

Clandigger

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Final authority for acceptance or rejection of material is determined by the Editor and Editorial Committee. We do not assume any responsibility for errors or opinions on the part of the contributors.

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From the editor - Sheila Genaille
Happy New Year - Aspinoyê - Bonne Année

I hope you found treasures online and discovered new web sites and enjoyed INTERNET SOURCES that was shared in each edition of Clandigger.

As the new year begins, *I acknowledge with gratitude* members who submitted articles to the 2020 issues of Clandigger.

Heather Harper for regularly providing *From the Stacks*
Arlene Borgestede for regularly providing *Library News*

Articles May 2020 issue:

The Pull of Loving Hearts - **Louise Seymour**

Philip Coates, Trinity Bay, Newfoundland - **Ruth McConnell**

Spanish Flu - **Gloria (Kennett) Cathcart**

Articles July 2020

Timelines: Visual Tabulations - **Jean Crozier**

Articles September 2020

Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society's Interpretive Signs

Norma Leader and **Ivy Trumpour**

Local Historical Attractions - **Denise Daubert**

I hope you enjoyed the following articles written by the Editor

February 2020

Ancestor's Surnames: Naming Patterns

An Early Edmontonian Laurent Garneau

May 2020

Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting

July 2020

Consanguinity

September 2020

Métis Scrip: 6-8 Land Speculators and Fraud

December 2020

- France Military Medals
- Hearing an Accent in Written Records: A Misnomer?
- Kindred Spirits
- Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Clandigger welcomes articles and I thank you in advance for any articles that may be submitted in 2021

deadline for articles in next Clandigger is April 1st

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"History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all."

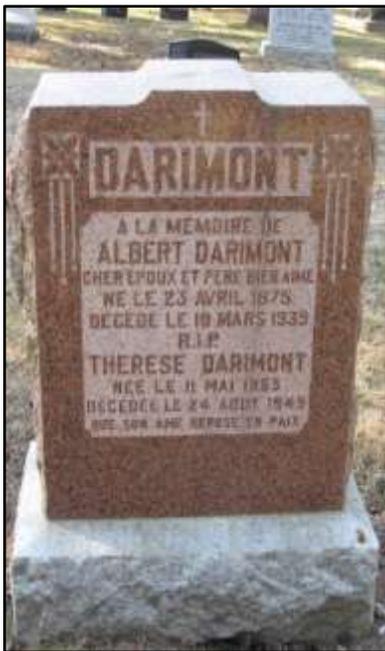
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Hunting for a Spy in Belgium

By Colleen Murray

My maternal Belgian line was the most neglected side of my family tree. My mother had inherited two extensive compiled genealogies that made research on this line seem less necessary, and it wasn't until in preparation for a visit to Brussels that I really turned my efforts to this side of my tree.

While the compiled genealogies were a great starting point, they lacked citations and more evidence was required. Luckily for me, Belgian civil records are excellent, and today many of them have been digitized by Family Search. Since most of these records are not yet indexed, it took some effort to learn the administrative divisions, the arrangement of records within the digitized microfilms and even a little bit of Dutch. With time and experience, it became easier to find what I was looking for, and I managed to move back several generations with relative ease.



Tombstone of (Nicolas) Albert Darimont St. Joachim's cemetery, Edmonton

The Belgian ancestor of greatest interest to me, however, was actually my immigrant ancestor, Nicolas Albert Darimont (1875-1939), who moved to Canada in 1909.¹ Family lore said that he had served in the Belgian army in the Congo, where he had fallen ill from heat stroke while digging a grave. Despite being pensioned early due to ill health, the family story says he returned to Belgium to serve as a spy during World War One. Obviously, such a sensational story demanded to be researched!

Nicolas' Belgian military file contained a great deal of helpful information.² Nicolas was a top student, and he spoke English and Italian (in addition to French and Flemish). He volunteered for the Belgian army in 1894 for an eight-year stint (a year prior to when mandatory service would have required it).³ He was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant in 1895. In 1898, he received a chevron (military stripe), and in 1899 he became a Sergeant-Major, and in 1900 a sub-lieutenant. Despite having a few occasional reprimands in his file, he was described as very good, and very zealous.

In 1904, he left the 3rd regiment of Foot Soldiers to join the Institut Cartographique Militaire, which was basically the King's private army in the Congo. The Belgian army did not officially operate in the Congo, but members could volunteer to be temporarily transferred over to the private army, probably to "offer Belgian soldiers that which had been so cruelly lacking in the past: action and a field of operations where they could achieve glory."⁴ This was not to be the case for Nicolas, which might have been for the best, considering Belgium's controversial history in the Congo. After less than a month, Nicolas was returned to the Belgian army, having contracted malaria in the Congo. He must have been bitten by an infected mosquito almost immediately in order to have been returned ill to Belgium so promptly.

¹ "U.S., Index to Alien Arrivals at Canadian Atlantic and Pacific Seaports, 1904-1944," digital image of index cards only, Ancestry (www.ancestry.ca : accessed 21 April 2019) Nicolas & Therese Darimont arrival, digital image 2938 of 21437; citing Record Group 85, Roll number 4, NAI number 3000080, The National Archives, Washington D.C.

² Belgian military file, record for Nicolas-Jacques-Louis-Albert Darimont, 1898-1909, no. 13522; Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History, Brussels, Belgium. The archivist at the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History in Brussels told me that Nicolas had an excellent education.

³ As per the archivist at the Royal Museum of the Armed Force and Military History, Brussels, Belgium.

⁴ Guy Vanthemsche, *Belgium and the Congo 1885-1980* (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 56.

.. has anemia due to malaria contracted in the Congo.

Nicolas spent the next few years trying to regain his health and receiving multiple extended leaves from the military, during which he once visited his married sister who had emigrated to Alberta. In 1909, finally pensioned off from the army, he married,⁵ and by 1911, he too was farming in Alberta.⁶

Nicolas didn't naturalize and become Canadian until 1917.⁷ Thus, when WWI broke out in 1914, he was still a Belgian citizen. Despite being 39-years-old at the time, Lieutenant Darimont returned to Belgium to serve.⁸

The ship's list when he arrived in England confirmed that he and his two travel companions named in the above letter were all travelling to join the Belgian army.⁹

Yet, only five months later, Nicolas returned to North America from Le Havre, France via New York.¹⁰ This travel route makes sense, since the Belgian provisional government moved to Le Havre during WWI,¹¹ and because America would not yet have been part of the war in 1915, making travel to America safer than travel directly to Canada. In 1916, Nicolas was enumerated in Alberta, and was not labelled as serving overseas in the military.¹² There is no evidence that he ever returned to Europe.

⁵ "Belgium, Brabant, Civil Registration 1582-1914," database and digital images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>; accessed 12 November 2018), Sint-Gillis Huwelijksafkondigingen, huwelijken 1909-1910, geboorten 1910, overlijdens 1910 (nr 1-394), digital image 164 of 835, marriage of Nicolas Jacques Louis Albert Darimont & Thérèse Gustenhoven (1909); Belgium National Archives, Brussels.

⁶ 1911 census of Canada, Alberta, population schedule, District 7, 55-21 & 55-22, Sub district 28, Victoria, p. 10, dwelling 86, family 86, Albert Darimont household; digital image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.ca; accessed 25 Oct 2018); citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm T-20326 through T-20460.

⁷ Nicolas J.L.A. Darimont Naturalization index card (1917), received via email 27 March 2019 from Access to Information. Original records have been destroyed, all that remains are index cards.

⁸ Consulat de Belgique à Montréal, letter written 27 August 1914, letter of passage for Lieutenant N. Darimont to England, copy found in compiled genealogy by Marie Beaupré, "Darimont", dated June 1986.

⁹ "UK, incoming passenger lists, 1878-1960," database & images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com; accessed 21 April 2019), entry for Nicolas Darimont, Liverpool passenger (1914); citing Board of Trade, "Commercial and Statistical Department and Successors: Inwards Passengers Lists, Class BT26, Piece 582; National Archives, Kew.

¹⁰ "Canadian Passenger Lists 1865-1935," digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.ca; accessed 18 December 2018), Ship's list for Albert Darimont (1915); citing RG 76-C, microfilm T-4722, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

¹¹ "Belgian Government in exile during World War 1," Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belgian_government_in_exile_during_World_War_I; accessed 21 April 2019).

¹² 1916 Canada census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan & Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, population schedule, district 37, sub district 4, p. 19, dwelling 153, family 161, Albert Darimont household; digital image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.ca; accessed 25 Oct 2018); citing Library and Archives Canada microfilm T-21950.

Nicolas' Belgian military records showed no WWI military service, although if he had served as a spy, it would likely not have been documented in this file.¹³ Likewise, Nicolas had no Canadian WWI service file. However, in 1918, Nicolas received land under the Canadian Soldier Homestead grant program,¹⁴ suggesting he had served in WWI in some capacity. Unfortunately, his application for land under this program no longer appears to survive.

A letter from the Belgian Embassy in Edmonton, Canada to the Minister of Foreign affairs in Belgium announced Nicolas' death in 1939.¹⁵ Nicolas was described as an old artillery officer of the Belgian army who had also served in the Congo. He was further described as a rare, notable Belgian who lived in Alberta, but no mention of any sort of WWI service was made. Nicolas' Canadian obituary, however, said that during the Great War he returned to his homeland and entered active service as a lieutenant.¹⁶

Did Nicolas serve, even briefly, during WW1, as a spy or not, or was this story fabricated to save face with his family after being sent home prematurely?

It seems clear that Nicolas did not serve in WW1 in a normal capacity- if he had, that should have been recorded in a military file in either Belgium or Canada. Although he was probably too old to serve as a regular soldier, if he had served even in an administrative capacity, he would be expected to show up in some sort of service record.¹⁷

Did he serve as a spy? Maybe. He was well-educated, fluent in four languages (although not German) and did spend several months in Europe at the beginning of the war doing something, and when he left, he embarked from Le Havre where the Belgian provisional government was stationed. He did receive a military land grant in Canada after WWI, despite there being no evidence that he did anything for the Canadian war effort. Although we haven't proven that he did spy, his story lines up well enough that we can say that he might have spied. But if he did spy, it wasn't for very long.

As with so many family stories, more research is required and the search continues. The low-hanging fruit has been picked, however, and the remaining research possibilities include hoping to find mention of Nicolas in either Belgian, Canadian or maybe even British intelligence records, if these records were even created in the first place, and should they survive and be accessible today.

Colleen Murray, a member of Edmonton Branch, is a Professional Genealogist in Edmonton. She completed a Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies (PLCGS) from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, ProGen26 and most recently SLIG's All-DNA Advanced Evidence Analysis Practicum. You may read more of her genealogy articles at www.cmgenealogy.com and contact her at Colleen@CMgenealogy.com

¹³ Email from [address for personal use], Belgian researcher Intelligence & Security, to Colleen Murray, 11 January 2019.

¹⁴ "Canada, Soldier Homestead Grant Registers, 1918-1931," database, Ancestry (www.ancestry.ca : accessed 25 Oct 2018), entry for N. J. L. A. Darimont (1918); citing RG190-76-3-E, Volume 1.

¹⁵ Belgian military file, record for Nicolas-Jacques-Louis-Albert Darimont.

¹⁶ "Dies during sleep on incoming train," Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com.com : accessed 29 Dec 2018); citing Edmonton Journal (Edmonton, Canada), 10 March 1939.

¹⁷ In addition to his military file, the archivist at the Royal Museum of the Armed Force and Military History in Belgium also checked various books, lists and indices at his disposal to look for a trace of Nicolas' WWI service, but did not locate anything. I do not know the names of the exact lists and books that he checked, however.

What is a 'dit' name

By Sheila Genaille

If you have ancestors in the 17th - 19th centuries in Québec, chances are that you've encountered 'dit' names, which are secondary family names associated with a primary name, sometimes even replacing it.

'Dit' names are numerous in early Québec and their origins may be from: military nicknames, nicknames related to a physical characteristic or to the place of origin, names of fiefs among nobles, mother's name, father's name, etc. The result of this is that an individual may be identified under a nickname or secondary surname at any time, with no way real way to predict when.

'Dit' names can be found primarily in New France. They were used by families, not specific individuals, and were usually passed down through generations, either in place of the original surname, or in addition to it. Families eventually settled on one surname; however, it wasn't uncommon to see some members within the same family using the original surname, while others carried on with the 'dit' name. The use of 'dit' names slowed dramatically during the mid- to late-1800s, although they could still be found used by some families into the early twentieth century.

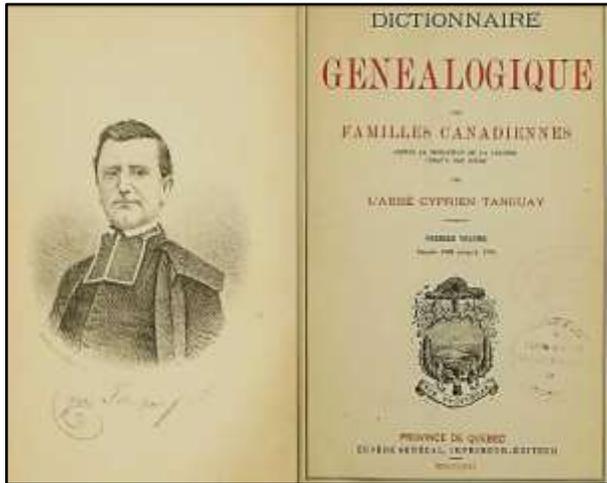
'Dit' names may have been based on the following:

- physical characteristics (Le Fort, Le Roux) (my translation: the strong, the red [hair]);
- moral characteristics (Le Bon, Le Sage); (my translation: the good, the wise)
- trades (Le Boucher, Boulanger, Sabotier); (my translation: the butcher, baker, clog maker)
- places of origin, including country, province, city, town, village (le Picard, Le Normand);
- places of residence (Du Val, Du Puis);
- first names of ancestors (Deblois dit Grégoire, Fasche dit Robert);
- actions (Ladébauche, La Marche) (my translation: debauchery, walking).

Approximately 1200 soldiers Carignan-Salières Regiment and officers arrived in Québec from June to September 1665. The following is a small sample of officers and soldiers with 'dit' names.

André Achin dit Saint	François Bacquet dit La Montagne
Étienne Benoît dit La Jeunesse	Joseph Rousseau dit La Rhétorique
Jean Castineau dit Maison Blanche	Jean Collet dit Le Picard
Philibert Couillaud dit Rocquebrune	Jean Daujean, dit Sieru de La Noce
Jacques (Pierre) Énaud dit Canada	Jean Faguret dit Petit Bois
Mathieu Gervais dit Le Parisien	Michel Hébert dit La Verdure
Jean Joubert dit des Fontaines	Antoine Leblanc dit Jolicoeur
Jean Moreau dit Jolicoeur	Jacques Passard dit La Bretonnière
Mathurin Renaud dit Boisjoli	François Séguin dit La Déroute
Bernard Vesin dit Beausoliel	Jean Vinçonneau dit La Forest
Hilaire Limousin dit Beaufort	Toussaint Lucas dit La Garde
Jean Paris dit Champagne (de)	Claude Pastorel dit La Franchise
Jean Peladeau dit Saint-Jean	Jacques Pillereau dit l'Isle-d'Or
François Lafleur dit Pinsonneault	René Lafleur dit Poupart
Claude Régnard dit Deslauries	Jean Raynaud or Renaud dit Blanchard
Jean Robin dit Lapointe	Jean Roy dit la Pensée

Isaac dit Alexandre Berthier dit de Bellechasse (this soldier was known by two first 'dit' names Issac and Alexandre as well as two 'dit' surnames Berthier and Bellechasse) (this was very rare)



Genealogique Familles Canadiennes 1608-1890.

[Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours / | BAnQ numérique](#)

This seven-volume set is a must read for genealogists with ancestors in New France. While written in French, you should be able to find and read information on each family.

Volume seven contains an extensive list of surname variations and 'dit' names: You will find at the end of this seventh volume a table of surnames, with an indication of the changes they have undergone and the many nicknames that have been added to them.

The table on page 687 in volume seven, shows the marriages contracted over two centuries between settlers and girls of wild origin (assuming these girls were Indigeneous). The number of such marriages is far fewer than you might think, and even the children born of these alliances had died before the end of the last century. Sometimes half-breeds, born in the west, of French-Canadian fathers.

Volume 7 (my translation) "I (Tanguay) will only recall here the clarifications which I have given elsewhere (1) concerning surnames to make known the curious modifications and complete changes which a great number of them have undergone in a space of fairly short time. For example, the nickname Jolicoeur was given to forty-eight individuals who passed it on to their respective families either as a nickname or as a proper name. There is here a complication which confuses at first sight, and which required special research, often very long, because in certain families one took sometimes the name, sometimes the nickname, while in some others one finds two distinct branches of which one keeps the patronymic name and the other the nickname (2)".

Tanguay continues, "the nickname Jolicoeur, as I just said, belongs to forty-eight different families. Who is the one who will claim the child? To resolve the difficulty, you have to go through the various families nicknamed Jolicoeur, until you find one, and it will perhaps be the forty-eighth, which, at the time mentioned in the baptismal certificate, included among its members a Claude dit Jolicoeur married to a Marie-Anne DEFOND."

"But it may happen that I do not find in any of these families the husband in question, and that is what indeed happened. So, I had to resort to the DEFOND family, to look for a Marie-Anne DEFOND, married to a certain Claude dit Jolicoeur, before 1739, and whose name, with or without variations, should be in the list of forty. eight Jolicoeur. I do find a man named Claude Georgeteau, married in 1732 to Marie-Anne Defond; but before considering this name as primary and in order to register it with the forty-seven others who have received the name of Jolicoeur, I must make sure that it has not itself undergone any transformation. After further research, I manage to see that Georgeteau is only a merged name, if I may express it like that, and whose elements are George and Hosteau, first name and surname of the head of the family."

"Thus, the child whose family we are trying to identify is neither a Jolicoeur, although he was baptized under this name, nor a Georgeteau, although his father was known with this nickname; it belongs to the Hosteau family. This is why, in my dictionary under the title Jolicoeur, I entered Hosteau among the forty-eight appellations which diversify the name of Jolicoeur, and reciprocally to the name Hosteau, we refer to Jolicoeur."

Editor note: The above shows how Mgr. Tanguay arranged 'dit' names in their respective families. This particular name Georgeteau dit Jolicoeur is in my ancestry and I had great difficulty sorting through and finding the right ancestors. Unfortunately, I did not consult Mgr. Tanguay's volumes until after the fact. However, his works corroborated what I had deduced.

Volume 4 - 1727, (16 février) Trois-Rivières

I,— HOSTEAU (1),

Claude-Georges fils de Pierre et d'Isabelle Merlais, de Mascou, diocèse de Nantes, Haute-Bretagne

1 DESROSIERS, Françoise, [PIERRE II.

B: 1704; s' 23 février 1731

François, b 1727; s 26 août 1728. — Marie-Jeanne, b 12 sept. 1729, à la Rivière-du-Loup.
1732, (25 février) St-Michel-d'Yamaska. ⁸

2 DEFOND (2), Marie-Anne, [PIERRE I.

b 1712; s 13 février 1744, à Terrebonne.

Marie-Claude, b ³ 25 juillet 1733. — Charlotte, b 13 nov. 1735. — Marie, b. 13 janvier 1755, à Pierre PARENTEAU.— Marie-Rose, b 1737; s 4 janvier 1744, à Montréal. 8 — Louis, b 20 mars 1739.— Marie-Françoise, b 3 déc. 1740; s 6 22 avril 1743. — Marie-Thérèse b 17 février et s 6 sept. 1743.

Volume 5

JOLICOEUR.—Voy.

MAND —BERNARD —BOU- CHARD — BOYER — BRUNEAU — CASSELET — CHAMPOUX—
CHAPELLE — COEUR —GONTREMINE — CORRÈGE — COULEAU — COURAGE — DENKAU
— DEVAIJ — DÉMORD — DUBOIS — DUPUIS — FOREST — GAULTIER — GEORGETEAU —
GRES-LON —GOITAUT — HARDY —Hoc— HOSTEAO— HOUÉ — JEANTOT — JOLY —
LABARD — LA-HAINE — LACHESNE — LEBLANC — LECLERC — LEPARON — LESUEUR —
LIMOGES — MARTIN — MEUNIER — MILLET — MONESTK — MORIAU — NORMAND —
OUÉE — PILET — POLIQUIN — TAUREL — TÉMOINS.

Caricature of Eiffel¹⁸ published 1887

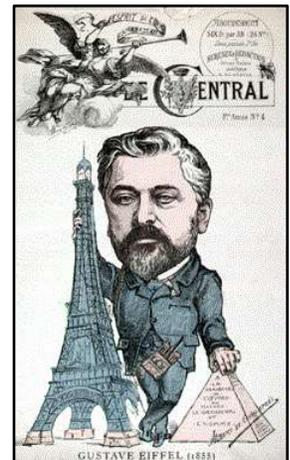
In conclusion, did you know that Gustave Eiffel, the architect of the Eiffel tower in Paris, was born Alexandre Gustave Bonickhausen dit Eiffel¹⁹? Eiffel is derived from the Eifel region of Germany where the family originated. Gustave officially changed his last name to Eiffel in 1880.

Some Internet sites with 'dit' names

PRDH-IGD.com (paid site) PRDH, Research Programme in Historical Demography) at the University of Montréal undertook the exhaustive reconstruction of the population of Quebec from the beginnings of French colonization in the seventeenth century.

GenealogyQuebec.com [LAFRANCE](http://LAFRANCE.com), (Edmonton Branch has a paid subscription to this site).

"dit" Names (rootsweb.com) A list of family names and 'dit' names in colonial Québec may be found on this website



Sheila Genaille's expertise is Métis, North American Indian, and French genealogy research.

¹⁸ Gustave Eiffel - Wikipedia

¹⁹ État-civil de la Côte-d'Or, Dijon, Registres d'état civil 1832, p.249

The Unexpected Twists and Turn in Genealogy

By Ruth McConnell

In 2020, I participated in the 52 Ancestors in 52-Week Challenge set out by Amy Johnson Crow (amyjohnsoncrow.com). She offers a descriptive word or phrase as a starting point. Here is my effort (slightly adapted for Clandigger) for week 25 – Unexpected.

One of the fun things about genealogy is the unexpected surprise one finds. It might be a skeleton in the closet, someone turning up in an unexpected place or even the unexpected help of strangers. I will write about one of my early experiences with the latter.

I started working on the McConnell side of my family tree about 2007. My Granddad, Wilbert Nelson McConnell, had been born in Springbrook, Rawdon Township, Hastings County, Ontario in 1873. Unfortunately, Wilbert's mother died giving birth to him and that fractured the family, causing much information to be lost. In my attempts to reconstruct it, I contacted the closest historical society, which is the Quinte Bay Genealogical Society in Trenton, Ontario, to see if they had any McConnell information to share. As luck would have it, Rodney Green, a volunteer at the Society, answered my enquiry. I say luck, because it turns out his great grandparents had been neighbours of a few McConnell families in Springbrook. Among his possessions was his great grandmother's (Samantha Rupert Mason) birthday book, which featured many dates important to the McConnells. But let me back up a bit.

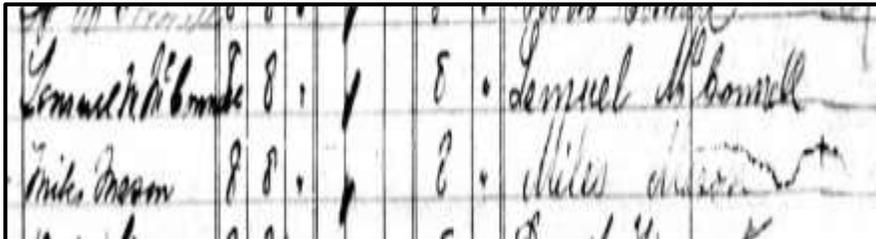
Before I contacted the Genealogical Society, I found an on-line entry for the McConnell Cemetery, which is situated south of Springbrook, and it listed a grave for a Lemuel McConnell who died at only 19 years old in 1883. The name "Lemuel" was favoured throughout many generations of McConnells and so it took a while to sort out who he was. I reasoned he was the son of Elias and Sarah McConnell as they listed a "Lemuel" with them in both the 1871 and 1881 census and the dates worked. In the fall of 2008, I photographed his gravestone - seen below.



He died young and I wondered what the cause had been. That question was answered when we visited the Belleville Library and found back issues of the *Belleville Intelligencer* where there was a report of the accident that claimed his life in 1883. He died in a railway accident when the overburden he was working on removing, collapsed on top of him, crushing him to death. An unexpected find and a mystery solved.

Over time, Rod continued his communication with me and looked through family papers for any information that might be of interest to me. One day he sent the image (right). It is of Lemuel McConnell and Miles Mason, friends and neighbours, in their militia uniforms. Miles is Rod's great grandfather. I had never seen this photo before and sincerely doubted any descendant of Elias' family had either, as I still believed this was the son of Elias and Sarah. It was thrilling. I love getting photographs. And I love that fellow researchers take the time to connect the dots and help others.

When I was working on this story, I discovered that Ancestry had posted some militia lists for Hastings County and there listed one after the other in 1871 is Lemuel and Miles, with their signatures no less.



However, there was a problem. The Lemuel I had in mind, the one that died at 19, would only have been 8 years old in 1871 and that seems a tad young for the militia, I had read that you must be between the ages of 16 to 60. And while the photo is not dated, he is certainly not that young in the photograph. So what is going on?

I took a closer look at all the males named "Lemuel" in my tree and believe that he must be the son of Consider (brother to Elias) and Mary Jane McConnell, born in 1852. That would make him 19 in 1871 which would make more sense. This "Lemuel" had confused me for many years because I found him living with **my** great grandparents Alpheus McConnell (another brother) and wife Martha Campbell in both the 1861 and 1871 census, so naturally, I assumed he was their child. It was only when I found his death record in Michigan (he moved in 1884) where his wife states that his parents are Consider and Mary Jane, that I knew for sure. Mary Jane, his mother, died in 1854 when Lemuel was only 1 and a half years old and it seems that Alpheus and Martha stepped in to help raise him. I am very glad I worked on this story as it pointed out my mistake and allowed me to correct it. It goes to prove you should never make assumptions.

I was able to repay Rodney for his kindness by finding information on a little-known branch of his Green family. In the late 1800's, this family sold the family home in Rawdon County and disappeared to Peace River, Alberta and never heard from again. I started by looking at the databases at the AGS and then the library itself for a local history book on Peace River. I was able to find information he had never seen before. The Green family lived on Lot 42 on the banks of the town of Peace River on the Shaftsbury Settlement. Rod was very grateful for the extra information - definitely an unexpected outcome for him as well.

Coming Together with Technology

By John Chalmers

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has kept us apart with social distancing, the circumstances of the crisis have prompted us to use new ways of being together!

More and more we are seeing products such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and BlueJeans used for video conferencing, presentations, meetings and webinars. Organizations such as the Alberta Genealogical Society and its branches are using video for branch meetings and special interest group sessions.

After my article about the wartime Link Trainer flight simulator, which trained hundreds of thousands of pilots in the Second World War, appeared in the Summer 2020 issue of *Airforce* magazine, published by the RCAF Association, I was asked to speak to a meeting of the Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (CAHS).



The Link Trainer display at the Alberta Aviation Museum, which is the best of its kind in Canada, led to the author publishing articles about the Trainer in three publications, a live talk by video conferencing, and producing a PowerPoint show on the internet (Chalmers photo)

The Manitoba chapter is based in Winnipeg and I live in Edmonton. But I didn't have to fly to Winnipeg to give my talk! The invitation inspired me to produce a PowerPoint show about the famed "blue box" invented by Edwin Link and patented in 1929. So on August 27, 2020, I spoke from my desk at home. Online for the meeting were participants from five provinces, Alberta to Québec, and I incurred no time or costs for travel and accommodation!

That experience made me realize how technology can bring together the members of an organization to share experience and information. As well, it showed how video conferencing does more than just show the faces of participants. You can't run a PowerPoint show or a video or present other visual material in a telephone conference, but you can do it with online video. What began as a printed article led to a video presentation with my PowerPoint presentation to folks attending from across Canada, then became a show on the internet that is accessible from anywhere on the planet!

With new technology we can broaden our reach of the work done by societies such as the AGS in making participation and involvement possible in new ways. The internet provides the opportunity. So following the August meeting, I revised my PowerPoint presentation and added a few notes to some of the frames. Now it is a self-explanatory show of images and video that doesn't need me to present it. I used PowerPoint's capability of recording voice to add a few comments to some of the slides. To share, I posted the show and my article from *Airforce* at my space on Microsoft OneDrive. You can see them when you [click here](#).

We have found another advantage to video meetings – you don't have to be a member of a local chapter or branch to participate! Various chapters of the CAHS are hosting online video meetings to which members from across the country are invited to attend, simply by signing on. Our board meetings and AGM are now held with online video.



The Battle of Britain became the subject of a video presentation about the combat itself, pilots who flew fighter aircraft such as the Hurricane, commemoration in Alberta of RCAF veterans, and a newly-restored 1943 Hurricane which now has a home at The Hangar Flight Museum in Calgary. (Chalmers photo)

In November 2020 I spoke via Zoom video to a meeting of a Rotary Club in Edmonton. Forty people signed on for that. My topic was about the Battle of Britain and how the RCAF is remembered in Alberta today. Because Zoom and other online video conferencing can record presentations, the Record feature was activated.

My PowerPoint presentation thus became a video in MP4 format. Included were still images, Winston Churchill speaking his famous words, wartime news coverage with gun camera film footage from fighter aircraft, and videos of aircraft in flight. I edited the result to produce a 23-minute video, which I posted on Microsoft OneDrive, and it can now be seen when you [click here](#).

At the October 2020 meeting of the Edmonton and District Historical Society, the featured speaker was Christine Prokop. Her talk was about how a letter and a single photo from Norway began a genealogical pursuit that was very successful in finding out about a pioneer Norwegian family. As I watched the presentation, which was also streamed online for members who couldn't attend, I thought that the Edmonton branch of the AGS would be very interested to see the show.

I was right! A month later, Christine was the featured speaker in the BlueJeans video meeting for the Edmonton Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society in November 2020. Even though we were isolated by the COVID-19 pandemic, more people signed on for the meeting than those who usually attend a regular in-person meeting! While the pandemic has kept us apart, technology such as online newsletters with links to other information, items posted on the internet, and video conferencing brings us together.

From a Facetime or Skype video call with distant family and friends to Alberta Genealogical Society video meetings attended by folks at home sitting at their computers, we can still meet and see each other. The pandemic will pass, and we will eventually be meeting again in person. Meantime, I have no doubt that the future will see more of the technology that enables us to share experiences and join with others who share a common interest.

John Chalmers of the Edmonton branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society is a former member of the board of the Alberta Aviation Museum, spent 10 years as Historian for Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame, and has contributed several articles to Relatively Speaking, the quarterly journal of the Alberta Genealogical Society. He is widely published as a writer and photographer. johnchalmers@shaw.ca



INTERNET SOURCES

By Sheila Genaille, Editor



National Library of Scotland: Emigration and passenger lists

[Emigration and passenger lists - National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](http://www.nls.uk/emigration)

This site has information relating to emigration. Also check out the Scots Abroad databases section of the website for more information

Yukon Genealogy

www.yukongenealogy.com

The site is intended to assist family researchers to find information about ancestors who may have lived or worked in the Yukon Territory.

The Ships Lists

[Ships Passenger Lists to USA, Canada & Australia 1700-present on TheShipsList.com](http://www.theshipslist.com)

Over 3,500 totally free access web-pages with new databases added regularly.

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

[The Canadian Virtual War Memorial \(CVWM\) - Memorials - Remembrance - Veterans Affairs Canada](http://www.cvwmm.com)

The site is a registry to honour and remember the sacrifices of the more than 118,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who, since Confederation, have given their lives serving in uniform.

Canadian Headstones

<https://canadianheadstones.ca>

The site hosted by the Ontario Genealogical Society and contains nearly 2 million gravestone photo records.

British Home Children in Canada

<https://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com>

This site is owned and operated by the British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association

Dictionary of Canadian Biography

www.biographi.ca/en/

This is a free website that contains biographical information of thousands of influential people from Canada's past.

Upper Canada Ontario Pioneer Land Settlement and Family History Database

www.ontariogenealogy.com/uppercanadaontariopioneerlandsettlement.html

The new Ontario Genealogy Upper Canada Pioneer Land Settlement and Family History Database. The site is updated frequently.

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

[A Northern Experience: The Journals of Norman Robinson – PWNHC | CPSPG](http://www.pwnhc.com)

This online exhibit presents the journals of Norman Lubbock Robinson, a World War I veteran who spent five years in the Northwest Territories in the early 1920s.

Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade

<https://enslaved.org/>

Search over numerous datasets and reconstruct the lives of people involved in the historical slave trade. Browse interconnected data, generate visualizations, and explore short biographies of enslaved and freed peoples.

Descendants of Slave Owners: do we still hold a key?

<https://beyondkin.org>

Beyond Kin Project began in 2016 as a way to encourage and facilitate the documentation of enslaved populations, particularly by recruiting the resources and efforts of the descendants of slaveholders.

The Ancestor Hunt

www.theancestorhunt.com

This site is focused on helping primarily hobbyist genealogy and family history researchers to achieve their goals.

Scottish Monumental Inscriptions

[Scottish Monumental Inscriptions- Transcribed Burial Ground downloads \(scottish-monumental-inscriptions.com\)](http://www.scottish-monumental-inscriptions.com)

This site was started by a group of friends in Scotland.

Internet Archive – Digital Library

www.archive.org

Sheila Genaille, Editor

Have you checked out this free site? Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of **free** books, movies, software, music, websites, and more. Do you have ancestors from Ontario. Listed below are a few books digitized on this site. There are thousands more on all areas of Canada and the world.

Ontario Historical Society Vol 1-4 Early Ontario Marriages, Baptisms, Burials; U.E.L. Lists, Niagara Area Church Records, Family and Regional History, Exploration of the Great Lakes

Ontario Historical Society Vol 5 Marriages, Burials, Baptisms, London/Gore, Elizabethtown, Ancaster Parish records, Bay of Quinte, Presqu'isle

Ontario Historical Society Vol 6 Lennox County Lutheran Church records, Napanee, Essex County

Ontario Historical Society Vol 7 Assumption Church Records, Black Lists, Waterloo County Pennsylvanians,

Ontario Historical Society Vol 8 Nottawasaga River, Kingston Anglican Church, Rev. Ralph Leeming, Rev. John Russell, Thomas Cummings Niagara Marriage, baptism, burials Stamford and Chippawa Church

Ontario Historical Society, Vols 9-12 Middlesex County Pioneers, Rev. Alexander MacIntosh, St. Thomas Baptism, Marriage, Burial Records, War of 1812 Sketches, Georgian Bay Place Names, Brockville/Johnstown pioneers, Joseph Brant, Ottawa Valley bush life, Indian Customs, War of 1812-15

The History of the County of Brant, Ontario: a History of the County: Its Township ... (1883)

The story of the Counties of Ontario (1913)
Emily P. Weaver

United Empire Loyalists of the County of Dundas, Ontario (1900?)

Reminiscences of the early history of Galt and the settlement of Dumfries in the province of Ontario [microform] (1880)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Williamstown, Ontario: Report of centenary celebration, August 25th to September 2nd, 1912 (1916)

Sketches illustrating the early settlement and history of Glengarry in Canada: relating principally to the revolutionary war of 1775-83, the war of 1812-14 and the rebellion of 1837-8,

Shanty, forest and river life in the backwoods of Canada (1883)

The White Chief of the Ottawa (1903)

Pioneer life in Zorra (1899)

The history of the county of Welland, Ontario, its past and present [microform] : containing a condensed history of Canada; a complete history of Welland (1887)

Notes on sites of Indian villages in the townships of North and South Orillia (Simcoe County) (1904)

Simcoe County Pioneer papers (1908)

Historical sketches of the County of Elgin (1895)

One hundred years with the Baptists of Amherst, N.S., 1810 to 1910. -- (1911)

Commemorative biographical record of the county of York, Ontario: containing biographical sketches of prominent and representative citizens (1907)

In the days of the Canada Company: the story of the settlement of the Huron Tract and a view of the social life of the period, 1825-1850 (1896)



LIBRARY NEWS

By Arlene Borgestede



The following Library News was written back in early September 2020, however a mix-up in the "Due Date" had my Library News ready to be submitted the same day that Clandigger was issued. I think that the work done by a few people getting the Library ready to reopen should be recognized and so I am submitting last September's News as it was written. It's old News but it's News that all members should be aware of.

Library News - September 2020

First, let's say 'good-bye' to Linda Winski. It might have been difficult for some volunteers - returning back after the long 'holiday' - and not finding her in her office - ready with a happy greeting and a smile.

Linda began her job with Alberta Genealogical Society in early January 2005 when we were still in the armoires and soon developed a strong working relationship with our volunteers. In fact, when asked what she had liked about her job, Linda answered "The people! Getting know the people, many of whom I have established strong friendships with."

On the other side of her job she says that the most difficult part of her work was that "every two years - having a new executive made up of some new faces to be dealt with, getting to know them, helping them through the 'processes' and adapting their ideas". In her 15 years she worked with seven different presidents. Over that time changing conditions affected both Linda and Alberta Genealogical Society executives and had to be worked through.

Although Linda worked for the Alberta Genealogical Society, she would readily give assistance or advice to volunteers and patrons when asked.

Linda, like so many of us, is anticipating the end of this virus pandemic so she can do some travelling. Until then she has many tasks, piled up during her working days, to complete "efficiently and effectively."

I know our volunteers join with me in wishing Linda a rewarding and fulfilling retirement.

And as we say 'goodbye' to our good friend we welcome her replacement, Jackie Pearson. We were introduced to Jackie early in 2020 when she volunteered to work the first Saturdays of the month. She is a ten year member of Alberta Genealogical Society and Edmonton Branch and has a lot of interest in the Ukrainian Special Interest Group.

She had recently retired from her position as an accountant with the City of Edmonton and has a diploma in Designing and Decor. I think someone should warn her that a frequent topic at Library meetings is how to rearrange things in the Library

I'm sure volunteers like myself, who have put off returning to our monthly day at the library are looking forward to meeting our new staff member.

And, of course, the really good news is that the library has opened again giving us some Library News to write about. As of September 1st, the library will follow its former schedule, open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. About half of the volunteers contacted indicated they were willing to return, many of whom have chosen to work one or more additional days.

It was the week of March 16th that the Coronavirus took over our lives and the library closed its doors to the public. However the library was not abandoned. Norma Wolowyk and Claudine Nelson spent the Tuesday of each week cleaning, scrubbing and more cleaning and scrubbing. They were joined a little later by Louise Perkins.

They started with the storage area in the back, culling, cleaning, cleaning and culling. Norma took all the coffee mugs home and put them through her dishwasher. And the shelves on which they had sat were scrubbed thoroughly. Now mugs will be for volunteer use only.

Wayne Harker, our general 'handyman' put up a wall hanger for paper towels in the kitchen meaning that hand's can be dried without having to touch anything but the paper towel. And he fixed the washroom door to remain open, so that clean hands do not get soiled on the door handle. You can shut (and lock) the door when necessary.

All the tables, the chairs, the shelves were scrubbed and the books wiped down. And the overhead ducts were cleaned out for the first time since we moved into that place and "they were very very, **very** dirty". In short, " they cleaned every area possible. Also on the agenda was buying or ordering supplies and high on the list was paper – both photocopy paper and toilet paper.

Getting the library ready for patrons meant following the strict rules set down by Alberta Health Services protocol. These rules mean that patrons entering the library **MUST** wear masks. On entering, there will be hand sanitizer ready to use. Six feet further in they will be required to sign in - nothing new there but library seating has been set out at six feet intervals. Following use of a computer 'wipes' are available to wipe down the keyboard. Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the library and patrons are encouraged to use it.

I for one am very thankful to this small group for all the work they have put into getting our library back into use and to those volunteers who have returned to carry on our services to members and the public.

Library News - December 2020

As usual, the library was due to close in mid December and over the Christmas holiday during which time the carpets would be given their annual cleaning. At almost the same time Alberta Health issued new rules for virus control which included closing all libraries.

Our three months and a couple of weeks had served members and non-members and was quite appreciated. Interestingly, every visitor to the library arrived mask on, and quite prepared to follow all rules which had been set in place. However, we are once again in limbo and will remain so until restrictions are removed.

Special thanks to those volunteers who kept the library open and to those members who continued to visit us. Also a special thanks to our executive members who have continued to meet and to deal with all the problems the new circumstances have presented.

Will we be able to open again in mid-January? Only time will tell.

The Library Committee wish all members a new, better and more comfortable year in 2021.

Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as PROGRESS.



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

By Lisa McKenzie



Hello Edmonton Branch members: Happy New Year! We at the Edmonton Branch have many captivating zoom sessions on deck for the New Year. Until we reconvene, here are a few on-line gems: Here is a link to the Edmonton Heritage Council visual activity, [Edmonton City as Museum Project \(ECAMP\)](#)

A note from an outreach librarian at the Edmonton Public Library: In the meantime, while the library is closed, if your members have a valid Edmonton Public Library card, they can poke around and explore the Genealogy & History digital resources EPL has to offer – including remote access to Ancestry.com (until March 31, 2021). I suspect this expanded remote access is available to all public library cardholders, they would just have to check in with their local branch.

Edmonton Branch Zoom Meeting Thursday, January 28th, 2021

Presentation by Kurt Paterson

Finding and Exploring Alberta Cemeteries: Do you need to sharpen the tools in your cemetery toolkit? Or find easily accessible online sources to help turn your clues into successful discoveries? Are you struggling to find your ancestors gravestone in an Alberta cemetery? Do you have cryptic clues that do not seem to fit? Are you missing a cemetery name? Are you interested in increasing your funerary finding skills? In this session, the value of creating a cemetery research plan will be discussed. This presentation offers a high-level review of easily accessible online Alberta cemetery tools which may help to increase your success in uncovering your grave secrets.

About the Speaker: Kurt's genealogy hobby started when learning about his mother's Irish Keough and Doyle heritage. He actively participates in many SIG discussions and appreciates the learning opportunities provided through these valuable exchanges. Kurt was a member of the 2019 AGS Conference committee and is currently a member of the AGS finance committee.

Edmonton Branch Zoom Meeting Thursday, February 25th, 2021

Presentation by Jean Crozier

Puh - The Love Letter Route to Genealogy: By way of a Power Point presentation, I will develop a presentation using some of the experiences we've had in our writing workshops, where our students have discovered / found / been given love letters, and the curiosity those letters have sparked regarding the writers / recipients, the time and place, the whole path into genealogy. Then, I will use (with permission) one person's love letter find (including the 'puh') and her personal route into genealogical discovery.

About the Speaker: Since retirement, Jean Crozier has refocused her research and writing skills to genealogy, and genealogical narrative. She and a distant cousin are currently working on a family tree now numbering over 17,000 entries, in search of her paternal relatives. Together with writer Caterina Edwards, Jean teaches writing in a series of workshops, as detailed on the website: www.FindingTheUnique.com



Long lost Bible with Fort Saskatchewan family history discovered in B.C. motel

[Long lost Bible with Fort Saskatchewan family history discovered in B.C. motel | CBC News](#)

Bible returned to McEachern family, early settlers in Ft Saskatchewan area. CBC Posted: Nov 01, 2020

Home genealogy kit sales plummet over data privacy concerns by Julia Creet, York University, Canada

[Home genealogy kit sales plummet over data privacy concerns \(theconversation.com\)](#)

How some North Americans claim a false Indigenous identity - Darryl R. J. Leroux, Saint Mary's University. Recently in Canada and the United States, a small, but vocal minority of white French-descendants have used an ancestor born between 300 and 400 years ago to claim an "Indigenous" identity.

[How some North Americans claim a false Indigenous identity \(theconversation.com\)](#)

Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives: final 2020 updates

The final 2020 batch of volunteer-contributed headstone photos and transcribed records has been added to the free Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives database.

[IrishGenealogyNews: Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives: final 2020 updates](#)



Membership is from January 1st to December 31st.

Check out the website www.abgenealogy.ca/become-a-member

Alberta Genealogical Society has three (3) options for renewal:

1. Online using the [AGS Store](#).
2. Download form 2021 Membership Application Form and mail to the AGS Office _
3. Email or phone the AGS Office and receive it by email.
4. Payments: Can be made by cash, cheque, money order, phone order (780) 423-8902) or by PayPal (AGS website)





Are you interested in Volunteering? Edmonton Branch is URGENTLY looking to fill the following positions.

Webmaster

1. Website Management / Maintenance / Improvements
2. Communications [monthly SIGs, General meetings, email accounts]
3. Publications [posters, brochures, Clandigger]
 - prepare event posters for events and announcements [currently using Publisher, any software can be used;
 - prepare event posters and documents for uploading into standard templates in Mailchimp – an automated mass email marketing software – to send to membership via distribution lists that are provided on a regular basis by AGS; maintain distribution lists
 - interface with 4WEB - web host for the edmontongenealogy.ca website and email accounts; be familiar with the 4WEB portal to manage/maintain about 20 *@edmontongenealogy.com email accounts; monitor 4WEB web hosting annual maintenance agreements and invoices;
 - maintain edmontongenealogy.ca website content, design and create new pages, functionality;
 - monitor the webmaster's email account [edmontonagswebmaster@gmail.com] for inquiries, notifications,
 - provide monthly report for Executive Committee meetings, including mailout and social media and website statistics; prepare annual statistical report for AGS that forms part of the funding submission.

Electronic Resources

- oversee the library electronic equipment and other equipment used by the patrons and Branch members;
- maintains the computers in the Edmonton Branch Library.

PLEASE CONTACT: admin@edmontongenealogy.ca



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

WANTED – SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP LEADERS

Sheila Genaille, Editor

Three Special Interest Groups require leaders/facilitators. We are looking to replace the retiring leaders and **we thank them for their service**. If you have ancestors and are doing research in these areas or are a member of the Group, **please consider taking on the role of leader/facilitator of the group**. You would organize meetings, invite guest speakers and lead various discussions such as member's brick walls.

If you would like further information, please contact me at admin@edmontongenealogy.ca and I would be happy to discuss developing posters, advertising the meeting, what to expect leading/facilitating a Special Interest Group, etc.

Due to COVID-19, the Special Interest Groups are meeting digitally via ZOOM. If you are presently a member of one of these groups and are interested in leading one of the Special Interest Group contact Liz at courseoutreach@edmontongenealogy.ca and she will set up a meeting for you and instruct you on using ZOOM.

In future, when allowed, the Special Interest Groups can meet in person at the AGS/Edmonton Branch Library at #162, 14315 – 118 Avenue, Edmonton.



Scandinavia: This group has been without a leader for quite some time. Do you have ancestors in one of the Scandinavia countries? Would you consider leading this group?

You may choose the dates and frequency of meetings. Dates that are being used by other Special Interest Groups are:

1st Monday, 2nd Monday
2nd Tuesday
1st Wednesday, 2nd Wednesday, 3rd Wednesday,
1st Thursday, 3rd Thursday

Scotland: Members share experience and knowledge for those researching their Scottish ancestors. Meetings are held on 1st Monday in October, and the 2nd Monday of February, April, June and December. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Edmonton Branch/AGS Library.



Ukraine: Members interests include the geographic areas of East Galicia (Ukraine), West Galicia (Poland), Bukovina (Ukraine and Romania), Poland, Prussia and Volhynia. Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday in January, March, May, September and November. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the Edmonton Branch/ AGS Library.