



ROOTS & BRANCHES

**Wetaskiwin Branch
of the
Alberta Genealogical Society**

*BRINGING THE PAST
TO THE PRESENT
FOR THE FUTURE! ©*

Website: www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch

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EXECUTIVE

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Vice President: Lorraine McKay
Secretary: Patty Caputo
Treasurer: Leroy Koop

BRANCH MEETINGS

TBA due to covid-19
restrictions

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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.

BRANCH LIBRARY

At City of Wetaskiwin Archives
4904 – 51 Street

By appointment: T, W, Th
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FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER

Closed due to Covid-19
Until further notice.

**OUR DEEPEST
CONDOLENCES
TO FELLOW MEMBERS,
WENDY THOMPSON
AND
ROSELLA PLAQUIN
ON THE RECENT PASSING
OF THEIR HUSBANDS.**

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Alice Hoyle

I note that the last time I wrote a President's Ponderings ramble for our newsletter, it was April. No one could have foreseen that we would still be in the midst of a pandemic, and that social distancing and self-isolation would be the new words in our conversations.

I hope you and your loved ones have managed to get through the new protocols and that you were able to obtain the supplies you required. How odd to see shelves empty of flour, yeast, sugar, baking soda, etc. Who would have thought that at this point in the world's history, we would have shortages of such basic items?

In her emails to us, Sharon has suggested we write down our experience dealing with the pandemic. This would be extremely interesting for future generations. As genealogists we have the ideal platform to record this information.

On another note: this year was Wetaskiwin Branch's 20th year of operation. I encourage all of you to write something for the branch newsletter – perhaps outlining what Wetaskiwin Branch has meant to you. What did your membership provide that you wouldn't have had if not a part of our genealogy family? As a branch, we have talented and knowledgeable people who are always willing to help others with their research. This is something we can all be proud of. Cont'd....

Speaking of being proud: congratulations to Sharon Aney and Rudi Grab – the latest RS journal (August) from AGS includes articles they have written.

In the latest RS Journal, you will also note that there is an advertisement for GenFair 2021. Hopefully, the postponed edition of the event we are hosting will be a “go”.

You would have received notification from AGS about their Webinars. I have taken part in each of them to date, and I encourage you all to participate. These are free, available to all AGS members, and a way to keep people informed at a time when conferences and guest presentations at meetings are not possible.

I hope you are all doing well.
Stay healthy, be safe.
Alice

Thank you to those of you who have shared your “Covid-19 experiences”. (See page 11) Each is unique because of such things as: stage of the pandemic, the circumstances in our own (or our family’s) life, age, health, where we live, etc. etc. etc. As Alice mentioned, these memories will tell future generations of our experiences in the historical year that is 2020. Please continue to share what you are comfortable with. I will continue to include them in upcoming newsletters.

Following the passing of a local “senior” I am in possession of her scrapbooks of newspaper articles mostly re: weddings, but also some other events, from about 1956 – 1976. Please email me if you wish to research in them.
sharonaney@gmail.com

EDITOR’S CORNER Sharon Aney

Many years ago I wrote that “My Grandmother is My Family History” ... she is the one who has passed on traditions, faith, foods, etc. All these things help form a family’s soul. I hope that my grandchildren will say that about me.

For those of us still finding our grandmothers, personal reminiscences are increasingly rare. This is when we should turn to local historical societies, museums and the like. They may have, years ago, recorded and retained personal stories about your female ancestor.

In Wetaskiwin we are privileged to have such an extensive resource with well over 100 women’s stories, available to us at the Wetaskiwin Heritage Museum.

*As described on its website **Women of Aspenland** is a documentation and exhibit project, and its purpose is to tell and preserve the stories of special women in our communities. Each woman’s life story reflects some of the diverse traditions that shape our collective identity as a community. The goal of the Women of Aspenland project is to document women’s history and understand the important roles of women in our community over time.*

I will be presenting some of these stories in upcoming issues. They will show that, just by doing what they had to do, these women made significant contribution to their community. You can look for more stories at <https://wetaskiwinmuseum.com/exhibits/women-of-aspenland/>

By visiting the Heritage Museum, you may also find supporting materials and photos.

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## 20 in 2020

Alice Hoyle

Twenty years ago, during a routine visit to the bank at which my husband and I are customers, I was asked by one of the tellers "Are you interested in family history, and genealogy?" I answered that I was – I had been a member of AGS, Edmonton branch – because there wasn't a branch in Wetaskiwin.

The teller was Marilyn Valkenburg; she and one of the other tellers at the bank were interested in finding out what was necessary to start a branch of AGS in Wetaskiwin. She advised that they had set up a meeting at the Wetaskiwin Public Library, with the current President of AGS coming down to talk to us about what was necessary to establish a branch of AGS in Wetaskiwin.

I was interested, and attended the meeting. Also at the meeting were two women who are still members of our branch: Jean Browse and Sharon Aney. I guess we are 3 of the founding members of the 2000 edition of Wetaskiwin Branch who are still members of the branch.

Our shaky and uncertain start gradually evolved into the vibrant group of branch members that we have today. I find it quite amazing to recall our basic knowledge of genealogy and the research process at the time we formed the branch; then to realize how much we all have learned in the last 20 years.

Then there is the massive change in technology and the amount of on-line data we have at our fingertips. We are truly fortunate that the world of genealogy and the advanced technology that goes with it have made it possible for us to access records we never would have dreamed possible, 20 years ago.

I am very thankful that I had that conversation with Marilyn 20 years ago. Sadly, she passed away this past year – she missed the 20<sup>th</sup> celebration of our formation.

The last 20 years have been interesting, challenging, and a wonderful opportunity to meet and become friends with like-minded genealogists.

It has been a time of discovery, a time to embrace new ideas (DNA) and a time to connect with people around the world.

Genealogists – you are the best!

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MEETING PROGRAMS

March, April and May meetings were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

JUNE – a virtual meeting

As usual for our June meeting members shared. Each of us commented upon the Covid-19 isolation from family, and valued the ability to stay in touch online and the time to continue genealogical research.

Alice took advantage of the time to complete many crafts and projects. **Mavis** continued sorting and sharing photos and clippings, and was in contact with distant cousins who needed help with their family information. **Lorraine** worked with her photo albums and family papers. **Claudia** followed webinars and shared them with branch members, learned more about DNA, and involved her grandson in posting pictures and stories on familysearch.org. **Sharon** spoke of receiving the gift of a personalized virtual historical tour of La Rochelle, France. She also worked on research and writing local histories for the Knights of Columbus and Wetaskiwin & Area Sports Hall of Fame.

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**WILLIAM (Billy) HENRY WALKER, (1876 – 1960)**

Lorraine (Hubscher) McKay

William (Billy) Henry Walker was my husband's - George McKay's Grandfather. William was born on March 5, 1876 in the District of Shoreham, County of East Sussex, England. His parents were Edward Walker and Amy (Purfold) Walker. He worked as a domestic gardener in England.



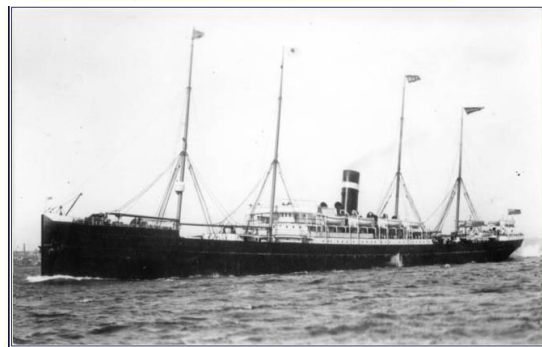
William married Minnie Florence Herring (born January 8th, 1878 at Ashford, Kent, England on March 28, 1903, at St. Mary's Church in the Parish of Bexley, County of Kent, England.

A daughter, Beatrice (May) Annie May Walker was born on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1905 at Bexley, Kent, England.

- William, Minnie and Beatrice Walker immigrated to Canada. Their ultimate destination was Gainsborough, Saskatchewan. They sailed from the port of Liverpool, England onboard the vessel Kensington on March 28, 1907, arriving at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1907 at 7:10 pm. On the ship they were in Steerage (the least expensive

accommodation on a ship) together with 306 other passengers. The total number of adult passengers, exclusive of captain, crew and cabin passengers, the vessel could legally carry 1602 passengers.

**Kensington 1894, Dominion Line**



Upon their arrival at the Halifax harbour there was a "Steerage Inspection" with a Medical Examination - completed at 10:30 pm, and a Civil Examination - completed at 11:15 pm.

After passing the Steerage Inspection they travelled by train to Elmore, Saskatchewan. Elmore is 12 miles from Gainsborough, and is the most easterly Port of Entry into Saskatchewan from the United States of America. Canadian Pacific Railway had a rail line that went from Halifax to Gainsborough, which is named after Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, England.

Rose Elmore Walker, William and Minnie's second daughter was born on November 8, 1910. We note that her middle name is Elmore.

From the 1911 Saskatchewan Census: William was employed in 1910 for 52 weeks, working 72 hours a week as a labourer. His total earnings for the year were \$365.00. It also recorded that he had a \$1000.00 Life Insurance policy in place. In 1911, the cost of insurance against accident or sickness was \$36.95 a year.

The family then moved to Kamloops, British Columbia where William worked for the winter. Then they came to Alberta, just north of Calmar where they stayed for over a year. William worked as a farmhand. William met Mac Grant and Mr. Grindy, who later would become their neighbours. He learned about homesteads available further west of Calmar.

(A Patchwork of Memories - Thorsby District)

In order to acquire a homestead, certain conditions had to be met. Any male who was at least 21 years of age qualified if he agreed to cultivate a set number of acres of land and build a permanent dwelling within a certain time frame. This condition of "Proving Up the Homestead" was instituted to prevent speculators from gaining control of the land.

In 1912 William filed an "Application for Entry for a Homestead" on SE16 T50 R2 W5 in Strathcona County at Telfordville, Alberta. He and Minnie gained entry to the homestead on September 6th, 1912. His application for Patent to the land was supported by two local residents, E.R. Grant and Fred M. Grant who, under oath, completed documents which detailed improvements made on the homestead. By 1920 he had broken 25 acres of land at an average of 5 acres per year. He had 19 acres under cultivation. He owned 13 cattle and 3 horses.

They had built a log house in the spring of 1913, valued at \$300. Other buildings constructed over seven years and their values were: barn - \$200.00, granary - \$150.00, shed - \$40.00, well - \$45.00, hog barn - \$100.00, wood shed - \$25.00. One mile of fencing material was \$125.00, and 14,000 board feet of lumber had been for purchased \$600.00.



On April 21, 1920 William Henry Walker, Esq. was notified that his homestead application had been forwarded to the Registration District of North Alberta. For a fee of \$25.00 a certificate would be issued. They soon built a two storey house, with a verandah on the front, using the lumber previously purchased. The log house was then used for chickens, turkeys and other fowl.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1928 William and Minnie celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary, receiving an array of silver gifts from family and friends.

I have acquired William Walker's "Handy Farm Account" books dated from January 1935 to 1950 from my mother-in-Law, Rose McKay. In them he recorded receipts and expenses for the farm as well as the household. They raised cattle, horses, pigs and chickens. Eggs, cream and grain were sold. Three dozen eggs sold for 10 cents a dozen in 1936. For 45 bushels of barley he received \$41.40 in 1952. The total farm income for 1936 was \$409.68. On April 30, 1946 William received his first Old Age Pension cheque in the amount of \$30.00. Taxes for 1950 were \$107.00. In 1944 William purchased \$100.00 in Victory Bonds. Victory Bonds were Canadian Government's appeals for money to finance the war effort in WWII.

The horses were used for field work and transportation. Over the years farming equipment was purchased: binder - \$25.00, walking plow - \$2.00, harrow cart - \$10.00, harrows - \$20.00, mower - \$25.00, buggy and wagon - \$40.00, seed drill - \$35.00, plow - \$25.00, etc.

In the fall when the grain was ripe, it was cut with the binder and then six bundles would be put into a stook to cure. There was usually only one threshing machine in the area. Farmers worked together to help get everyone's crop harvested. The cost to him on October 1, 1943 to hire someone to come thresh was \$50.45.



In the winter, he cut trees and hauled them to the yard with a sleigh and horses to then be split into pieces for use in the stove. Wood and coal were used for cooking as well as heating the house. In 1949 two tons of coal was \$25.00. Coal oil was used in lamps and lanterns for light.

His daughter, Rose, remembered: *"Dad had to work out a lot of the time in the spring and the fall doing harvest work, going to Saskatchewan or southern Alberta, where there was lots of seeding and threshing to be done. There was no income yet from the farm. Mother and May and I even tried to help clearing the land for grain. Dad had to go to Leduc for groceries and to take wheat in trade for flour. I remember going along once in the sleigh. It was sure a long trip with horses and sleigh. On the way back we stopped overnight at our friends, north of Calmar. We went to Telfordville when it built up a store and post office. We went to Thorsby after that with horse and buggy."*

(A Patchwork of Memories - Thorsby District)

William did blacksmith work and got a bit of steel in his eye, losing sight in that eye.



He never owned a car, and so he would walk six miles to Telfordville to get groceries and pick up the mail at Dollings Store /Post Office. To get to Edmonton or other destinations he would pay to get a ride with some of the neighbours.

In 1948 William was the Enumerator for Constituency of Leduc #38 - Pemberton Hill Poll. In the Enumerators Note Book he listed the residents and occupation, legal land description and post office address. It listed 49 people residing in Telfordville, Genesee and Sunnybrook areas. Women were listed as wife of husband's surname, then Mrs. and his initial – for example - McKay Mrs. A.G.

As writing paper was not plentiful, on the blank pages after the enumerators' lists William listed the daily weather from January 1949 to May 31, 1950. In January 1949 there was a lot of snow with night temperatures dropping to -31 F (-35 C); in April the daytime high was 75 degrees F (24 C). He also made note of what were apparently favourite radio programs, for example: Fibber McGee and Mollie aired on Tuesday at 6:30 pm on CJCA; The Shadow on Friday at 9:30 on CJCA (Edmonton).



William and Minnie were avid gardeners. Lilac trees were planted around their house as well as a variety of flowers - especially gladiolas. He and Mother helped as much as possible with community work such as church, picnics, and fairs - with articles of sewing, which Mum was very good at, and flowers and vegetables.

Their second daughter, Rose Walker married Alfred McKay on November 8, 1933 in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. They had three children, George, my husband, Shirley and Judy. Circa the 1950's, Alfred and Rose McKay bought/inherited the Walker farm. William continued to live on the property. The Walker - McKay farm was sold to Epcor in 2002. The land was needed to mine coal for the Genesee Coal Mine.

Their oldest daughter, Beatrice (May) Walker had married Harry McKay on March 22, 1930 in Holy Trinity Church, Edmonton, Alberta, They had one son, Edward.

William's wife, Minnie Walker, passed away on April 28th, 1930 in Telfordville, Alberta at the age of 52, and is buried in the Telfordville United Cemetery.

Mr. William Walker passed away on March 26, 1960 in Edmonton, Alberta at the age of 84. He was still in fairly good health and still his cheerful self. He had been a very active man. He is also buried in the Telfordville United Cemetery.

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MARY DYMACK FREEMAN (1873 – 1957)

From the **Women of Aspenland Exhibit**
at Wetaskiwin Heritage Museum
<https://wetaskiwinmuseum.com/exhibits/women-of-aspenland/>

Mary's mother was a widow with six children when her father John Dymack met and married her. John was born in Poland and her mother was born in Germany. They moved to the United States and eventually, after much travel settled in Iowa. After their marriage two more children were born: Bertha born in 1870 and Mae Anastasia (Mary) born on February 2, 1873.



Mary & Fred Freeman

The family later moved to Thompson, North Dakota where Mary met Fred Freeman. They were married in 1890 and had eight children: Madeline born in 1891, Sarah born in 1893, Clarence born in 1896, Charles born in 1899, Mary born in 1901, Caroline born in 1904, Bertha born in 1906 and Josephine born in 1909.

Mary's parents moved to Alberta and settled on a homestead about six miles east of Gwynne. They, in turn, convinced Fred and Mary to move from Thompson, North Dakota to Alberta, telling of the wonderful

opportunities available in the new land. Fred Freeman returned with his father-in-law and proceeded to purchase six quarter sections. He then returned to Thompsons, packed up their belongings and moved to Wetaskiwin in 1900.

Not having heard too much about their new home, Mary was quite anxious to see it. After one look at the two room shack with a sod roof she was ready to walk back to the States. She said "The chicken coop in Thompson was better than this!".

The house was situated above a small lake. Along the steep banks Mary and Fred made two dugouts, one for vegetable storage and the other one for keeping dairy products. They had fresh vegetables all year round. Mary would skim the cream off the top of the milk kept in the dairy dugout and churn it into butter. This delicious butter, which was always in demand, she would sell at the store. With the money she made selling her butter and eggs Mary was always able to purchase other necessities, and in 1906 a wood siding house was built.

Mary was a very energetic lady who not only worked in the house, but also cultivated a beautiful flower and vegetable garden. In one area she had a very productive bed of mushrooms.

When they first moved to Wetaskiwin they did not have time to build up a herd of cattle, or a good flock of chicken or turkeys, so Mary would take out her 16 gauge shotgun, go hunting and bring home a supply of wild fowl and rabbits. After dressing her catch she would make a delicious meal that would whet the appetite of anyone. Along with preparing meals Mary would make many preserves of fruit jams, pickles and vegetables.

Mary was a beautiful seamstress. She made all her curtains which had three or four

inches of tatted lace on them. Snow was brought in and placed in the reservoir on the back of the stove for doing dishes, cleaning, bathing and washing clothes. This reservoir was always kept full. On wash days the white clothes were scrubbed on a washboard and then placed in the big copper boiler on the stove, rinsed and hung out to dry. The "snow white" linens were always perfectly starched and ironed.



Mary admiring her lilac bush.

For 32 years Fred was secretary-treasurer for the Roseland school, built in 1902. The district people would come to their home and pay their taxes and Mary was always there serving coffee and goodies. After their new house was built they boarded school teachers. An elderly lady from Wetaskiwin would come and board with Mary and Fed from April until fall of each year. Her room was built over the front porch and was not warm enough for winter occupancy. During this time Mary taught Sunday School. She was trained as a practical nurse and often by herself, or assisting Dr. Robertson she brought many babies into this world. Her assistance was also needed during the flu epidemic of 1918 – 1919.

Mary, along with other mothers and girls in Gwynne area formed the Gwynne Sunshine

Club (a sewing club). They made many pieces of clothing, quilts and knitted items. Some of these items were given to those in need but most were shipped to headquarters in Edmonton.

Due to a few crop failures and the purchasing of some expensive cattle during the depression, Mary and Fred had to turn their farm over to the bank and move to Battle Lake. Their son, Charlie built them a nice little house which was across the road and up the hill from him.

When Fred passed away with cancer in 1940 Mary went to live with her daughters, Mary and Sarah. Mary passed away suddenly in July 1957 at the age of 84.

Fred and Mary are buried at the Roseland Cemetery, Gwynne Alberta.

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Mary's Granddaughter, Cathy Edwards remembered:

- When I was eight years old I became ill and could not go to school so I stayed at Grandma and Grandpa's. I remember the big pantry behind the wall in the kitchen. All of the shelves were full of quarts of meat, jams, pickles and vegetables. There were cookie jars full of different cookies and boxes with cakes.
- I remember the big barrels of salt meat, pickles and sauerkraut at the bottom of the stairs in the cellar. These were covered with cloths, boards and stones that had to be cleaned often.
- Wash days were a day of hard labour! The steam and humidity from the water boiling in the copper boiler was sometimes almost unbearable!
- While living in a thatch roofed house it was often said, "When it rained for a day outside, it rained for three days inside" with every pot and pan used to catch the drips.

## **"OUR" COVID 19 PANDEMIC EXPERIENCE - 2020**

*I asked our members to send comments about how the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 affected their lives. S.A.*

**Lee Koop**, April 30,

1) It is indeed sad when gas is 61.9¢/litre and one can't go anywhere because one is practising self-isolation.

2) During self-isolation, Thursday is my going uptown day. I leave home with a face mask, a pair of light weight garden gloves and a bottle of hand sanitizer. I make two trips to town.

First, I am at the grocery store when it opens for seniors at 8 a.m. By 8:30 I am usually at home unpacking the groceries. I bring the groceries from the back door individually, leaving carrying bags and bins, and place them on the kitchen counter for sanitizing. I then sanitize the bags and bins preparing them for next week My second trip is later in the morning or early in the afternoon for a stop at the post office, pick up a couple of 20 litre jugs of drinking water and any other stops that may be required.

I find Thursday very stressful. I come home and usually have a 1 to 1 1/2 hour nap. I then worry for four days about becoming sick. After four days, I then worry for three days about my next shopping day on Thursday.

3) Banking is another inconvenience. Since I refuse to do online banking, I ran into a problem with Covid19, when my bank closed its doors to every day banking. I could no longer pay my three utility bills and/or obtain cash. Only by appointment could one enter, and then only if the

business was to do with safety deposit boxes or mortgages. It was recommended that I make a special appointment to have a debit card established in order to get cash. Until this time I always told the counter staff, and once even the manager, that I didn't mind standing in line to do business, as I was protecting jobs. When asked if I wanted to pay my utility bills using my debit card, I said no way, because I would still have to come to the bank and you don't want me here. I have subsequently pre-authorized all my utility bills to be paid automatically from my chequing account. No more need to go see another teller now that I can get cash with my new debit card.

4) I have spent much time reviewing my source folders for my genealogy research. I have combined several family trees into my main Legacy program. I have completed research for a brother-in-law that we had started researching using "ScotlandsPeople" over ten years ago but hadn't entered into Legacy.

**A member who requested that her name be withheld.** May 2,

I am well and have been self-isolating for 8 weeks now!

I live alone on a farm about 20 miles from Wetaskiwin. I am no longer able to drive and my immune system does not work so I can't afford to get sick.

I have some wonderful friends who seem to have popped through the woodwork. They call to see if I need anything while they are shopping, at work, or on their way home from doing some chores somewhere else.

My family in Edmonton has also been wonderful. I am able to chat with my grandchildren on FaceTime. Some of my family is in B.C. and I get a phone call nearly every day – how are you doing?

What have you been doing? Do you need anything? When my son asked me that, I said yes, why don't you come and visit???? Joke!

When my husband passed away recently I had considered leaving the farm and moving to Ponoka where I could walk anywhere – swimming pool, arena, grocery stores, movie theater, library, etc. Well, isn't it a good thing I didn't follow up on that idea? Here I am in my own space; can walk anywhere here; and I love my house! My husband was very good at keeping the "larder" well-stocked "just in case". Wow! JUST IN CASE!

So there you are; not sure how long this will last but I am prepared and happy!

**Sharon Aney** May 3,  
We returned from the USA on March 16, went into a mandatory 14 day self-quarantine which has continued as, more of a "bubble" including family members.

Since March 27 our household has included our 12 year old grandson for 3 days per week. We oversee his home schooling, as his mother (a widow) is an essential worker (high school principal). We also benefit in that it gives a purpose to our day for part of the week, and reinforces our family bonds. Win-win!!

We appreciate our Catholic pastor, Father Roger Rouleau for streaming regular Sunday Masses and all Easter Services for us to attend at home.

May 14 .. Cancelled! We had planned to be flying to France on this day with our daughter & son-in-law.

June 4 – the cancelled trip was replaced by a virtual tour of La Rochelle, home of Russ' French ancestors, ("your ancestor walked through that door") which our daughter arranged as a replacement of the actual visit to the city and area. As we sat at the dining room table, a great tour guide told us

about the historical bonds between that city and North America dating back to the 1400s.

**Wendy Thompson** June 10 ...

I reduced my working time from a 5 day week to a 4 day week for May & June to help with \$\$ shortfall. Most days there are only 5-7 staff in the school so it is strange when the usual day is full of interaction and interruption. I miss our students and staff!

**Rosella Plaquin** June 10

How this historic pandemic affected my life!!

First of all I was very upset because my husband was scheduled for surgery and it got cancelled. After reflecting on that I decided maybe it was a good thing because he would have been high risk. Fortunately he was one of the first to be called when surgeries resumed. The worst part was I wasn't allowed in the hospital. It was hard just dropping him off at the door and waiting for a call 3 days later to pick him up at the door.

One good thing about the stay home stay safe part was that our children took good care of us – getting groceries, mowing the lawn, etc.

Another good thing was that I was able to catch up on my scrapbooking. I completed 6 albums.

A disappointing part is that my one and only Grandson is to graduate this year, so no pomp and ceremony. Having a virtual grad just isn't the same.

And of course not being able to cut or color my hair didn't make me feel good either!!

**Alice Hoyle** June 10,

I've tried to view the isolation because of Covid 19 as a 'positive'. I've used the time

to catch up on things I always wanted to create and/or finish creating. I've also done research on 'shirt tail' relatives and found some interesting information on them.

Finding a 'knit-along' online from a yarn store in Edmonton got me working on 2 shawl knitting projects. I finished knitting a wool pullover sweater for my husband that I started last year but set aside when outside chores took precedence.

I was excited to find out that the Heritage Museum had an online shopping presence: I ordered some knitting yarn from them and was able to go to the door of the museum and pick up my parcel. They have beautiful knitting yarn, if there are any knitters out there who don't know about this source.

I've been working on embroidery projects as well and I've been sewing masks for family members and mailing them off to those who aren't living nearby.

Personally, I haven't felt anxious, depressed, or like I'm in solitary confinement: being on a farm, I've been outside every day. I'm not a 'shopper' so my regular routine would not have been driving to town just for the 'fun' of it.

I've limited my trips for essentials; kept in touch with kids and grandkids via video conferencing and phone calls, and kept track of our daughter who lives and works in Germany through 'WhatsApp' on our cell phones and text messages.

We have missed personal contact with our grandkids but we did have an "end of the driveway" visit in May. Looking forward to some form of normality in the future!

**Lorraine McKay** June 11

Dealing with the Covid-19

Negative feelings-

- the most frustrating was the isolation, not

being able to visit with family and friends and the hugs

- missing having the Easter egg hunts with grandchildren and great-grandchild

- Mother's Day spent talking with family re phone calls

- only outing was to buy groceries

- getting limited information on the cause and effects of the virus

On the positive -

- saved on car gas

- used a lot of food from the freezer and canning

-the house got a thorough cleaning

-did more computer work, read books, played board games etc

Daily walks on the quiet country road, enjoying the wonders of nature, was a good way to relieve the frustrations of the isolation.

**Carole Koop** June 30

Family History Research During Covid-19

Genealogy is a nice diversion from the stresses of Covid-19. Four mini projects kept me occupied:

1) I tried researching the owners of the farm where I grew up in southern Manitoba prior to it becoming Dad's. I also looked for the owners of the farm immediately to the north where my grandparents lived when they first came to the area in 1918. I think I need to go to the Provincial Archives of Manitoba to finish the search.

2) I was emailed a request from my cousin on behalf of her granddaughter (KH) for "Who, When, Why, Where, How" about our immigrant ancestors. This was easy because my own grandson participated in the Immigrant Ancestor Canada 150 Project that AGS instigated and all the information on my Norwegian grandfather was close at hand. I had also submitted my Swedish

grandmother's story to "*Women Pioneers of Saskatchewan Volume 2*" published in 2014 by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society so that information was close at hand too. I just learned that KH received 100% on this Grade XI assignment.

3) I see on Ancestry that my Norwegian great grandparents are on a Public Member Tree. Sadly, there are mistakes. I have contacted the owner and maybe she'll correct the B,M,D errors. It's a case of American vs. Canadian dates...is 7-6-1851 the 7th of June or is it July 6th? Also, my grandfather's name is at the end of the list of 8 children but he was the second child. Patronymics was fading out and those 8 children ended up with a variety of chosen surnames. However, the good news is that this new found relative wants to come up from the Seattle area for our next family reunion which because of the pandemic has been postponed until July 2021.

4) My efforts to find information on my dad's Swedish uncle's mysterious death have been unsuccessful. Erik Naslund was a bachelor who worked as a guide in the Sioux Narrows area of Ontario. He had a cabin in the woods but boarded in Kenora, ON for the winters as his cabin was not winterized. His landlady painted a lovely fall scene of Erik's cabin and after his death about 1961 she gave it to family. I remember some uncles being summoned to Kenora when Erik's body was found in the woods but no details were told to us kids. I'd like to know more. Maybe a subscription to Newspapers.com would help.

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RESEARCH REPORT Lee Koop

On April 21, 2020 we received a request through our website from Cindy M. She stated: **"My great grandparents Per August Grundberg and Margreta**

Amalia Jonsdotter emigrated to Armana, Canada in 1904. I believe they may be of Sami (Lapp) heritage and was told that other Lapp people emigrated to the Wetaskiwin area. Do you have any information related to this topic. Per August's brother also emigrated and owned land around Wetaskiwin in the 1890's."

Alice checked the following books for the name Grundberg (Gronberg); *Treasured Memories - Gwynne and District, The Bitter 'n Sweet : the History of the Bittern Lake-Sifton District*, and *Pioneer Pathways, Volumes 1 & 2*. I checked *Siding 16-Wetaskiwin Volumes 1 & 2* (prior to 1960). The Grundberg name does not appear. Alice checked the Camrose Canadian transcripts for newspaper articles for the surname and was able to obtain 15 articles of family info from these transcripts.

Obituaries from PEEL and Find-a-Grave memorials were found for John and Christina Greenburg that were buried in the Wetaskiwin Old Cemetery in 1933 and 1927 respectively. Cindy replied that this was the wrong couple.

A Johan Grundberg was found in the 1901 Canada Census of Alberta.

Name	Age
Johan Grundberg	41
Josephina Grundberg	38
Emil Grundberg	14
Arthur Grundberg	9
Elin Grundberg	6
Harry Grundberg	4
Olga Grundberg	2

Cindy M. was notified of this family, but she did not verify that this was her great grandfather's brother. We continued research on the assumption that this was the correct family and tried to determine their location and dates in Alberta.

John Grundberg and his family were found in all Canadian Censuses from 1901 to 1926. Of course, the spelling of names played a major factor in finding the families. Both enumerators and transcribers to digital records had a field day with the surname, Grundberg. In the last three censuses the legal land description was used to find the family name and thus "guess" what the transcribers thought it was. Here are the names as recorded digitally by Ancestry.com:

- 1901 - Johan Grundberg
- 1906 - John C Grundberg
- 1911 - John Greendburg
- 1916 - Johan O Griwberg
- 1921 - John Krondberg
- 1926 - Josephine *undberg

The Grundberg family arrived in New York in July 1892 with 3 children and travelled to North Dakota where three additional children were born. The family did not show up in any USA census nor birth index. All six Canadian censuses indicate that the Grundberg family came to Alberta, Canada in the year 1900. We were unable to find any border crossing information. Three more children were born in Alberta.

A Homestead Application for NE 26-48-21-W4 was officially granted to Johan O. Grundberg on 23 November 1905. This land is approximately 5 miles north of Armena, AB. On the homestead application John states that he and the family have been on NE 26-48-21-W4 since the spring of 1900, even though he only got permission to homestead on 28 December 1901. The date John signed the application is 16 Sep 1905 and it was signed in Bittern Lake. Cindy's great grandfather's farm is approximately 5 miles due east of Armena and still owned by K & S Grundberg.

We have been unable to find any John Grundberg in Wetaskiwin County records nor in local history books. Since John himself said in the Homestead Application

that he lived on that 1/4 section of land north of Armena since the spring of 1900, and the 1901 Canada Census shows him living in the sub-district of Plant, which includes this 1/4 section, we surmised that John Grundberg probably never did reside in Wetaskiwin or the surrounding area, and if he did, it was for a very short period of time.

Cindy finally replied that this was not the correct family, but still did not provide the name of her great grandfather's brother. A point of interest, to me at least, was that the parents of Cindy's great grandfather, Per August Grundberg and this John Grundberg we did the research on, were: father, Pehr or J. Pehrsson and mother, C. A. Mattsdotter. Recently, I was thinking that maybe the brother's surname wasn't even Grundberg and he had chosen something else when patronymics were discontinued in Sweden.

We forwarded to Cindy the website addresses for ***Siding 16 - Wetaskiwin, Vol 1*** and ***Treasured Memories - Gwynne and District*** to at least give her information on the beginnings of these two communities.

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"I can't go out because of the virus" sounds weak, whiny and boring.

Try instead:  
"I've sworn an oath of solitude until the pestilence is purged from the lands"

Sounds more Valiant and Heroic, people might even think you are carrying a sword.

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