



# Roots and Branches

Vol. 9 No. 2 February 2011

## CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Editor's Corner	2
My Research: M Nelson	3
Recap of Presentations	5
Our Heroes	6
Research Requests	6
Wetaskiwin Branch Library	7
Tickle Your Funny bone	7
Webinars	8
Family History Center	8

## BRANCH MEETINGS

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

## LIBRARY

Located at City Archives  
**Open** – 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

## 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)

## President's Message

Anne Wildcat

Happy New Year! I realize there's probably a statute of limitations on that greeting but I will go ahead and take my chances. I like to live on edge every now and then. The wintery weather has certainly given me the impetus to do more family history reading than research per se, and I am quite enjoying it.

In November, Lee and Carole Koop were kind enough to organize a tour of the Provincial Archives in Edmonton. After the tour, I asked if the staff could retrieve some Oblate records for me. Unfortunately, their Oblate specialist was not in on this day but they did recommend I look through other Aboriginal books. Disappointed I thought, "Sure. Why not?"

I began my perusal not expecting to find much. Then much to my amazement I came across a listing of my maternal great great grandparent's family. On the list was the name of my great great grandmother whom I had given up hope of finding. I had a surge of goosebumps and got a bit teary-eyed. It is not uncommon for wives in the Aboriginal records to become invisible, so this find was a coup for me.

So, sometimes when things seem to be the most bleak magic happens. That moment was magic for me. Here's hoping there will many, many magic moments for you all in 2011!

## We Remember

**Lloyd Johnston**  
**Nov. 15, 1948 – Dec. 22, 2010**

**Our Condolences to Marlene  
and their Family**

**WETASKIWIN  
FAMILY HISTORY  
CENTRE**

Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints,  
5410 – 36 Avenue,  
Wed: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm  
Thurs: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**AGS Conference  
April 16 & 17, 2011  
Edmonton, AB  
"Unlocking doors to the  
Past"**

Featured speakers are:  
Colleen Fitzpatrick, Dave  
Obee, Lisa Louise Cooke, Lyn  
Meehan, Dave Ryan, Geoff

Rasmussen  
~~~~~

**SGS Conference  
April 29 – May 1, 2011  
Saskatoon, SK  
"Beyond the Basics  
Symposium"**

Featured speakers are:  
Megan Smolenyak  
Smolenyak,  
Dr. Fraser Dunford,  
John Pihach, Dr. Brian  
Brodie & Marilyn Lappi

~~~~~

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Please remember to  
submit your volunteer  
hours to treasurer, Elaine  
Young.  
[elaineyou@telus.net](mailto:elaineyou@telus.net)

**Editor's Corner**

Sharon Aney

In February many of us are still struggling with our "New Year's resolution" to improve some aspect of our life. A broad resolution will seem easier to accomplish if we set goals to achieve specific results. The same applies to our genealogy research. Have we set goals to accomplish our broad resolution to "research my family tree"?

We may have fallen into a habit of wandering through internet sites looking for surnames and hoping that somewhere out there our own genealogy will jump out at us. However, if we set goals to focus our research we are more likely to be successful.

The first step could be to look through all of the bits of information we have accumulated, sort it out and record it. Look at the sources for each fact and set aside assumptions, rumors and "iffy" conclusions. If you have recorded your information in a database or pedigree chart you can easily then see what blanks need to be filled in. Now you can set a goal to verify the unproven information.

Or you might set goals to find a missing ancestor, a maiden name or an immigration date.

Every once in a while you will need to re-assess these goals. Some will have been met and some are still a challenge. As you have found new information, setting new goals will help you progress.

I wish you good luck with your resolutions on fitness and finances, and mostly I hope that setting goals will make your genealogy research paths easier.

~~~~~

**Family history tip:** – keep all those Christmas letters from your relatives, and especially a copy of the one you sent to them. They usually contain a summary of the year's activities as well as additions and events in the family.... a modern day substitute for the diary or journal every genealogist wishes for.

~~~~~

**Many Thanks** to all who submitted to this issue...especially **Mavis Nelson** for her research story, **Claudia Malloch** our "Techie" and **Alice Hoyle** who has become our "club reporter"

*"He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning." -- Old English proverb*

## MEMBER RESEARCH

by Mavis Nelson

### Finding Nels Petter Anderson in North Dakota

In October 2006 while packing the trailer for the winter in Yuma, my goal was to find how Nels Petter Anderson, my husband Neil's grandfather, had spent his first 15 years in America. I had not been able to find him in the 1890 Swedish census [www.foark.umu.se/census/index.htm](http://www.foark.umu.se/census/index.htm). I did find his parents and some of the rest of his family, so I assumed that he had emigrated by that time.

I have become fascinated by the stories of pioneers on the land and I wanted to find Nels Petter Anderson's homestead in North Dakota. Armed with all the little bits of paper from his two daughters, my computer, US stamps, cash and my Visa card, I was set. What a fun time I would have!

I thought that finding his naturalization papers would help locate the land where he lived. I first checked out [www.usgenweb.org/](http://www.usgenweb.org/), the North Dakota site. I knew from the bits of paper and an affidavit which he had used to obtain his Old Age Pension that he was naturalized in Eddy County, ND on October 13, 1890. Searching the Naturalization Index, entering Nels Anderson, country of origin: Sweden, Eddy County gave me nothing. What was I doing wrong? One day I just searched Anderson, Eddy County, but did not put in a country of origin. Voila!! There was Nels P. Anderson, Norway! on October 13, 1890. (Later, I found out that from 1814 to 1905 Sweden and Norway had the same King). I ordered the naturalization papers #2 from Fargo, ND.

Only a few weeks later, I received the papers and an email from Greg Wysk, at ND Archives, ([archives@state.nd.us](mailto:archives@state.nd.us)) who has been very helpful to me. He told me that Nels P. Anderson's declaration of intention (first papers) were filed at Ramsey County, ND, on May 3, 1884. I could pay the \$5.00 for the file by Visa. So I phoned Greg December 4, 2006 with my Visa number and we had a nice chat about what I was trying to find. Greg said the recorder for the County of Eddy would be able to tell me the date that Nels P. sold his land. I did not know this information would be available. He emailed me the link for Eddy County in New Rockford, ND. [www.ndaco.org/counties/county\\_profile.asp?CountyID=14](http://www.ndaco.org/counties/county_profile.asp?CountyID=14). which I later used.

My next idea was to look into the census. The 1890 census records had burned in a Washington, D.C. warehouse in 1921. But I could look up the 1885 Dakota Territorial index census at: [www.lib.nbu.nodak.edu/ndirs/databases/cenus.php](http://www.lib.nbu.nodak.edu/ndirs/databases/cenus.php).

On December 5, 2006, I wrote the NDSU Libraries in Fargo, ND for the 1885 Census records for a N. Anderson 38-052-10 in the Ramsey County (remember that Nels. P. had filed his first papers in Ramsey Co. in 1884) and for Peter Anderson 35-012-42 in the Foster County. I received these December 29, 2006 and paid \$10.00 with a money order.

Knowing that two daughters were born in North Dakota, I sent to ND vital records for the oldest one's birth certificate. I thought this would tell me where they lived. But I received a letter back three weeks later stating they had poor records in those years so did not have her recorded. I still had to pay the \$7.00. Back to the drawing board.

I had previously looked at the Bureau of Land Management Homestead Records online. I went back to the web site on the land listing for North Dakota; there was a Nels P. Anderson and a Nels P. Andersen. Knowing his name was spelled Anderson, I emailed [MTinfo@mt.blm.gov](mailto:MTinfo@mt.blm.gov) to order a certified copy of the patent for #170 BLM serial number NDMTAA 001396 and asked if they had the homestead papers for this land. I would pay the cost. I received an email from Cyndi Eide stating their office would not send a certified patent document until they received payment of \$1.35 which I could pay by Visa. She would also send me two maps of the area

dated July 30, 1884 and July 15, 1904, for \$2.20. So I called with my Visa number and paid a total of \$3.55. She also gave me the address and email for ordering the complete homestead file.

In early December I wrote to US National Archives (at US National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Rd. College Park, MD 20740) and ordered a copy of the application and other case related documents of that same homestead, being S ½ Section 1 Township 150 N Range 67 W M 5 in Eddy County, ND. Within two weeks I received the form #84 Land Entry files- research ticket, E226133 they had filled out for me. It had the master # E11-9296114P I could follow at their web site from Washington, DC. I received a letter December 29 that they had found the file but I had to send a \$17.75 money order to the cashier in Atlanta, Georgia before they would mail it.

When I received the file in January, I found that patent #170 was a Timber Culture homestead. By successfully growing timber upon 10 acres he would receive patent upon 160 acres of land. Nels had filed the claim May 3, 1884 and by 1887 he had 95 acres broken. By September 4, 1893 he had 10 acres of white maple and cottonwood trees, for a total of 6,000 living and thriving trees. The trees were 4 to 10 feet in height and from 1 to 4 inches in diameter.

On December 5, 2006, I wrote to the Recorder in New Rockford, ND asking if they could tell me when Nels P. sold this homestead, and for what price. Beverly Broin immediately replied that Nels & Amanda Anderson sold the properties on October 28, 1895 to John W. Richter for \$2,000.00. The cost of this document was \$1.00 but they could not take Visa so I had to spend 90 cents for a \$1.00 money order. It was worth it. I have since written to thank Beverly and her office for their help.

Beverly also wrote that Nels P. had also owned another quarter: Patent #435 NW ¼ Section 12 of Twp 150 range 67 but that it was under the name of Nels P. Andersen! She also sent the Homestead Certificate #435. I guess one should not take for granted that Anderson was always spelled with an "o".

On January 21, 2007, I wrote US National Archives, College Park, MD to order the patent document papers #435 ND Eddy County NW ¼ 12 Twp. 150N Range 67W in Devil's Lake, ND. A month later the file had been processed and mailed. I was billed \$17.75 on my Visa. This was the homestead on which Nels built two sod homes in 1884 & 1885 and built a lumber one in 1887. Also I found it interesting that in the 6 years (1884-1890) Nels had 100 acres under the plow, a well 22 feet deep, 14 x 18 frame house, 16 x 24 sod barn and a 10 x 20 granary for a total value of \$665.00. He was away from the farm from December 1, 1884 to April 1, 1885 to "work in the lumber woods in Wisconsin".

So now I had found out the land descriptions, and some of Nels P.'s accomplishments. But I still did not know where his land was located in the state of North Dakota. I emailed Mary R. at the Eddy County office in New Rockford, ND to ask if there is a county map for Eddy on a web site, or could I buy one. I received a note from her with part of the county map of Eddy County showing 9 of the townships around Twp 150N and range 67W also a Grandfield Plat map, the one that Nels P. Anderson lived in. The Plat map shows the outline of the farm, how many acres it is, and who currently owns the land. Very interesting!. We could drive there. Maybe we will one day.

About this time I emailed my cousin who has "The Swedish Emigrant" to ask if he could look up the date Nels first left Sweden. According to that book, the "Flyttingsbetyg" papers, Nels emigrated July 3, 1881, emigrated again April 9, 1893 to "Northamerika" and returned again September 25, 1896 to Sweden. Then he immigrated to Canada April 29, 1910. These dates correspond with information I discovered by researching the land records that were filed by Nels Petter.

By looking into land records online, contacting the clerks at government offices and finding out how co-operative and helpful they were, spending a bit of money to gather priceless information, I now know enough to write a chapter of a book ... about those 15 interesting years that Nels P. Anderson spent in North Dakota. What a great way to spend my winter!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## **Recap of Meeting Presentations, Wetaskiwin Branch AGS October, 2010**

**Carole Koop** reported that 10 members had toured the Provincial Archives, and another visit was being planned for Nov. 20. **Alice Hoyle** reported that 26 pre-registrations have been received for our Oct. 23 Workshop and preparations were under control. **Anne Wildcat** will arrange for recognition of our branch 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the workshop. **Alice Hoyle & Carole Koop** manned a genealogical display at the Public Library Open House. Following the business meeting **Claudia Malloch** presented new developments on the [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) website.

### **November 2010**

We did not have a formal presentation, however we had a round table discussion on the **October Workshop** and the topics presented. Everyone agreed that the workshop was a great learning experience. All who attended were very appreciative of the information received, and of course, the awesome door prizes!! Several branch members advised of their progress in researching their ancestors. Fern advised that she had a very productive solo trip to the **Provincial Archives**. Several of our members are going on the group tour to the Provincial Archives on November 20<sup>th</sup>, and we look forward to hearing of their experiences at our January meeting. **Barry MacDonald** attended our meeting as a guest; he advised that he would like to promote genealogy by including articles about genealogy in the **Pipestone Flyer**. He asked the branch members to submit articles to him for possible inclusion in future issues of the newspaper. We all thanked Barry for his great article in the Pipestone Flyer following the October workshop. We hope the additional coverage will promote genealogy and hopefully encourage more people to get to know their ancestors! ☺

### **January 2011**

---

At our January meeting, **Claudia presented a "Google Webinar"**. For those of us in attendance who felt we used quite a lot of the Google options, we found out we were mistaken! The Webinar gave us precise information on all the drop-down menus on the Google site. The commentator suggested that we register on the Google site; this would allow us to access all the services Google has to offer. For instance, once registered we can set up a gmail account, translate web pages from numerous other languages, search the full text of books, search thousands of news stories, and so much more.

The one drop down menu titled "More" offers the user dozens of options, some of which are downloading and saving our digital photos to Picasa; creating and saving documents, presentations, spreadsheets, etc; creating our own Blog; set up a personal calendar and share this with others in our family; search scholarly papers, just to name a few.

Most of us are familiar with Google Maps, but we may not be using all the capabilities of the site. The Webinar presenter, suggested we zoom in on the region where our ancestors lived, print off or save the map and include this in our genealogical data.

This Webinar was extremely informative, and I would certainly recommend it to anyone who hasn't had the opportunity to view it.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*When you search for ancestors you find  
great friends!*

**2010 GENEALOGY WORKSHOP****Alice Hoyle**

Our genealogy workshop on Oct. 23, entitled "**Genealogy – Researching it Right**" was very successful. We had 35 people register for the workshop, with 30 people in actual attendance the day of the workshop.

Our two presenters, **Lyn Meehan and Sharon Aney**, kept us "on our toes" – reminding us of the many aspects of genealogical research necessary to ensure that our data is accurate. Participation by the attendees was very enthusiastic. Lyn involved us in a couple of 'hands-on' sessions: one reminded us of the way oral information is changed as the 'facts' are passed from one person to another; the other gave us a tutorial on how to cite our sources in our genealogical records.

Sharon's presentation encouraged us to think about the information we are seeing in various sources, including the internet and sites like ancestry.com. She reminded us that not all information is accurate, and that we need to confirm that the researcher has been diligent. Thanks to everyone who assisted with the workshop – without the help of all the volunteers, the day would not have been the success it was.

The majority of participants indicated that they felt the workshop venue, format, food, and presentations were in the "Excellent" category! If you have ideas for topics for the October 2011 workshop, please let your executive know so they may begin planning.

~~~~~

**BEHIND THE SCENES HEROS****Alice Hoyle**

Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS is very fortunate to have a "Hidden Hero" working on our behalf! **Laura Turnbull**, the AGS Webmistress, has very kindly volunteered for several years now, to update our branch information on the AGS website. When our contact information changes or when we want to add something to our page on the AGS website we send the information to Laura and she changes/amends our page.

Our sincere **thanks to Laura Turnbull** for assisting our branch in this way. By keeping our branch information current we make available to those doing research in the Wetaskiwin area via the internet, a readily accessible database for their use.

~~~~~

**Ed. Note:** Thanks to **Alice Hoyle** for reminding us that other people add to the success of our Branch activities! **I will add Alice Hoyle to the list of "Behind the Scenes Heroes"** for her organization of our library, her leadership in many of our activities, her representation of our branch in public events, researching for others who seek our assistance, and her reporting of meetings and activities for the newsletter. She makes us all look good!

**Thank you Alice!!**

~~~~~

**WETASKIWIN BRANCH, RESEARCH REQUESTS** **Alice Hoyle**

**SUNDVALL, BERNHARD:** This request came about indirectly as a result of another request received by Don Brosius. I contacted the Secretary-Treasurer of the Roseland Cemetary to confirm whether an A.P. Johnsson was buried there, and was advised that someone in Sweden was requesting information about a Bernhard (Barney) Sundvall. The Secretary-Treasurer didn't know Mr. Sundvall and couldn't give much information, but had found some data in the local history book. I was able to provide more information, and coincidentally, my parents and Mr. Sundvall were friends and Mr. Sundvall frequently came to our home. Small world.

**CALL/SOUTHWORTH:** I had a request for information on the marriage of Elsie Call to John Southworth in Wetaskiwin, July 1911. The request came from someone who wanted to confirm how to get a copy of a marriage certificate, and also wanted to know what data was on the certificate. I was able to provide him with the information he requested, as well as direct him to the Alberta government website where he could download the necessary forms.

~~~~~

## Library Update: Additions to Our Collection

Alice Hoyle

### Nov. 2010 – Jan 2011

We have been very fortunate to receive numerous donations relating to research in **New Brunswick**. Our branch member **Shirley Brazier**, has donated several books, as well as several NBGS newsletters "Generations". If you are researching ancestors in New Brunswick, thanks to Shirley our branch library is the place to start/continue your research.

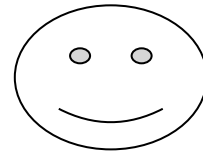
As well, we have received donations from **Bob Maynard**: book, "Complete Guide to Military Records, WWI and WWII"; book, "Tracing Scottish Ancestors"; book, "Tracing your Air Force Ancestors"; Family Tree Family History magazines; Family Chronicle magazines; Kent newsletters. He will be donating a book/diary written by his aunt, outlining her experiences when she emigrated from England to Canada. **Terry Milne** will be donating a book to our library: "History of Nursing in Alberta".

Thanks to **Elaine Young**, for providing 10 binders to our library. I will be re-arranging the periodicals in our collection, using the binders to organize some of the miscellaneous newsletters we have.

Thanks to all our members who continue to donate items to the Wetaskiwin Branch Library – these donations are always welcome.

~~~~~

## Tickle Your Funny Bone



### THE TIMES, THEY ARE A-CHANGING!

|                                                              |                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1978:</b> Long hair                                       | <b>2011:</b> Longing for hair                                    |
| <b>1978:</b> KEG                                             | <b>2011:</b> EKG                                                 |
| <b>1978:</b> Acid rock                                       | <b>2011:</b> Acid reflux                                         |
| <b>1978:</b> Moving to California because it's cool          | <b>2011:</b> Moving to Arizona because it's warm                 |
| <b>1978:</b> Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor | <b>2011:</b> Trying not to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor |
| <b>1978:</b> Seeds and stems                                 | <b>2011:</b> Roughage                                            |
| <b>1978:</b> Hoping for a BMW                                | <b>2011:</b> Hoping for a BM                                     |
| <b>1978:</b> Going to a new, hip joint                       | <b>2010:</b> Receiving a new hip joint                           |
| <b>1978:</b> Rolling Stones                                  | <b>2011:</b> Kidney Stones                                       |
| <b>1978:</b> Screw the system                                | <b>2011:</b> Upgrade the system                                  |
| <b>1978:</b> Disco                                           | <b>2011:</b> Costco                                              |
| <b>1978:</b> Parents begging you to get your hair cut        | <b>2011:</b> Children begging you to get their heads shaved      |
| <b>1978:</b> Passing the drivers' test                       | <b>2011:</b> Passing the vision test                             |
| <b>1978:</b> Whatever                                        | <b>2011:</b> Depends                                             |



## WEBINARS

by Claudia Malloch



There is a new superhero in my tool chest of learning sources for genealogy. That superhero is called a Webinar.

"Webinar" is short for **Web**-based seminar, a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the [Web](#). A key feature of a Webinar is its interactive elements -- the ability to give, receive and discuss information. In live versions, you sign up beforehand and are usually able to submit questions which will be answered on the webinar. There is often a question and answer session at the end of the broadcast where you can ask questions live.

I have participated in webinars about Google for Genealogists, Cleaning up Data in NewFamilySearch with RootsMagic, and Boot Camp for Genealogists. They have all been well worth the time and I've learned a good deal from each one.

A "Google" search for genealogy webinars brings up many responses. Those I felt would be very useful to others are listed below with the web address and a few comments. Check them out and see which one(s) might be of interest to you.

<http://www.geneamusings.com/2009/10/free-genealogy-webinars.html>

- [NEHGS Online Seminar Series](#). Lectures are presented by our staff of genealogists. We offer new seminars on a regular basis so please check back frequently for updates.
- [Ancestry.com Webinars](#): There is no cost to register for webinars. Audience members may arrive 15 minutes before scheduled webinars. Archived Webinars contain actual video and may be viewed at any time at no cost.

**FamilySearch.org Learning Video Classes:** There are very large numbers of video classes on this site. They cover a wide range of topics including classes for particular areas of research; ie. England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Russia and USA. There are also classes on how to do research, use records, organize, cite sources and how to read various languages. It's truly amazing. I watched "Genealogy Boot Camp" and it was great. One of our members has used the class on research in Italy and found it extremely helpful.

**Ohana:** You can watch their archived Webinars including New Family History Techniques with excellent presenter Paul Larson, Newspapers, Using FamilySearch Wiki and Free and Easy Genealogy Charts at

<http://www.ohanasoftware.com/?sec=webinars&page=WebinarArchive>

**Legacy:** Register for upcoming webinars or scroll down to watch their archives. Our society used their Google webinar in January; it was very informative, well worth watching more than once. Get to it before the last week in February or it will be unavailable unless you purchase the DVD. Their site is: <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/webinars.asp>

**Relative Roots:** Register for upcoming live webinars. A speaking schedule is available at <http://relativeroots.net/webinars/>

**RootsMagic:** If you have Roots Magic (or are looking for a genealogy software) check these instructional webinars...you'll be glad you did. <http://www.rootsmagic.com/Webinars>

Give webinars a try. See if they become your new superhero too.

~~~~~

## WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

- A reminder that microfilms can be ordered from home now. Refer to the October 2010 issue of Roots and Branches for information on how to do it or ask at the FHC.
- Webinars are being offered – check with the FHC for topics and dates.