



Roots & Branches

Vol. 12 No. 2

February 2014

BRANCH MEETINGS

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

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WEBSITE

www.wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ca

EMAIL

wetaskiwin@abgensoc.ca

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EXECUTIVE

President:

Joan Krueger 780-387-4978
joankrueger@xplornet.ca

Vice President: Vacant

Past President:

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

Secretary:

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

Treasurer:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

 Joan Krueger

Dear Joan,
We thank you sincerely for your term of service as President of the society... for your dedication and your generosity. We look forward to you continuing to take part in our discussions and activities.

~ ~ ~ ~

2014 Elections It seems that Wetaskiwin branch of AGS has come to a fork in the road ... and as Yogi Berra might have said: "We have to take it!"

For various reasons of change in lifestyle, health, and other responsibilities, members who have "been there" for the last 10+ years have to now step back and require some other members to take over the responsibilities necessary to keep our branch viable.

We encourage anyone who may be considering a position on the Executive but are unsure of whether or not to take the leap, to give it a try. It is neither as long nor as hard as it seems and those who have been there before are more than willing to help.

At the annual meeting on February 18 why not seize the opportunity to help lead our genealogical society in the direction you would like it to go?

Don Brosius is head of the nominating committee 780-352-0069
Reddy53@telusplanet.net

Come on! Leap in! The water's fine.

COMMITTEES

Historian Rosella Plaquin
Membership Lee Koop
Newsletter Sharon Aney
sharonaney@gmail.com

Program Alice Hoyle
(tech ass't- Don Brosius)

Webmistress
Laura Turnbull

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LIBRARY

Located at
City of Wetaskiwin Archives
Resources available "On call"
Contact:
Branch Library co-ordinator
Bob Maynard 780-387-4187
maynard@persona.ca

~ ~

RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR

Effective Feb 18, 2014 will be
Gary Rode 780-586-2249
sgrode@xplornet.ca

~ ~

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

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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

The index to the Moore Funeral Book will soon be posted on our website. The book will be back on our library by mid-April for your reference. Meanwhile I have it with me (in a warmer place), so if you wish me to do a look-up, contact me at sharonaney@gmail.com

I found it interesting that many notations were made that a person had died in Wetaskiwin area and the body was shipped to another town - or vice versa. This is a possibility to keep in mind when we are looking for death records anywhere.

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GEN FAIR IN EDMONTON Saturday APRIL 26, 2014

Parkview Community Hall has been booked. GenFair will be open to the public from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The AGS Annual General Meeting will be held after GenFair has closed.

It is hoped that participating groups will provide an "information table" with information via materials and personnel to promote its area of expertise.

I not have been able to reach all groups which might be interested in participating and ask you to inform me of whom to contact. Thank you.

Joe Nuthack jornu@telus.net

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*Practise safe eating:
use condiments!*

THE “A-MAVIS” RACE – AN ADVENTURE IN LIVING HISTORY

Mavis Nelson & Sharon Aney

We who write family histories often are concerned about whether our children and grandchildren care about the people we are researching. And we wonder how to ignite a spark of interest.

This past Thanksgiving Mavis’ son and three children, aged 10 to 15, and of course his wife, arrived from Winnipeg for a weekend visit and to celebrate Mavis’ birthday. It had been a few years since the last visit by the “city kids”, and their dad believed that the children were now old enough to appreciate their Nelson & Anderson heritage.

He created a game based upon the TV reality show “The Amazing Race”, and called it “The A-MAVIS Race” in honor of his mother’s birthday. Mavis’ three local grandchildren were invited to join in and enjoy the fun.



The game began at home with

- “Where was Mavis Anderson born?” (Wetaskiwin, Camrose or Edmonton), and
- “Where the house is that Mavis first lived in Wetaskiwin during her earliest childhood?”

“We did not have to travel over the world or Canada; we travelled by 2 vans and walked. Clues were hidden at the different stops that the grandchildren found and brought to me to read and tell more about the event.”



She directed them to the address. The following 9 clues led them through the stages of Mavis’ life:

- What house did Mavis move to during the Wetaskiwin flood of 1948
- Travel by foot to the location of Mavis’ next new home
- Almost 50% of you attended grade school near here. But even nearer is a school that only Mavis attended.
- Almost 50% of you, including Mavis, attended yet another school in Wetaskiwin, yet only one is attending it right now.
- Where was Mavis’ first job as a High School student?
- A Wing and A Prayer! Mavis attended the same church for almost her entire life. Travel by van to this location
- Big City or Small Town. Take a vote by show of hands who has lived in a city of greater than 100,000 or less than 10,000. “Mavis, describe your living in Edmonton to receive you next clue”
- Mavis worked in a drug store in Edmonton; she also worked in a drug store in Wetaskiwin. The building is still standing. Travel by van to the location of that building to get your next clue
- Swedish connection: Mavis made a Swedish connection by marrying Neil Nelson. You have \$6.00 to complete this leg. Find a bag of Swedish Berries (red, berry-shaped

gum drops), buy them and share them to receive your next clue.

Congratulations! You have completed the A-MAVIS RACE. Meet at New Sweden Church at 6:00 pm ... but don't be late because the last one may be eliminated.

Mavis's grandfather Swan August Andersson had been one of the founding members of the New Sweden Church south-east of Wetaskiwin. The children learned that religion was so important to their ancestors that they worked with neighbours to build a place of worship where there was none.

Their uncle and aunt currently worship at the same church and they arranged for a catered Thanksgiving dinner so that the visitors could spend time with extended family members.

They had fun checking out and learning about the large equipment, riding the "Ranger"(quad) and playing with the specially-bred



dogs that have replaced cattle and hogs as the farm income animals.

The rest of the weekend was spent at their uncle's farm which was established in 1915 by their great grandfather Nels Jr. Nilsson. This, including the original house, has been the family home for almost 100



*What is the definition of a will?
It is a dead give-away!*

years, and their cousins are still growing up in it. Talk about roots!

While they were at the farm their Dad showed his city-raised children some of the things that he did for fun and other things that were work.

The big old swing of his childhood was still there for them to play on. They (the whole family, ranging in age from 10 to 73 years), hiked the coulee which was the site of so many boyhood adventures...not only of their dad & uncle but also their grandfather. Uncle gave them a quick course in gun safety and they were able to shoot a can off a fence post (instead of gophers) and to set off old-fashioned red fire-crackers.

Don't you think these children have a good idea of their roots?

Mavis' son realized that if he showed the stories in a way that would catch the attention of his children, instead of telling them in a dry old narrative, they would happily learn of the rural life that their dad grew up in, of the part their ancestors have played and still do play in the development of their community.

Family history does not have to be boring. As we plan our summer visits, perhaps including family reunions, at towns and areas where our family once lived, could we develop an "amazing race" to share our own family history?

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**Some of Alice's favourite websites**

**U.K. Research:**

[genuki.org.uk](http://genuki.org.uk) – a free website with links to research data in the United Kingdom

[blackseagr.org](http://blackseagr.org) – a free website devoted to information and databases of Germans from Russia

**Norwegian Research:**

[digitalarkivet.uib.no](http://digitalarkivet.uib.no) – a free website with lots of information about Norwegian emigration

## **DO YOU KNOW WHY SOME UKRAINIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON JANUARY 7?**

Sharon Aney

In today's world we never think that there might be, or might have been, a discrepancy in calendar dates – unless we, in Alberta, happen to wonder why some Ukrainian groups celebrate Christmas on January 7.

Even if we remember that we read somewhere that there used to be a "Julian" calendar and that today the world operates according to a "Gregorian" calendar, it still really makes no difference ..... except to us who are genealogists! Once we have traced our ancestors back to the 1700s, or earlier in some countries, we should be aware of the changes.

The story goes like this: The **Julian Calendar** was the official calendar of Europe after its invention in 45 B.C by Julius Caesar (after whom it was named). Caesar's calendar, which consisted of eleven months of 30 or 31 days and a 28-day February (extended to 29 days every fourth year), was actually quite accurate: it erred from the real solar calendar by only 11½ minutes a year. After centuries, however, even such a small inaccuracy adds up. By the sixteenth century, that error had put the Julian calendar behind the solar calendar by 10 days.

Because the celebration of Easter was tied to the spring equinox the Roman Catholic Church considered this steady drift in the date of Easter undesirable. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII initiated a new calendar. He ordered the advancement of the calendar by ten days and introduced a new corrective device to curb further error. Century years such as 1700 and 1800 would no longer be counted as leap years, unless they could be divisible by 400, such as 1600 or 2000.

The Catholic countries of France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Spain immediately observed the change to the **Gregorian Calendar** but Protestant countries refused to change to the new calendar because it had been reformed by a Catholic Pope. But after a time, for the sake of convenience in international trade the changes were made. Germany and the Netherlands agreed to adopt the Gregorian calendar in 1698.

September 2, 1752, was a great day in the history of sleep for millions of British subjects in England and the colonies. That Wednesday evening they went peacefully to sleep and did not wake up until twelve days later. The British Calendar Act of 1751 declared the day after Wednesday the 2nd to be Thursday the 14th. This corrected the situation that the British calendar, with its use of the Julian calendar, differed from that of Continental Europe by eleven days – that is, September 2 in London was September 11 in Berlin.

Closer to home, Nova Scotia, while under French Catholic control, used the Gregorian calendar from 1605 until Oct. 13, 1710. It reverted to the Julian calendar, when the British took over. It changed to the Gregorian calendar with other British colonies on Sep 14, 1752.

Russia only accepted the Gregorian calendar after the revolution of 1918, and Greece waited until 1923 to follow suit. So we see why some people celebrate Christmas on January 7: it is because even today many Russian or Greek Orthodox churches still follow the Julian calendar, which now lags thirteen days behind the Gregorian.

Indeed, the governments of all countries made the transition at the time they chose. Thanks to Lee and Carole Koop for sharing the following table of changes to assist our research.

## JULIAN CALENDAR CHANGES TO GREGORIAN CALENDAR

|                                   |                                          |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Austria and Bohemia               | 7 Jan 1584 became 17 Jan 1584            |
| Denmark                           | 19 Feb 1700 became 1 Mar 1700            |
| England (and British possessions) | 3 Sept 1752 became 14 Sept 1752          |
| Finland                           | 18 Feb 1753 became 1 Mar 1753            |
| Germany                           |                                          |
| (Protestant States)               | 19 Feb 1700 became 1 Mar 1700            |
| (Catholic States)                 |                                          |
| Augsburg                          | 14 Feb 1583 became 24 Feb 1583           |
| Lausitz                           | 13 Jan 1584 became 23 Jan 1584           |
| Paderborn                         | 17 June 1585 became 27 Jun 1585          |
| Pfalz-Neuburg                     | 14 Dec 1615 became 24 Dec 1615           |
| Prussia                           | 23 Aug 1612 became 2 Sept 1612           |
| Silesia                           | 13 Jan 1584 became 23 Jan 1584           |
| Greece                            | Stabilized their calendar in 1923        |
| Hungary                           | Stabilized their calendar in 1587        |
| Italy                             | 5 Oct 1582 became 15 Oct 1582            |
| Lorraine                          | Stabilized their calendar Oct - Dec 1582 |
| Netherlands                       |                                          |
| (Catholic Sector)                 | 15 Dec 1582 became 25 Dec 1582           |
| (Protestant Sector)               | Stabilized in 1700                       |
| Norway                            | 19 Feb 1700 became 1 Mar 1700            |
| Poland                            | 5 Oct 1582 became 15 Oct 1582            |
| Portugal                          | 5 Oct 1582 became 15 Oct 1582            |
| Russia                            | Stabilized in 1918                       |
| Spain                             | 5 Oct 1582 became 15 Oct 1582            |
| Sweden                            | 18 Feb 1753 became 1 Mar 1753            |
| Switzerland                       |                                          |
| Catholic Cantons                  | Stabilized in 1583                       |
| Protestant Cantons                | Stabilized in 1701                       |
| St. Gallen                        | Stabilized in 1724                       |
| Appenzell                         | Stabilized in 1798                       |
| Graubunden                        | Stabilized in 1798                       |

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LIBRARY/RESOURCE CENTRE

Alice Hoyle

As per a motion made and passed at our January, 2014 meeting, beginning February 1, 2014, our resource centre will be open on an 'on-call' basis, with the contact person being the Library Coordinator.

Until the Society's AGM on February 18th, 2014, the Library Coordinator is Alice Hoyle email – alihoy@explornet.com and phone number is: 780.352.2150.

**After February 18th, the new Library Coordinator will be Bob Maynard
Email – maynard@persona.ca and phone number is: 780.387.4187.**

The only new addition to library resources since our last newsletter is:
971.233OHA "Lure of the Homestead" – local history book of the Ohaton, Alberta region
Thanks to Sandra Kisch for the above donation to our library.

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## GERMAN CATHOLIC EMIGRATION FROM GALIZIEN & LIFE IN AMERICA

(by Brian Lenius & Werner Kraus)

Sharon Aney

This collaborative paper is published in “**East European Genealogist**” a special double issue: Vol. 21 #4 and Vol. 22 #1 (summer / fall 2013). Werner Kraus is one of the foremost Galizien researchers in Europe and Brian Lenius is founder of the East European Genealogical Society and author/ publisher of the Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia.

The article covers such topics as: the situation German Catholics faced in Galicia, the decision to emigrate to America, crossing to America, early settlements in various communities in Western Canada. There are maps, extensive notes and bibliography.

Following the article are translations of entries from the “**Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego**” (Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland). This 15-volume encyclopedia / directory, published in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century is **the** source for history and geography of Central and Eastern Europe. Descriptions of many villages left behind by the German Catholic people are included in the article.

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USING THE UN-INDEXED 1921 CENSUS

Don Brosius

Following my search for rural residents in the un-indexed 1921 rural census I asked Don to recount his experience of searching in an un-indexed city census which may be an issue to face if a name is hopelessly mis-spelled. SA

When the 1921 Census was first released, I was excited, hopeful that I could find some of my missing relatives. The first person I researched was the elusive Roy Russell. He lived at the Colonial Hotel in downtown Calgary when he got married in 1929, so searching the 1921 Census may have been a bit of a stretch.

First, I got the address for the Colonial Hotel from the Henderson Directory, which is one of the Featured Collections at the Peel Library Site. www.peel.library.ualberta.ca Then this address had to be coordinated to a map to get a land location. Peel Library helped with plenty of maps. Two hours later, I was ready to find the correct census page.

Calgary was divided into two districts. Calgary West was divided into 45 sub-districts. Each sub-district was a collection of about 20 pages of census records. The census taker criss-crossed Calgary like a cartoon tornado, hopefully reaching every street and every citizen. I never found Roy Russell and I am not even sure if I had the right street. It took four hours.

A couple months later, after the 1921 census was indexed, I entered Roy Russell in the search and found one living in Strathmore. He was about the right age but I am not positive if it is the “Real Roy Russell”. That only took me four minutes. I can't wait until the 1931 Census comes out. I am sure I will find him then.

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*A man's home is his castle - in a “manor” of speaking.*

## **RECAP OF MEETINGS & PRESENTATIONS**

Alice Hoyle

### **OCTOBER 2013**

Alice & Claudia gave a tutorial Family Tree on the familysearch.org website. Alice showed how to enter a family tree, how to make changes in it, how to search records and incorporate findings into the tree and record the source, and how to handle duplications that may become available from another researcher. Claudia demonstrated how photos and stories could be incorporated into the family tree if you have uploaded it to familysearch.org.

### **NOVEMBER 2013**

Kay Smart and Isabel Didriksen, past Branch members, attended our November meeting and read their award winning entries in the Wetaskiwin area 2013 writing competition.

### **JANUARY 2014**

"What are Your Genealogy Goals for 2014" – what an interesting collection of goals our branch members have for the upcoming year!

Many of us have plans to either get our documentation organized or get it re-organized; some are working on citing their sources in data already entered into a database; some are creating memory books from 'old' scrapbooks; some are feeling re-energized and planning to forge ahead with their search for ancestors. Hearing about everyone's goals seemed to encourage all the members to work on their own personal goals. We look forward to hearing the outcome – later in the year! ☺

### **FEBRUARY 2014**

Presentation: "Our Branch History" – Rosella will bring the scrapbooks for us to browse.

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RESEARCH REQUESTS:

Alice Hoyle

Just prior to Christmas, I had two requests for research assistance. I did give some advice and told them of the possible websites to check, and said I would check with them in the New Year to see how their research had progressed. The requests are:

- 1) Search for information on great-grandparents: Sarah Wolfchild, married to Orville Hawkins Smith. Orville was buried in Hardisty; Orville was born in 1849 and died in 1931; Sarah was born in 1862 and died in 1911. The researcher knew of a book in which the great-grandparents are mentioned, and I was able to advise him that the book was available to read on the ourroots.ca website. I did find a burial record for Sarah Smith, with the corresponding birth and death years, at the Union & R.C. cemetery in Okotoks. I found the contact information for the cemetery and forwarded that to the researcher. I will continue to search for more information for him.
- 2) Search for information on great-grandparents: Otto Emile Johnson and Mary (Switzer) Johnson (her maternal great-grandparents) and John Johnson and Jacoba/Johanna (Lund) Johnson (her paternal great-grandparents). I was able to suggest several websites for her to check, and note that she has posted information on ancestry.ca. I have emailed her to find out what the status is regarding her research as I don't want to duplicate research she has already done – I am still waiting for a reply from her.

**After the February AGM, the new research coordinator will be Gary Rode:
email: sgrode@xplornet.ca and his phone number is: 780.586.2249**

ANOTHER RESEARCH REQUEST

Sharon Aney

A request was forwarded to me by the Zion Lutheran church secretary for research on **Frederick & Elizabeth Knack**. The CD of the City of Wetaskiwin cemeteries in our library gave dates of burial, (1938 and 1940) and estimated birth dates for both. The church secretary had already contacted the City Archives and found an obituary for Frederick. Using peel.library@ualberta.ca, the site for online newspapers, in Wetaskiwin papers, I found an entry for Frederick's farm auction sale in 1922. There were many mentions in later papers mentioning two daughters as they were promoted through their school grades, but I was unable to find any further information.

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## Re: MANFRED PROKOP –German Immigration to Alberta S. Aney

In my *Editor's Corner* of the October 2013 issue of this newsletter I wrote of an article I had seen in the Edmonton Journal about the books researched and written by Mr. Prokop

For this issue I contacted him, and asked if he would provide me with titles and availability of his books. He responded that all issues are now out of print, but available at the following libraries.

A history of Alberta's German-speaking communities (U of A, U of Calgary, Medicine Hat College, U of Lethbridge)

The German language in Alberta: maintenance and teaching (U of A)

The settlement of immigrants of German origin in southern Alberta between the 1880s and 1910s : a fact book (U of A, U of Calgary, Medicine Hat College)

The settlement of immigrants of German origin in northern Alberta between the 1880s and 1910s: A fact book (U of A, U of Calgary, Medicine Hat College): this is being catalogued at present at these libraries.

A history of Alberta's German-speaking communities / Vol. 1: From the 1880s to the Present (U of A, U of Calgary, Medicine Hat College, U of Lethbridge)

A History of Alberta's German-speaking Communities/ Vol. 2: Profiles of members of Alberta's German-Speaking communities: 1953 to the present (U of A)

In further correspondence he indicated that there may be a possibility of reprinting the last two. We are considering purchase for our library – please let us know your interest.

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*I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder
and harder for me to find one now.*

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