

PUBLISHED BY THE ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY EDMONTON BRANCH
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LOST 'N FOUND

Memorable Moccasins from our Early Days Story and photos by John J.N. Chalmers

Displayed at the Royal Alberta Museum is a dainty pair of moccasins made 165 years ago and were never worn! They were collected by James Carnegie (1827-1905), the Ninth Earl of Southesk, who came from Scotland to travel across western Canada years before Confederation in 1867 and before the March West of the North-West Mounted Police in 1874 brought law and order to a vast land.



In 1859-60, Carnegie traveled westward from Fort Garry through the Edmonton area and on to the Rocky Mountains, during which time he purchased high quality craft items from Indigenous people. One of the items Carnegie acquired was a pair of moccasins made by Mary Tate, a Métis woman whose husband, Philip was a Métis hunter employed by the Hudson's Bay Company, who travelled with Carnegie.

Returning to Scotland, the Earl of Southesk took his purchases with him and they remained in family hands for over 15 decades. In 2006, his descendants sold 43 pieces from their ancestor's collection to help retain the family lands in

Scotland. The Royal Alberta Museum purchased 33 of those items at a cost of 1.6 million dollars. Today, Mary Tate's moccasins are evidence and a reminder not only of Southesk's journeys, but are also mementos of early days in western Canada, displayed at the museum among other products of Indigenous crafts and traditions.

The moccasins prompted soldier, songwriter, storyteller and singer, Tim Isberg, to commemorate them in one of his songs inspired by people and events in prairie history. His song, "Fire Kept Alight," based on the life and work of Mary Tate, along with the moccasins themselves, honours and remembers a pioneer woman, thanks to the adventures of James Carnegie. See www.timisberg.com



As well, Carnegie wrote of his adventures in Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains, published in 1875, a book that can be downloaded and saved free as a pdf file by clicking on this title.

Although Carnegie mentions the husband of Mary Tate many times in his book, only by last name, he wrote only briefly of her, in stating that, "Mrs. Tate had been doing some sewing for me, and was now engaged in making me a few pairs of moccasins to take home on my return."

The book is more than an adventure story – it is an account of what life was like in an unsettled land where survival was of paramount importance at that time. Mary Tate is mentioned only twice in the book’s more than 450 pages, but today her memorable moccasins at the Royal Alberta Museum are a permanent reminder of life when Edmonton was nothing more than a fur trading fort.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR



This is the last edition of The Twig that I will be publishing as I move to other responsibilities with AGS Edmonton. Thank you to all the members who submitted stories, photos, news items, and thank you for reading it.

If you want to see a newsletter continue please contact president@edmontongenealogy.ca to volunteer. Please!

WIKI TREE

Be a part of something big.

1. We collaborate on a single family tree for everyone to enjoy, for free, forever.
2. WikiTree is the most accurate & trusted global tree because we work together, carefully evaluate sources, and incorporate DNA.
3. Modern family history is private.

<https://www.wikitree.com/>

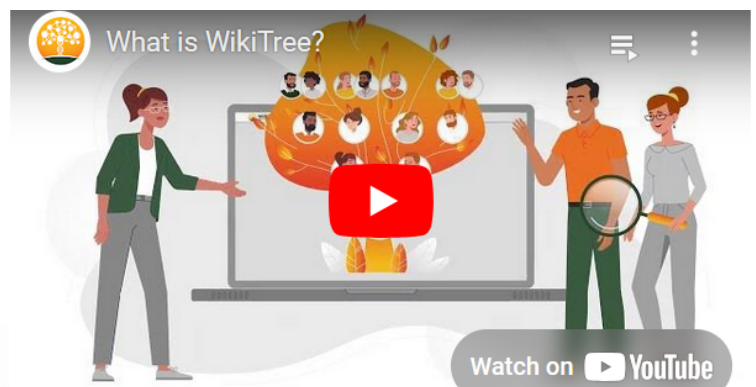


LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and 3rd Saturdays, 10am-3pm.

Check the website for updates or call the office when extreme weather events occur as library may be closed.

<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/library>



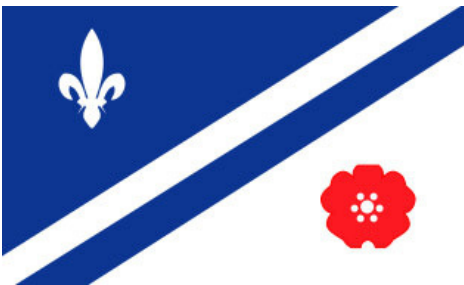
CALENDAR



German SIG

Wednesday Feb 5, 7 - 9 pm, Zoom
German Genealogy - Some Research Methods
Presented by John Althouse
Bring your questions!

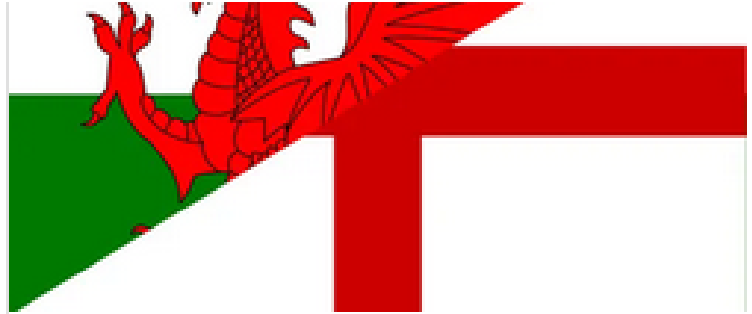
<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/german-sig>



French SIG

Tuesday April 1, 1 - 2:30 pm, Zoom
How to use AI tools to translate French text.
Presented by Jean-Yves Vanier-Verbeek.

<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/french-sig>



England Wales SIG

Thursday February 6, 2025, 7-9 pm, via Zoom.
"Roger Conant: A Non-conformist Puritan from Devon"
"Demonstration: RootsTech Site and the FamilySearch Wiki County Page"

Thursday March 6, 2025, 7-9 pm, via Zoom.
Special Presentation by Dave Tyler of LDS,
"England: Beyond the Basics".

Register at:
<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events>

NEW Special Interest Group - Mac Genealogy SIG Leader - Les Campbell

The SIG will meet the second Monday of January, March, May, September and November at 7:00 pm at the AGS library. The focus of the meeting is on the use of the Mac computer and Reunion software. Members are encouraged to ask questions and share their advice. Information will be provided about product features, updates and best practices. The first meeting will be in March 2025.

Register at:
<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events>

LOOKING BACK

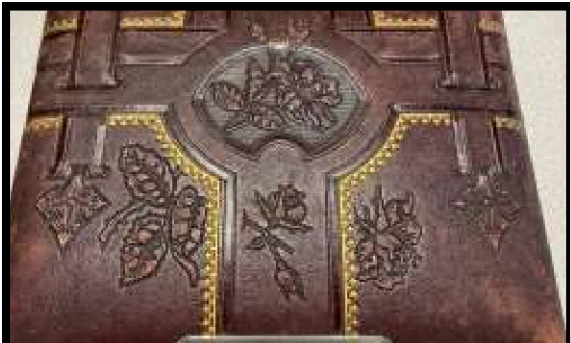
What's the story behind this mysterious photo album dropped at Global Edmonton?

By Sarah Ryan / Global News

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10928601/mystery-photo-album-global-edmonton/>

An antique photo album, nearly a century and a half old, was mysteriously delivered to Global Edmonton with no note and no return address. Sarah Ryan has been trying to piece together the puzzle for over a year and a half. The album is full of sepia photos, many of which were taken in Scotland and pictures depicting life on the Prairies. First, I thought perhaps the book had been stolen. but Edmonton police didn't have any reports of missing antique photo albums.

I thought I'd bring the album to a local photography expert: Fay Cunningham. She believes the oldest images are from the late 1800s and were taken in studio by a skilled photographer and based on the clothes believes the family was wealthy.



I also reached out to Barbara Isherwood, an art history lecturer at the University of Toronto. She believes the album is a late Victorian photo album, which contains "carte de visite" images, which were passed around to friends and neighbours "rather like trading cards," Isherwood said. "They were affordable and hugely popular. Everyone from royalty to merchants had them made."

I found a website that documents Victorian photographers from Glasgow, Scotland. I reached out to our talented IT specialist to see if the metadata might reveal who's behind the website, but no luck.

The images appear to show a Prairie landscape. Our thought? The family immigrated to Canada, bringing this album with them. Then I found two names written on the back of this photo of two young girls: Lillian and Hellen Shipp.

That clue led me to reach out to Lynn Fogwill and Claudine Nelson, with the Alberta Genealogical Society. Volunteers there used those names, and this photo of Sunny Field Farm, to trace the Shipp family back in history.

The Genealogical Society connected me to a woman with the last name Shipp, but her husband has long since passed away and she didn't know anything about any album. Unfortunately, her husband's family also wanted nothing to do with it or Global's story. They didn't even care to see it. The Edmonton Archives has already expressed interest in keeping it and Global News intends to donate it.

Antique photo albums like this aren't worth much financially. It's the family's memories within that are valuable — the snapshots of days gone by. While the album clearly isn't of significance to the Shipp, it is to those who strive to preserve history.

NEWSIES



Browse ▾

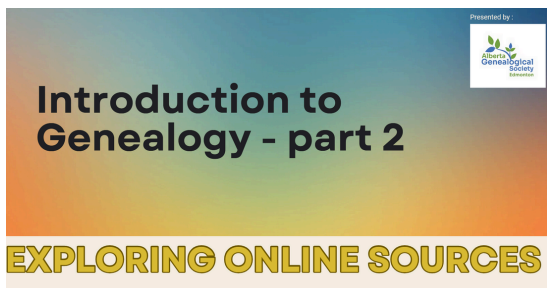
What's On ▾



Edmonton Public Library Presentation By Kurt Paterson

On Dec 3, Elly Vledder our new Community Connector volunteer, and I hosted a presentation at the Riverbend EPL location for Seniors Drop in - 10:30 to 11:30 am. The group was very active and we had about 18 people in attendance.

We received a number of positive comments and would recommend doing more EPL presentations in 2025.



Email Transition

Our Web Social Communications team has been working behind the scenes to coordinate a transition from our current email server to Google Mail in early January.

This is another step in more fully integrating into Google Workspace and provides the superior performance of Gmail to improve on issues existing with the current provider.

Please refer any issues to:
webmaster@edmontongenealogy.ca

Do You Know Someone Who Needs Help With Their Research?

Our experienced research team helps members and non-members in sourcing and finding key documents in their search for their family.

Please contact

research@edmontongenealogy.ca



Register for the upcoming Rootstech sessions.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online/pass>

Class schedule is now available online.



INTRODUCING NEW VOLUNTEERS

Meet Your New Membership Chair: Bradley Pierson

Hello, Edmonton Branch! I'm thrilled to introduce myself as your new Membership Chair. My name is Bradley Pierson, and I've been an obsessed genealogist since age 13. My journey into family history started as a teenager—and in honesty, while other high schoolers were skipping class to hang out with friends, I was sneaking off to the Provincial Archives of Alberta to dig through documents.

These days, I am the founder of Trouvay, specializing in using DNA genealogy to identify unknown human remains and solve violent crimes. My deepest passion is supporting Indigenous communities in bringing their missing loved ones home, driven by the profound peace that comes from discovering the truth.

As Membership Chair, I aim to inspire my generation to embrace the sense of discovery that genealogy offers. My goal is to help show youth and young adults the impact family history can have—whether it's solving family mysteries or finding a deeper sense of belonging, genealogy holds something profound for everyone.

I'm looking forward to connecting with all of you and hearing your ideas on how we can grow and strengthen our branch. Together, we can ensure that the Alberta Genealogical Society continues to thrive for the generations ahead. Here's to preserving the past and building the future.



Welcome to our new Member Development volunteer: Sandy Smith Retired | Genealogy Enthusiast

Born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Sandy Smith recently retired after a rewarding career as an Administrative Assistant with the Edmonton Public School Board. Over the course of 26 years, she provided exceptional



organizational support, developed strong relationships within the school community.

Sandy's passion for genealogy began in her late teens and has been a constant throughout her life. She has been an active member of the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society since 2001, where she continues to expand her knowledge and help others trace their family roots. In addition, Sandy has spent the past year volunteering at the Edmonton Branch library, sharing her skills and engaging with the community.

Now an empty nester, Sandy enjoys camping and traveling with her husband, Joe. Her other hobbies include reading, scrapbooking, quilting, knitting, and crochet, which allow her to express her creativity and unwind. In retirement, Sandy looks forward to exploring new adventures, continuing her volunteer work, and further deepening her love for genealogy.

Welcome to our new Library Chair: Virginia Crawford



I am a bookkeeper by trade, but my true passion is family history. I grew up watching the example of my grandparents who were avid genealogists. My grandfather was the first president of the Lethbridge & District branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society. I have been working on my own family history quite steadily for about 10 years.

I was a Family History Consultant in my church from 2018 - 2022. This included training consultants to teach others how to do their family history, volunteering at the Riverbend Family Search Center, and encouraging involvement among all ages. I was then in charge of the Riverbend Family Search Center from 2020 - 2022. I managed the staff and the

physical resources. The area authorities wanted to shut down the center. I was one of the major advocates for keeping it open and available to the public.

I have been taking online University courses through BYU-Idaho in Family History to gain more skills and more knowledge in the field of Genealogy. I really enjoy helping people find their ancestors, find connection and a feeling of belonging.



IMPORTANT MEETING TO ATTEND

Mark February 27 on your calendar for a very important discussion on the future of the AGS Edmonton Branch at our Annual General Meeting.

Register for this Zoom meeting which starts at 7 pm.

<https://www.edmontongenealogy.ca/events>



LINKING IN

New computers at the Edmonton Branch Library, by Kurt Paterson

We are very pleased to announce a few computer upgrades in the library! As you may recall, in June of this year, we upgraded the four patron workstation monitors to 27-inch full high-definition monitors. To date, the feedback has been positive. Patrons like the larger screen and the increased clarity of images.

Earlier this week, Al Brettnell (the computer tech guy) and I were in the AGS Edmonton Branch library to install 3 new mini-computers at the Granny Smith, McIntosh, and Golden Delicious workstations. They use less power and have a smaller physical footprint. They fit on the back of the monitor and take up almost no space. The “mini” has laptop components, was purchased at a lower price point, and has the necessary USB ports for patrons to use so they can copy their research directly to a thumb drive.

Some additional enhancements were added this week include the following:

- USB cable at the base of the monitor stand allows easy access for patrons to scan and download documents on their thumb drive.
- Software was installed that fixes the location of the icons on the desktop so that it is more familiar when visitors come back to use the library computers. The location of the various icons are the same on each workstation.
- The size of the screen icons has been increased making them easier to read.
- If there is a need to reboot the computer, the square power button is on the back left face of the mini computer, above the “plugs” as shown in the attached photo.

As with any computer installation or upgrade, we will need to work through any hiccups or adjustments when we re-open the library in the new year.

Please forward any questions you may have to Al if you encounter any glitches.
ABrettnell@gmail.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Note: This list represents the positions after the February 27th AGM.

Executive

President - **vacant**
 Vice President - **vacant**
 Treasurer - Sharon Schnell
 Immediate Past President & Nominations Chair - Kurt Paterson
 Recording Secretary - **vacant**

Committee Chairs

Archivist/ Historian - Thea Hawryluk
 Branch Newsletter - **vacant**
 Correspondence Secretary - **vacant**
 Education Committee Chair - Susan Laycock
 Library Chair - Virginia Crawford
 Membership - Bradley Pierson
 Online Meeting Coordinator - **vacant**
 Publicity - **vacant**
 Research Services - **vacant**
 Social Media - **vacant**
 Web and Communications Lead - **vacant**
 Webmaster2 - Kelcey Carlisle



PRIVATE BROWSING

All major web browsers offer some form of private browsing mode, which prevents history, cookies, and site data from being saved on your device. Here's how to access private browsing on some popular browsers.

For Windows Mac Android and IOS

Browser & Private browsing shortcut keys

Microsoft Edge CTRL + SHIFT + N
 Google Chrome CTRL + SHIFT + N
 Mozilla Firefox CTRL + SHIFT + P
 Opera CTRL + SHIFT + N

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Education committee members:

- Tracing Your Family Tree (TYFT) - Sheila Genaille
- Resource Development - **vacant**
- Member Development - Sandy Smith
- Programs - **vacant**
- Community Connector - Elly Vledder

Library committee members:

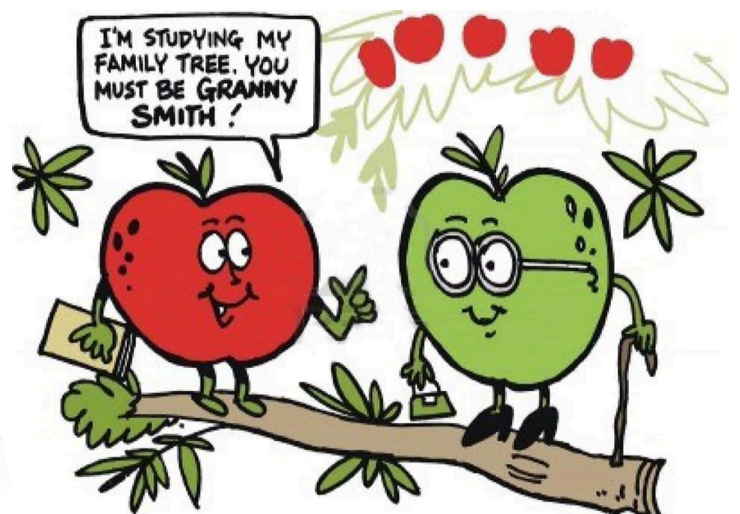
- Cataloging - Kate Binder
- Susan Waters

Research Services committee members:

- Claudine Nelson
- Pat Pettitt

Special Interest Groups (SIG's)

- Canada/US - Nestor Martinez
- Technology For Genealogy - Art Taylor/ Kelcey Carlisle
- DNA - Ellen Thompson-Jennings
- England/Wales - Bev Wardell
- French - Jean Yves Vanier-Verbeek
- German - Sylvia Hertling
- Scottish & Irish - Neal Cody
- MAC Genealogy - Les Campbell
- Postscripts (writing family history) - **vacant**
- Scotland - **vacant**
- Ukraine - **vacant**





AGS MEMBERSHIP

Terms and Benefits

Membership Term: 1 Jan. to 31 Dec.

Individual or Family \$50.00
Senior (65+) \$45.00
Young Adult (age 18-23) \$25.00
Student (grades 1-12) \$5.00



Contact:

<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/become-a-member>

and select Edmonton Branch.

Membership Benefits:

Access to genealogy subscription websites.
Access to FamilySearch Affiliate Library Resources.
Daily use of library at no charge.
Borrow library books.
Member pricing for courses and seminars, including participation in our Special Interest Groups (SIG's) focusing on research in specific countries.
Digital copy of *Relatively Speaking* quarterly journal. Printed copy is additional \$10.00.
Email notice of upcoming events.
And more!

It also makes a great gift!



MEMBERSHIP CONTEST WINNER

by Kurt Paterson

We have a winner for our contest! It's L. Hunter of the Brooks Branch. Congratulations!



MACEWAN STUDENT PROJECTS

MacEwan student Connor Thomson submitted his final report. You will learn more about this at the February AGM meeting. I liked these two quotes he included in his report.

Young Genealogists: what can YOU do to nurture the next generation of family historians?
by thehistoryinterpreter

Kinship, Affinity and Connectedness: Exploring the Role of Genealogy in Personal Lives

Anne-Marie Kramer