



Vol. 13 No. 2

Wetaskiwin Branch  
Alberta Genealogical Society

# Roots & Branches

May 2015

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## ROOTS & BRANCHES

is published three times per year by and for the members of Wetaskiwin Branch of AGS. It is emailed to members and posted on our website.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Diane Strohschein

*Congratulations to Alice Hoyle!* on being awarded the Kenneth Young award for Best Original Article in a 2014 branch newsletter at the 2015 AGS conference in April. Her article, "*Inspector Maigret, Hercule Poirot, Step Aside!*" appeared in the May 2014 issue of this newsletter. If you have not saved your issue, it is available to read on our website.

Please note that you may need to change your bookmarks bar to our new branch website address. It has changed to

[www.wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ca](http://www.wetaskiwin.abgensoc.ca)

the new AGS web address is: <http://www.abgenealogy.ca/> .

It is also possible to access our website by going onto the AGS site, Branches, Wetaskiwin.

*Your Name...You got it from your father, it was all he had to give. So it's yours to keep and cherish for as long as you shall live, It was clean the day he got it, and a worthy name to bear, When he got it from his father, there was no dishonor there, So protect and guard it safely, for when all is said and done, You'll be proud the name is spotless when you give it to your son.*

## COMMITTEES

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- **Webmistress** Laura Turnbull

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## BRANCH MEETINGS

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

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## WETASKWIN BRANCH: AGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Located at  
City of Wetaskiwin Archives  
4904 – 51 Street

Resources available "On call"  
Branch Library co-ordinator  
Contact: Bob Maynard  
780-387-4187  
[maynard@persona.ca](mailto:maynard@persona.ca)

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## WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

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

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Sharon Aney

We know that the more we learn about genealogy research and management, the better genealogists we will become. Easily said, but not always easy to do!

Several of our branch members attended the recent AGS conference, and benefitted from hearing experts speak on many topics. But not everyone is able to take advantage of such opportunities.

A painless and convenient way to learn a lot in your own home is to read some of the many blogs that are posted online ... daily, weekly or intermittently by professional genealogists and experienced amateur genealogists.

A quick Google search for Genealogical Blogs will bring up pages of possible sites to read. Some post full length articles. Some post a Tip of the Day. Some have a site jam packed with articles about presenting your family history. Some have sites devoted to technology. Some concentrate their efforts on certain locales or ethnic & national groups or a particular category of genealogical research

Some require a registration to have them delivered to your email box, and some require a subscription fee. But many are free and you could just bookmark them to read whenever the (ancestral? ☺) spirit(s) move you.

There are more choices than you can imagine!

The interesting thing that I found when I started reading blogs is that I began by looking for a specific reason. But before I knew it I opened other interesting titles. As a result my horizons were broadened and I learned much more than I had expected.

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*There's the problem with the gene  
pool: ... No Lifeguards!*

~ ~ ~ ~

## MEETING PRESENTATIONS

### FEB 2015

#### CSI FAMILY HISTORY- TIMELINES

Claudia and Carole presented session #4 of this ongoing program. Carole spoke about her reasons for using a Timeline, and showed us some examples of timelines she has created manually; for one of her ancestors, as well as a timeline she has created for someone she is voluntarily researching. Claudia showed us some of the various online sources for creating a timeline, and spoke about the timeline capabilities of several of the genealogy programs available to us. Claudia demonstrated a number of websites/databases/programs that will allow us to quickly create various types of timelines – some of which incorporate world history into the timelines of our ancestors. Claudia asked Alice to show the timeline that can be created using Family Tree Maker software.

### MARCH 2015

#### CSI FAMILY HISTORY - USING THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA WEBSITE

Alice gave a presentation on the above topic. She demonstrated the many databases on this website, and gave examples to the attendees of how to access the information. Alice also gave some tips and suggestions about how to find information in unlikely places on this website.

### APRIL 2015

#### CSI FAMILY HISTORY- LEGACY WEBINAR

"10 Things I Wish I Had Done Differently" by Warren Bittner. He is a Legacy genealogist and presented the basic points that we all need to remember about being a good genealogist: good research, citing sources, analysis, documentation, self-education and giving back to the genealogy community. He gave us all some very valuable tips on how to make our research time more meaningful.

## As you make your summer travel plans...Consider.....

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots.

Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane.

They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there.

I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have never been in Doubt.

That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense!

It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart!

At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

More and more I think of the Here After

Several times a day, in fact, I enter a room and think "What am I here after?"

## SHARING YOUR FAMILY

Sharon Aney

(With thanks for input from some of our Branch members!)

Some 15 or 20 years ago, when I was getting into genealogy, we were encouraged to move our family records from the mass of paper documents into genealogy computer programs. However, there was (and still is) always the concern that the computer might "crash" and all information might be lost. So we backed up onto floppy disks, CDs, external hard drives, USB drives, into "the cloud", and so on, and so on ..... We are confident that we will be able to access our information if we have followed these processes.

However, what if something bad happens to us? Who can access our files and information besides ourselves? Who knows our system of back up? Who knows the names of our files? Who knows our passwords? Who will find our family? Why not share your family now?

I love to find the story that follows from my genealogical research, and therefore my preferred way to share is by *printing and sharing the family stories*. Even my siblings often do not know the stories as I have found about our ancestors, and are intrigued to read them. Every family line has a different ethnicity, a different experience and a different timeline. So there is little repetition until they enter the common experience of homesteading in western Canada and American states. In my Nakoneshny family "The Book" has also become a reference for dates and relationships

The grandchildren are thrilled to see their names in print, and to follow a pedigree chart to an ancestor who was alive and involved in a "historical" time. Stories of French Canadian soldiers, explorers and voyageurs, WWI experiences in Poland, pioneer hardships in Canada and the USA step out of textbooks and into their lives. This can happen if they are able to hold a book on the couch in their home.....it is most unlikely that they would read these stories on my computer.

A book also can become an act of "genealogical kindness". Genealogy societies and local history organizations still maintain libraries. A printed document could be a resource for researchers looking into a collateral family, a time period, or into local developments that involved your family. Did we not all rejoice over such a find in the locale of our ancestor? Do you remember the community history books that our parents and grandparents worked so hard to compile 35 years ago? They are treasured as important links to our ancestors.

If writing is not your forte, there are other ways to share.

My friend *Linda* has purchased and downloaded "*Dragon Naturally Speaking Home edition*" [www.nuance.com](http://www.nuance.com) a voice recognition program onto her home computer. She uses it to read and record her grandfather's journals. As she reads into the microphone the software types her words into a Word document. If you have letters, journals, newspaper articles, etc. that you would like to incorporate into your records, and are hesitant to undertake a typing project this may be your answer.

I asked Claudia if any genealogy programs have voice recognition capability build in. She did some research for me and reports as follows: *Thanks, Claudia!*

"On my Mac and with RootsMagic as my genealogy program, I was able to turn dictation on by clicking the Fn key twice and could dictate just by voice without any special headphones. I was even dictating names and it did a much better job than I expected. Who knew!!!"

For Legacy, check this link:  
[http://www.familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar\\_id=223](http://www.familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=223)  
FamilyTree Maker  
<http://www.nuance.com/dragon/dragon-offers-aarp/index.htm>  
Overall Info that could be helpful..Genealogy Star's Blog  
<http://www.nuance.com/dragon/dragon-offers-aarp/index.htm>  
<http://genealogysstar.blogspot.ca/2013/11/more-about-voice-recognition-and.html>

*Mavis has used her Family Tree Maker program.*

"We were having a small reunion in 1998 and I wanted to do something to share with the family. The first genealogy report that I did had an acknowledgment page, a few pictures of the older people, a descendant chart, a genealogy report: birth, marriage, divorce and death. I put them in a coil booklet. I now add notes that I have for recording census records, ship records etc.

My favorite thing to do is to tape the pages together, and make a long chart of all the family. I include: birth, marriage and death. My tree has grown to 3091 people, 943 marriages, 13 generations, and dates as far back as 1607. This past year I have made three Descendant Charts which turned out to be 32 feet, 25 feet, and 21 feet long. I added pictures to the last one.

It is a lot of work, but it is fun for the grandchildren to see their names on the charts and a good way for people to see how they fit into the family tree and to add their information. I also have made CD's to share with the families and have emailed the descendant reports to them."

*Claudia is not fazed by the problem of sharing online. Here is how she shared "FAMILY HISTORY FOR CHRISTMAS"*

"Since my husband, Neil, is an extremely difficult man to buy for and I had no idea what to get for my niece in Montreal, Christmas was giving me ulcers. Neil wanted his genealogy to be accessible from his i-phone...so I gave them their family history.

I composed an email containing a link to FamilySearch.org and instructions for creating an account, logging in and doing a search for my husband's parents, thus making the complete tree available. I also explained how to download the FamilyTree App to their phones so the tree would always be available to them. To make it more appealing, I added whatever ancestral photos and source documents I had for their family.

Neil said it was the best gift he received - a rare achievement. The gift gave my niece and her family the only family history information they have so they were delighted. Certainly it was a gift that no one else would duplicate."

*Alice also uses Family Tree Maker genealogy software.*

"In 2002, my mother died. When my sisters and I were clearing out her house, we found a lot of photos, documents, etc. I volunteered to 'archive' this information; in the process I felt it necessary to make copies of a number of the documents and photos for all my sisters. I created a large binder for each of them. Each surname group had their own 'tabbed' section, including photos relating to that group, a descendant printout, and any documents relating to that surname. In addition, I

printed out an Ancestor Chart for each of my sisters. All the printouts were enclosed in acid-free sheet protectors.

I have updated the family information once, with new descendant printouts and sent these to my sisters. Sadly, I have a lot of new information that I have to enter into my FTM software, along with my sources. This is on my urgent 'to-do list', as I want to get this new information to my sisters. I have orally related to them new information as I find it, however the printed version is always preferable.

My sisters have been very pleased with all the information I have transferred to them. They appreciate all the work I do and that is my reward."

*Carole: "We are the "information custodians" for the family"*

"My Swedish grandmother and Norwegian grandfather married in 1912 and had 12 children. My husband and I collect genealogical information for all their descendants and we make the information available to all of them. Originally, we did it in booklet form but now it is also available on *flash drive*.

The flash drive also contains memorabilia I have collected or have access to. From the Table of Contents, I list here a few items: Photos of Family Heirlooms; Family Farm Photos; Eulogies and Obituaries; Military (7 uncles served) ;Grandma's Recipes; Reunion Songs; Wedding Portraits (the original 12 couples); Homestead Records; Passenger Lists; Censuses; Tombstone Photos; Book of Remembrance (each deceased person since Grandpa in 1960 has a special photo and write-up).

After my father's death in 1994 my mother put together a huge collection of memorabilia of his life... from his baptismal certificate to his funeral card and everything in between. After twenty years of continuous availability and use, it was ready to collapse. Last winter I took it apart and using archival scrapbooking skills I re-assembled it using acid free products and labelled everything fully so that Dad's descendants would know this remarkable and wonderful ancestor. The book was scanned in its entirety and included on the before-mentioned flash drive.

In the field of *written & published stories*. When the book "Deerbank Farm" was written and published in 2012 about my family farm at Ste. Elizabeth, MB my input included the pedigree charts for my paternal & maternal lines and the ancestors portraits. Also, I submitted my Swedish grandmother's story to the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society for their book "Women Pioneers of Saskatchewan". I have written 'my story' for the Canada 150 Project."

As we age the connection with our ancestors becomes more tenuous. Don't leave your grandchildren with the regret that so many of us have, "I wish I had learned more family history from my grandparents!"

We are the ones who know the stories of emigration and immigration, homestead hardships, the legends and the leadership, the accomplishments and disasters. We believe that our family's history is worth exploring. And so then, it is also worth sharing! Let your family out of the computer and into the hearts of your children!

Give them the gift of family!

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## GRANDMOTHERS ON THE HOMESTEAD

by Sharon Aney

Several years ago I attended a conference to celebrate the roles that women played in establishing society in the towns of western Canada. I heard many stories about teachers, nurses, lawyers, storekeepers, leaders of community organizations and church groups, actresses, music teachers etc. Indeed, these roles were essential, and "kudos" to the women who stepped forward to fill them!

But at the beginnings of western settlement, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, rural women had very little time to devote to things other than making a home out of nothing. A look at a homestead file of many families will make clear that progress was hard and slow. My grandmother's stories can give some idea of what her contemporaries had to do in the struggle to survive. The settlers began with a survey post on the corner of their land. Some had funds to begin with, but others had only the supplies they brought with them.

*Until the house was built she would have to cook meals on a grate over an open fire, and the sleeping shelter for her and the baby was under an overturned wagon box. When the house, whose dimensions were 13' x 19' (about 250 square feet) was completed, Agatha was able to move her few household effects into it, and use the cook stove. Laundry was still dealt with in the outdoors..... making her lye soap, heating water over an open fire, and drying the clothing in the sun.*

In addition to doing the traditional "women's work" focused on food, children, animals around the farmyard, etc, the women had to work alongside the men, doing the hard, dirty work of breaking the land ...

*Fred was born on August 9, 1907. A few weeks later Agatha went out to the field to pick roots, and as she was nursing the baby there was no way to leave him behind. So she took him with her. She fed him and placed him in a protected spot, sheltered from the sun by a little bush, and went to work. A few hours later she felt the need to nurse the baby and went to get him. He was not there! Nor was he by the next bush, nor the one next to it! She rushed around looking for him, fearing that a coyote or other animal had taken him. But she was not able to distinguish one bush from another! Her relief was immeasurable when the baby woke and began to cry, leading her to him.*

Agatha was responsible for the gardens that would sustain the family year-round. Seeds had been brought from her previous home, and would be saved from year to year.

*But time was needed to establish her garden. After the soil was rough broken she had to continue to work it with the hoe to make it viable. Eventually she was able to reap potatoes, onions, carrots, cabbage, turnips, beets, dill, poppy seed, all of which were essential to store away for winter meals. Most of the cabbage was made into sauerkraut in a large earthenware crock and allowed to freeze on a porch. Agatha sent the boys to chop off portions with an axe as she needed for meals.*

The new prairie women also looked around them to find nature's gifts.

*She picked wild mushrooms for immediate eating and dried as many as she could for winter meals. Agatha picked the native saskatoon berries, chokecherries, pin cherries, wild raspberries and strawberries to make preserves, jams and syrups for the winter.*

She was often so busy with outside work during the day that she had to bake her bread in the evenings and work far into the night mending, sewing and knitting.

*Aunt Elise remembers her mother using a homemade spinning wheel. She washed the raw wool to get rid of the oil and dirt, and picked out weeds and seeds that were embedded in it. Then she carded it with a small "carding machine". The washed wool was fed into two rollers aligned like a washing machine wringer, except that the rollers had many fine needles embedded into their surface. They combed the wool into light, fluffy flat pallets that were cut into batts about 12" wide by 25" long. The wool was then fed onto the spinning wheel and was twisted to make her yarn. Everyone loved to wear the socks and mitts that Baba knit, as they were the warmest! In the 1940 Registration Agatha replied that her ability (at age 65) was "knitting".*

Good health was a blessing to be appreciated!

*More than 25 years went by before there was a doctor in the vicinity. Agatha was one of the people called upon when special knowledge was required, and to help when illness struck. She delivered babies without medical assistance and is credited with delivering over 50 babies during those years. She did not lose one baby or mother. Even into the 1930s the doctors often called on her for assistance.*

Religious practice would often be only prayer at home, or led by local residents at community churches. Ordained ministers and priests were infrequent visitors to these newly settled areas.

*The Ukrainian Catholic parish of St. Mary's was formed in 1906 about ten miles away, necessitating a journey of several hours duration each way, over rough trails, by horse and wagon or sleigh, depending on the season, when a Mass was to be celebrated. In her home she sang hymns, taught her children their prayers and reverence for God. Her prayers that a church would be built closer to where she lived were answered in 1952, the year before she died.*

Cultural traditions are often most strongly retained in times of festival and religion and often were a source of comfort in this place where everything was new.

*For Christmas Eve Agatha prepared her home and her meals as her mother in Ukraine, and generations before her had done. The 12 dishes were meatless, in preparation for celebrating the joy of the birth of the Christ Child. Easter Sunday was a very festive day, following 40 days of strict Lenten fasting, The first food consumed on Easter morning had hopefully been blessed by the priest. Agatha had baked the very special Ukrainian Easter breads: "Paska" symbolized the joy of New Life. If at all possible the family attended Mass at the distant parish.*

These particular traditions have been passed down and are treasured by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

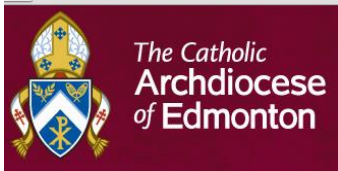
While the main focus of their husbands was to establish a livelihood and a self-sustaining farm on the homestead, it fell to the women to make life worth living; to provide nurture for the body, but also for the spirit and the soul. More than one hundred years later, we can appreciate that our "grandmothers on the homestead" did so.

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*Genealogy, n. An account of one's descent from an ancestor who did not particularly care to trace his own.*

Ambrose Bierce





<http://www.caedm.ca/>

### Genealogical Research

(located in Temporal Services on the site navigation bar)

From the website: “The Archives will complete searches for genealogical purposes with the following conditions. Search requests for genealogical purposes completed by the Archives will be charged a non-refundable fee of \$50 per request regardless of whether or not the search proves successful. In order to comply with the Personal Information Protection Act of Alberta (PIPA), the Archives will only release information contained in records which have been in existence for over 100 years, or information about a person who has been deceased 50 years or more, or with written authorization from the individual.

Please complete the following form to request a Baptism, Marriage or Burial certificate and mail it or fax to The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton along with the \$50 search fee. Please make cheques payable to the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. While we endeavour to respond to requests as quickly as possible, please allow a minimum of three weeks for your request to be processed. Your request will not be processed until payment has been received.”

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East European  
Genealogical Society  
Non-Profit Organization

<http://eegsociety.org>

### *CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MULTI - ETHNIC RESEARCH*

Saturday, August 1, 2015 (full day and evening)

William “Fred” Hoffman, Matthew Bielawa, and John D. Pihach  
Three international authorities on Eastern Europe

You can find more information and register online.

By the way, if you are just beginning your Eastern European genealogical research, you may be interested to know that back issues of the EEGS journal can be purchased. Check the website for titles of articles and costs.

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### **WHY CAN'T IT BE FOUND?**

Michael John Neill “Tip of the Day”

Many troubleshooting approaches to database usage focus on the spelling of the relative's name and other details about the relative in the database.

Another approach is to look at the database itself----browse the images if possible.

Does the database actually include the time period you need?

Do certain dates or records appear to be missing?

Does the "Frequently Asked Questions" page or "More About" page discuss how complete the records used to create the database actually are?

Is the database incomplete or "in progress."?

These are all reasons why the person of interest may not be located in the database no matter how many ways you spell the name.

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