



Wetaskiwin Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society

Roots & Branches

Vol. 11 No. 2

Feb. 2013

BRANCH MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of the month,
7:00 pm at
LDS CHURCH, 5410 – 36 ave
except July & Aug .& Dec.

~ ~

CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Editor's Corner	2
Recap of Meetings	3
Volunteer Research	4
Library	5
Cemetery Crawling – R. Plaquin	6
Research Wiki – Claudia Malloch	7

~ ~

EXECUTIVE

President:

Joan Krueger 780-387-4978
jkrueg@telus.net

Vice President: Vacant

Past President:

Don Brosius 780-352-0069
Reddy53@telusplanet.net

Secretary:

Claudia Malloch 780-352-0685
malloch@me.com

Treasurer:

Elaine Young 780-352-2864
elaineyou@telus.net

~ ~

ROOTS & BRANCHES is

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Joan Krueger

I wish everyone all the best for 2013.

This past while has been cold, but what a good time to stay home in front of your computer researching relatives.

Alice and Claudia have done a great job on the programs for our meetings. The last one was on Census and was very good. I noticed a few members taking notes. To me that is a good sign that the program is informative and gives you ideas and suggestions as what to do or where to look.

Alice informed us that Family Day is around the time of our meeting and would like the members to tell us about their family memories. Since I haven't been doing very much the last while, this has given me the incentive to get going again. I hope it will do the same for you and will see and hear you at the February meeting.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

DRAYTON VALLEY BRANCH WORKSHOP

"Star Spangled Genealogy"

March 9, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.

Concentrating on USA genealogy.
See their poster on the AGS website.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

AGS Conference
April 21 & 22, 2013
Edmonton

COMMITTEES

Historian Rosella Plaquin
Library Alice Hoyle
Membership Lee Koop
Newsletter Sharon Aney
sharonaney@gmail.com
Program Alice Hoyle
 (tech ass't- Don Brosius)
Volunteer Research
 Alice Hoyle
Webmaster
 Laura Turnbull

WEBSITE

www.wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ca

EMAIL

wetaskiwin8@abgensoc.ca

~ ~ ~

LIBRARY

Located at
City of Wetaskiwin Archives

Open: 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

Bob Maynard 780-387-4187

Bobbi McPherson

~ ~

WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints,
 5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin
 Thursdays: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
 & 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

~ ~

EDITOR'S CORNER

Sharon Aney

This January, in the USA, the news is dominated by the Presidential inauguration. We tend to think that such political events have little to do with us, except for the spectacle. Very few of us can count presidents or kings in our ancestral lines.

But politics, generations ago as well as now, determine our life paths. The repressive political systems in Europe of the 1800s and earlier, the politics of land-holding by the upper class to the great disadvantage of the peasants, and the dawning of democratic movements were some of the reasons that our ancestors crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

The new residents soon found that if they wanted schools, local improvements and safety they would have to work together. So they became involved in politics.... a new experience for many.

The governments of Britain/Canada and the USA encouraged westward expansion – to occupy the land in order that the other nation might not claim it. Homestead Acts became national policies. To a greater or lesser extent laws now protect the well-being and aspirations of our fellow citizens.

It is easy for us to take for granted the freedoms that were only a dream for our immigrant ancestors. We shouldn't.

~ ~ ~

Thanks to Rosella for her story illustrating the virtues of advance planning and advance booking on a well-organized and thus very productive research trip to Ontario. A good lesson for us all!

Thanks, as always, to Alice for reporting on society matters, and to Claudia for another article on up-to-date research tools, and to both for keeping me "in the loop".

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

RECAP OF MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Alice Hoyle

September, 2012

"Genealogy Finds Over the Summer" – our branch members filled us in on what new genealogical information they found over the summer. Rosella Plaquin had an awesome trip to Ontario in the summer; finding a wealth of information about her ancestors. She found that several of them were United Empire Loyalists, and due to the fact that 2012 marked the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812, many museums and repositories of archival data had displays relating to the people who lived in their region – many of whom were Rosella's ancestors. It was good to hear that many of our members spent time in the summer successfully doing their genealogical research.

October, 2012

"Tour of the Wetaskiwin Family History Center" – out-going FHC Director, Patty Caputo, gave our members a tour of the Family History Center, with a special focus on the data bases that are only available at the FHC. Our members were able to use the computers and explore the many sites available at the FHC – one in particular (Fold3) seemed to be very popular. Although we talk about the Family History Center at our genealogy meetings, some of our branch members hadn't used the facility. Therefore it was very beneficial for them to actually see the massive amount of data that can be accessed at the FHC.

November, 2012

"Researching Ships' Lists" – Alice Hoyle gave a presentation focusing on the free websites you can access when you are researching the emigration of your ancestors. The various databases on each of the websites were explored and the individual "quirks" of each database were pointed out to the members in order to make their research easier. A two-page handout was given to those in attendance. This will hopefully help them when they are doing their research at home.

January 2013

"Researching Your Canadian Ancestors" by Clair Brisson-Banks. This CD was based on a Legacy webinar viewed by branch member Claudia Malloch, who purchased the CD. Our "Thanks" to Claudia for sharing her resources with us.

The information presented covered a wide range of topics (Census, Immigration, Border Crossings, Land Records, etc.) as well as a very wide span of years. Some of the information she gave us related to vital records back to the 1600's – mostly in the province of Quebec. The presenter explained some of the idiosyncrasies of the French-Canadian databases available online and gave us suggestions to help us navigate these databases.

We were given numerous websites to explore, and she gave several examples of what could be found on the websites.

Whether you are a beginning genealogist or have been researching for years, this presentation provided information you can use in your own personal research or when you assisting others with their research.

February 2013 – upcoming program

"Family Memories" As our meeting falls on the day after Family Day in Alberta, each member is asked to talk about a memory from childhood that has guided them through adulthood, or to talk about an ancestor they relate to, etc. Each person's presentation will vary; and I hope they will include photos, mementos, etc. with their presentation.

DAVE OBEE is a leading Canadian Genealogist. His websites are full of information on resources for Canadian genealogy and Canadian history.

<http://www.daveobee.com/>

<http://www.cangenealogy.com>

He will be speaking at the AGS conference in Edmonton on April 21 & 22. Keep an eye out for his topics.

~~~~~

## **VOLUNTEER RESEARCH**

Alice Hoyle

We have had 3 requests for volunteer research since the summer of 2012.

- I received one request from the U.S. for further information about the Funeral Cards listed on our website. This request was forwarded to our member Sharon Aney, as she has in her possession, the funeral cards from various Saskatchewan locations. Ironically, the person who requested the information was looking for a relative of Sharon's! Yes, it is a small world.
- I also had a request from Florida for information on how to access a death certificate for someone who died in Wetaskiwin in 1907. The woman who contacted me knew that two ancestors died in this area in 1907, and were buried in the old Wetaskiwin cemetery, but she wanted the information from the death certificates. I was able to give her the Service Alberta website applicable for out-of-province requests.
- One other request was quite interesting: a Swedish man, living in Venezuela, requested information about his relatives who emigrated to Canada in 1910, settled in Alberta (various locations), died in this area in 1956 and 1981 and are buried in the old Wetaskiwin cemetery. After several emails back and forth to him (to determine exactly what he already knew so I didn't spend time duplicating information he already had) it appeared that he wanted information on the extended family; specifically how he could contact them.

I went to the City Archives to look at the obituaries....happened to mention to the Archives' staff that this was related to a research request from Venezuela, and guess what....they also had had a request from this same person for basically the same information and they had already sent the obituaries to him. As we try not to duplicate each other's research efforts, I did not copy the obituaries, but am in the process of compiling a list of sources for current information that he can access via the internet (ie, Canada 411, GenWeb, etc.).

~~~~~

Generosity

Just before Christmas our 4 year old grandson was asked if he was going to send a letter to Santa. He puzzled over the question for a minute and then decided, "I could send him a "T"."

When he was told that, "No, Ty, that is not the kind of letter to send to Santa" he thought some more and firmly decided "Then I will send him a "J".

LIBRARY:

Alice Hoyle

- While attending an AGS meeting, President Joan was given two books for our library: "Alberta Genealogical Society, Celebrating 25 years, 1973-1998" and "SIG Planning Workshop, Edition 2" – these reference books have been added to our library collection.
- In January, I did a thorough clean-up of our collection; re-shelving books in the correct numerical order, weeding through some very old information and delegating it to the recycle bin (articles on internet resources, dating back more than 10 years!).
- Thank you to the branch members who have willingly given their time to staff the library each Tuesday: Bob Maynard, Syl Gauvreau and Bobbie MacPherson.
- I strongly suggest to branch members that you come to the library on Tuesday afternoons, and just browse through our collection. When I was doing to re-organizing on January 8th, I found lots of information/books that I forgot were there!

A reminder that Alice has created a document of our library holdings. Our webmistress, Laura has placed it on our website.

~~~~~

**EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**[www.eegsociety.org](http://www.eegsociety.org)**

**2013 SEMINAR**

***"FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY RESOURCES"***  
***and***  
***"RESEARCH IN THE FORMER RUSSIAN EMPIRE"***

**(includes Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, parts of Poland and Ukraine,  
 and other former Soviet Republics)**

**Date: Saturday, June 1, 2013 (full day and evening)**

**Place:** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS)  
 45 Dalhousie Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**Speaker:** Kahlile Mehr, MA, MLS, AG (Salt Lake City)

➤ Members \$60.00 (includes lunch) ➤ Non-members \$65.00 (includes lunch) ➤ Dinner \$28.00 each

~~~~~

*Like branches on a tree, our lives may grow in different directions
 yet our roots remain as one.*

*All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.
 Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. Anon.*

~~~~~

## CEMETERY CRAWLING IN ONTARIO

Rosella Plaquin

Since my maternal Grandfather, James Harold Wiltse b: 1899, and my paternal Grandmother, Lucy May Reynolds b: 1890, were both born in Ontario I decided to spend a few days in Ontario searching for gravestones. The family names I was looking for were Wiltse, Stover, Reynolds, Knox and Richards. I was fortunate to have several contacts in Ontario on both sides so had a great place to start.

Knowing I was going to start at the Archives of Ontario in Toronto, I preregistered to save time once I arrived. My daughter, Kathleen, had come along to be my chauffeur and research assistant, so I had pre-registered her too. We spent 7 hours going through BMD indexes and microfiche with not much success. Most of my dates predated their records.

The evening of our first day was more successful as we met 2 cousins on the Reynolds/Knox/Richards side and were able to share many stories and pictures. The most significant find was why my Grandmother's brother had been born in Kansas when the rest of the family were born in Ontario. All of Great Grandfather's siblings had moved to Kansas so he decided to take his family there also. When he decided he didn't like the weather or land conditions he moved the family back to Ontario, hence Robert Reynolds is shown on the Canadian 1901 Census as having been born in the USA.

Having been in correspondence with another relative having the same 3 – G – Grandparents I was given very good directions to the cemetery where these Grandparents were buried. This was the first I knew of having Mennonite ancestors. With the help of a pastor of another cemetery we found the Reesor Mennonite Cemetery in York County where an Old Order Church still stands. The Pastor also gave us background information of the congregation that my ancestors would have belonged to as well as the fact that they would have come from Switzerland. WOW!! Another area to research!! We found the headstone of my 3 – G – Grandfather John Stover. Apparently Peter Stover, my 5 – G – Grandfather, had a farm not far from this cemetery but the area is now a park and residential properties. We didn't pursue this.

Our next stop was at the Heise Hill Cemetery at Gormley, Ontario where we found my 4 – G – Grandparents headstones – Jacob Stover (1779 – 1869) and Elizabeth Lichty (1783 – 1870). This ended up being very close to Whitchurch/Stouffville Twp, York Co. where my Great Grandmother, Rosella Stover was b: 1875 and m: 1899. Now I can visualize the areas I have been researching on the Stover side.

Norwood, Asphodel Twp., was where my Paternal Grandmother, Lucy May Reynolds was born (1890) and married (1911) so that was our next stop. The town office was very helpful putting us in touch with the lady in charge of the cemetery. I also purchased a history book of the area: "The Friendly Town 1821 – 1963" by R.A. Dean. Our day was spent going through the Norwood Cemetery taking pictures of all the Reynolds and Knox gravestones we could find, and there were lots. I have been able to add many facts to my family tree.

From Norwood we drove to Brockville, Ont. in search of my UEL (United Empire Loyalist) roots on the Wiltse side. Fortunately the archives were open late so we were able to begin looking for information as well as make arrangements to meet with Myrtle Johnson, UEL President of Col. Jessup Branch. What an obliging lady! We spent the morning trying to prove my UEL connection. We were able to find a lot of information on my 4 – G – Grandfather, James Wiltse, but had trouble connecting my 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandfathers, Cornelius & George. Thanks to Myrtle's help I am off to a good start. However, while

researching the Wiltse UEL side, I discovered I also have UEL connections on the Wees (4-G –Gr.), Lake (5 G – Gr.) and Richards (3 G – Gr.) sides.

After a very busy but successful morning in the Brockville Archives, we headed a short distance up the highway to Athens, Ont. Here we really lucked out as the Museum had a Loyalist display in observance of the War of 1812 and my family was front and center. My 4 –G- Grandfather, James Wiltse along with his brothers Benoni and Jeremiah were among the first to settle here in 1792.

The town had been called Wiltsetown, before Farmersville and now Athens. We found the original Wiltse Pioneer Cemetery, where other than Benoni and his wife we weren't able to read the other headstones. We did however find James Wiltse's stone house which is still being used. After driving to Wiltse Lake, we went to the Athens Community Cemetery where we found other Wiltse headstones. This cemetery was behind the oldest church building, Methodist Episcopal, built in 1842. So many of the original stone structures are still being used.

Our last day in Ontario took us to the Bay of Quinte, where many of my Reynolds relatives had spent time. We drove along the Loyalist Highway making stops in Ameliasburg, Hillier, Picton, Brighton and Wellington, all in the Prince Edward County. Once again, seeing these places makes my research so much more meaningful: the church in Ameliasburg where many Reynolds relatives were baptized; Picton where my 2 – G – Grandmother, Ellen Richards, was born; Brighton where my 2 -G – Grandparents , Samuel Reynolds and Mary Kirkpatrick were married. The most helpful stop was at the Archives in Wellington where we found information on the Richards side.

Our 5 day whirlwind research trip ended in Toronto but now my work begins – sifting and sorting through information and pictures gathered and recorded. There are so many people I'd like to thank for making this a trip to remember:

1. My daughter, Kathleen Salt, for agreeing to drive me around Ontario in search of my roots.
2. Carole Koop, for sharing her index & maps of townships, counties & districts of Ontario.
3. Distant relatives: Margaret, Dorothy, Michael, & Darren for sharing their information of the Reynolds, Wiltse & Stover families.
4. The Archives staff of Gormley, Brockville, Athens & Wellington for helping me locate information.
5. Myrtle Johnson, UEL President of Col Jessup Branch, for giving me so much help in trying to prove my UEL status.

~~~~~

IS THIS RESEARCH TOOL RIGHT FOR YOU?

Claudia Malloch

It's called Research Wiki and can be found on [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org).

It is a new favourite weapon in my research arsenal. You've probably heard of it...I have, many times. It is a resource to help you learn how to do research and share your knowledge with others. I've been taught about it, but, since I mostly search in the same areas, I hadn't used it.

Recently a friend asked if I would help her with her family history...she's from Chile! Since you can put the amount I know about Chilean research on the pointy part of a pin, I thought I'd check the Wiki. Sure enough, there was a lot of information on doing research in Chile. I found what census records were available, where to locate them and what to use in place of them when they weren't available. I was even able to locate Family Search Centers, and maps of how to find them.

A week or so ago, our son-in-law in BC asked me to help him locate the family of a man who had been in the German Luftwaffe during World War II. Jay's grandfather had left him some German artifacts obtained when our military were refurbishing airforce bases in Germany for use by the allies. One of these items was a "Wehrpass" for a Luftwaffe Major named Heinrich Wiechmann; Jay really wanted to return it to the family.

That was a challenge. I went on Wiki again and looked for Germany. They have a wonderful list of words often used in genealogy and I was able to translate the contents of the pages I had much faster than the consultant helping me could do from an on-line translation program. Within an hour I'd learned Heinrich had been a carpenter prior to his military career; I knew his parents' names and that his father had been a labourer.



The Wehrpass shows his birth date and place but I may have read it incorrectly because I can't locate it. If anyone is interested, I have attached a copy of the cover and identity page of the pass. Maybe someone reading this will know where Heinrich was born.

The third incident with Wiki was when a Lee and Carole Koop came into the Family History Center looking for digitized Ukrainian records on FamilySearch., saying they had a letter from a member of their Eastern European Research group stating these records were only available at a Family History Center and if a member of the church signed in to view them.

I had no idea we had access to Ukrainian digitized records since my ancestors don't have any roots in that area...at least not that I've dug up! Sure enough, there are records and the actual owners of the records have specified that FamilySearch cannot make them available to the general public...but as a member of the LDS Church, I was able to access them and our patrons were able to view them.

I can't begin to tell you all that is available to assist you in the Wiki. It's well worth exploring. You can "watch" pages you are interested in and be notified of any changes; When there is a film or book available from the Family History Library, the number and link is on Wiki. You can contact others for help, including the Family History Library - just check towards the bottom of the page you searched for...there's a link to **Need additional**

research help? [Contact our research help specialists.](#) You can telephone a 1-800 number or do a live chat.

As you can see, this new tool has served me well in the past two months. It's very easy to access...go to <https://familysearch.org/> click on "Learn" in the top right hand area, click on "Research Wiki" on the left below "Getting Started" and explore to your heart's content. Better still, take the Wiki tour; go to the Wiki and type "Wiki Tour" in the search box. The first item that comes up should be "Help: Tour". Find out for yourself what Wiki can do to help you do your family history.

Go to www.familysearch.org, click on "Learn". On the page that opens, click "Research Wiki". Type a subject or go to any of the links

The image consists of three overlapping screenshots of the FamilySearch website. The top screenshot shows the 'Discover Your Family History' page with the 'Learn' link in the top navigation bar circled in red. The middle screenshot shows the 'Getting started' page with the 'Research Wiki' link in the 'Learn more about our resources?' section circled in black. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Research Wiki' page with various article categories like 'Beginning Genealogy', 'Find Records by Place', and 'Research Tools'.