



Wetaskiwin Branch  
Alberta Genealogical Society

# Roots & Branches

Vol. 10 No. 2

February, 2012

## BRANCH MEETINGS

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

~ ~

## EXECUTIVE

### President:

Joan Krueger 780-387-4978  
[jkrueg@telus.net](mailto:jkrueg@telus.net)

**Vice President:** Vacant

### Past President:

Don Brosius 780-352-0069  
[Reddy53@telusplanet.net](mailto:Reddy53@telusplanet.net)

### Secretary:

Claudia Malloch 780-352-0685  
[malloch@incentre.net](mailto:malloch@incentre.net)

### Treasurer:

Elaine Young 780-352-2864  
[elaineyou@telus.net](mailto:elaineyou@telus.net)

### Newsletter Editor:

Sharon Aney 780-352-2156  
[sharonaney@incentre.net](mailto:sharonaney@incentre.net)

~ ~

## CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Editor's Corner	2
Recap of Meetings	3
Library	4
Quebec FHS	4
Genealogy: A Passion by Alice Hoyle	5
Alberta Historical Res. Soc.	8
1940 National Registration	8
Technical Tips	9

~ ~ ~

## President's Message

Syl Gauvreau

I have been a member of the Wetaskiwin Genealogy society for five years and I must say that our workshops are getting more successful each year.

Thank you to the 2011 workshop committee for your time and effort in organizing such an interesting program, a job well done! These genealogy workshops are a great educational experience with a lot of information on how to research, and on organizing your own family tree. Now it is up to each of us to follow through in our own research, using what we have learned from the workshop.

Welcome to all new members who joined our Society. Thank you to all members and guests who attended. It was such a beautiful fall day! I would also like to thank the Past Presidents and Executive for helping me during my short stay as acting President. Congratulations and Thank You to our Roots & Branches editor, Sharon Aney, for putting together such an interesting newsletter.

**We Remember  
B J Killaly  
April 9, 1936 - Jan. 2, 2012**

**Our condolences  
to her family.**

**LIBRARY:****Located at City of  
Wetaskiwin Archives**

Hrs. of Operation:  
Tuesdays 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

~ ~

**WETASKIWIN AB  
FAMILY HISTORY  
CENTER**

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-  
Day Saints,  
5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin  
Hours:  
Wed: by appointment  
Thurs: 1:30 pm - 8:30 pm

~ ~

**DATES TO REMEMBER****April 13 & 14, 2012**

AGS &amp; AFHS

**"Find your Tree in the  
Forest"**

Red Deer, AB

<http://rdgensoc.ab.ca>

Info on speakers, program,  
registration, etc is all on the  
website.

Check it out!

~ ~

**Editor's Corner**

Sharon Aney

A big "thank you" to those who stepped forward to fill the Executive positions of our branch at the annual meeting. I hope we all will let them know that we appreciate their efforts. Leaders like to know that someone is following! ☺

In this issue I thank Alice Hoyle & Claudia Malloch for their very helpful articles. Beginner and veteran genealogists will find good advice.

~ ~ ~

Here in St. George, Utah, I to look forward to another Family History Expo. They are huge here in the hotbed of genealogy: dozens of sessions to choose from during both days.

Still and all, I can only attend one session at a time, and each speaker has something interesting and often new (to me) about their topic. But I have found that speakers at conferences in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Edmonton and Wetaskiwin, have given me the same "Aha!" moment, even though the conferences are smaller in scope.

For me, at any genealogy conference, the enthusiasm of speakers and other attendees, the experience of other genealogists, the printed resources available to buy, and the direction to new internet resources are invigorating.

You will note that the AGS annual conference for 2012 is in Red Deer this year. How much handier can it be? I encourage everyone to take a good look at the program and attend if possible. Even if there is no speaker about your specific (Polish, Danish, or whatever) line of interest, there will certainly be something to learn about our hobby of genealogy.

~ ~ ~ ~

*"It is a desirable thing to be well-  
descended, but the glory belongs to our  
ancestors." - Plutarch*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Recap of Meeting Presentations

### OCTOBER 2011

The meeting was chaired by acting President, Syl Gauvreau, who will hold the position until elections at the annual meeting in February. Alice reported on answering a research request on the Jans family from New Norway. She found considerable information from local newspapers on [www.peellibrary.ualberta.ca](http://www.peellibrary.ualberta.ca) and referred the researcher to the website.

The program was a presentation by Carole & Lee Koop about their trip the Family History Library at Salt Lake City as part of the group from Edmonton Branch of AGS. They were very impressed with the willing and capable assistance they received from volunteers, and with the information they were able to find about the Russian line they were researching.

### NOVEMBER 2011

Our program for this evening centred on the **October workshop**. The attendance was 38 registered, AGS President Liam Hobbes, plus the three speakers. Everyone agreed that the workshop had been a huge success: we all felt sorry for **Lianne Kruger** but felt she had given us great information, even though her laryngitis greatly reduced her speaking volume! Many of the members felt the session on writing the story of your life was a very good reminder for all of us to get busy with our individual family stories. Lianne's presentation on Land Records and how the land was surveyed both north and south of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel gave us some more details which we can incorporate into our research.

**Peter Darby's** down-to-earth mannerism and his obvious love of teaching about how to research our genealogy always come to the forefront in his presentations and this workshop was no exception. Many members commented on points they had learned from his presentations, both on the Familysearch website and on the 'organizing' your genealogy session. He stressed the importance of each of us volunteering to do the indexing at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and his enthusiasm for this project has prompted some of our members to get 'on the bandwagon!' 😊

Following the discussion about the October workshop, our 3 newest members who were present at the meeting told us about their individual research, the surnames they are working on, and the areas where their ancestors lived.

### January 2012

---

Seven brave branch members came out on a very cold evening to attend our January meeting. Alice Hoyle's presentation topic was "Researching on the Library and Archives Canada website", with special emphasis on the areas of Immigration and Citizenship and Military. Alice demonstrated the quirks of the Library and Archives website, and gave examples of various searches. The Immigration and Citizenship area was broken down into two areas: the Border Entry records, and the Passenger List records.

The Military records area of the website was demonstrated, and Alice showed those present at the meeting all the various search possibilities using 'non-Canadian' military databases. In the area of the military records entitled "World War I", those in attendance were shown how to search for Canadian Expeditionary Force members, and how to read their Attestation papers. We then moved to the area of the Military records entitled ``War Graves`` and saw how we could find the graves of military personnel who had died and were buried overseas. Alice demonstrated how to find the cemetery online and how to find

the picture of the cemetery along with some background information about the battle(s) that led to the deaths of the military personnel buried in that particular cemetery.

Although the Library and Archives Canada website ([www.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca)) can be frustrating, there continues to be more and more information available for research, so it is worthwhile to give this site your attention.

~~~~~

---

## Library:

Alice Hoyle

We resumed staffing our genealogy library on January 3, after our December break. Thanks to Claudia Malloch for the donation of **Nova Scotia Historical Society Genealogy Newsletters**. The dates on these are from October, 1977 to Fall, 1981. Several indexes are included with the newsletters, listing surnames and regions from which the people originated. There are also some census records – some from the 1871 census, and even some from the 1827 census!! There are numerous enquiries for research, including the answers to the requests. Also, there are some lists of marriage records from various churches. If you have any Nova Scotia ancestry, this binder of newsletters is worth browsing. While sorting and organizing, I discovered a book in our collection that wasn't listed in our holdings: the book is book 2 of the Dorchester Family History; it was donated to our library a couple of years ago. In case you have Dorchester/Shantz ancestry, this book is now catalogued under 929.2DOR "**Supplement to Anthony Dorchester and His Descendants**", and the author is Janice Dorchester.

A reminder to Wetaskiwin Branch members that one of our computer cabinets is still for sale. It is the armoire, the price we quoted before was \$140, which is 50% of the current retail price. If anyone is interested, please call me at 780.352.2150, or email [alihoy@xplornet.com](mailto:alihoy@xplornet.com)

As always, thanks to the branch members who continue to donate items to our library. And, of course, thank you to the volunteers who willingly show up on Tuesdays from 1-3:00 pm to work at the library. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

~~~~~

## Quebec Family History Society Launches New Website

**MONTREAL, January 15, 2012** — The Quebec Family History Society (QFHS) is proud to announce the launch of its new website at [www.qfhs.ca](http://www.qfhs.ca). Located at the same address as the genealogical society's original site, the website features several new sections, such as Gary's Genealogical Picks, research tips, surname interests, and a bulletin board.

QFHS members researching their ancestors in Quebec will benefit from the new Jacques Gagné Church Compilations in the members' section. Long-time member Jacques Gagné has compiled historical information and the location of records for more than 1,000 English and French Protestant churches across the province, from 1759 to 1899.

~~~~~

*Genealogy - Chasing your own tale!*

~~~~~

## Genealogy: An On-going Passion

Alice Hoyle

I “formally” started working on genealogy when I was in my early 20’s. However, I can remember being very interested in family history even as a girl and I suspect my passion was sparked by the fact that my paternal grandfather talked a lot about the Norwegians and our heritage. He lived a very solitary life (my grandmother died before I was born) – on a farm south of Westeros, without electricity, telephone, or running water. He read a lot, and I can remember that many of the books on his shelves related to the Vikings and the Norwegians in general. I can remember him talking about the Norwegians being in England long before the “English” were there!

As well, my father was an incredible ‘story teller’ and I loved to listen to the stories of his childhood. He would tell about his experiences as a child and how the pranks he and his brothers got into were dealt with by his elders, especially his father who was the ‘authority figure’. The families were large, and I can recall trying very hard to keep them all straight: “was *that Joe Young* my Dad’s uncle, or was that the Joe Young who was my Dad’s cousin?”

In my early 20’s, my husband and I were living in Los Angeles. My husband was there for his work, and as I did not have a Work Visa, I was doing volunteer work at the local hospital. This was prior to our having children, so I still had spare time on my hands. One day in the LA Times newspaper, I saw an article about the Church of Latter Day Saints Genealogy Center – it looked intriguing and I caught the genealogy bug at that point. I visited the Center; the genealogy room was located in a very small room in the basement of the church, and the only resources there were microfiche, microfilms, and a few books. I did some initial research, then decided I needed to get more information “from home”. I wrote to my Dad, asking him to confirm the details of his family’s birth and death records, and as well, to advise me of his parents’ information. Since his father had been born in Minnesota, I thought I might be able to find out more background information. My dad wrote back quickly, giving me the names of his parents, his grandparents, and as much information as he had. My “genealogy file” had begun!

I wish I could tell you that I found a wealth of information while in Los Angeles, but unfortunately I didn’t. I did, however, bring back to Canada the information my Dad sent me, and kept it in my genealogy file folder!

In the years that followed, work, raising children, doing a lot of volunteer work, etc., took my time and genealogy took a back seat. I’m sure most of you can relate to that! ☺ I did, however, keep in touch with some of my relatives who were also searching into the background of our ancestors, and from time to time we would exchange information which I wrote down and put into the ‘genealogy file folder’.

On a whim, I decided to write to a great-aunt who lived in the USA: she was my grandmother’s younger sister and since my grandmother died before I was born, I never did know her and I was curious about who she was. My three older sisters had told me of their special memories of our grandmother, but I thought perhaps her sister would have more insight into my grandmother’s personality. A few weeks passed: then I got a letter from my Dad’s cousin Julia – the daughter of my great-aunt. She wrote on behalf of her mother, telling me some of the memories her mother had of my grandmother. It gave me a new insight into this lady I had never known. The letter I wrote, would later connect me in a very special way, to a distant cousin in Montana. Years later, I got a letter from Julie, the daughter of Julia – her mother had died, and when she was going through her mother’s

paperwork, she saw the letter I had written asking for information. Julie, hoping that my mailing address was the same, wrote to me to find out what information I had on the family ancestry. We corresponded back and forth, and she was a great source of data for me: my great-aunt was her grandmother, and this lady lived to 99 years of age and was of very sound mind right up to her death. She had given Julie detailed information on the family including birth dates, birth locations, and also some information on each of the ancestors.

Julie kindly passed this information along to me and in the 20+ years since she contacted me, we have been sporadically in touch with each other, especially when we find out some new revelation that can be confirmed!

In writing this article for the newsletter, I hope to encourage those of you who may feel that the genealogy research task is too daunting, to step back and take small steps. There is no "sure" way to do research: you need to keep your mind open to all possibilities when you are researching your ancestors. Some of my successes have arisen by doing the following:

1. Write letters: yes, it's old-fashioned, but I have gotten some amazing results by writing to Historical Societies/Genealogical Societies, etc. in the location where my ancestors lived. For many years, I was unable to find out one of my great-great-grandmother's maiden name. In desperation, I wrote to the Genealogical Society in the area of Ontario where she lived and I got a letter back, telling me her maiden name, and where she was buried. This person also advised the source of her information: a book that was written about the cemetery where my g.g.grandmother was buried. I was able to find this book for sale on-line at an "Out of Print" bookseller and it has been a treasure trove of information! Two sources I use a lot are: Abe Books, and Alibris Books – you can search their collection on-line and the site tells you if the book is located in Canada, the USA, or beyond North America.
2. Look at local history books for the area in which your ancestors lived, and during the time period they were there. Even if you don't find any reference to your ancestors, this will give you an idea of what the area was like during the time your ancestors lived there. Sometimes, you can find mention of extended family members in these books and they can link you to your ancestor(s). I also suggest that you treat the index as a "guideline" – I have found family members mentioned in books that did not list them in the index. Have patience: carefully scanning through the family histories in these books can sometimes give you information about your family if, for instance, a neighbour's write-up mentioned your family member.
3. Consider joining the genealogical society/historical society in the area where your ancestors lived. They will have resources available to them that you can access, and all of these societies have research volunteers who will assist you. There may be a charge for these services, but for sure, it will be less than a trip to the area!
4. Look at the library catalogue in the local library in the city/town where your ancestors lived. Most library catalogues can be accessed on-line by doing a "google search" for the library, and then looking at their catalogue of holdings. If you find a book that looks like it could assist you, ask your local library to bring it in for you on an "Interlibrary Loan". (yet another reason to have a library card ☺)

5. Think outside the box: years ago, I did a "google search" for my Scottish ancestors – I just typed in their surname, genealogy, and the area they came to in Ontario. While scanning through the results, I found out that the Guelph Historical Society had published a whole booklet on the history of these people. They were part of a group that left Scotland in 1825, sailed to Venezuela, eventually found out that the "deal" they were promised was not forthcoming and managed to make their way to the Guelph area of Ontario in 1827, being some of the original settlers in the area. I contacted the Guelph Historical Society and found out that they still had copies of this booklet even though it was published in 1979 and I was able to purchase a copy for myself, plus numerous copies for siblings, children, etc.
6. Keep an open mind: even though family 'lore' seems consistent you have to be aware that there may be a "glitch" in the family history as told by your elders. When you are doing your research, don't be too rigid in your thinking, as it will limit your results. If you were always told that grandma and grandpa came to Canada together but you can't find them on any ship's manifest, try searching for one or the other. They may have come separately; they may have come as single people and married here – there are numerous possibilities.
7. Familiarize yourself with history and migration routes: many immigrants coming from Europe did not sail directly to North America – quite often they came via England, France or Germany. If you look at the history of the area where your ancestors came from you will have a better understanding of the conditions they lived under and appreciate the fact that they had the courage to leave everything they knew, and come to a great 'unknown'.
8. Use as many research methods as possible: Archives, Museums, Genealogical Societies, on-line sources, The Family History Center (where you can access several on-line databases not available to you from home), Libraries, attend genealogy workshops/conferences to get more information, read everything you can get your hands on relating to your ancestors and where they lived and died, talk to people, ask questions, keep the lines of communication open with extended family members, follow up on even the smallest clues because sometimes they can lead you to more information.

In the end, there is nothing like the feeling you get when that "Ah Ha" moment hits you: you have found the answer to the question you have been asking yourself for years! For most of us, the search is not a quick and easy one: we will travel down many dead-end roads before we find the right one, but once we find the right one, the time we have spent getting there is worth it.

In our branch, there are so many people who have accomplished so much – they have written books about their ancestors, contributed articles to the AGS newsletter, given presentations at the local and provincial level, and generally promoted genealogical research in so many ways. To our newer members, I would like to encourage you to attend our meetings, listen to the presentations, ask for advice when you need it, and please remember that we were ALL beginner genealogists when we first became interested in this fascinating 'hobby'. Please consider your fellow branch members another resource for information – we are always happy to welcome another person to the "addicted to genealogy" group! And for the record: the "genealogy file" I started all those years ago, is now a "genealogy room"! ☺

The **Alberta Historical Resources Foundation** is soliciting nominations for its 2012 Heritage Awards Program. These heritage awards recognize and celebrate outstanding accomplishments and projects by individuals, organizations, corporations and municipalities in the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage in the province.

**AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

**Heritage Conservation Award**, for excellence in the preservation/restoration/rehabilitation of a historic structure or site having local, regional or provincial significance.

**Heritage Awareness Award**, for outstanding contributions to local, regional or provincial history through:

- innovative projects which educate, interpret and promote public awareness of Alberta history
- excellence in research, writing or publishing

**Municipal Heritage Preservation Award**, recognizes a municipal government for exemplary commitment to heritage conservation through identification, protection and promotion of municipal historic resources.

**Outstanding Achievement Award**, for an individual whose long-term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta history has been exemplary.

**The Nomination must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2012.**

The Nomination Form and detailed guidelines can be obtained at:

**Heritage Awards**

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation

8820-112 Street, Edmonton, AB T6G 2P8

ph: 780-431-2305 or online at: [www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf](http://www.culture.alberta.ca/ahrf)

~~~~~

## **The National Registration File of 1940**

I have often been asked for advice on how to find out when an ancestor came to Canada. If information could not be found from family, in the 1900 census, and if an immigration record has not been found, The National Registration File of 1940 holds a wealth of information.

From the website: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca> : "This file resulted from the compulsory registration of all persons, male and female, 16 years and older, in the period from 1940 – 1946. Information includes: Name, address, age, birthdate, conjugal status, dependents, country of birth and place, Nationality, Racial origin, languages, class of occupation or craft, employment and abilities information.

This file is covered by the Privacy Act, according to which, when a person has been dead for more than 20 years, the information is no longer considered to be personal and it can be disclosed."

**\*To request a search** for your ancestor you must provide:

\*Proof that he / she has been dead for more than 20 years. A death certificate is preferable, but an obituary notice is acceptable. (I used a photo of the tombstone. Ed.)

\*Individual's full name, country of birth, place of residence during 1940 – 1946.

---



**Procedure:**

Phone 613.951.9483 to request form #8-4600-21 (1 Per person) re: National Registration Complete and mail with fee and documentation

The Standard fee is \$48.15 (\$45.00 m. +\$3.15 GST) for each search that is successful.

Send it by cheque or money order to :

Statistics Canada.

Census Pensions Searches Unit

Tunney's Pasture,

Ottawa, ON K1A 0T6

## **TECHNICAL TIPS - The iPad 2**

by Claudia Malloch

---

For Christmas, I received an iPad 2. It's important to start every year with a new learning curve. My experience with the iPad has been an interesting one.

The iPad is light and easier to take with you than even a laptop. It has already taken a trip with me to Nova Scotia as my brother had heart surgery at the end of January. It has been great. I was unable to land at the Halifax airport because of a snowstorm so spent several extra hours in the air and at the Moncton airport. The iPad has games, books, my family history, music and even a movie if I'd taken the time to download it before I left. It is an excellent book reader so I had magazines and articles available too.

There are loads of applications for the iPad and I have found several that have been a great advantage in family history...both ancestors who are gone and family who are here. I'll share some of my favourites with you so you have some idea of whether you might find an iPad a useful tool in your genealogy toolbox. Some may seem unrelated, but it's surprising how you can use them.

### **Facetime**

Facetime is like Skype...a free way to call long distance, but it is just from one Mac to another. It works with all Mac products and is clearer and more reliable than Skype on my computer. My sister, who lives in NS, developed a bad cold a couple days after my brother's surgery. He has now gone home to PEI so we are unable to visit him. Facetime allows us to see how he looks as well as talking with him. It also allows me to keep in touch with my family at home without long distance charges.

### **Pages**

Pages is Mac's word processing software. It's not as easy to use as the complete program for my MacBook Pro, but it works pretty well...better every day as I actually read the instructions. The keyboard integrated on the iPad screen is quite good and easy to use. Documents can be emailed to your main computer or to other people or saved in various formats...Pages, Word and PDF. You have access to several templates in Pages and they are fairly simple to edit. You are able to open most "Word" documents in this program as well.

### **Note Programs**

**Notability:** My daughter recommended this program. You are able to write by hand in it, type, draw, insert photos and shapes and to make audio recordings. It can be exported or you can copy and paste from it. I've made good use of it while I've been away. I want to get a stylus though, because my finger is a rather large writing instrument. Check it out at <http://www.gingerlabs.com/cont/notability.php>

**Evernote** is a well known and popular program which works on most computers and mobile devices. It is well worth checking out and I intend to do that soon. Find it at <http://www.evernote.com/>

### **Family Tree Programs for iPad, iPod and iPhone**

**MacFamilyTree:** This program just became available before I left for Nova Scotia. It allows you to sync with the main program on your computer if you are using MacFamilyTree. Even if you didn't have that, you would be able to import a gedcom file to this program on your iPad and have your family tree available and with you.

**Legacy:** I just learned that Legacy has a program entitled **Families 1.0** for iPad, iPods and iPhones and **Families 1.0** for Android products. In order to sync between your Legacy (6 or 7) program and your Families 1.0 program, you require an additional program on your PC. This program can be downloaded from the Legacy website and is free.

### **Email**

You can read and send email from your iPad. It supports having more than one email provider and handles it well...I know because I have three email addresses and they all work really well.

### **Internet**

You can access the internet, do research, save information, even save web pages as pdf files with an app for that purpose. I found information on my grandfather who served in the Boer War yesterday.

### **Photos**

iPad has two cameras, one for use with your Facetime (you can even take photos of yourself) and one to take photos the regular way. It also takes videos. These photos are saved on your iPod and can be edited, cropped, and synced to your home computer. It can also access photos on your home computer if you wish.

### **Calendar, Contacts and To Do's**

You can keep all these items on your iPod and sync them with your laptop or desktop. I even keep my grocery list on it.

You can tell that I truly appreciate my iPad. It certainly doesn't replace my trusty Macbook Pro laptop but it is a very helpful and portable addition to my technical tools.

~~~~~

## **Volunteer Research:**

Alice Hoyle

We did not have any new research requests during the months of December or January. One of the previous researchers contacted me again to see if I had discovered anything more on her ancestors, and I have researched further at the Archives, using obituary records and the Siding 16 books, but haven't found any more information than previously discovered.

~~~~~

*Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as "Progress".*

~~~~~

---

This page intentionally blank. Ed.

---