



Wetaskiwin Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society

Roots & Branches

Vol. 10 No. 3

May, 2012

BRANCH MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of the month,
7:00 pm at
Note New Location!
LDS CHURCH
5410 – 36 ave
(use NE back door off parking lot)
except Dec., July & Aug.

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EXECUTIVE

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Past President:

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

Elaine Young 780-352-2864

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President's Message Joan Kreuger

It has been a bit of a rough start to my term as President. My first meeting was March 20; we arrived at the archives only to find the door locked. After a wait Don Brosius offered his home which was very kind of him. "Thank You", Don. Since then we have been looking for a meeting place, and now thanks to Claudia Malloch, we are going to meet at The Church of Latter Day Saints.

On the day of my first AGS Board Meeting in Edmonton my garage door had a big snow drift in front of it, so I was not off to a good start with AGS. Six of our members attended the Red Deer Gen Fair in April and the weather was not great for that eithersnow again!

But it got better. We have interesting programs for the spring meetings and have started working on our 10th October workshop. The committee is the same as last year with the addition of Lee Koop. Claudia and Alice have been working very hard getting speakers and topics. I thank them for all the work that they do for our Branch. It should be an interesting workshop so hopefully we have as great as turnout as we did last year – I think we will.

Thanks to all our members for attending our meetings it is really appreciated.

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*"LIFE CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD
BACKWARDS, BUT IT MUST BE LIVED
FORWARDS"*

Soren Kierkegaard

COMMITTEES

Historian Rosella Plaquin
Library Alice Hoyle
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Newsletter Sharon Aney
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Volunteer Research
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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
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WETASKIWIN 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 \

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Roots & Branches

is published three times per year
 by and for the members of
 Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS.

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Editor's Corner

Sharon Aney

This issue of Roots & Branches ends my 2nd year as editor. One of the best parts of the position has been printing the articles from our own members of AGS.

You are an amazing bunch of genealogists! And remarkable writers!! I would like to see articles **POUR** in for future publications!

I ask you, who might not yet have written for R & B, as well as those who have another story to tell ... please get in touch with me about submitting an article for the 2012/2013 issues.

Length of the article does not matter – ½ page to 2 pages or longer. If you are nervous about writing, I will work with you. Everyone's research is unique, but very helpful and interesting to other genealogists. Call me! 352-2156.

Saskatchewan Funeral Cards**175 from Lanigan and other towns close by**

We always hope to find family history treasures when we look through the boxes and closets of a deceased relative. After my mother's death last year we found about 175 funeral memorial cards that she had saved over the years: from the area around Lanigan, Sask., also Humboldt, Leroy, Sinnett, and of other people who had some connection to those places.

If any reader thinks that these cards might include some information about their family, I have listed the names and posted them onto the website of the Wetaskiwin Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society

www.wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ab.ca

You can contact me at sharonaney@incentre.net for other information that was on the card.

"Everyone has ancestors, and it is only a question of going back far enough to find a good one." -

Howard Kenneth Nixon

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RECAP OF MEETING PRESENTATIONS

FEBRUARY 2012

The annual meeting was held Feb. 21, 2012.

The audited financial report has been sent to AGS

Election of Officers:

Past President: Don Brosius, **President:** Joan Krueger, **Vice President:** Vacant, **Secretary:** Claudia Malloch, **Treasurer:** Elaine Young, **Membership:** Lee Koop, **Newsletter:** Sharon Aney, **Historian:** Rosella Plaquin, **Publicity:** Donna Garvey, **Programs, Library and Volunteer Research:** Alice Hoyle, & technical assistant, Don Brosius.

*“Volunteers are seldom paid,
not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless!”*

Anon, via Chris Bukoski, Pres. EEGS, Vol 20, #2

MARCH 2012

Our meeting program was a Webinar presentation entitled “Writing Your Family History” – our thanks to Claudia Malloch for allowing us to share the information from her DVD. The Webinar presenter used her own experiences in writing a family history to demonstrate the various methods used to convey the story of our ancestors.

The first thing she stressed was to ask questions: make sure we ask our living elders all about our family, try to gather all the information we can about who, what, when, where and why! She also suggested we determine our audience: is it a ‘family only’ publication or do we want to put the history into the public domain. She reminded us that if we publish the family history for public viewing, we need to get the permission of living people who are cited in the publication.

Some of the pointers and reminders were: gather materials needed (documents, photos, interviews, other research); look at the segments of our lives, one at a time (childhood, adulthood, parenthood, etc.); use the family histories you have collected to provide the stories for the publication; when writing our histories we should always leave something hanging – either within a chapter or at the end of each chapter (this will draw the reader into the story).

Several websites were provided, linking to on-line writing tools, timelines, and genealogy blogs. This was a very inspiring presentation and hopefully “some” of us will have been inspired to get writing! The most important point she stressed was one we have all heard before: “the most important part of writing your family history is ***to get started!***”

APRIL 2012,

As we have been asked by the Manager of the City Archives to hold our monthly meetings elsewhere, **our May and June meetings will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints.** Thanks to Claudia Malloch for arranging this alternate location. It would be helpful if all branch members could try to think of alternate locations for our resource centre in the event that we are asked to relocate these as well. Thanks to all the members who did some research on possible new venues for our meetings.

The program portion of the meeting was in two parts. The first was a discussion of the AGS Gen-Fair recently attended in Red Deer by several members. Everyone had learned something interesting and came away invigorated in using new tools for research, technology, and / or contributing to the genealogy community. Comments were made about the importance of family stories and connecting ancestors to a place in history as a research technique.

Secondly, new member, Dona Cadwell brought her "brickwall" for the members to discuss and hopefully provide some hints of direction to continue her search. Her difficulty arises with finding the ancestors and origin of her paternal grandparents, Mack/Maxwell/ McPayne/ Davis and his wife Christa/Christine Sheridan/ Sherwood/ Cousins. Everyone was happy to put on their thinking cap and enthusiastic ideas were presented for her to look into, and some possible explanations given for situations that she thought were unusual.

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Alice Hoyle (Program Coordinator)

**May, 2012:** Webinar "Digital Writing Tools for Genealogists" – thanks to Claudia Malloch for arranging this presentation.

**June 2012:** We will (as per tradition) have a round table discussion among the members, advising how our year progressed (or didn't) as it pertains to genealogical research. Members who are facing brick walls can get suggestions from the other members about how to proceed; where to look; who to contact, etc. and hopefully over the summer some of our walls will come tumbling down!

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LIBRARY

Alice Hoyle (Librarian)

Since the publication of the last newsletter, we have added the following items to our collection Thanks to Bob Maynard for your continuing interest and support of the Wetaskiwin Branch Library/Resource Centre.

363.378HOL	Holt, Faye Reineberg	Out of the Flames – Forest Fire Fighting on the Canadian Prairies
364.133AND	Anderson, Frank W	The Rum Runners
636.089MAC	MacDonald, Donald W., ed	A Short History of the Veterinary Profession in Alberta, 1955-1990
647.947SAN	Sandford, R. W.	Hotels – The History of Alberta's Hospitality

At the GenFair held in Red Deer in April, we received, a copy of the booklet published by the Provincial Archives, titled "**Ukrainian Archival Records at the Provincial Archives of Alberta: An Annotated Guide**". This booklet is printed in both English and Ukrainian.

In other library news: 1. We are pleased to have purchased a new laptop computer for our branch to use for meeting presentations, as well as for our workshops, etc. Thank you to Bob Maynard for doing the shopping and purchasing related to this purchase, and:

2. We have sold the last of the furniture that became redundant when we moved into the City Archives a few years ago.

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## SHEEPSKIN COATS ON THE PRAIRIES

Searching For My Ukrainian Ancestors

Sharon Aney

I have learned a lot as I looked for the stories of my Ukrainian great-grandparents. I learned about their immigration to Western Canada, how to find documentation of their journey and lives here, and I still hope to find more about their lives in the "Old Country".

A brief description of the recruitment of our Ukrainian ancestors follows in this edited excerpt from Citizenship & Immigration Canada <http://www.cic.gc.ca> "Forging our Legacy"

\*\* The principal planner and promoter of the campaign for western settlement was Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior in Wilfred Laurier's new (1896) government. In his urgent search for suitable farmers and farm labourers, the new Minister was prepared to admit agriculturalists from places other than Great Britain, the United States, and northern Europe. Describing what he looked for in the ideal settler, Sifton said:

*"When I speak of quality I have in mind something that is quite different from what is in the mind of the average writer or speaker upon the question of immigration. I think that **a stalwart peasant in a sheepskin coat, born on the soil**, (my emphasis. Ed.) whose forefathers have been farmers for ten generations, with a stout wife and a half-dozen children, is good quality".*

Booking agents and steamship company officials based in Amsterdam agreed to direct, whenever possible, agriculturalists to Canada; and received a bonus for every genuine agricultural settler steered to this country. By the time of the outbreak of the First World War, approximately 170,000 Ukrainians settled in this country, attracted by the offer of free land, a sense of space, and an opportunity to make a living in a free and open society. \*\*

Many of us, descendants of those immigrants, are now struggling to find our ancestral story by searching through the adaptations our grandparents made to fit into the Canadian culture. Some changed their names; others did not communicate their history to the younger generations that were rapidly learning to speak, read and write and prosper in the English-speaking country. The simple sod, log and thatch houses were not a friendly environment for documents to survive. So, two, three or four generations later we try to reconstruct their story.

We begin, as with all genealogy questions, at home. Stories, obituaries, and funeral memorial cards can yield a lot of information, including the names of other family members and the place where an ancestor was born. Local history books can be found in libraries, local and provincial archives, historical societies, and online at [www.ourroots.ca](http://www.ourroots.ca). They also can provide details about the development of communities in the early years of Canada. Even if not mentioned by name, your ancestor was part of the story of the place where he lived. Look for books on the more general theme of Ukrainian Immigration. Interlibrary loan is invaluable here, especially if you can find some of the books by Vladimir Kaye.

At every stage of the search we need to know the place where they lived, because that is where documents were created. Homestead records at the provincial archives of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are helpful because immigrants often applied for land shortly after arrival. The "Application for Patent" document reflects their struggle and determination

and actually records the advances they made: clearing and breaking and cropping so many acres per year, erecting buildings and fences, raising cattle, etc.

As they lived in their new communities they married and had children baptized. There were only a few Ukrainian Catholic priests who travelled periodically to rural areas from larger centers such as Winnipeg, Edmonton and Saskatoon to perform marriages and baptisms. As a result, these events were possibly recorded in a church far away from where your rural ancestor lived when the priest returned from his circuit. Or your staunch Greek Catholic or Greek Orthodox may have been married in a Roman Catholic church nearby. So do not give up the search easily. When you contact the church, advise them that the ancestor is your "such and such" a relative and you are looking for genealogical information, such as the parents and home community. A courteous gesture is to include a donation for the church to apply to its charitable works.

It is a genealogical myth that a surname was changed at the immigration point; the officials at ports in Canada and the USA created immigration records based upon passports and passenger lists that were created in the country of origin. Names were more likely to have been changed as the immigrant (who was **not literate** in English) was trying to communicate and complete documentation for land, census, etc with an official (who was **only literate** in English). My great-grandfather and his brother ended up with different English spellings to denote the sound of their names in Canada.

We need to know when our ancestors arrived in this country, because it is fruitless to search in a time frame that did not include them. If you do not know the approximate year of your ancestor's arrival, you could look in these records for clues:

- Local history books, family lore, obituaries, funeral cards, etc
- The 1901, 1906 and 1911 census indicate year of arrival for immigrants. Check these on [www.automatedgenealogy.com](http://www.automatedgenealogy.com) a free website, as well as Heritagequest at libraries
- The National Registration of 1940 asked year of arrival. (note: see info on the 1940 Registration in the Feb. 2012 issue of Roots & Branches).
- Microfilms of the arrival lists of passenger ships (1865 – 1919) to Canadian ports are available for you to search at the Provincial Archives, once you know the timeframe of their arrival date. The films also show the group that travelled together, funds they brought along, length of journey and other information for recreating the story.
  
- Library & Archives Canada website <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca> has several very useful databases including:
  - Immigration records for the years 1925 – 1935. It has a searchable index that enables you to order a copy of the immigration record from [www.pier21.org](http://www.pier21.org)
  - Immigrants from the Russian Empire (LI-RA-MA Collection): The Likacheff-Ragosine-Mathers collection (LI-RA-MA) contains documents created between 1898 and 1922 by the consular offices of the Russian Empire in Canada. The series on passports and identity papers is comprised of about 11,400 files on Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants who came to Canada from the Russian Empire. The series includes passport applications and questionnaires containing general information.
  - Online Database of **Canadian Naturalization 1915–1951**: a new version of the nominal index with the addition of more than 91,000 names that now covers the years from 1915 to 1936, inclusively.

- The **Hamburg Passenger Lists** contain the names of millions of Europeans who emigrated through Hamburg during the years 1850 – 1934 (except 1914 – 1919). If you have ancestors who emigrated from central or eastern Europe, the Hamburg Passenger Lists could provide valuable information including their hometown. If you have not yet found your ancestor's birthplace this could be a valuable resource. The lists have been microfilmed by the LDS, and if you go onto the website [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) click on the Learn tab, then go to Research Wiki, you will find dozens of articles about this resource.

I have found valuable information as a member of the East European Genealogical Society <http://eegsociety.org>. The East European Genealogist journal articles, surname database, query column and helpful members as conference presenters have opened doors for me as I am searching for information about to my ancestors immigration to Canada.

**Brian Lenius' "Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia"** is critical to finding the places for records from that area of the "Old Country". It is important to know that Galicia had been under the rule of Russia, Ukraine, Poland and Austria-Hungary at various points in its history, and records were made by those various governments, using their language. For example, the one city was called L'viv by Ukrainians, L'vov by Russians, Lwow by Polish and Lemberg by Germans. The same holds true for the majority of places. Hence the need for the Lenius Gazetteer.

The Gazetteer will tell you in which town, region or church authority to look for the records of your ancestral village. Once you have that information your next step should be to visit the site [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) and look into the library catalogue to see whether records from that area have been microfilmed. A great number have been. These microfilms can be brought into our local Family History Centre and conveniently searched.

EEGS member Mathew Bielawa provides excellent information for searching in Halychyna / Eastern Galicia. <http://www.halgal.com>

If you have Polish ancestors who came to the USA, you will be interested in the Polish Genealogy Society of America [www.pgasa.org](http://www.pgasa.org) with many databases, some open and some for members only. I have found information to fill in the many gaps in my grandfather's family history.

I have just learned of another website and am beginning to explore its many links to many Eastern European countries. You might want to look at East European Genealogy Web "A World GenWeb Project Website" at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~easeurgw](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~easeurgw)

As you discover the details of your ancestors' lives and co-ordinate them with the history of the places they left, and the Canada that they came to 50, 75 or over 100 years ago you will appreciate their courage, ambition, hopes and dreams, dedication, adaptability, independence, interdependence, thrift, ..... use your own descriptor! Even though our Ukrainian immigrant ancestors individually played only a small part, collectively they were important in the settlement and growth of this country, Canada.

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*Genealogy begins as an
interest,
becomes a hobby,
continues as a vocation,
takes over as an
obsession,
and in its last stages is
an incurable disease."*
Author unknown

*"If you cannot get rid
of the family skeleton,
you may as well
make it dance."* -

- George Bernard Shaw

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## TECHNICAL TIPS

## "SCANNER TO GO"

Claudia Malloch

My new favourite toy is my recently acquired **"Flip-Pal Scanner"**. In the past week I've scanned more photographs than I have in the past two years.

The Flip-Pal is small, compact, portable, fast and easy to use. I watched TV and scanned the photos for the book I'm making for my daughter. It is cordless, runs on AA batteries (included with the scanner) or you can buy rechargeable ones. You don't need a computer until you've completed your scans.

It will also scan large items (documents, quilts, etc.). The top comes off and you scan flat using several photos of the item and the "stitching software" which comes with the scanner combines it into one image. I learned about this scanner from Dick Eastman in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of November 27, 2011. To quote him:

"A new YouTube video shows the use of the Flip-Pal in operation creating scrapbooks of family heritage. The scanner is used to scan photographs as well as 3D objects. The video shows the Flip-Pal in operation and shows how easy it is to use. Keep in mind that it does not connect to a computer. Instead, all data is stored on an SD (Secure Digital) memory card which you later remove and connect to a computer at your convenience. The Flip-Pal includes one SD card and you may purchase more, should you wish to do so.



The video was produced by KS Productions, Inc. and is available at <http://youtu.be/xinrLP6buCA> "I really recommend that you watch the video, and watch it again if you should purchase a scanner. It's very helpful. In fact, You Tube has a number of Flip-Pal videos to teach you about the product. You can learn more about Flip-Pal on their website at <http://flip-pal.com/> There is an excellent video on the product there as well.

The Flip-Pal is available on their own website, through Amazon.com and through <http://legacyfamilytree.com/> Unless you find it on sale, it costs approximately \$149.99. I purchased mine through <http://legacyfamilytree.com/> after attending one of their free, online webinars. They have many to choose from and they are excellent. Attendance



supplies you with a code for a 10% discount off any item. With the discount and free shipping (which Legacy gives to orders over \$50) it was more reasonable. There was a \$15 charge for duty and GST when it arrived. The scanner was ordered through Legacy but it shipped directly from Flip-Pal.

You are able to purchase carrying cases and accessories for the scanner on the Flip-Pal website. I found a case that fit both the scanner and my purse perfectly at Winner's for \$7.99.

You may also be able to obtain this scanner from an affiliate who may even be displaying it at a genealogy conference...they were in Red Deer last month.

I recommend you check out the Flip-Pal. It really is a genealogist's friend.

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VOLUNTEER RESEARCH

Alice Hoyle

I am pleased to advise that I was contacted by the daughter of Gertrude (Jans) Holt, regarding the information sent to me by Gertrude's German second cousin. I have forwarded the information to Gertrude's daughter, and it is my hope that Gertrude and her second cousin have made contact with each other.

One of our branch members, Jean Browse, advised me last year that she would be willing to assist with research, should I need help. Jean isn't able to attend our meetings, but loves a good mystery!! ☺ After Dona's presentation at the society's April meeting, I contacted Jean and asked if she was interested in doing some research. I emailed her the information Dona had supplied, and Jean phoned me to tell me she had the local history books for the areas in Alberta where Dona's family lived! Wow, how fortunate was that! Jean has found some information on the Davis family, and this has been forwarded to Dona.

Once again, my thanks to Jean for her assistance, and thanks also to Myrick Rosser, another Wetaskiwin branch member who assisted me with the Jans enquiry. I really appreciate the information and help given to me by Jean and Myrick – it has made my job as Volunteer Research 'person' much easier.

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## **GRANDMA IS OFF HER ROCKER**

In the dim and distant past,  
When life's tempo wasn't so fast,  
Grandma used to rock and knit,  
Crochet, tat and baby sit,  
When the kids were in a jam,  
They could always call on Gram,

But today she's in the gym  
Exercising to keep slim,  
She's searching the web, surfing the  
net,  
Sending e-mails (genealogy I'll bet),  
Nothing seems to stop or block her,  
Now that Grandma's off her rocker.

Anon.

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