



Roots and Branches

Vol 9 No. 3 May 2011

CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Editor's Corner | 2 |
| Library Update | 3 |
| Recap of Meetings | 3 |
| Webinars pt 2 C. Malloch | 4 |
| Saving Your Research | 5 |
| Canada Census | 5 |
| Canada 150 | 5 |
| 10 Commandments | 6 |
| AB Prov. Archives – C. Koop | 7 |
| Research Requests | 8 |

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## 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

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EXECUTIVE

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## President's Message

Anne Wildcat

Greetings this almost-Spring Season!

I hope this Spring edition of our newsletter finds our readers having success in your research endeavours. An experience that can be so rewarding and so frustrating in the same half-hour!

I've been a slack in my personal research but recently, a friend asked me to do a family tree for her. For most First Nations, kinship is a crucial aspect of our culture and my friend wanted some clarity on how certain relative were either an "Auntie" or "Cousin" to her.

So I gathered my research and proceeded to prepare a PAF file for her family history. During my research, I noted that her great grandmother's maiden name was Piché. I thought, huh! We may share some ancestors but, seriously, there are a lot of Piché's out there. So, I gave no further thought of a possible connection until . . . I found her great grandmother also listed with a maiden name of Bobtail instead of Piché.

At that moment, I realized her great grandmother is a descendent of Chief Bobtail. Chief Bobtail is a signator to Treaty No. 6 for the Cree Nations of Hobbema. The same Chief Bobtail who happens to be a brother to my great grandfather Chief Ermineskin whose Christian last name is also Piché.

The next day I went over to my friend Claudia's house for help to merge my files so I could expedite the requested family tree. Needless to say, my friend is no longer only my friend but a cousin several times removed.

Happy Researching!

*In a Georgia cemetery:  
"I told you I was sick!"*

## Editor's Corner

Sharon Aney

### 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

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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

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AGS Gen Fair

**April 13/14, 2012**  
**Red Deer**

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FOR SALE:

By Wetaskiwin Br of AGS.

Armoire (containing a
computer station with pull
out keyboard shelf). If you
are interested in buying this
item, please contact Alice at
alihoy@xplornet.com

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### VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Please remember to  
submit your volunteer  
hours to treasurer, Elaine  
Young.

[elaineyou@telus.net](mailto:elaineyou@telus.net)

Some treasured family heirlooms, family gifts to Russ' grandparents at their 1904 wedding, are all the wrong color for my newly "decorated" living room.

What do we do with our heirlooms? Display them? Hide them? Ignore them? Do our children know that they are precious and why? We can make it easier for them to want to value and preserve these treasures by letting them know the significance of each of them.

Have we thought of about putting together a document or folder that lists each heirloom, describes its location and appearance, how and why an ancestor acquired it, and how it came into our possession? Other relevant information might include whether it is a valuable antique, perhaps accompanied by an appraisal that describes in detail the piece of art or jewellery. I might also note whether it has some connection to an important person or event. A photo would complete the package.

We might then have a discussion with our children as to who would like to eventually own which piece – (I found it to be an interesting exercise in family dynamics!) One response might be that they are not interested in some items. That gives me time to contact a museum, historical society or antique dealer to dispose of them.

One way or another we'll know that when we down-size to a condo (or a casket) we will be confident that these treasured pieces of family history will be preserved, not trashed. By the way -I kept the heirlooms in the living room anyway.

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Again, many thanks to our members for your contribution to your newsletter: **Carole Koop** (the Provincial Archives), **Claudia Malloch** (Webinars) & **Alice Hoyle** for her reporting of club news, Library holdings, research requests and note from the AGS conference.

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*Trees without roots fall over*

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Library Update: Additions to our collection

1. CD – Nashville Cemetery – Complete Excel Database of those buried in this local cemetery, along with pictures of the headstones (JPEG format) – Thanks to Don and Judy Brosius for this donation.
2. CD – BBC “Who Do You Think You Are” – Somerset Ancestors – Thanks to Bob Maynard for this donation.
3. Booklet: Tracing Your Criminal Ancestors; also periodicals relating to Genealogical Research in the U.K. – Thanks to Bob Maynard for these donations.
4. 610.7CAS Cashman, Tony, “Heritage of Service – The History of Nursing in Alberta” – Thanks to Terry Milne for this donation.
5. 810.8McG McGahan, Elizabeth W., “Whispers from the Past – Selections from the writings of New Brunswick Women” – Thanks to Carolyn Hill for this donation.
6. 917.95UPT Upton, Joe, “Journeys Through the Inside Passage – Seafaring Adventures along the coast of British Columbia and Alaska” – Thanks to Bob Maynard for this donation.
7. 919.5SOM Somerville, Graeme F., “A Library of Stone Pages” – Thanks to Shirley Brazier for this donation.

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## **Wetaskiwin Branch, AGS: Recap of Meetings**

### **February, 2011:**

Claudia Malloch gave a presentation on “What Happened to the IGI?” This was a very interesting presentation, combined with an explanation of the new version of FamilySearch.org and how this new website works. We were shown how to narrow our searches to Places, Last Names and Events, and how to find out the source of the information, including the microfilm number. This information is vital for anyone wanting to search the catalogue, and perhaps order a microfilm for research purposes. We can now order the microfilms from our own homes, online with our home computers – the microfilms will still be delivered to the Family History Center and/or library. Claudia also showed us how we can zero in on a particular type of record, by using the “categories” shown on the lower left side of the screen once you have done a basic search. **Thanks Claudia!** – another rewarding session for the our members.

### **March 2011:**

Our March presentation was in the form of a round table discussion. Questions were posed to the general membership by various members in attendance, and for the most part the questions were answered. The wonderful result of a round table discussion such as this is that our combined experience can be very beneficial to everyone. Those in attendance also shared their recent success stories – these are always welcome and are an incentive to the rest of us!

### **April 2011**

With the AGS Conference fresh in our minds, the 8 members from our branch who attended the conference were all in agreement: the speakers for the most part, were first class! The morning plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday were outstanding. The members who were in attendance at the Conference, shared with the other branch members the key information they learned. Some “keen spirits” have already tried out the Google Earth applications and many of us reported they were up late reading the material they purchased from the Vendors at the Conference. ☺

## Webinars, Part 2

Claudia Malloch

Following up from the article in the last issue of Roots & Branches, here are websites for some more free webinars

American Ancestors: New England Historic Genealogical Society - Founded 1845

<http://www.americanancestors.org/online-seminars/>

- **Getting Started**
- [Getting Started in Genealogy - Part 1](#)
- [Getting Started in Genealogy - Part 2](#)
- [Getting Started in Genealogy - Part 3](#)

### **NEHGS Resources**

[African American Genealogy at NEHGS](#)

[An Overview of the NEHGS Manuscript Collection](#)

[Library resources at NEHGS](#)

[Using AmericanAncestors.org](#)

### **Irish Research**

[Getting Started in Irish Genealogy Part 1](#)

### **Records and Resources**

[Civil War Pension Research: Union Soldiers](#)

[Researching Your Newfoundland Ancestors Part One](#)

### **Strategies and Methodologies**

[Bridging the Atlantic - Methods of Tracing Your 17th Century New England Ancestors Across the Water](#)

[Finding Your Ancestors Online](#)

[Who Was Your Mother's Mother's Mother's Mother?](#)

[Applying to Lineage Societies](#)

[Genealogical Tips: Transcribing Gravestones](#)

[Methods of Finding a Wife's Maiden Name](#)

Ancestry.com has many webinars listed at <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx> including:

### **\*\*\* Best Strategies for Searching Ancestry.com**

\*\*\* Getting Started on Ancestry.com

\*\*\* Family Tree Maker 2010 New Features Demo

\*\*\* Genealogy in Gotham: New York City Research

\*\*\* Ancestry World Archives Project: New Features Demo

\*\*\* Introducing Ancestry.com ExpertConnect

\*\*\* European Research: Tips and Tools for Success

\*\*\* Genetic Genealogy Made Easy

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Heredity:

Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools!

Saving your Research

Alice Hoyle

“ At the AGS conference last weekend, one of the ‘California’ speakers, Lisa Louise Cooke, gave an excellent presentation on **“Saving your Research from Destruction”**. In this presentation she showed us a Genealogical Materials Directive: basically this would be an addendum to your will, advising where all your gen. material should go if you were to die. The directive is 4 pages long, and is very detailed.

I have emailed her to ask if it could be mentioned in our newsletter, and she has given permission to give the website information. This directive can be printed off from her website.

<http://www.GenealogyGems.com>

Scroll down, and look on the left side for “Genealogical Materials Directive”.

Click on here, and you can print off the 4 page document.

Thanks Alice!

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## Census Day - 10 May 2011

from an article by **Gordon Watts**  
in “Global Genealogy” April 26, 2011

Census Day 2011 is on 10 May. About four weeks following receipt of the Census questionnaire, approximately 4.5 million households will receive the new, voluntary, National Household Survey. It will include the same 'informed consent' question for release of information 92 years in the future that appears on the Census questionnaire.

Genealogists need not be reminded of the value of these records for tracing their family tree - Many others however need to be reminded of the importance of filling out completely the upcoming Census and the new, voluntary National Household Survey. In particular, they need to be advised of the importance of responding **YES** to permit information they provide to these surveys to be made available, 92 years in the future.

It is time now to spread the word. Contact everyone you know to advise of the importance of fully completing the Census and NHS questionnaires, and to responding YES to the question of allowing information to be released 92 years from now.

## CANADA 150

\*\* the following is a short excerpt taken from the website of Canada 150. Please go to the site to read about the project. Check out the links to see how you, your parents and your children can participate. Ed.)

[http://www.canada150.com/Canada\\_150/Home.html](http://www.canada150.com/Canada_150/Home.html)

**Canada 150** is Canada’s largest history gathering project ever. It is a collaborative effort of organizations and individuals committed to recording Canadian family and community histories as our gift to our country on its 150th birthday--July 1, 2017. The boomers and their children have rarely kept diaries, journals, letters or other documents. We may have thousands of photos stored on our computers but we have few documents that tell our stories. You and your parents and children need to record your stories and ensure that they are safely stored forever. **Canada 150** is a national project to encourage them to do exactly that in time for our 150th birthday as a nation. By depositing our stories in our national Library and Archives Canada, we will give our families, community and entire country a gift that is invaluable. What a legacy that will be!

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Ten Commandments of Genealogy

***Posted by Dick Eastman on November 19, 2010**

<http://eogn.com>

In the course of writing this newsletter, I get to see a lot of genealogy information. Most of what I see is on the Web, although some information is in books or in e-mail. Some of what I see is high-quality research. However, much of it is much less than that. Even the shoddiest genealogy work could be so much more if the compiler had simply spent a bit of time thinking about what he or she was doing.

Creating a first-class genealogy work is not difficult. In fact, it is expected. It should be the norm. Please consider the following "rules." If you follow these guidelines, you, too, can produce high-quality genealogy reports that will be useful to others:

1. Never accept someone else's opinion as "fact." Be suspicious. Always check for yourself!
2. Always verify primary sources; never accept a secondary source as factual until you have personally verified the information.
3. Cite your sources! Every time you refer to a person's name, date and/or place of an event, always tell where you found the information. If you are not certain how to do this, get yourself a copy of "Evidence Explained" by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This excellent book shows both the correct form of source citation and the sound analysis of evidence.
4. If you use the works of others, always give credit. Never claim someone else's research as your own.
5. Assumptions and "educated guesses" are acceptable in genealogy as long as they are clearly labelled as such. Never offer your theories as facts.
6. Be open to corrections. The greatest genealogy experts of all time make occasional errors. So will you. Accept this as fact. When someone points out a possible error in your work, always thank that person for his or her assistance and then seek to re-verify your original statement(s). Again, check primary sources.
7. Respect the privacy of living individuals. Never reveal personal details about living individuals without their permission. Do not reveal their names or any dates or locations.
8. Keep "family secrets." Not everyone wants the information about a court record or a birth out of wedlock to be posted on the Internet or written in books. The family historian records "family secrets" as facts but does not publish them publicly.
9. Protect original documents. Handle all documents with care, and always return them to their rightful storage locations.
10. Be prepared to reimburse others for reasonable expenses incurred on your behalf. If someone travels to a records repository and makes photocopies for you, always offer to reimburse the expenses.

The above "commandments" apply to online data as well as to printed information. Following the above "commandments" will increase the value of your work and make it valuable to others.

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*"Genealogy": Tracing yourself back to people better than you are."*

*John  
Garland Pollard*

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Provincial Archives of Alberta

Carole Koop

What does the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) mean to me? I have used our provincial archives sporadically over the last twenty-four years solely for the purposes of family history research. Not having any of my ancestral roots in Alberta, you might wonder what I found in their holdings.

I believe one cannot do research without extracting every bit of information that the census records hold for each family and for each year available. The PAA has the Canada Censuses for the whole country. Before the use of the internet, I diligently recorded my MOODY, BICKFORD, LEWIS and McPHADEN families in Ontario censuses and in Manitoba in the more recent years.

My main preoccupation for the past fourteen months has been to trace my young grandson's maternal lines with encouragement from my daughter-in-law's family. This research does lead me to the archives in Alberta. His DEAGLE, DOHERTY, GILMER and WRIGHT ancestors all homesteaded in the Provost and/or Consort areas. Once I had the census details pulled from the internet, the next job was to locate the homestead records. I cannot praise the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) enough for indexing "Alberta Homestead Records - 1870 to 1930". It is easy to use the data base which is set up in the computer(s) in the main Reading Room of PAA. The microfilms of the actual homestead applications and patents can then be viewed and photocopied.

The Township Maps collection, which can be copied, adds greatly to the understanding or use of the homestead records. The homesteaders' names can often be found printed on their sections on the maps.

The AGS and its members from the various branch societies have transcribed hundreds of cemeteries in Alberta. The Cemetery Data Base is installed in the computer in the PAA Reading Room. The entries are indexed.

For the above-mentioned four family lines, I have also searched the holdings called Vital Records. These are not indexed but the Research Finding Aid lists the locations and for which years the PAA has the ledgers of Births, Marriages and Deaths for various communities. These ledgers are stored in the climate controlled vaults and can be viewed by filling out a requisition. The retrieval system is quick and efficient but no photocopies of a "found" registration are allowed. Unfortunately, not all towns or cities have sent their BMD records to the archives for safe keeping.

The East European line of my grandson's ancestry is a new challenge for me. The RADA KOVITCH and SUSHCHYNSKI immigrants came directly to Alberta via Halifax in 1928 and 1913 respectively. PAA holds microfilm copies of some passenger lists: 1865-1919. These are arranged by port, then by date. I was very pleased to reel through the appropriate microfilms and make photocopies of the ship manifests. One does need to know the name of the ship and/or the arrival year and port otherwise this can be a very tedious search.

The collection of local history books at the PAA is extensive. Luckily, the Consort and Provost histories have been recorded and published. Insight into the lives of my grandson's ancestors was a must. The local history books gave clues beyond the basic pedigree chart information.

There are probably more records of genealogical value, such as will probates, but I have written of only those of which I am familiar.

As of 2003 the location of PAA is an incredibly attractive building at 8555 Roper Road, Edmonton and the phone number is 780-427-1750. Whenever I use the Reading Room, I am comforted by the atmosphere and peacefulness. The staff is pleasant, efficient and helpful. I undoubtedly will see other AGS acquaintances researching, and I feel comfortable asking for advice or help from them, too.

My enthusiasm for family history research, luckily, is supported by my husband, Lee. I like the detective work and the gathering of information. His strong suit is sorting, recording and computers. With PAA only an hour away from Wetaskiwin, we research there whenever new clues lead us to their records. We encourage others to do the same. It's a great place!

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## Research Requests

Alice Hoyle

In February, I was contacted by someone searching for an ancestor named **Daniel Henry Daly**. Mr. Daly worked at the Driard Hotel in Wetaskiwin, and died in 1907. I was able to search the Wetaskiwin cemetery records, and found where he had been buried in the old Wetaskiwin Cemetery, as well as a bit of military information that was noted on the records. I have sent this to the researcher, and she has now asked that I look for any other records available. This is an on-going search, as Mr. Daly isn't mentioned in any area local history books.

In March, I had an email from someone asking if anyone in our branch comes from the Brightview area. She has a picture of **Twin Creek School** and the students from 1936, and the picture says "Brightview", 1936. Her grandmother was the teacher at the school: Mrs. Dykeman. She also wondered if there was a history of this school available, and if we wanted a copy of the picture. She also wondered if there was info online about teachers in the old one-room schools in Alberta. I suggested to her that I would ask our membership if anyone was from the Brightview area, and I also suggested that we would probably appreciate a copy of the picture. One of our branch members, Jean Browse, contacted me regarding this: she lived next to the school and had more information that she shared with the researcher! The researcher has since emailed the pictures to me – if anyone wishes a copy for their own personal use, please let me know and I will email it to you.

I have a request from Greg Webster, Quesnel, B.C. His grandparents were married and had 2 children born in Wetaskiwin in the 1930's. He wondered if there were census records for them in the 1920's and 1930's, and of course I had to reply to him that this was not available yet. His grandparents were: **William Brown Webster**, born 1905 in Dundee, Angus, Scotland, and **Elizabeth Chapman**, birthdate/place unknown. They married in 1932 in Wetaskiwin. Once again, our branch member Jean Browse came to the rescue: she found information on "Betty Chapman" in the local history book, "Freeway West", and this information was passed on to Mr. Webster. I suggested to Mr. Webster that he could request the marriage information from Alberta Vital Statistics. I also suggested that he look at the Wetaskiwin newspapers online at the Peel Library (UofA) site as perhaps there was mention of his grandparents in the local paper in the 1920's and 1930's. I also did some sleuthing on ancestry.com and found a family tree for the Webster family and I contacted him about that, but haven't gotten a reply back from him as of today's date.

April, 2011: I have been contacted by someone named Tina, who is researching her grandmother. The grandmother's name was **Daveda Jean Bedwell**, born in Pendryl, Alberta on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1932. She died October 25, 1993 in Nanaimo, B.C.

She was married approx. 1953 to someone they believe was named William A. Gilchrist. They had 2 children, Marlena and Cliff.

Daveda then married Harold Twigge circa 1953-1955 in Victoria, B.C. and had 3 more children, one of which is Tina's mother. Tina's grandmother and Harold Twigge divorced.

Daveda then married Henry Stimpson in Victoria, and they had one child.

The family doesn't know their grandmother's parents' names.

I suggested that Tina request from Alberta Vital Statistics, the certified copy of her grandmother's birth registration, as the parents should be listed there.

I looked in the local history book "Packhorse to Pavement" (covers the Pendryl area) and could not see any write-up on Bedwells. This book lists all the quarter sections, and who owned them through the years, so I spent some time looking at all the names. I luckily found property owned by a Todd Bedwell (SW13.45.6.W5); also in the write-up on someone named Tom Street, mention was made about the Bedwell family.

I tried researching in B.C.; however the dates she gave me just seem to be beyond the criteria for public access. I did find a Harold C. Twigge in the 1949 Hendersons Directory for Victoria, and I advised Tina of this. Although I checked obituaries for the Nanaimo area, I couldn't find one for her grandmother.

I decided to check the AGS Homestead Records: jackpot!! I found 4 homestead records for Bedwells, all in the same area as the above land location for Todd Bedwell.

I have forwarded all this information to Tina, as well as advising her how to order the Homestead Records or view the documents herself at the Provincial Archives.

I have asked her to touch base with me, once she gets some of this research done. It will be interesting to know what she finds out, as when she initially contacted me she had very little information to provide.

**Thanks to branch member, Jean Browse,** for her assistance with some of the above requests!

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Origins of the Human Race

Thanks Rosella!



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A little girl asked her Dad, "How did the human race appear?"

The Dad answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children,

and so was all mankind made.." Two days later the girl asked her mother the same question.

The mother answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved." The confused girl returned to her father and said,

"Dad, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God,

and mom said they developed from monkeys?" The father answered, "Well, Dear, it's very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your mother told you about hers."

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"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten

Either write things worthy of reading, or do things worthy of writing."

Benjamin Franklin, May 1738

This page is intentionally blank but in my continual "love - hate" relationship with the computer, I always seem to have available one more page than I need for my messages / musings.

Sharon, (Editor)