



# ROOTS & BRANCHES

**Wetaskiwin Branch**

of the

**Alberta Genealogical Society**

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

**Website:** [www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/wetaskiwin-branch)

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**JANUARY 2023**

**VOL. 21 #1**

## **EXECUTIVE**

**President:** Alice Hoyle  
**Vice President:** Lorraine McKay  
**Secretary:** Pam Cooke  
**Treasurer:** Leroy Koop

## **BRANCH MEETINGS**

Third Tuesday of the Month.  
Except July, August, December

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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 posted on our website.

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## **COMMITTEES**

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- **Programs**  
Claudia Malloch
- **Publicity**  
Alice Hoyle
- **Historian**  
Rosella Plaquin

## **LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER**

Thursdays: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Thursdays: 6:15 pm – 8:15 pm

## **BRANCH LIBRARY**

Closed until further notice  
due to City Archives closure  
If research is required contact  
[wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:wetaskiwin@abgenealogy.ca)

*The members of Wetaskiwin  
Branch extend our  
Condolences to  
Alice Hoyle  
on the passing of her husband  
Derek Hoyle  
Nov 13, 2022*

## **PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS**

As another year begins and I sit down to write my "President's Ponderings" article, I must admit I am finding it rather difficult to be upbeat and encouraging due to my own personal situation. So I am going to rely on someone else for that.

A very thankful and useful gift I received for Christmas was a box of coffee: not just any box of coffee, mind you! Inside the main box were 12 different boxes of coffee from regions around the world. Each box of specialty coffee also contained inspirational words of wisdom, as well as a description of the type of coffee and a bit about the region where the coffee was grown.

Because I am a coffee drinker (well, of course – what would you expect, with Norwegian and German heritage!) I have been enjoying these different coffees every day. BUT, and this is a big BUT, the messages inside the 12 boxes have given me hope. I will include some of the messages below because I have decided to keep each of them and review them from time to time, just to keep me on-track.

Day 2: Thankfulness – "If we choose to focus on cultivating a heart of gratitude, it then creates space within us to hope and flourish".

Day 3: Community – "we need each other, in unison and in symphony, striving together toward common goals".

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Day 6: Priorities – “we go to great lengths to accomplish priorities and goals we have set for ourselves. Some of these priorities are wise, while others less so. This Christmas, take inventory of what is commanding your time, attention, and resources. May this be a season to weigh our priorities and choose to pursue those which are truly meaningful”.

Day 7: Gifts – “may the gifts given or received this Christmas hold a deeper meaning – a meaning beyond the price tag that leads to the heart behind them”.

I hope some of these hold a special meaning for you. May the New Year be a year that offers you hope, joy, comfort, meaning and love.

Alice.

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#### EDITOR'S CORNER

Sharon Aney

Best Wishes .. from Russ and me ... that 2023 will be a year of Hope, Peace, Good Health and Optimism for you and those you love... and for the world.

A few weeks ago I met up with an acquaintance who I had not seen in several years. She could hardly wait to tell me that during that last gathering a third person was very negatively carrying on about the ills of society, and blaming them on the educational system. Apparently I spoke up in defense of teachers. It made quite an impression on her (my acquaintance).

I have no memory of this incident, but I do not like to hear unfair criticism, and it seems that I did make a difference to her by speaking out.

That being said, public arguments are usually disagreeable, and I would try to not

step into one if I did not have information or experience to support my position..... It can be difficult to continue a conversation if I have my foot in my mouth! 😊

However, misinformation should not go unchallenged ..... I think.

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*You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.*

*What you do makes a difference!  
You just have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.*

Jane Goodall

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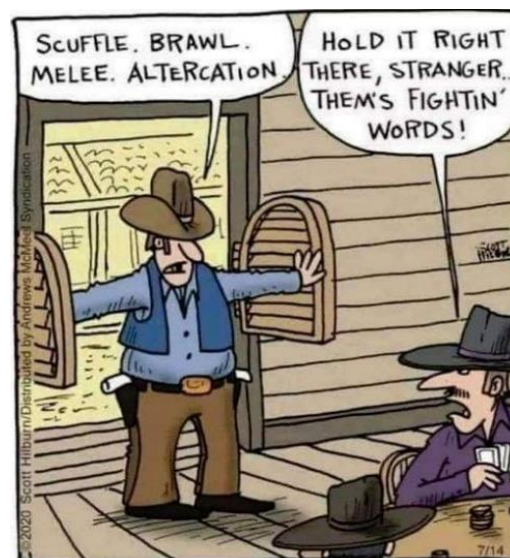
#### GOOD NEWS!

CITY OF WETASKIWIN PRESS RELEASE:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023

The City and Heritage Museum have reached an agreement for the organization of three major annual events and the **management of the City of Wetaskiwin Archives.**

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## MEETING PROGRAMS

**SEPTEMBER 2022** - held via Zoom

Claudia presented a technical video by Diahn Southard, author of "Your DNA Guide – the Book". "Making YDNA and MTDNA Part of Your Family History".

**YDNA** is the direct male line test to make connections with your male ancestors.

**mtDNA** does the same for female ancestors but is less accurate.

**Autosomal** explores both, such as Ancestry DNA test.

**OCTOBER 2022** - held via zoom

Claudia sent out a syllabus ahead of the meeting, and presented a video: "Hidden Stories, Exploring the Unexpected in Family History Research" by Jennifer Zinck.

She discussed research techniques that she used to discover what happened to 3 individuals who went missing from their families at various times and for various reasons in the past. An interesting and instructive video.

**NOVEMBER 2022** – held via zoom

The program was members sharing stories of military experiences in their families.

We heard stories of uncles, grandfathers, great uncles, fathers-in-law who were in various theatres of war during WWI, the Russo – Polish War and WWII. Some members had been able to visit war cemeteries, memorials, etc. Some families gave up to 4, 5, & 6 sons to the war effort, and rejoiced that all came home safely; members now treasure their photos, medals and diaries.

We heard of their injuries, wounds being treated with maggots in the pre-penicillin days..... and that what we would now call PTSD was treated by encouraging them to use alcohol, with the result that they became alcoholics and their post-war lives suffered.

The families of military people were also affected. Parents worried. One family was removed from their Polish village to a refugee camp in Czechoslovakia, where their baby died. A war bride was dismayed to come from a prosperous home in Holland to a primitive home on the prairies. On a happier note, a mother has had the honor of placing the wreath on the cenotaph in her community because six of her sons went off to war, and all returned safely.

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## INTERESTING CONTACT/RESEARCH REQUEST

Alice Hoyle

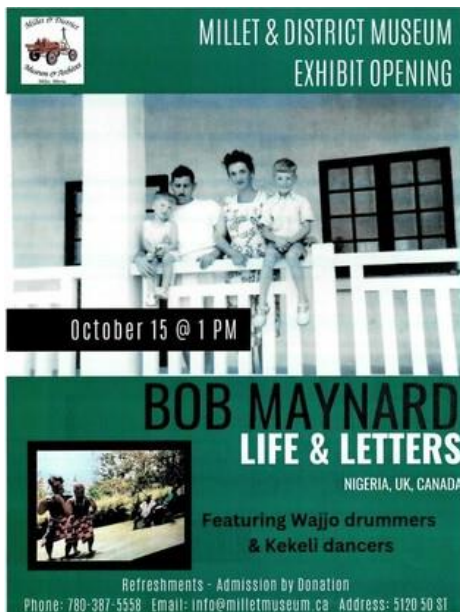
In August of 2022 I was contacted by a representative of Municipal Planning Services (MPS) located in Edmonton. They were assisting the County of Wetaskiwin in the preparation of the County's new Municipal Development Plan. As part of the document, **MPS** wanted to include a brief summary of the County's settlement history. The County had recommended that MPS's personnel contact the Wetaskiwin Genealogical Society! I found that very interesting.

I contacted the MPS representative and we had a lengthy conversation about the settlement of this region. In particular, the representative wanted to know about major waves of settlement, establishment of hamlets or localities, major transportation connections, etc. In addition to our shared information, I was able to refer him to some of the local history books – the book “Freeway West” has a very good introduction to the establishment of Wetaskiwin county and how it was settled.

The report created by MPS was presented to the County and this in turn was part of the County’s public presentation of their new Municipal Development Plan scheduled for the fall of 2022. I was told that WGS would be cited as one of the sources of information in this report.

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**BOB MAYNARD**, a member of our branch, was honoured at the Millet and District Museum on October 15, 2022 as a “Pioneer” of Millet, in recognition of his volunteering at the Archives and Museum over many years.



Wetaskiwin / Mascwacis MLA - Rick Wilson with Bob Maynard

At the same time the Millet & District Museum opened an exhibit of his genealogy ... in three display cases. It is based upon the collection of over 900 letters that Bob’s mother had saved during the years of their courtship, 10 years spent living in Nigeria, and the family’s later years back in England

*Congratulations Bob!*

*Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision.  
The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn’t make a decision.*

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**WOMEN OF ASPENLAND** Exhibit at Wetaskiwin Heritage Museum  
**JACQUELINE (LAKELAND) JEVNE**



Jacqueline (Jacquie) Lakeland Jevne was born June 30, 1926 in Medicine Hat, Alberta and spent her entire life in this province. She spent her early years in Calgary, graduating from Western Canada High school.

Upon graduation from the Calgary normal School (Teachers College), Mrs. Jevne taught in the Wetaskiwin school system for ten years before resigning to manage the family farm during her husband's absences on frequent business trips related to his commitment to the cooperative movement. She had married Morris Jevne in 1944.



Jacqueline and Morris Jevne, 1981

She too was deeply involved in the cooperative philosophy, which took her and her husband across Canada and the United States many times and twice to Europe. In 1969, she was Canada's representative to the Triennial Conference of Women Co-operators of the World held in Hamburg, Germany.

After resigning from teaching, she engaged in volunteer work in the community. Indicative of her dedication to worthy causes was her effort in saving the Vang Lutheran Church, which at eighty-five years, was the oldest Lutheran Church west of Winnipeg. The church was in danger of closing until Mrs. Jevne conducted a survey, followed by personal interviews, and then printed a summary of her findings which was no doubt of considerable influence in saving the church.

Between 1968 and 1971, she returned to part-time university study to specialize in social sciences. Her major study areas were in courses relevant to the understanding of the group process and leadership dynamics.

During 1972 and 1973, Mrs. Jevne launched a new career as a private consultant for program design and project management. Her work in this area included many major assignments associated with agencies such as the Alberta Civil Servants Association, the National Man and Resources Program, the Rural Education and Development Association, the Canada Farm Management Committee, Canada Agriculture, Women of Unifarm, and the Goldeye Foundation.

Tribute to Jacqueline Jevne at Goldeye Lake Centre west of Rocky Mountain House, 1995.



In 1980, the Jevne family was presented with a Farm Family Award from the local agricultural service board and the Chamber of Commerce.

Jacqueline Jevne earned the respect of many Albertans for her dedication to teaching rural families how to improve the quality of their lives and for her efforts towards improving the image of farm women. She has also earned the honour of being admitted to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Jacque passed away on October 28, 1984.

Information compiled in 1996

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## VOLUNTEER RESEARCH

By Lee Koop

### JONAS NILSSON / JONAS NELSON, 1871 - 1954

On October 25, 2022 the Wetaskiwin Branch received a research request from Björn Hagelin of Sweden. He stated:

*"To whom it may concern;  
I live in Sweden and is trying to follow Jonas Nilsson / Jonas Nelson born in Ragunda, Sweden, on Jan 9, 1871. He emigrated with adopted son Nils Johan Nilsson / Nelson born Oct 26 1898.  
Jonas Nelson seems to have settled in Canada where he might have died in Wetaskiwin on March 28, 1954.  
Can you help me confirm that he was the correct person Jonas born in 1871?  
Thank you in advance for your help!*

*Bjorn"*

The first resource searched was the AGS<sup>1</sup> Surname Database. A Jonas Nelson was listed.

NELSON, Jonas, Wetaskiwin Old Cemetery, Wetaskiwin			
Surname	NELSON	Cemetery	Wetaskiwin Old Cemetery
Given Name	Jonas	Address	Wetaskiwin
Born/Died Date	- 28 Mar 1954	Plot No.	3S 105a
Age	83y	Legal	42404614NW
Branch / Society	Edmonton / AGS	Record Type	CEM
Complete	Y 2004	Remarks	

Jonas died on March 28, 1954, was 83 years old and is buried in Plot No. 3S 105a in the Wetaskiwin Old Cemetery. His implied age would make his birth year about 1871.

A visit to the cemetery produced a site labelled "3S 105" but no monument or other indication of the exact burial site for Jonas.

The PAA<sup>2</sup> Death Registration Index was the next resource searched. Again a Jonas Nelson was listed.

1 DEATH		DATE		RECORD IDENTITY		PLACE OR CROSS REFERENCE		CTL	CI	RY	MDB	YB	PB	B #
SURNAME	GIVEN NAMES	M.	DAY	YR.	PR.	NUM	REF	AMEND	MAIDEN NAME	INITIALS	BIRTHPLACES			
NELSON	JONAS	3	28	54		002-672	WETASKIWIN	M 91	54	0109	71	73		

Besides giving Jonas's death date and place of death, the index states that the MDB ie. month-date of birth was January 9 and the YB ie. year of birth was (18)71.

The actual Death Registration was then ordered from the PAA<sup>2</sup>. The following information was obtained.

Name of Deceased: Jonas Nelson  
 Place of Death: Wetaskiwin Hospital  
 Cause of Death: Congestive Heart Failure  
 Residence: Lutheran Home, Wetaskiwin  
 Birth Date: January 9, 1871  
 Birth Place: Överammer, Sweden  
 Marital Status: Single  
 Occupation: Retired Farmer since 1945

<b>1. PLACE OF DEATH</b> City, Town or Village of <u>Wetaskiwin Hospital</u> <small>(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the name instead of the street and number)</small>			
Municipality (Name and Number) <u>Wetaskiwin</u>			
<b>2. LENGTH OF STAY</b> (in years, months and days)		In Municipality where death occurred <u>3 yrs.</u>	In Province <u>1911</u>
		In Canada (if immigrant) <u>1911</u>	
<b>3. PRINT NAME OF DECEASED</b>	Surname or Last Name	<u>NELSON</u>	
	All Given or Christian Names	<u>JONAS</u>	
<b>4. REGULAR RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:</b>			
City, Town or Village of <u>Lutheran Home sds Wetaskiwin</u>		Province of <u>ALBERTA</u>	
Municipality (Name and Number) <u>Wetaskiwin</u>			
<b>5. SEX</b>	<b>6. CITIZENSHIP</b> <small>(See marginal note)</small>	<b>7. RACIAL ORIGIN</b> <small>(See marginal note)</small>	<b>8. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced</b> <small>(Write the word)</small>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Canadian</u>	<u>Swedish</u>	<u>Single</u>
<b>9. BIRTHPLACE</b> (City, Town or Rural Municipality — Province or Country) <u>Överammer Sweden</u>			
<b>10. Date of Birth</b>	<b>11. AGE</b>		
(Month by name) <u>Jan</u>	(Day) <u>9</u>	(Year) <u>1871</u>	Years <u>83</u> Months <u>2</u> Days <u>19</u>
			If less than one day hrs. or min.
<b>OCCUPATION</b>	<b>12. (a) Trade, profession or kind of work as farmer, teamster, office clerk, etc.</b>		
	<b>(b) Kind of industry or business as agriculture, lumbering, bank, etc.</b>		
			(If "Labourer" specify kind of work above)
<b>13. Date deceased last worked at this occupation</b>		<b>14. Total years spent in this occupation</b>	
<u>1945</u>		<u>lifo</u>	

After forwarding digital copies to Björn he replied on October 29, 2022 with:

*" Great, Lee! Confirms everything. Too bad he was single - but simplifies my task.....  
 If you ever get a question re Swedish relatives, let me know and I will try to repay you.  
 Björn  
 PS The location is spelled Överammer and is a place in the region of Ragunda in Jämtland"*

Superscript:

- 1 - Alberta Genealogical Society
- 2 - Provincial Archives of Alberta

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## **LAUNCH OF CENSUS SEARCH: New tool makes it easier to find family roots in Canada**

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November 17, 2022—Gatineau, Quebec—Library and Archives Canada has launched Census Search, a new digital search tool that will make it easier than ever to search Canada's census records.

The [new Census Search tool](#) is a one-stop-shop to search more than 44 million census records all at once rather than searching 17 census databases individually. It includes pre-Confederation and Canadian census records from 1825 to 1926.

Census Search is part of Library and Archives Canada's efforts to [improve the online experience](#) of its website users. The new tool will be improved upon over time based on user feedback. Use the feedback link under the Census Search logo.

Users are encouraged to adopt Census Search as their primary census research tool. While the 17 stand-alone census databases will run in parallel for now, they will be decommissioned in 2023.

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/corporate/news/2022/pages/launch-of-census-search.aspx>

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## **SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT PUBLISHING YOUR GENEALOGY DATA**

*19 Jul 2022 3:54 PM Anonymous*

*From Dick Eastman/s Genealogy newsletter*

Watching the comments posted to this newsletter's web site prompts many questions: Just how private are the facts that we record? Can we really "protect" our genealogy data? Should I copyright my data? Is my data automatically under copyright protection when I publish? Should I keep my data secret? Is it a good idea to do so? Or should I publish my genealogy data for all to see? I do not know all the answers, but perhaps I can offer a few thoughts for your digestion.

First of all, there is one major issue that we all need to recognize: facts are not protected by copyright laws in the United States. A collection of facts is public domain information. We might be able to claim a copyright on the originality used in arranging of those facts, and we might be able to claim a compilation copyright on large collections of facts; but each individual fact remains in the public domain.

Next, there is the question of exactly what is "my data." The genealogy data that I have collected consists of a collection of facts. As already stated, facts are not "owned" or copyrighted by anyone. I don't own that information, at least not in the legal sense.

Next, most of the genealogy data we collect is obtained from public domain sources. I know that I obtained most of my information from birth records, marriage records, census records, military pension applications, and more. All of these are public domain sources of information and are already available to others, should they wish to look. In no way is the data to be considered "my private data" as I have no ownership over it. I simply transcribed data that is already in the public domain. I copied the information for my personal use, the same way anyone else can do by spending the same effort that I did to find the original (public) records. Therefore, it is not "my" data, it is everyone's public domain data that I happened to transcribe.

In a few cases, I may have supplemented those public facts with even more information that I obtained from family members or other non-public sources. Indeed, I did obtain a few pieces of information from a family Bible in my possession, information that has never been published before. However, the U.S. laws still insist that facts cannot be copyrighted. I interpret this to mean that facts are facts, regardless of the source of information. Whether I obtain a fact from a public record or from a private conversation or from an ancestor's Bible, it is still a fact, is not subject to copyright, and is not owned by me. A family relationship that I learned from a cousin is also a fact, not my "private" bit of information.

Next, what is the purpose of my hiding the information? Am I protecting anybody or any facts? As already mentioned, the facts are mostly public already. Most facts are readily available in public domain census records, birth records, death records and other locations. I cannot "protect" those facts. In the case of deceased people, I don't see how I am protecting anyone. I never publicize information about living people; so, whether I publish my data online or not, I am not protecting anyone.

I have seen arguments that "Other people may take my data and republish it." In my mind, that's a good thing. If I have done a good job of research, wouldn't I want the correct information to be available to other descendants of these people, my distant cousins?

Next, I have seen arguments that "Other people publish inaccurate information, so I don't trust them and I will not publish my information." This strikes me as self-defeating: you are allowing their inaccurate information to remain unchallenged and uncorrected. When others search the web, they will find incorrect information and will probably perpetuate it by republishing those errors themselves. If you have correct information, it seems to me that you could do more good by publishing the correct information and thereby refuting the errors.

If you collect stories about the family and retell them in narrative form, you may be able to claim copyrights and "ownership" of those stories. However, that ownership excludes the facts buried within the stories. Facts are still facts and are not protected by copyrights or by any other legal protections in the United States.

Again, I do not have all the answers; but there is one thing that I am certain of: private individuals do not own "facts."

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**THE BOARDING OF FLIGHT 2023 HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.....**

Your luggage should only contain the best souvenirs from 2022.

The bad and sad moments should be left in the garbage....

The duration of the flight will be 12 months. So, tighten your seatbelt.

The next stop-overs will be: health, love, joy, harmony, well-being and peace.

The captain offers you the following menu which will be served during the flight:

A cocktail of friendship, a supreme of health, a gratin of prosperity, a bowl of excellent news, a salad of success, a cake of happiness, ..... all accompanied by bursts of laughter.....

Wishing you an enjoyable trip on board flight 2023.....

*Happy New Year!*