



ROOTS & BRANCHES

Wetaskiwin Branch

Alberta Genealogical Society

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OCTOBER, 2019

VOL. 17. #3

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ROOTS & BRANCHES

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

It is emailed to members and
it is posted on our website.

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EXECUTIVE

President: Alice Hoyle

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Lorraine McKay

Treasurer: Leroy Koop

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Alice Hoyle

As I sit at my computer in my 'computer /
genealogy room' I am shivering. It is only
September 27th, but it feels more like November.
What happened to summer? I was hoping for a
nice long Autumn but sadly it isn't starting out
that way.

We all have hopes and aspirations, particularly
at the start of a new season or project. When
we encounter a roadblock on our journey, what
do we do? Do we give up and go on to plan "B"?
Well, maybe we do sometimes, but I think most
of us just push on through the roadblock with
the result that we feel more satisfied because
we didn't let circumstances stop us from our
vision.

At the 2019 AGS Retreat, there was a lot of
conversation about 'vision' – we were asked to
contemplate "Imagine it is 2029 - what is
different because of the work of the Alberta
Genealogical Society?"

In our own personal lives, most of us plan (or at
least think about) what our next 5 or 10 years

BRANCH MEETINGS

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

BRANCH LIBRARY

At City of Wetaskiwin Archives
4904 – 51 Street
Tues. Wed. Thur.
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

COMMITTEES

- **Newsletter**
Sharon Aney
sharonaney@gmail.com
- **Library**
Robin Sheehan
- **Webmasters**
Leroy Koop
Lyn Meehan
- **Volunteer Research**
Alice Hoyle
Leroy Koop
- **Membership**
Leroy Koop
- **Programs**
Claudia Malloch
- **Publicity**
Alice Hoyle
- **Historian**
Rosella Plaquin
- **Youth**
Patti Caputo

~ ~ ~

FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER

5410 – 36 Avenue, Wetaskiwin
Wednesdays:
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
& 6:15 – 8:15 pm
~ ~ ~

will bring.

As the year slides quickly on its way to the end, I hope your plans and visions - for your research, perhaps a journey you plan to take, or just a plan to spend more time with family and friends – all come to fruition.

Our branch's plan to host GenFair 2020 has moved forward very quickly, thanks to Lyn Meehan information is on the website,. Once 2020 arrives, we will be firming up any details that are undecided at this point.

I look forward to our branch members working together to make GenFair 2020 an amazing event: one that people will remember for years to come.

Wishing you a productive Autumn. Alice.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

EDITOR'S CORNER

Sharon Aney

Some random thoughts about family history:

Our grandchildren connect with their grandfather, born in 1942. This grandfather remembers his grandfather born in 1866. A connection of 153 years!

Our son-in-law and grandsons went to Montreal for a Formula I racing event in June. They were impressed with Place Ville Marie. When they learned that their 9x great grandfather was an original immigrant to Ville Marie in 1653 they decided that family history was interesting! An expensive introduction to Genealogy for Youth ☺

A person still lives, as long as someone remembers them.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

UPCOMING OCTOBER PROGRAM:

Patti Caputo will put on for our members the **"Genealogy Escape Room"**. She has developed this activity as the Genealogy for Youth project for this year. It will be at the Wetaskiwin Public Library on Oct. 12. This promises to be a fun activity for our meeting, (15th). It will test our research skills!

MEETING PROGRAMS:

APRIL, 2019

"HOW TO WRITE YOUR STORY IN 5 PAGES OR LESS" : ALISON TAYLOR, A VIDEO FROM ROOSTECH

She suggested that you begin by choosing to write about an event that you experienced, perhaps an interaction with someone else. Start at the beginning of the experience, and follow it through to the end. You might consider including your thoughts throughout the process. Make and edit several drafts, as necessary.

MAY, 2019

REACTIONS TO AGS CONFERENCE "IMAGES THROUGH TIME"

12 of our members reported upon various sessions that they had attended. For the most part comments were that they had learned something, were given new research sites, and were inspired in their research. French Canadian, Scottish and Lynn Palermo on writing your family story were especially popular.

Some commented that the content of some presentations was not what the title had indicated it would be, or that DNA presentations were too technical and dealt only with Ancestry, or that there were too many prize draws

Alice, our President, commented that she was proud of our Branch attendance (15) being almost 50% of our membership...

especially since some of our members are not local.

There were compliments for the Conference display board created by Carole & Lee Koop, Sharon Aney & Bernice Clamp.



JUNE 2019

WEBINAR: THE GENEALOGY CLOUD:

Thomas MacEntee discussed using "the Cloud" in genealogy. Claudia had provided handouts as a supplement to the program with further information about such sites, pros and cons, and "best practices" such as becoming familiar with Terms of Service.

SEPT. 2019

"HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION" – member sharing

Sharon gathered and organized 25 years of research into Russ' French Canadian roots that has 2 families going back to 1653 & 1665 in New France, and is writing a book for the benefit of their grandchildren.

Alice revisited research done many years ago re: a niece's estranged husband. The niece's grown daughters now wanted to know the stories. Their ancestry goes back to historical Alberta (eg: establishing the Calgary Stampede) and further back to Ontario, and USA, is recognized by the DAR and eventually back to the 1400s in England. She sent them all of her research.

Bob vacationed in England and with his brother visited many archives. He discovered that a relative was part of a firing squad in 1904 to execute a German spy. A double agent!

Rosella is filling in a book "Grandmother's Memories" with stories and pictures which will be a gift for her grandson at graduation.

Carole spoke of her fascination with "filles du Roi". It came about from her research into a niece's Clement family, who were excited to receive the information.

Claudia visited several archives while on vacation in Nova Scotia. She has a map of the area where she grew up showing in 1874 the properties and families who lived on them. She was appalled to find a document that described a sexual assault, and named the perpetrators and victims! Times were different then! She followed the girl's life and to Claudia's relief it appears that she married and had a family.

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## **VOLUNTEER RESEARCH REPORTS**

### **LEE KOOP:**

**June 20, 2019**

Julia D. requested the use of Leroy Koop's article, entitled ***Cemetery Bankruptcy Leads to Exhumation*** and appearing in the September 2018 newsletter, for inclusion in her personal history book. The article was about the Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery just east of Camrose from which 59 bodies were exhumed and reburied in other cemeteries following bankruptcy. Julia's father, Charles Hughes, was one of those 59. A signed letter of permission was granted.

**August 11, 2019**

Mary R. requested digital copies of the cabinet card photos taken by E. S. Phillips and/or W. Charlton referred to in Leroy

Koop's article ***The Pedigree of a Book*** written in 2016. A total of 7 photos were sent to Mary. Unfortunately, she had no written documents identifying any of the 64 photos in the album. The photo album referred to was a Christmas present to John & Jane Arnold of the Wetaskiwin area in 1893. Since John & Jane had no descendants, the search is still on for an extended family member to claim it.

### **September 9, 2019**

David M. requested information on whether or not John Bowie and Mary Elizabeth Worsley, David's great grandmother, ever resided in Wetaskiwin as a couple before or after their marriage in 1932 in Edmonton. Research seems to indicate that the couple never did, although their ensuing story was very intriguing. Mary Elizabeth first married Thomas Worsley in 1876 in Ontario and they had 7 children together. Mary Elizabeth spent about 15 years in Chicago as a widow and then returned to Alberta sometime between 1920 and 1932, where she met and married John Bowie. Research is still ongoing to determine where and when Mary Elizabeth returned to Canada. Comment from David M. "I've learned far more about my great grandmother in the past couple of weeks than I had known about her from my previous 10 years of family research."

### **ALICE HOYLE:**

**Marus and Jane Nelson:** I had a request from one of their grandsons, asking if I could advise him of the location of his grandparents' home. He did not have an address for them. I contacted Rachel at the City Archives to see if she had tax records for them. Luckily, they lived here during the time frame that is currently being indexed at the archives, so Rachel was able to tell me the legal description of the land. I then looked at the City of Wetaskiwin website, going to the maps page – I found the

location but the lot numbers did not correspond to the tax records. Another phone call to the Archives – Rachel checked and found out that the 2 lots in question had undergone a shift in alignment: in the 1920's, when the Nelson family lived there, the lots ran north and south; in the 1950's the alignment was changed to 2 lots running east and west. Once I found that out, I was able to pinpoint the exact street address and send it to the researcher. He was planning to visit Wetaskiwin in September and he wanted to view the house his grandparents lived in. I took a photo of the 2 houses that are on the lots now: he felt that the older home was the home his grandparents owned.

### **Manning Public Library Request:**

I had a phone call from the Manning Public Library, asking about a book that was in our genealogy library. They had a patron who had taken the book out from their library but had discovered there were pages missing from the book. The Librarian wondered if I could scan the missing pages and email them to her. After picking up the book from our library, I brought it home and began to scan the pages requested. It ended up being a longer project than expected: approximately 75 pages of scanning. The book was an Agricultural Textbook, written in the 1900's. The librarian advised me that their patron was very thankful for the missing pages and she also thanked me on behalf of the library.

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ELECTRICITY COMES TO THE FARM

Neil Nelson

In 1951 the Shorty & Agnes Nelson family got electricity (power) on their farm. I, Neil Nelson, was 10 yrs. old at that time. It was an exciting time for our family. We lived in

the Angus Ridge District, one mile from the main line.

My Dad, Shorty Nelson, thought it was very expensive for the power. In order to cut down the cost of the one mile of power line he did as much of the physical labour that he could. Dad hauled all the poles 5 miles on a Bobsled from Wetaskiwin with his black team of Percheron horses in the winter. It was one large load of 18 poles. He used a Bobsled and extended it so that he could haul the long poles.

In the summer he dug all the holes by hand using a long handle "spoon" & bar which he borrowed from the REA. The holes were 6 ft. deep. Dad put all the hardware on the poles drilling the holes with a brace & bit by hand. There were no cordless drills in those days.

Dad hired the neighbour, Ernest Pearson who had a farm hand loader that could raise the poles to put them in the holes he had dug. He then had to straighten & tamp the poles in the ground. Dad was able to buy 3 extra poles for the yard lights & wiring costing \$21.50.



Some power poles from the 1950's still stand the test of time.

The poles in this photo were erected by Mr. Nelson in 1951.

With modernization, an underground line was installed and the pole in the foreground now supports a yard light.

Our son, Dean Nelson has taken over the farm and those 3 poles plus 1 of the line poles are still standing. One of the poles still has the 300-watt yard light working on it. In the 80's I took the wires off the poles and went underground.

In July, before the power was turned on, Dad paid H. Callum who was an electrician, \$921.10 for wiring the house, garage, shop and two barns.

I can remember the fall day in Sept. at 12:00 o'clock noon when the power was turned on. So much light in the house, yard and barns!

They now could enjoy electricity. They brought a 1/3 hp motor for \$44.70 for the Maytag washing machine, toaster \$37.95, GE iron \$16.50, bed lamp \$4.95, GE waffle

maker and GE mix master \$110.00. In 1952 an Electrolux vacuum \$126.50, a push button G.E. electric range \$515.00 and G.E. refrigerator \$450.00 were purchased from "Jimmy Schmee's Shop" in Wetaskiwin. That ended my job getting fire wood for the kitchen stove. In 1953 they brought an electric kettle \$7.95, GE polisher \$54.50 and coffee pot \$29.95.

In 1953 Dad saw a Lincoln Welder advertisement. There was no dealer in Wetaskiwin that sold the welder so Dad talked to Pocock & Brown telling them that if they became a dealer he would buy the first one. Dad kept his promise and bought the first Lincoln Welder in Wetaskiwin for \$311.25.

68 years later Shorty Nelson's grandson Dean Nelson and his wife Sonia and family are enjoying the use of power on the farm."

Editor's Note:

A Saskatchewan resident commented after rural electrification in the 1950s, that yard lights made such a big difference to the rural society. The sparks of light here and there after dark gave residents, and especially those on the roads, comfort in knowing that they were not alone in the wide open prairie. They knew that help was not far away if needed.

And of course, the light in your own yard was a beacon leading you home.

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### Things My Mother Taught Me

*My mother taught me LOGIC.  
"Because I said so, that's why."*

*My mother taught me about  
ANTICIPATION.  
"Just wait until we get  
home."*

*My mother taught me about my  
ROOTS.  
"Shut that door behind you. Do  
you think you were born in a  
barn?"*

*My mother taught me  
about WEATHER.  
"This room of yours looks as if  
a tornado went through it."*

*My mother taught me GENETICS.  
"You're just like your father."*

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WHEN TWO OR MORE PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME NAME, HOW MIGHT YOU AVOID MIX-UPS IN YOUR GENEALOGY RESEARCH?

Sharon Aney

Once upon a time, when I was young, my cousin D_____ married a dashing young man. Unfortunately the marriage did not work out well. And more unfortunately my cousin was later killed in a car accident, and most unfortunately, her 4 young children were left to grow up in difficult circumstances.

Approximately 40 years later a daughter of one of the above children, now estranged from this branch of the family, searched in Ancestry.ca for her family tree. A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, especially for "would be genealogists" thinking that..."Ancestry.com has all the family information that you need to build your family tree." She ended up skipping past two generations of her forebears.

Perhaps she can be forgiven because of the confusion created by several people in the family having the same name....

John N. had 2 sons

Daniel b.1855 in Ukraine

Michael (M1) b. 1877 in Ukraine
M1 married Theodocia

Daniel had a son **Michael (M2)**
b. 1900 in Manitoba. He married Annie.

Michael (M1) had a son **Michael (M3)**
b. 1911 in Manitoba. He married Mary

Daniel's son Peter had **Michael (M4)**,
b. 1911 in Saskatchewan.
He married Annie.

The young lady began by connecting herself to her grandmother, D____. She learned that D____'s parents were Michael and Annie N. She then erroneously placed the Michael (M2) that she found online as D_____'s father. In fact M2 was her great uncle.

D_____'s father was Michael (M4).

Her tree as such skipped the generation of her Grandfather, Michael (M4) and Great Grandfather, Peter, and all of their family information and stories, although the M2 family would eventually connect her with Daniel, the first immigrant to Canada.

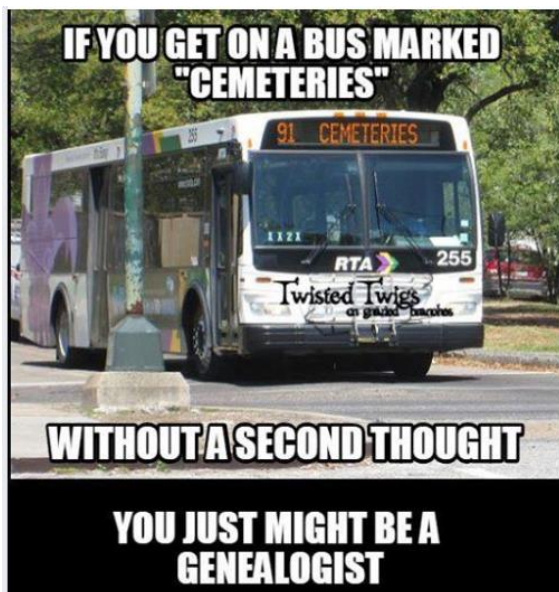
How can errors such as these be avoided? Setting aside the difficult relationships in this situation, and assuming that someone just wants to begin family history research, we must use the very old-fashioned, basic strategy.

1. Begin with yourself: birth date and place, parents (including your mother's maiden name), marriage date, place and spouse. Add as much first hand information as you can from family interviews and documents like marriage & birth certificates, & letters.

2. Community history books, newspapers and local societies can be helpful in finding family information.
3. In Canada the censuses are not as available as in the USA... 1926 being the latest released so far.
4. And of course, there are the online data bases and family tree sites. But if you have not set yourself a good base of known family information, many hours can be wasted looking at the wrong tree or document.
5. Always analyse carefully the information that you find. Check that the names of spouses and children align with your previous information, as well the dates that events occurred and the places that they lived.
6. Keep an open mind.... Previous or unknown relationships may show up and rattle the family tree.

Sadly, as far as I know, the large gap in the young lady's family tree is still there. She did not respond to the message I left for her on Ancestry, and so the history book of her family, that she could have had, is still sitting on my shelf.

Maybe there is another lesson to be learned here ... if you are searching and placing your trees online, check your messages periodically. Someone may have the answer you need, and is just waiting for you to say "Hello!".



Heaven is where
the police are British,
the cooks are French,
the mechanics German,
the lovers Italian .. and...
it's all organised by the Swiss.

Hell is where
the chefs are British,
the mechanics French,
the lovers Swiss,
the police German ... and
it's all organised by the Italians.

MOTHER'S LETTERS

by Bob Maynard.

When I was about 4 years old my parents moved from England to Nigeria. My father was a building inspector. Mother wrote daily letters to her aunt back home, describing their new life, the people they met and got to know, and places lived in and visited. The letters came back to her at the death of Aunt Edie, and I have them all now. I find these letters fascinating, because they show a completely different kind of life that my parents lived for a few years.

This letter from 1953 was written on Mother's new Imperial typewriter, shortly after I was sent back to Eastbourne, England for schooling. I was about 8 years old and stayed with the Bullen family, friends of my parents. My older brother David had already been in school there for several years, staying with a different family. These were our living arrangements for several years.

A few weeks after this letter was written (references to "Rob" are me) I was sent to spend the Christmas vacation with my parents, by air, from London to Rome to Nigeria. I wore a lanyard around my neck with my passport and travel documents. An air hostess was in charge of me until I was turned over to my Dad's driver who picked me up at the airport in Nigeria. This routine happened at any school holidays. I usually travelled alone because David, being 7 years older, often went to other places with friends.

Nov 9th 1953.

My Dear Auntie,

I am going to start to write to you although I have a feeling I shall be hearing from you before the day is out. It will be unusual if I do not not as you are the one who seems to time the letters right every time. I had intended writing before and then as I knew that you would be having visitors I decided to wait and hear what you had to say about them.

On Sat: we heard from Glen and so I knew that they had been down. What did you think of the idga. It cost quite a bit but we felt that it was money well spent. It was nice for Rob to feel that someone would be going to see him and Both boys would have the half term treat, also it gave you a chance to see what the Bullens were like, and to see the boys of course. Hope that all the extra did not prove too much for you as it would be rather a crowd. I don't suppose we shall hear from the boys until we get yesterday's letter. Poor David must have quite a busy time getting his own letter written and helping Rob and then they each write to Grays.

Glen did not say much about David, Rob is her boy, I expect Dib will be writing and she will have more to say about her boy. Isn't it nice that Angela has made a good start and liking her work. Will make things a bit better for the m all. How did you think Dib looked.

I had a letter from the Browns on Friday. They are loving their new home but Chris says that Buster although he likes his new post he would still like to have his own business. Now they would not want to part with the house and so would have to consider a lock up place. She had her Parents staying with her and her Father who is a builder says that the house is a very good buy. Baby Christine Ann is crawling every where now and trying to walk. She is still as good and contented. Chris wanted the boys address and so I expect that she will send to them for Xmas.

How are things going at the house? I feel so glad that you have not got to move, especially now that the bad weather has started. Yesterday one of the Directors and one of the other big noises came from London. They are busy inspecting every thing this morning. As it happens the place is extra full of ships. I can see the tops of some as I sit at the desk. A big French one has just come up they call for cotton. A number of the River fleet are getting back now with the cargos to be transferred to the proper ships. They have had a lot of trouble getting up and back as the waters have not been very high at the right times. Seems amazing that so much material can come through one small place. David would learn a lot here.

Tonigh there is a drinks party at the club for the london visitors, from seven to eight. I have just been pressing my pale blue dress (the American one) I shall wear that. The other building man returns today dont suppose he will be hear until about five pm. So we shall be having him for dinner after the party. Think that I shall leave the other side of the paper in case we get news from you this evening, we do not get the mail until about four oc. So this may not get finished until tomorrow morning. It is really hot hear now. We have a big ceiling fan which we keep on most of the time although our house is cooler than some. Bill loves it like this and he is brown. Sunshine suits him.

Tues: a.m.

The Mail was not kind to me yesterday, actually I dont think there was much airmail and so heres hoping for today.

Meanwhile I will get this off otherwise you will be a long while without a letter. We certainly had a very pleasant evening last night. The Director remindd me so much of Buster, except that he is a little older and not so round as Buster. He is Mr Van den Bergh. (Blue band Marjarine man) Director of Uniliver as well. *He is a man in a head of oil* He asked where the children were at school and was interested when I said near Eastbourne, he was at Eastbourne at school himself near Beachy Head. Three people returned from Leave last night and one new man arrived. *They were late getting here and were waylaid*

They were late getting here and were waylaid and brought into the party straight off the Launch. Rather a nice start for the new one I thought. The other Building man came back to dinner with us, he was full of the Motor Show which he had been to before his return. Sounds as if there are a fine lot of cars.

Our nice Lady at Unilever House is retiring at the end of the Year, and so this a.m. a note has comeround to see if any one would like to contribute to a present for her. She has always been so kind and nice to every one that I am sure every one will respond well. I feel sorry we shall not see her on our return. She is the one who has a grown up David. The papere is coming to an end again and so Good morning. Hope that you are keeping well. Lots of Love from us both.

Girllie.



Sender's name and address:-

A. M Maynard

c/o U.A.C.

Niger River Transport

BURUTU.

S Nigeria

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