

Roots & Branches

Wetaskiwin Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society

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BRANCH MEETINGS

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

BRANCH NEWS

Christmas Memories Book

As we put away the decorations of Christmas 2016, it is time to recall the Christmases of our childhood ... for our 2nd Branch book. Try for March 31 submissions. If you wish me to help you with your story writing or by inserting pictures that you send by email, I will do what I can. sharonaney@gmail.com

Articles for Upcoming Newsletters

As you have indicated a preference for articles by our own members where possible, I encourage all members to share the stories you have uncovered.....the long or short, strange or funny, sad ones, tragic ones, major events, ordinary life, courageous people, etc. Your research experiences, journeys and discoveries are interesting, inspiring and helpful to the rest of us. I'd also like to solicit your "brick walls". Nothing pleases a fellow genealogist more than being able to help and perhaps the experience of other members will help you

The next 2017 issues will go out in April and September. I hope to be flooded with your submissions.

AGS: Relatively Speaking:

Our representative to the AGS Board, Diane reports that until the positions of Editor and Associate Editor have been filled, Relatively Speaking will not be published.

COMMITTEES

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WETASKWIN BRANCH: AGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Located at
City of Wetaskiwin Archives
4904 – 51 Street
Resources available "On call"
Contact: Bob Maynard
780-387-4187
maynard@persona.ca

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WETASKIWIN FAMILY HISTORY DISCOVERY CENTER

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day
Saints, 5410 – 36 Avenue,
Wednesdays, 10-3 and 6:15-8:15
Google "Wetaskiwin Family History
Centre" to keep up to date on open
hours or closures & webinars, etc.

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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.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Sharon Aney

"Editor": there are many definitions for this word, including for those working with audio and video technology.

I see my role for editor of this newsletter as soliciting, finding and writing material that is consistent with the pursuit of genealogy, family history and history of the places that the families lived.

Part of the editor's job is ensuring that articles are written as well as I can make them, and that the newsletter is interesting, helpful and maybe a bit entertaining.

As I carried out that role some of you may have seen me as an ogre with big scissors, cutting off parts of your article. Others wonder why I have changed the order of paragraphs or the set-up of the article you offered. Usually it was to make it fit into the space available. Others have accepted changes I suggested in the writing of your piece to clarify or to expand on your idea. Thank you for your confidence.

I thank my husband, Russ for proof reading! He has vetted every issue, and the second set of eyes usually has several corrections to suggest. (We "discuss" punctuation.)

A typical error showed up in one of my family histories: "I did not know that your cousin married a vampire!"
Me: "What do you mean?"
He: "You wrote that her husband was born in 1053".
My excuse then and now is that I can spell, but I cannot type.



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MEETING PRESENTATIONS

September

DISCOVER WHAT'S NEW AT THE "NEW" FAMILY HISTORY DISCOVERY CENTER.

The members were divided into two groups: one group gathered in the research area where Claudia gave demonstrations on: using the Portals database on www.FamilySearch.org using the Descendency View on Family Trees, using Family Booklets, and Dan DeWolf showed how to scan photos directly to trees on the Family Tree module – all accessed free on www.FamilySearch.org .

The second group was given a demonstration on 'indexing': how to get started; how to access the records via the www.familysearch.org page, how to access the help information, etc. The information and capabilities of the www.familysearch.org website have expanded amazingly, and it was very helpful to see what could be achieved, using this resource.

October WEBINAR: HOW TO USE FAMILYSEARCH.ORG FOR BEGINNERS

Devin Ashby presented on this Legacy webinar which was also helpful for the non-beginner! *Tree* ..if you have your tree on familysearch the site now can give you hints as to documents pertaining to a name, similar to Ancestry.com's shaking leaf. *Memories* can hold all of the information you wish to upload: pictures, journaling, videos, audios, documents, etc. On the *Search* tab, in addition to the historical documents one can find indexed records. One can research at home using the catalogue, restricting it to online options and finding digitized books and records online. He suggested that we just take some time to investigate the various tabs that can be found on these and other major tabs.

November WEBINAR: DNA TESTING!

What an interesting presentation! The speaker was riveting – her knowledge of the topic was amazing. She managed to "untangle" the mystery of DNA testing and gave us an idea of which type of DNA testing would be applicable to our situation. She explained the difference between DNA testing for males, females and the results that would be expected if we chose autosomal testing. This presentation answered a lot of questions that our members had: should they have DNA testing done, which type of test is right for them, etc.

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## **THE ORIGIN OF NAMES**

by Leroy Koop

You can well imagine that "name-calling" would soon become a nightmare if early Mennonite traditions were to be followed. Families in our parents' generation were still large and, in some cases, huge. First names were always repeated in following generations. It was common practise, actually favoured, for marriages to take place between families of the same village. Thus you would have brothers marrying sisters of another family. (Such was the case with my mom's brothers.) As children married and adopted the traditional naming pattern, many males in the area had identical middle-initial names. As the next generation married there could be several males in the same village with identical names. This really became a problem with the birth of the postal service.

Several things were done to try to alleviate this problem. According to my mom, when her brothers were ready to adopt the middle initial of "K" (mom's mother's maiden name of Kroeker), there were already so many identical Loewen names, that Grandpa Loewen suggested that my uncles choose the letter "B" for Braun, the maiden name of their maternal grandmother. Thus I have Uncle Loewens with the initial "K" and "B".

Other families simply and arbitrarily chose a second initial to differentiate similar names. In fact, by the time my generation was being born, there were so many men with the same name that many families were referred to by their spouses' first name plus the family name. For example: if there were two families by the name John B. Friesen; one was called Lencha Friesens and the other Mitcha Friesens.

According to Mom it was her generation that decided to use completely different names. Thus the tradition of children adopting, as their middle initial, the first letter of the mother's maiden name, was broken.

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IMMIGRATION DATABASES AT LIBRARY & ARCHIVES CANADA

- [Citizenship Registration Records, 1851-1945 - Montreal Circuit Court](#)
- [Home Children - Boards of Guardians](#)
- [Home Children Records](#)
- [Immigrants at Grosse-Île Quarantine Station, 1832-1937](#)
- [Immigrants Before 1865](#)
- [Immigrants from China, 1885-1949](#)
- [Immigrants from the Russian Empire, 1898-1922 \(LI-RA-MA Collection\)](#)
- [Immigrants Sponsored by the Montreal Emigrant Society, 1832](#)
- [Immigrants to Canada, Porters and Domestics 1899-1949](#)
- [Naturalization Records, 1828-1850 - Upper Canada and Canada West](#)
- [Naturalization Records, 1915-1951](#)
- [Passenger Lists for the Port of Quebec City and Other Ports, 1865-1922](#)
- [Passenger Lists, 1865-1922](#)
- [Passenger Lists and Border Entries, 1925-1935 - Nominal Indexes](#)
- [Ship Registration, 1787-1966](#)

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### **2017 AGS CONFERENCE & YE OLDE GENEALOGY FAIRE, 22 & 23, APRIL 2017**

Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre Edmonton  
4520 – 76 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6B 0A5

Presentations on Irish, English, French, German genealogy, DNA technology, and more, will be given by the following speakers:

Lisa Alzo (Webinars) – [Writer, Lecturer, Genealogist](#)  
Kyle J. Betit – [ProGenealogists](#)  
Ruth Blair – [The Passionate Genealogist](#)  
Gena Philibert Ortega – [Gena's Genealogy](#)  
John D. Reid – [Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections](#)  
Gary Schroeder – [Quebec Family History Society](#)  
Diahan Southard (Keynote) – [Your DNA Guide](#)  
Dave Tyler – Past Director of Raymond Family History Centre, AB

Check the AGS website <http://www.abgenealogy.ca/> for updated information re: registrations, programing, etc.

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ANDRE MIGNIER deLAGACE (1669 – 1727) AT LA POCATIERE, Quebec Sharon Aney

Very early in my genealogy endeavours I found the name "Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere". The words captured my imagination, resonated in my mind, rolled off my tongue. I had found names of some of Russ' earliest ancestors in New France. Many sacraments that the family celebrated in the late 1600s and 1700s were listed in the records of this church.

Names and dates are the foundation of genealogy, but I also love to know about where and how these ancestors lived. In 2016 we came to La Pocatiere while on a vacation in Quebec.



We stopped at a little stone building that was built on the site dedicated to Ste. Anne. Having been built and marked with wood, the original church and its cemetery have long since disappeared, but the site is memorialized. The stones of this little building were from the 2nd church that stood on this site.



The "monument" lists the names of people who were buried there, according to church records. Mignier/Lagace (54) indicates that over the years 54 family members were buried there, possibly more, as church records are missing for a 5 year period in the later 1700s.

A very helpful young man at the local archives spent time with us, and we left with 16 sheets of photocopies about Andre Mignier / Lagace from various books. I think I will find (when I translate them from French) that I already have some of the information from other sources. However, it is special to get these records from the location.

Documents indicate that Andre Andre Mignier dit Lagace (1640 – 1729) (Russ' 6x great grandfather) who had come to New France as a soldier in 1665 previously had a concession across the river and also had been working in the fur trade in the Acadian area. The family settled at La Pocatiere in about 1686.

Historian Jean Lagasse wrote:

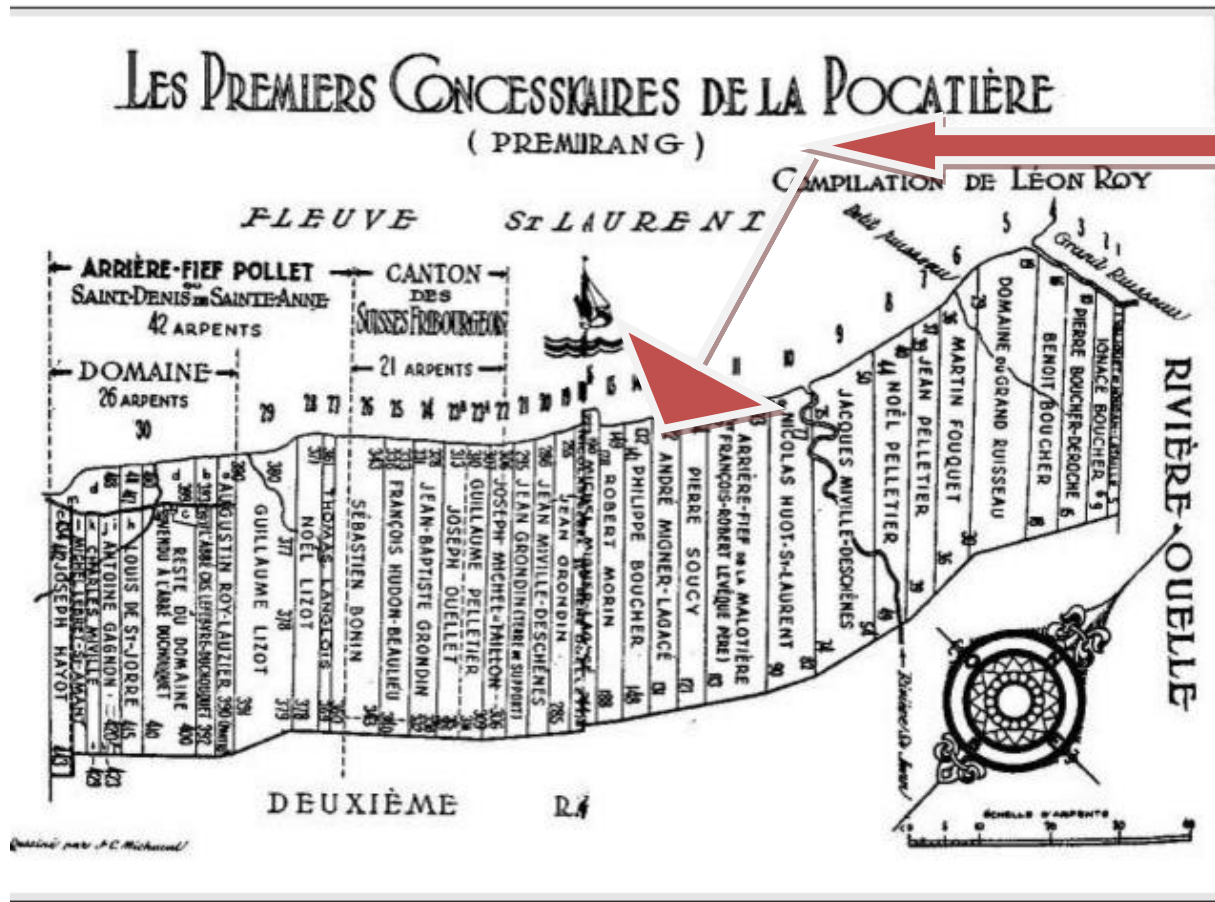
In 1692 Andre (1640 – 1729) and his son, Andre (1669 -1727) entered into a three year lease to farm the land of M Aubert at St. Anne de la Pocatiere. The lease declared that Charles Aubert de la Chenaye leased a parcel of land, 14 arpents of shoreline on the St. Lawrence by 40 arpents deep to "Andre Menier, not only for himself, but for his son Andre Menier, age 23 years." In about 1699 his eldest son took another concession in his own name, while his father continued to farm that which he rented from Charles Aubert until 1703.

The archivist produced an interesting document which was new to me..... a copy of the map which reconstructed the first Concessions of the Seigneurie of la Pocatiere, including the plots owned by Russ' 5x great grandfather, Andre Mignier dit Lagace, (1669 – 1727). The map showed that several plots belonging to his siblings adjoined Andre's land.

Located next to him was his brother-in-law, Philippe Boucher, then another brother-in-law, Robert Morin, and next to Robert, Andre's brother Michel Mignier-Lagace.

Andre's concession was cadaster lots #122 to #131- (see arrows)
being 4 arpents x 42 arpents.

1 arpent = about 192 English feet (4 x 192 = 768 feet. 42 x 192 = 8064 feet)



The lot was about 1 ½ mile deep by ¼ mile wide, on the south bank of the "Fleuve St. Laurent". A Second Range was made up of lots further away from the river. A 1723 survey recorded that of Andre's landholdings, 20 arpents were cultivated and 4 were grassland. He had built a house, barn and stable. He also owned 2 parcels on the second range, but no one lived on them, and very little work had been done on them.

"Andre's death pretty certainly occurred on November 21, 1727. He would have been 58 years old. This is substantiated by other documents than the parish registers. An order on May 12, 1727 asked that the notary Janneau designate a guardian for Andre's minor children".
By: Jean Lagasse

It was interesting to visualize the long, narrow plots of land running south-easterly, up the fairly steep riverbank. Every plot had river frontage to facilitate transportation, fishing, etc. We were able imagine Andre and his neighbours clearing the forests and settling these lands some 325 years ago. Once the plot was cleared of trees it was planted. Today the fertile lands south of the St. Lawrence bountifully support various agricultural endeavours.

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## WETASKIWIN OF OLD .....>

5007 – 50 Ave.

### Star Store / Montgomery's



The Star Store c.1903

Following a fire in 1903, which destroyed much of Wetaskiwin's commercial area, John West built a two-storey brick building to replace the one he lost. In November the Star Store opened for business.

In 1914 the West brothers sold to their nephews, Frank & Hugh Montgomery who retained the "Star Store" name. Frank's son James and James' son Don followed as owner/ managers. Montgomery's Department Store was a feature on Main Street for the next 80 years.

Dry goods continued to be the backbone of the store's success, followed in later years by groceries and hardware items. A conveyer belt was installed to carry items to and from the basement to the back parking lot. In 1967, an elevator was installed. By the mid-'60s, Montgomery's employed 25 to 32 people; many were full-time. With supermarkets becoming the norm, Montgomery's closed its grocery department in 1978. Wetaskiwinites still purchased high quality men's and ladies clothing, dry goods and sporting goods.

In 1994 the Montgomery family leased the building to other retailers. Including their uncle John West, 4 generations of the same family had operated the store. The building was closed as a retail operation in about 2000 after welcoming shoppers for 107 years.

## IS RENEWED

Sharon Aney

### Wetaskiwin Heritage Museum,



In 2002, the Board of Directors of the Wetaskiwin District Museum bought the Montgomery building. After renovations and adaptations, the official grand opening of the Wetaskiwin & District Heritage Museum was held on May 7, 2005. A replica star was repainted on the side of the building, commemorating the star first used on the Star Trading Co.

Located in the heart of Wetaskiwin's historic downtown, and with three floors of exhibits, this museum celebrates local history. One moves through exhibits and interactive displays that lead us from the time of the dinosaurs to First Nations and fur trading eras, to the War Years, uncovering the dynamic heritage of Wetaskiwin City, County, and the Maskwacis Four Nations.

*Women of Aspenland*, an exhibit unique in Canada, celebrates the lives of 90+ local women, with more being added annually. School children and visitors delight in the Pioneer Rooms of the Children's Legacy Centre.

There is always something new to discover at the museum's temporary exhibits, at seasonal events and in the gift shop. Renovations are ongoing and the Board & staff look forward to celebrating the history of the more-than century-old building with a new exhibit in 2017.

Senior Sampler, Dec 11, 2016

There is a lot of abbreviating in genealogy. BMD stands for Births, Marriages and Deaths. GRO is the abbreviation for the General Register Office in Great Britain. The General Register Office (GRO) has made available online new free indexes for births and deaths, based on the digitization of the English and Welsh civil registration records that was carried out a few years ago. [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

The new GRO birth index covers the period 1837-1915. Unlike the existing indexes on the [FreeBMD](#), [Ancestry](#), [Findmypast](#) and [TheGenealogist](#) websites (which are all based on the original GRO printed indexes), the new GRO index holds the mother's maiden surname from 1837 onwards, rather than from July 1911 onwards in the other indexes. This helps you find missing maiden names for the women or pinpoint any lost children by searching for the surname only and using the mother's maiden name and are of Britain.

The new GRO death index covers the period 1837-1957. The age at death is given from 1837 onwards in the new index, rather than from 1866 onwards in the existing indexes. This is extremely helpful in determining which registration is correct for a given person.

There is no new index for marriages. You can order copies of the certificates from the GRO. You will need to supply them with the reference. For example:

| Year | Qtr | District | Vol | Page | Reg | Ent No | DOR |
|------|-----|----------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|
| 1881 | Mar | SWANSEA  | 11A | 710  |     |        |     |

I ordered two certificates for a total of GBP 18.50 which is in British Pounds. See <https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>.

The 1911 census gives the number of missing children (i.e. that had died prior to 1911) you have a starting point of how many children you may be missing in your family lines. To search, go to: <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp>

For more information, contact Shanna Jones [shannasjones@msn.com](mailto:shannasjones@msn.com)

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*“Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead”
Did I read that right?*

*Message on a leaflet: “IF YOU CANNOT READ,
THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS”.
It can talk??*