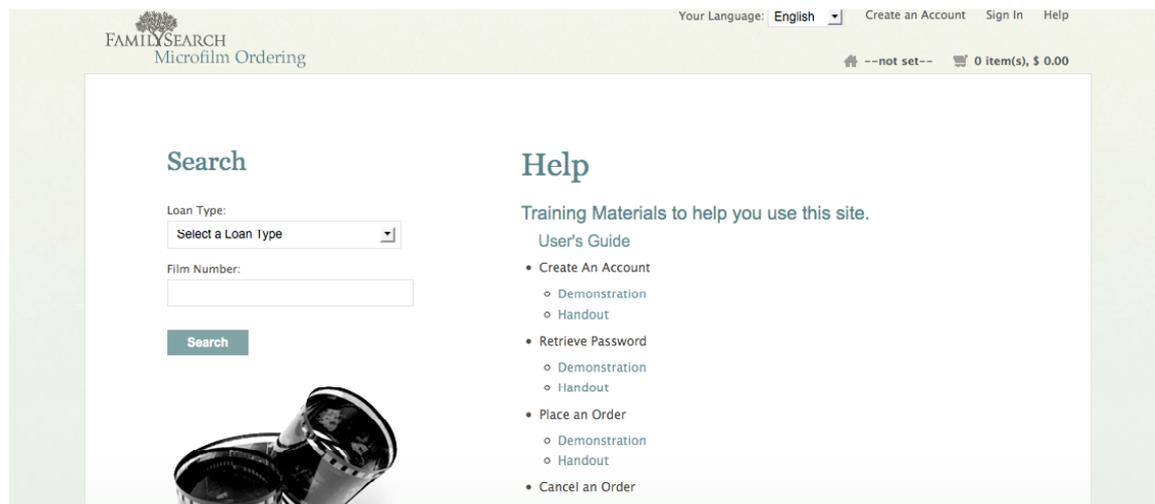
There are two types of loans:

**Short-term loans** apply to microfilms only, and the films must be returned within 90 days. A 60-day renewal option is available after your short-term loan expires.

**Extended loans** apply to both microfilm and microfiche. There is no set return date.

When you are ready to submit your loan order, click the shopping cart in the upper right portion of the screen. You will then have a chance to review and confirm your order. After you submit your order, all films will be delivered to your designated family history centre.

There is an extensive "Help" section available (top right hand corner). It walks you through each step of ordering. Should you still feel unsure, or if you don't have access to a computer, you can sign up for an account at the Family History Centre. Workers will help you but cannot sign up for you in order to protect your privacy.

**Figure 2: Help Section**

Payment for your films will be made online. There will no longer be cash transactions at the Family History Centres.

You will be notified by the Family History Centre when the film(s) arrive.

### **Deciding What Films to Order**

If you are unsure about how to locate the records you want in the Family History Library Catalogue:

- There is a video overview on the FamilySearch.org website. Go to <http://www.familysearch.org>. On the tab headings at the top of the page, Click on the Library tab.

**Figure 3: Home Page for FamilySearch**

Click on **Library Catalogue**. At the bottom of that page is a pink link [The Family History Library Catalog Overview](#). This will take you to a 15 minute video overview of how to use the Catalogue.

**(see figure 4 on p 9 of this issue)**

- There is a "Help" tab to the right of the "Library" tab which has assistance by topics.
- You can come to the Family History Centre. The workers there will help you to locate the films you want. They can also check to be sure those films aren't already available for viewing at the Family History Centre.

This is the latest step in making our genealogical research ever more manageable and accessible from our homes. It's an exciting time for family history enthusiast; we seem to constantly be asking "What next?" One of the many benefits of genealogical societies and family history centres is that they help answer that question for us.

**Figure 4: Library Catalog Overview**

**Take a look at the beta FamilySearch Catalog**

We're testing a new look and new search tools for a future version of the catalog. Please take a look and then give us your feedback! [Click here...](#)

NEW!



**Family History Library Catalog**  
 Search the catalog of materials (including microfilm, microfiche, and publications) found at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Many items can be [loaned](#) to local [Family History Centers](#) around the world.

Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials by clicking the link below.

[The Family History Library Catalog Overview](#)

[Give us your feedback about this online class.](#)

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## RE M I N D E R S:

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Please remember to submit your volunteer hours to treasurer, Elaine Young. Our hours assist AGS with applying for grants to the benefit of us all. Email Elaine at [elaineyou@telus.net](mailto:elaineyou@telus.net) Volunteer hours consist of any time spent on genealogical activities other than your own: fund raising, volunteering at the library, assisting someone else, etc. (I wonder if at sleepless hour at 3:00 am, mentally revising an article for the newsletter counts? ☺ Ed.)

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### *Library Update: Additions to our collection*

**June – Oct. 2010**

Thanks to all our members who continue to donate items to the Wetaskiwin Branch Library – especially Bob Maynard & Fern Peterson who were our most recent donors. Everyone’s donations are always welcome. **Note:** Sometimes we receive donations that are duplicates. In that case we return them to the donor so he/she can re-donate them.

**951.9GRA Gray,** “Hub Beyond the Danger Close”  
 (a book about the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Battalion, PPCLI, and their experience in the Korean War)  
**Periodical** from the UK, re genealogical research

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Remember: a family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots!

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**Thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. I look forward to your participation in future issues. Ed.**