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Chinook

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Alberta Family Histories Society



Flores La Due and Guy Weadick, ca 1930 – Courtesy Calgary Stampede Archives (See page 5.)

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CHINOOK PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Publication and Submission Dates

Issue Date	Volume, Number	Submission Deadline	Theme
October 2012	V.33, N.1	August 1, 2012	DNA in Genealogy Research
January 2013	V.33, N.2	November 1, 2012	Find YOUR Tree in the Forest
April 2013	V.33, N.3	February 1, 2013	Local Resources and Archives
July 2013	V.33, N.4	May 1, 2013	To be announced

AFHS Periodicals Committee

Name	Position	Name	Position
<i>Vacant</i>	Chair, Periodicals Committee	<i>Regular Columns:</i>	
Wayne Shephard	<i>Chinook</i> Editor	Jim Benedict	"Computer Tricks"
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Chinook</i> Assistant Editor	Kay Clarke	"Genealogy Basics"
Ann Williams	<i>The Breeze</i> Editor	Christine Hayes	"Calgary Public Library" and Monthly AFHS Program
Elizabeth Ronald	Secretary, Periodicals Committee		"Events"
	<i>Chinook</i> Advertisements, Extra Copy Distribution	Laura Kirbyson	"From the Geneasphere"
Jackie Duncan	<i>Chinook</i> Distribution	Joan Miller	"AFHS Library Acquisitions"
Duane Kelly	Proofreader	Linda Murray	"What's Out There"
Bill Mills	Proofreader	Elizabeth Ronald	"Surname Connections"
Marion Peterson	Proofreader	Everyone Welcome	"Library Book Reviews"

AFHS PROGRAMS (subject to change)

Meetings of the Alberta Family Histories Society are usually held the first Monday of each month at River Park Church, 3818 14A St SW, Calgary AB, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. See latest issue of *The Breeze*, AFHS website calendar.

DATE	PROGRAM TOPICS
September 10, 2012	The Program Committee is working on lining up a number of very interesting programs for the fall. Check out the AFHS website for the latest information: www.afhs.ab.ca
October 1, 2012	
November 5, 2012	

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lorna Laughton



Genealogy presenters are heroes to me. There are so many people in the big world of genealogy and family history who willingly contribute to expanding all the resources that I can access. Some people do this as volunteers and some earn money from their endeavours. Think of all the resources you and I access that someone has provided.

I admire the people who write articles and columns for their society journals and newsletters. Just looking at all these publications in our library inspires awe. Think about it – other genealogists have taken the time to write about local repositories, unusual sources, successful searches, lists of surnames and all kinds of fascinating material.

The family historians who have written books about their families are also heroes. What a lot of work has gone into their presentations. I can learn so much from their style and problem-solving methods, even if they are not writing about a family that I'm researching.

Presentations by genealogists are not limited to the printed word. I admire genealogists who present information on the Internet in the form of blogs, newsletters, webinars, family websites, videos and locality or surname bulletin boards. Often, I have received great tips, ideas and links from email distribution lists. I am overwhelmed by the amount of information under the "Learn" tab on the FamilySearch website. Commercial companies also provide a great deal of information.

As well, many family historians present valuable information in personal talks to groups at meetings and conferences. I know these people spend hours preparing for their presentations. They are heroes to me. I have learned something helpful in every presentation I've attended.

Thank you to all the genealogists who make the effort to expand our knowledge base. It is the spirit of sharing and willingness to help other family historians that make you heroes. ###

CALL FOR ARTICLES: THE ROLE of DNA

Our lineup for the next three issues:

- **October 2012** (deadline August 1, 2012)
The role of DNA in Genealogical Research: We will revisit this fast-moving field which was featured in the January 2009 issue. Since that time, the subject has attracted even greater interest among family historians as they try to trace individuals and family groups using the latest in genetic testing and matching.
- **January 2013** (deadline November 1, 2012)
Find YOUR Tree in the Forest: In cooperation with *Relatively Speaking*, the quarterly journal of the Alberta Genealogical Society, we will feature a number of articles emanating from the AFHS-AGS conference held April 13 and 14, 2012 in Red Deer, Alberta. Speakers and attendees are invited to submit articles or stories about their individual "Trees."
- **April 2013** (deadline February 1, 2013)
Local Resources and Archives: Much has been written about databases and collections from around the world and how they helped family researchers uncover their roots. But what is available locally – in city and provincial archives, local family history centres and genealogical society libraries? Tell us about your successes and trials in your search for information about your family.
###

The AFHS membership year begins in September. Don't forget to fill out the membership renewal form (see page 29 of this issue) and deliver it, along with your 2012-13 dues, to the AFHS Membership Secretary by September 1st, 2012.

THE EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS By Wayne Shephard

We have a great lineup of articles in this issue dedicated to Heroes, including stories about: an internationally known and locally revered cowboy turned performer and promoter, and his famous and talented wife and partner; an Austrian immigrant grandmother who helped carve out a new home for her children, and their children, in a harsh new environment; a son's view of his father, a hero to him; a North West Mounted Policeman, adventurer and writer; a man seeking a new life for his family in the new world; builders and businessmen; and another grandmother who was a guardian angel to her grandchildren.

As one contributor wrote to me, "Not all *heroes* carry guns, rush into burning buildings and receive commendations for their bravery. Some come wearing a plain apron and housedress." All those chronicled here shared the admiration of the people around them – their family, their friends and the members of the community in which they lived. It has been a treat to read and share these stories. ###

2012-2013 AFHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting of the AFHS, held on May 7, 2012, the following persons were confirmed as the Society's Board of Directors:

President – Lorna Laughton
Past President – Kay Clarke
Vice President – Dawn Turner
Recording Secretary – Rosemary Kry
Treasurer – Ruth Sutherland
Director (Finance) – Gerald Isaac
Director (Facilities) – Susan Butler
Director (Computer SIG) – Jim Benedict
Director at Large – Claudia Rettman
Director at Large – Marion Peterson
Director at Large – Heather Williams

The Board gave thanks to those who have served previously. ###

AFHS/AGS RED DEER CONFERENCE WRAP-UP By Kay Clarke

It was with a great deal of excitement and trepidation that my husband, Glen, and I picked up our Friday keynote speaker from California, Gena Philibert-Ortega, in a spring snowstorm in Alberta. We proceeded to enlighten her on the way weather works here and that sandals can be hazardous to your health at this time of year.

When we arrived at the hotel in Red Deer, we found that Lianne Kruger, my Co-Chair, and our Alberta Genealogical Society, Red Deer Branch counterparts had done a great deal of organizing and things appeared to be going very smoothly. It was up to both of us to be in many places at one time to make sure that things were running smoothly, but it was Lianne who did a masterful job of keeping all the AV needs in order.

The AFHS Calgary contingent helped with the set-up and registration which, for the most part, also went smoothly. It was then on to hear the keynote speaker for Friday night and look at the conference booklet to see what came next.

I am not sure how many miles I put on during the weekend, both in driving and walking, but the only complaint I have is that I did not really get a chance to enjoy the talks the way that most of the attendees did.

I really enjoyed hearing from those who were new to genealogy and had never gone to a conference before, as they really seemed to think that this was very worthwhile. There were some hitches with the hotel, but generally they did a great job in handling all of our 261 delegates.

This is the first time our two societies have joined forces to organize a major event and, all in all, I believe it was a very successful venture, one we will certainly look at repeating.

(Editor's Note - Photos of some of the people who participated in the conference are reproduced on pages 28 and 29.) ###

GUY WEADICK AND FLORES LA DUE: REAL PARTNERS

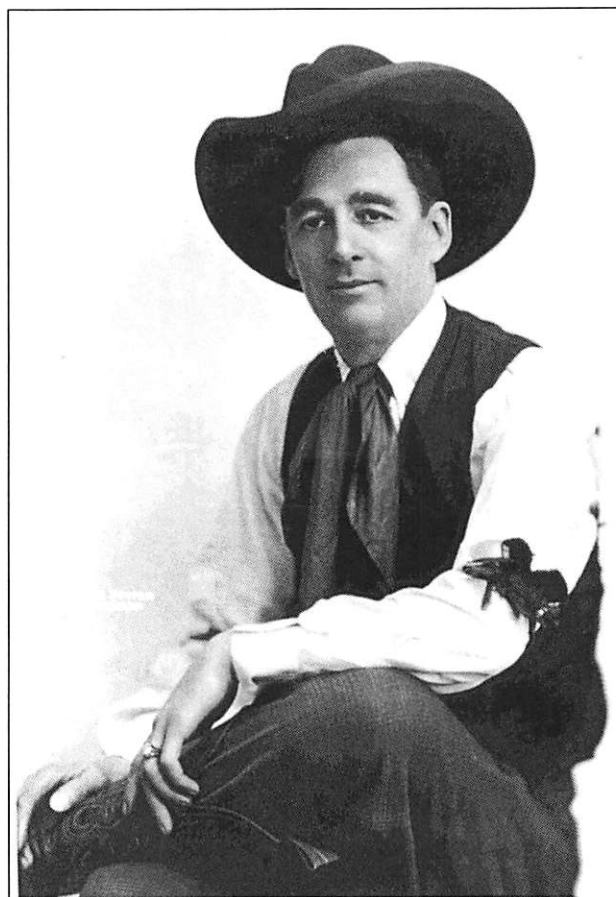
By Aimee Benoit

As Calgary celebrates a century since the first Stampede of 1912, the name of its founder, Guy Weadick, is ubiquitous in the city. Cowboy, vaudeville and wild-west show performer, writer, trick roper, rodeo producer and friend to cowpunchers and rangemen across the continent, Weadick was the quintessential, western showman. The Stampede was an affair that required the efforts of hundreds of people, from financial sponsors to judges. However, Weadick stands out for his role in envisioning the huge frontier days celebration and cowboy contest, for selling it and for giving it life. Through his own passion for the west, Weadick produced an event that has engaged generations of people around the world in a celebration of life on the open range before it gave way to agriculture, cities and industrial development. His partner, and wife, Flores La Due, though somewhat less well known, was equally devoted to preserving the old west. She was an expert rider and trick roper, a popular vaudeville performer and an organizing influence on Weadick's business life. Together they define the romance and nostalgia of an era that was already, by 1912, ending.

As iconic as Weadick and La Due are in the story of the "old west," neither was truly a westerner. George Guy Weadick was born to an Irish-Canadian/American family in Rochester, New York, on February 23, 1885. His mother was Ontario-born Mary Ann Daniels, and his father, New York-born George, worked as a switchman for the railroad. They had five children including George (Guy), Irene, Charles, Thomas and Elsie. Guy had uncles in California and Wyoming and, from listening to their stories, he developed an intense interest in the western "frontier" (Coppock, June 1946, p. 14). He left home as a teenager, after his mother died, and travelled across the west, from the Mexican border to Montana, witnessing the last days of the open range.

During this time, Guy worked as a cowboy and picked up some fancy roping skills from a Texas

cowboy he met in Montana. In 1904, he travelled to Standoff, Alberta, on a horse-buying trip, the first of several formative visits to the region. While in Standoff, Guy had the good fortune to witness the Kainai Nation's annual Sun Dance ceremony. He became lifelong friends with Chief Crop-Eared Wolf and developed a great respect for First Nations' cultures (Coppock, June 1946, p.17).



Guy Weadick ca1912

Credit: *Calgary Stampede Archives*

In 1905, Guy signed on with the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Real Wild West Show (Livingstone, 1996, p. 18). After a second visit to Alberta to promote a Texan bulldogger named Bill Pickett, at the Calgary Exhibition, Weadick made his way to Chicago. There he visited the Col. Fred T. Cummins Wild West and Indian Congress and first set eyes on a "comely young lady rider" by the name of Miss Flores La Due (Coppock, June 1946, p. 55).

Flores was born Grace Maud Bensel on June 27, 1883, in Montevideo, Minnesota. Her father, Charles, had been raised on the Sioux reservation in Faribault, Minnesota. He owned farms and ranches in Minnesota and South Dakota, in addition to being a successful lawyer and occasional judge (*Calgary Herald*, 1946, May 30). Grace's mother had died when Grace was young, leaving her and a younger brother, Charles, to be raised largely by their grandparents. Grace's father married twice more, to Adelie, in 1900, and Elizabeth, in 1902, and had a second daughter, Hazel, Grace's half-sister, in 1907.



Flores La Due on Prince, 1912
Credit: *Calgary Stampede Archives*

Brought up around horses, Grace became an expert rider and, like Guy, left home as a teenager. She joined a wild west show and took a stage name, Flores La Due, which she used for the rest of her life. Though she often recorded her birth name on census and travel documents, she signed her name as Flores and that is also what appears on her memorial. In 1905, Flores was invited to star in the wild west show of Col. Cummins, a good friend of her father. Glimpsing the graceful trick roper in Chicago that fall, Guy returned a year later to make her acquaintance. After a brief, five-week courtship, he and Flores were married on November 17, 1906, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Guy and Flores became partners in life and on the stage, touring the prestigious Orpheum

circuit with a fancy roping act during the golden age of vaudeville. Guy was a tall, handsome, slender and energetic man with a gift for words while Flores, petite, pretty and agile, was said to be one of the most fearless women in the world. Together they performed on Broadway and on stages as far away as London, Glasgow, Paris, Berlin and Moscow (Coppock, September 1946, p. 112). They were also part of the Miller Brothers' troupe that performed at the 1908 Dominion Exhibition in Calgary – an occasion that inspired Guy with the dream of promoting a huge annual event to celebrate the frontier days and cowboy sports.

On Guy's return from a European tour in 1911, an acquaintance named H.C. McMullen, whom Guy had met in Calgary in 1908, contacted him to say Calgary was booming and the time was right to pitch the idea. At the age of just 27, Guy came back to Calgary and was hired to manage and produce the first Stampede in 1912, backed by prominent ranchers and businessmen, Pat Burns, A.E. Cross, George Lane and A.J. McLean. For Guy and the "Big Four" the event was conceived as a one-time nostalgic celebration of the open range ranching era – a nod to the pioneers and old-timers that had opened the west to settlement.

Flores joined Guy in Calgary in May 1912. They stayed in the city for several months while the show was planned and organized. Guy was a talented promoter and he used his vast network of cowboy and cowgirl acquaintances – and the most generous prize money ever offered – to ensure the best competitors in the world would come. He involved hundreds of First Nations people and also showcased the work of western artists, Charles M. Russell and Edward Borein. Despite some glitches and poor weather, the event went off successfully from September 2 to 7, 1912, bringing nearly 100,000 people to Victoria Park for a taste of the old west.

For her part, Flores impressed the crowds with her trick roping prowess, reportedly "keeping sixty-five feet of rope suspended in midair at one time, around herself and horse" (*Calgary Herald*,

1912, September 3, p. 6). She was one of the most colourful and popular female contestants, winning the world championship ladies trick roping title. At her next world championship performance in Calgary, the local newspaper commented that she “made an exceedingly pretty picture, clad in her orange and purple silks, as she bestrode the beautiful chestnut with the silver-mounted saddle and shining equipment” (*Calgary Herald*, 1919, August 30, p. 7).

Guy Weadick’s Stampede served as the inspiration for other local stampedes and rodeos all over western Canada. Guy himself managed a Stampede in Winnipeg, in 1913, and one in New York, in 1916, before returning to manage a second “Victory Stampede” in Calgary, in 1919.

When they were not engaged in the business of managing these huge events, Guy and Flores continued to tour on the vaudeville circuit throughout this period. They appeared in cities across the US, with their western twang and rope throwing. Flores was one of the feature acts of a 101 Ranch Wild West Show performance in Madison Square Gardens, in 1914 (Coppock, December 1946, p. 152). Around this time Guy also began writing columns for *Billboard* magazine, under the pen name “Rowdy Waddy” (Livingstone, 1996, p. 65). Though he never did see a book published, he also worked extensively on longer-format manuscripts, about rodeo and the cowboys he knew, and made contributions regularly to the *Canadian Cattleman* magazine.

In March 1920, after years on the road, the Weadicks decided to settle in southern Alberta and purchased the TS ranch west of High River. A working cattle operation and one of Canada’s first dude ranches, they named it the Stampede Ranch, remodeling the property into a wild west resort (*Calgary Daily Herald*, 1920, March 9, p. 9). Neighbouring both the Bar U and the E.P. Ranch belonging to the Prince of Wales, the Stampede Ranch hosted friends, cowboys, performers and celebrities from across North America. The Weadicks entertained up to 30 guests at a time, offering riding, fishing and mountain excursions.

With attendance declining at the annual Calgary Industrial Exhibition, Guy Weadick was invited to manage the Stampede as an integral part of the 1923 show and, from that year on, the Stampede and Exhibition became a joint annual event. Guy threw himself into the job and was widely respected for his promotional genius, endless energy and organizational abilities. Newspapers often commented on his genial nature and unfettered approach to work. After a visit to the Stampede in 1928, future Prime Minister R.B. Bennett commented, in a letter to Guy, “you must be very tired, but at the same time proud of the result of your hard work. I feel quite sure that but for your enterprise the Stampede could not have succeeded as it did” (Bennett, R. B. letter to Guy Weadick, July 16, 1928).



Guy Weadick with First Nations people, 1926
Credit: *Calgary Stampede Archives*

Despite the widespread esteem in which he was held, however, Guy’s contract with the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede was cancelled in August 1932, twenty years after he put on the first Stampede. The decision, based on financial and other tensions between Weadick and the company, was a blow to both Guy and Flores, who had worked hard to build the enterprise and had continuously promoted the Stampede even while they were performing on the road. In an account published in 1946, the experience was said to leave “a great unfilled void which they [would] carry to their last, for it was their child, their love” (Coppock, 1946, December, p. 169).

Guy and Flores stayed at their ranch in High River after 1932, performing sporadic shows on the declining vaudeville circuit and promoting various rodeo events such as a Stampede in Lethbridge, in 1936. Flores' father, retiring after 66 years as a lawyer, moved to High River in August 1945, to be near his daughter, and died there in May 1946, at the age of 91 years (*Calgary Herald*, 1946, May 30).

Guy and Flores had had no children, and his siblings lived some distance away. His brother, Charles, had remained in New York and, like their father, worked for the railroad, never marrying. After the death of his mother, Mary Ann, Guy's sisters, Irene and Elsie, went to Toronto to live with their mother's twin sister. Irene died there in 1903. Elsie married Joseph Cabot and lived in Manistee, Michigan, with their son and two daughters, later moving to Wyoming. Tom and his wife, Kitty (Kathleen), spent many years in Wyoming where Tom operated a trucking business, before settling in San Clemente, California (*Calgary Daily Herald*, 1953, December 22, p. 1).

Both suffering from health conditions, Guy and Flores decided to slow down. They sold the Stampede Ranch in April 1947 and moved into High River, where they lived for three years before settling on Phoenix as their retirement home (Livingstone, 1996, p.119). In August 1950, some 300 friends surprised them with a huge send-off party, presenting them with a cheque for \$10,000 as thanks for their great friendship and humanitarianism. Guy, never shy for words, was speechless (*Calgary Herald*, 1950, August 10, p. 13). It was a timely tribute. The Weadicks did winter in Arizona but returned the following spring to High River, where Flores suffered a severe heart attack and died on August 9, 1951 (*Calgary Herald*, 1961, July 8, p. 9).

With Flores gone, Guy was at a loss as to what to do. He wrote to a friend that "[t]he shock caused by the sudden and unexpected passing of Florence, has left me dazed and bewildered. . . After all when two people have been together forty-five years, its [*sic*] a long time of close

association, that is not easily broken. . . Naturally since this sudden blow has struck me I am at loose ends, and a very lonely man" (Weadick, G. letter to J. Hutchison, August 25, 1951).

Guy drifted for a while, but eventually found company and comfort with an old friend, Dorothy Mott, who, as Miss Dolly Mullins, had won the trick and fancy riding competition at the 1912 Stampede. Dorothy had been a close friend of Flores and the Weadicks had paid her a visit just a few months before Flores' death. Guy joined Dorothy in Phoenix and, on April 4, 1952, they were married in Mexico. The marriage was short-lived and they separated in October 1953.

Though Flores did not live to see her husband honoured for his contributions to the Calgary Stampede, Guy did return to the Stampede one last time as a special guest in 1952. In an interview that year, Guy seemed pleased with how the event he founded had grown, thanks to the loyal support of the public and the hard work of the people who had taken the reins. With pride, and no doubt still a tinge of regret, Guy conceded, "there's no question that this is the finest show of its kind on the American continent today" (Macklehagger interview with Guy Weadick, 1952, July).

Although Flores's own role has only recently been more fully appreciated (Bryden, 2011), Guy, himself, attributed much of what he had achieved to his wife of forty-five years thusly, "Any success I may have attained in the field of endeavor that I followed for some years as a business, must be attributed greatly to the steadying influence Florence had on me, her loyalty and confidence in my ability to succeed in my work, her understanding of my frailties [*sic*] and weaknesses, and her generous attitude to them. All in all she was fine and generous" (Weadick, G. letter to J. Hutchison, August 25, 1951).

Guy Weadick died on December 13, 1953. As a final tribute, his favourite horse, Snip, was led in the funeral procession with the saddle, a gift of the Big Four in 1912, empty (*Calgary Daily*

**PERIODICALS PLACE:
THE BREEZE and CHINOOK**

Herald, 1953, December 22, p.1). Both Flores and Guy were buried at the High River Cemetery, Guy's memorial recognizing him as a "Loyal Son of his Adopted West" and Flores as "A Real Partner."

With special thanks to Barbara Merback for generously sharing her memories of her uncle, Guy Weadick. ~Aimee Benoit

(Aimee Benoit has been the Archivist and historian for the Calgary Stampede since August 2010. Her background is in western Canadian history and museum collections management.)

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Glenbow Archives, M-1287-8, Guy Weadick Fonds, Marriage Certificate.

Glenbow Archives, M-1287-1, Guy Weadick Fonds, Letter from R.B. Bennett to Guy Weadick, July 16, 1928.

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The Periodicals Committee looks after *Chinook* and *The Breeze*, which are part of the benefits of your membership. To find us on the AFHS website (www.afhs.ab.ca), click on Genealogical Resources found at the top of the page. Then find Periodicals: [Chinook](#) | [The Breeze](#)

For those who don't have access to a computer or prefer to read this right here, right now, these are the brief instructions:

CHINOOK

To submit an article to *Chinook* and for deadlines, see page 2 of each *Chinook*. See also *Chinook Submission Guidelines* at <http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/docs/chinook-submission-guidelines.pdf>

To place a Surname Connection in *Chinook*, See the "Surname Connections" column on page 16 of this issue for further information. ("Queries" go to AFHS researchers who answer specific inquiries for a small fee.)

To advertise in *Chinook*, email: ads-chinook@afhs.ab.ca or mail: **ATTN: Periodicals Committee – Ads to AFHS** at the address found on page 31 of each issue of *Chinook*. (Note – We do not endorse any advertiser's products or services in any way.)

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To see *Chinook* Tables of Contents (TOC), visit the website or keep your copies!

THE BREEZE

To submit items for *The Breeze*, which is handed out at the monthly meetings and placed on the website, email: breeze@afhs.ab.ca no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

###

MY HEROES ARE WOMEN WHO WON THE WEST

By Xenia Stanford

As I do family history, I am struck by what it took for women to come to this country as pioneers and settle the land out West, often without the help of their husbands. These are my heroes. One in particular was my paternal grandmother, Gertraud Berger, nee Niedermoser.

I had the great fortune to grow up in my paternal grandparents' home and to have an almost twenty year ongoing interview with Gramma. It is from her that I learned what courage and strength it took to come to Canada and stay here. I call her "the reluctant pioneer" because, had she been given the choice, she would have stayed near her family and friends in her homeland of Austria. The family and people in the village she came from were close and Canada was an unknown culture. Gramma and Grampa didn't know any English before they arrived. This was another drawback, but Gramma told me she did what a good Austrian wife did – follow her husband.



Sisters Maria and Gertraud Niedermoser, 1908,
taken just before Gertraud immigrated to Canada
Credit: Stanford Family Files

She came to Canada from Austria with Grampa (Anton Berger) and Anton Jr. (my Dad), who was listed as 18 months old but was barely 15 months. Gramma's older sister, Ursula, also travelled with them. They left behind their oldest sister, who died a year later, and two brothers. They were never to see them again.

What is worse, Gramma left behind a three-month-old daughter, Theresia, in the care of her mother, a woman Gramma called a very cruel person. Why would she do that? Gramma explained that Grampa had a cousin who was already in Canada. The cousin said to come and they would be able to get a homestead for free, prove it, sell it and in three years they could return to Austria and never have to work again! That was the promise Grampa made to Gramma, but it was one he could not keep.

They left Kitzbuhel, Austria, by train, to travel to Antwerp where they boarded the ship *Lake Michigan* on August 12, 1908. They were assigned to third class, otherwise known as steerage. This is how they were listed:

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION
Berger Anton	24	Carpenter
Berger Gertrude	24	Wife
Berger Anton	1yr6mt	Child
Niedermoser Ushul	26	Domestic

Gramma spoke of the ordeal of having to take everything they needed, such as food, dishes and bedding, onto the ship. She said several families were crowded in the one room and endured unsanitary conditions. Many were sick during the voyage and children often cried day and night, so sleeping was difficult. There were cows and other animals in steerage as well, adding to the noise and smells.

When she could, Gramma escaped to the deck above and walked with Anton Jr., my apparently well-behaved father. She said one of the women from that deck asked her if she wanted to sell the blond-haired, blue-eyed child! The answer was, of course, no!

On the twelfth day of travel (August 23), they reached Quebec City. Tired, dirty and hungry, they disembarked and were quickly shuffled off to an underground room with other steerage passengers travelling further west. Again the food, dishes and bedding were needed. Gramma recalled the room they were in as below ground because at the top of the wall there was a window from which she could see people's shoes going by on the sidewalk and nothing else.

The next day they boarded a Canadian Pacific Railway train to Ponoka, Alberta, which is where Grampa's cousin lived. Oddly, the passenger list shows Grampa as going to Ponoka where his parents supposedly already lived. Perhaps the immigration officer misunderstood. Grampa listed his occupation as carpenter, but he was going to Canada to farm, which is how he thought he would make his fortune.

Gramma said from the beginning she did not know how he would become a farmer because he had never farmed. He was a musician and made fancy carved furniture. In other words, he was an artist. Gramma, on the other hand, had worked as a farm hand after she finished school at age 12 and continued such work until, in her twenties, she met and married Grampa.

They lived for less than two years in Ponoka. Gramma spoke about having to work to help out. She was able to land a position at the local grocery store even though the owner did not speak German and she did not speak English. I asked how they communicated. She said the owner would point to the broom and she would sweep. He would point to the shelves and she would dust or stock them.

By April 1910, they were living in Brouse, British Columbia (BC), when their next child, Gertrude, was born. She was registered as born in Nakusp, the nearest post office. The family is shown on the 1911 Canada Census in Slocan Riding, BC, with place of habitation as Brouse. Birthplace was listed for the first three as Austria/Tirol and Ethnic Origin as Tyrolian. They are listed as: Berger, Anton, age 32;

Gertrude, age 27; Anton, age 3; and Gertrude, age 1. Grampa's occupation was shown as labourer, but Gramma told me he was involved mainly in logging, cutting trees and making railway ties. Several photographs of Grampa in BC attest to this. In any case, he was not a farmer and they were no closer to their dream of getting rich and going back in three years.

Shortly after the census, a son named Joseph was born and, in 1912, twin boys joined the family. The twins died nine months later, two days apart. Cause of death was gastroenteritis, according to the death certificate, but "summer fever" according to Gramma. Dad had also been a twin, his twin brother dying six weeks after their birth. So now she had lost three children and had three still living.



Gertraud and Anton Berger with, left to right, Joseph, Anton Jr. and Gertrude, ca 1913
Credit: *Stanford family files*

In 1914, a son, John, was born while the family was still in BC. Gramma's sister, Ursula, had two illegitimate sons, one born in 1913 and the other in 1915. She met an American, who was in Nakusp for a visit, and wanted to go to the United States with him. She didn't want him to know she had any children, though, and asked Gramma to say they were hers. When Ursula left for Kansas with the American man, Gramma had six children to look after and still no farm.

They moved to Deer Park and then back to Brouse before they finally left for Alberta in the hope of escaping the prejudice they were encountering during the First World War. They had been placed on an Enemy Aliens List and Grampa had to make monthly visits to the RCMP. They heard Alberta was better. Their first stop was Medicine Hat where they rented a house and a barn for their horses. When the owner of the barn heard they were Austrian, he demanded they get their German horses out of his barn. So, once again, Gramma packed up the children and the wagon for the trip to Red Deer. It was there that son Herman was born in 1919. Still no farm!



Gertraud and Anton Berger on their homestead near Rocky Mountain House, 1922
Credit: *Stanford family files*

Two years later they moved to Rocky Mountain House where there was more work in logging. By this time Dad was a teenager and put to work to assist his father. Another son, Walter, was born in 1922. Gramma was becoming increasingly concerned about the farm and the promise of returning to her daughter and the rest

of the family in Austria. At this time, they were squatting in an abandoned house and life felt too nomadic for Gramma. She begged Grampa to apply for a homestead. A married woman could not apply herself, even though single women could. Finally, Grampa made an application and they moved onto the homestead.

Grampa and Dad chopped down and removed the trees, leaving the stumps, debris and rocks to be cleaned up. Gramma mobilized the children to clear the land, picking up rocks and putting them on a platform to be hauled away. A horse was hitched to the platform to pull it over to the side of the cleared area. The stumps were pulled out by a combination of horse and child power, later to be chopped up to fuel the fire for cooking and heating.

Grampa and his older sons built a two-storey house and the family moved in just before the birth of my grandparents' final child, George, in 1926. Finally feeling things were on track, Gramma was shocked when Grampa came into the house and said, "Pack up the children and the wagon. We're going back to Deer Park."

Gramma told me at this point she knew she would never get another homestead and their own house ever again if they moved. She said she did what no self-respecting Austrian woman would do. She told Grampa, "You can go. The children and I are staying here." Grampa stormed out and stayed away for a couple of years.

Meanwhile, Gramma and her children broke the land, seeded it, harvested it and invested in livestock, mainly cattle, pigs and chickens. Gramma even had sheep, which she sheared. Then she carded, spun and knit the wool into clothing. In everything, they were self-sufficient, except for material for clothes, shoes and a few grocery items. She planted a large garden and went out to pick berries and harvest mushrooms when in season. The children were also put to work, with the girl often doing the household chores while the boys worked on the land. A neighbour asked my grandmother to see if Grampa would look after his farm while he was

away overseas for a year. Gramma accepted on Grampa's behalf, so she and the children ran two farms that year.



Gertraud Berger spinning wool, ca1925
Credit: *Stanford Family Files*

Although she now provided a comfortable living for her family, she always longed for “the old country” and grieved that she was not there when her oldest sister and oldest brother died. She also grieved for her baby girl left behind. She was not to see this daughter until about 1950 when Theresia immigrated to Canada.

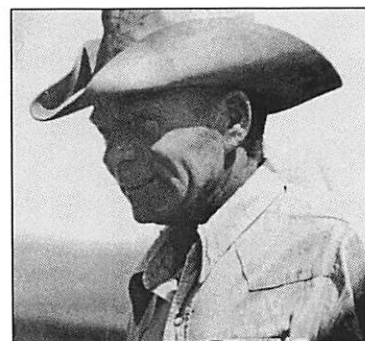
The promise of free land, three years to prove it, sell it and then go back to Austria never happened. Although she spoke of regret at times, she generally was an upbeat, five-foot dynamo working until she died, at age 83. She enjoyed her life and was known for inviting friends and strangers in for coffee always accompanied with baked goodies. This reluctant pioneer and many women like her formed the backbone of the settlement of Canada, particularly the West. That is why they are my heroes. ###

(Editor's Note – This ancestor was first introduced by the author in the April 2004 issue of Chinook, in a story entitled: More in the House! My Favourite Ancestor.)

MEMORIES OF DAD By Daniel Harry Denning

The main thing I remember about my Dad, Harry Archibald Denning, was his patience – with animals, horses and people. The best times were when we went out chasing cows with him, riding in the hills. We played a lot of crib with Dad. I could never beat him, although my sister, Deb, could! We went to swim meets just about every weekend in the summer. He always kept time for everybody. The time we went water skiing on Lake Skaha, at Penticton, with our friends, the McClellands, we saw a fun side of him we did not get to see much, as he was always working so hard. Dad did go fishing sometimes, although I never went with him. Mostly, he thought there was too much to do.

In later years, he would sit down at the shop and say he wished he would have taken more time off with us. He said things would have gotten done anyway. But he was there with us at a lot of our sporting events and he taught us so much. Dad never quit. If it had to be done, he'd just do it, no matter how sick he was. I can still see him cutting hay into the self-feeders, standing in all that dust. Until about 1984, when he just couldn't work much at all, he would drive down to the shop and sit in a chair and talk. I'll always treasure that time with him and still miss him every day. I tell my daughters about him and hope I can be even half the man for them that he was for me. ###



Harry Archibald Denning
Credit: *Denning family files*

(Harry Denning served in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve during World War II, on the Corvette, Edmunston, on escort duty between St. John's, Newfoundland and Londonderry, Ireland.)

FROM THE GENEASPHERE: GENEALOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

By Dawn Turner

Ancient cultures that did not have a reliable way of keeping written records often recited long genealogical lines by heart. The Hawaiians, for instance, chose their reciters, called chanters, at very young ages. Their lives were dedicated to memorizing and sharing generations of Hawaiian chieftains' names. Even civilizations that had written records often had to labouriously chisel them into stone and family history recordings almost exclusively belonged to royalty.

More recently, folks started using paper and pen to track their family histories. Genealogy began moving into the mainstream as a matter of interest and pride. Many were trying to find family connections to royalty, sometimes with ulterior motives.

Moving into the digital age opened up whole new vistas for genealogists. Now data could be published on websites, such as on our own www.afhs.ab.ca site, and more widely shared. These sites offered up images, information and searchable databases.

To this point, information sharing was largely one-way. Someone presented the information and others read it. Finding the rock-chiseler to point out a factual error may have been difficult, not to mention re-chiseling the data. Even modern websites were largely static until recently, with the only form of “communication” being email – if the webmaster shared his or her email address.

Enter social media!

Suddenly, mass discussion is possible. Not only can we have two-way, three-way and even 100-way conversations, now we can broadcast information to the world with just a few keystrokes. Sharing data has never been easier and genealogists are eating it up.

As well, social media is forming communities in a way that we have never seen before. Where our culture was beginning to despair the loss of

community in “real life,” new forms are popping up on Facebook and Twitter. Choose an interest and you can find a group of like-minded individuals out there in cyberspace. Interacting with these people every day forms bonds and, in this writer's opinion, fills the “community void” that seemed to be formed as we became separated and world became “colder.”

Here are some of the ways genealogists are using social media to share information and form bonds with each other:

- **Facebook:** Like it or not, Facebook is here to stay. It is the single most popular social media platform going. Everyone knows someone who is on Facebook and some folks have created several communities there – including family groups, special interest groups and business connections.
 - The AFHS has a Facebook presence at www.facebook.com/AlbertaFHS. We use it to update followers on society goings on and find it much more effective than the static website because it gets “pushed” to people’s news feeds instantly and can bring immediate results.
 - Genealogical personalities such as Thomas MacEntee and Dick Eastman, among others, have pages on Facebook. You can “Like” or follow their pages to see their news items and updates.
- **Twitter:** Designed for short, concise messages of up to 140 characters, Twitter is very popular with some. AFHS’s Twitter page is located at twitter.com/AlbertaFHS. Companies, organizations and individuals keep in touch with each other in small increments, with recent AFHS “tweets” being about conference reminders and updates to the website. One tweet even called for volunteer transcribers.
- **Google+:** Also known as “G+” for short, Google+ was created to rival Facebook, though it has never gained the same

popularity. However, it has some dedicated users and genealogists, in particular, seem to have adopted it as a meeting place. It has a news feed similar to Facebook's, but some advantages of G+ over Facebook are:

- Probably the best video chat feature I have ever seen. Anyone with a web cam can create a video "hangout" with two or more users at a time. A lot of video programs only allow you to chat with one person at a time, so this is a huge improvement if you want to have, say, an online meeting. I have used this with family and business and the video quality was pretty good even with four or more visitors at a time. Well done, Google!
- Integration with all your other Google stuff, so if you use Gmail and Picassa you can incorporate a lot of the things you already have online into your G+ page.
- The AFHS has a G+ page. Go to plus.google.com and type *Alberta Family Histories Society* in the search field.
- **Blogs:** Although they are a little more difficult for discussions, blogs (short for weblogs) are a good way to offer more information at one time but still have speed and flexibility not available on static websites. Visitors can comment on your posts and you can comment back. AFHS's blog is located at: afhs.ab.ca/blog
- **LinkedIn:** This is what I call "Facebook for professionals." It is largely for sharing of business information, resumes and skills and for professional networking. AFHS has a LinkedIn page at: www.linkedin.com/company/alberta-family-histories-society There isn't a lot there yet, but it is worth pointing out for the purposes of this summary.
- **Discussion Groups:** Although email and discussion mailing lists have been around since long before the above-mentioned tools, and although they were slower and clumsier and not as pretty as the slick new media we

have available, such email lists are still widely used and will probably never entirely die out. They work on a subscription basis and users can post questions or information by sending an email to the list, which every subscriber receives. Searchable archives allow users to find old messages quickly. More information about AFHS's discussion group can be found at: lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Genealogical_Societies/AFHS-DISCUSSION.html (Sorry it's so long!)

These are the most popular social media platforms to date, but things are evolving. Even Facebook may not last forever as other ideas take its place. And don't you think it's a little ironic that one of the oldest forms of genealogy, the chanters, was probably one of the most social? After all, they practiced their craft at feasts and gatherings with a lot of their family and friends surrounding them.

Take a minute and explore some of these sites I have mentioned and let us know if you have any questions or suggestions about them. Contact me at: webmaster@afhs.ab.ca
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COMPUTER TRICKS By Jim Benedict

Create a File List

Do you have a large number of files stuck in your computer folders? Need a way to record their file names? Open up the file folder; then select all the files in the folder. The easiest way is to press CTRL-A.

Now, hover over any file and right-click it. Choose **Send To** and select **Mail Recipient**, which will open your default email client. Your email client produces a list of the files in the body of the email. Then, you can copy-and-paste the list to a word processing application or any other application you choose.

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SIR CECIL EDWARD DENNY, BART. By Laura Kirbyson

Since fall of last year, I've spent a lot of time getting to know Sir Cecil Edward Denny, Bart., discovering more about his life and finding out that he had an impact on my life and the lives of other Albertans. I have been amazed at how involved he was with so many of the events and people that comprise our history.

This issue is about heroes. I have spent some time considering my definition of a hero and whether or not Sir Cecil fits in with it. I believe that the definition of a hero can be many things. In this case, I found his life to be inspiring. The fact that he took the time to write so very many details of his experiences and the people he met makes him a hero in my eyes. He went to what I believe are extraordinary measures to make sure his version of events would be preserved and shared. As this topic is near and dear to my own heart, I decided to write about Cecil Denny.

Denny was a man who lived a full life. He travelled, tried (many!) different jobs and appears to have met innumerable people about whom he wrote in various articles and books. While I did not find a lot in the written record that tarnishes his image, there were rumours about his life that, at the time, may have been seen as unsavoury – especially the attempted murder charge (he was acquitted by a jury within

15 minutes) (*The Macleod Gazette*, 1892, July 7, p. 2). Of particular irony is the fact that Denny began his career in Western Canada with the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), bringing law and order to the Prairies.



Sir Cecil Edward Denny, Bart
Credit: Courtesy of Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum

Cecil Edward Denny was born on December 14, 1850 in Hampshire, England. His parents were Reverend Robert Day Denny and his second wife, Frances Johnson Kerton Waller. Denny's older half-brother, Robert Arthur from his father's first marriage, would become the 5th Baronet of Tralee Castle, an Irish title which would eventually pass to Cecil in 1922. After studying at Cheltenham College in England, Denny left for the Continent and studied in both France and Germany.

In 1870, he immigrated to the United States, landing at the Port of New York, and headed to what is now the Greater Chicago area where he ended up owning property purchased by his father. Sir Cecil never married and had no children that I have been able to determine. He died in 1928 in Edmonton and is buried in Union Cemetery in Calgary. These are the bare facts that are often the only focus in a family's history: born, married, died and buried. The life of Sir Cecil Edward Denny is what history is made of – literally – and it merits our study.

By 1874, Denny had joined the NWMP in Ontario and was on his way to Alberta to bring law and order to Western Canada. He served as a Superintendent and Sub-Inspector of "F" Division (Himsworth, 1874). As a member of the NWMP, Denny participated in building Fort Macleod and Fort Brisebois (subsequently, Fort Calgary). He was one of the two people with Colonel Macleod when Macleod suggested the name "Calgary." Denny was a signatory to Treaty 7 at Blackfoot Crossing. He worked for the Indian Department during the Riel Rebellion at the request of Sir John A. MacDonald, because of his close association with the First Nations people.

In 1881, Denny resigned from the NWMP under murky circumstances. Rumour has it that he was having an affair with the married Mrs. Victoria Robinson and this may have forced his resignation. This affair led to Denny's arrest in 1892 on charges of intent to commit murder and

intent to do grievous bodily harm. The jury acquitted him.

After service with the NWMP, Sir Cecil had a number of jobs. As examples, he worked for the NWMP with the Peace River-Yukon Trail Project, as a farmer and rancher in the Calgary, Colinton and Fort Macleod areas, as a Dominion Fire Ranger in the Athabasca and Lac-la-Biche areas and, perhaps my favourite, as the first Provincial Archivist for the Province of Alberta. He was not able to hold jobs for very long and was often looking for work in order to avoid destitution, a state he unfortunately reached. All of these experiences, as well as the people he met, appear to have informed his writings. He did not write much about himself, rather he focussed on his passions – the NWMP and Alberta.

Denny wrote a number of articles and poems. Two of his works have been published, *Riders of the Plains* and *The Law Marches West*. They provide wonderful and exciting insight into life on the Canadian Prairies in a time when Buffalo roamed in vast numbers and First Nations groups followed them. Denny wrote of the people he encountered and describes the world he saw in fantastic detail. A copy of his diary from that 1874 NWMP march west is at the Glenbow Museum and Archives.

One of my favourite writings of Denny's is *A Faithful Friend*, published posthumously (*Lethbridge Daily Herald*, 1929, April 13, p. 4). It's a story about a Montana man who was out riding when he and his horse stumbled across a grizzly bear cub, soon followed by its momma. The rider became unseated and injured but his horse remained with him and with its hooves drove off the bear. Denny ostensibly wrote this story for a sick little girl during a flu epidemic.

Upon his death in Edmonton, in 1928, Denny's will started through the probate process, a process that would take over ten years. Denny made three major provisions, each demonstrating his caring and compassion for his fellow officers of the Mounted Police and for children. One

quarter of his estate (after certain bequests and administrative costs) would go to the care of destitute children at the Royal Alexandra and Red Cross Children's Hospitals. Another 25% would go to the development of a fund for NWMP destitute veterans. The remaining 50% of his estate went towards the editing and publication of his book ultimately called *The Law Marches West* and its dissemination to Alberta's school children. The latter bequest was finally achieved in March 1939.

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ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF CHINOOK

Beginning with the October 2012 issue, AFHS will offer delivery of *Chinook* electronically to those members who wish to receive the journal in that manner. You may elect to receive *Chinook* by email instead of, or in addition to, a paper copy.

To choose electronic delivery please email the *Chinook* Editor at editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca and let us know your preference.

(Editor's Note – This story by Joe Minten is a compilation of anecdotes and stories his father, Willem Jean Minten, and other relatives told over the years. It has been told as if through his father's eyes.)

It was May 8, 1953 and I was getting ready to depart my Netherlands homeland for new adventures. The memories of the Second Great War to end all wars were fading, but not fast enough. There were too many reminders – the bombed-out houses, the missing fathers, brothers, uncles and sons, entire families wiped out and the wounded and maimed beggars in the streets. There was also the telling and retelling of war stories at social gatherings. The newspapers and magazines were still full of heroic acts and miracle survival stories right alongside stories of the mass bombings and other horrible acts against humanity.

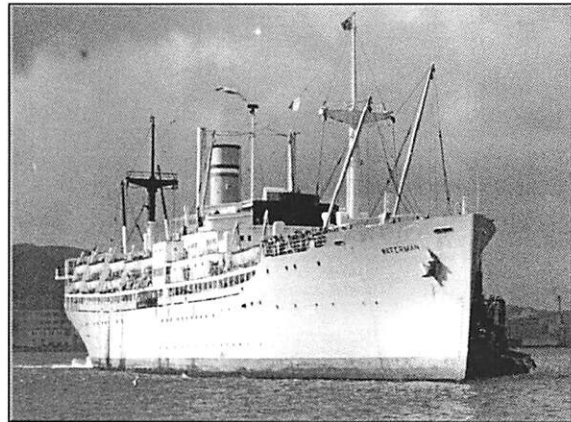
My mind was filled with thoughts of the New World as I was saying my good-byes, hugging my family and friends. Canada – what was waiting there for me? My older sister, Agnes, whom we call Asje or As for short (pronounced “aus”), had moved there about a year ago right after getting married. She said life was great there, with lots of opportunities.

With trepidation, I started up the gang plank to board the *SS Waterman* of the Holland-America Line. The *Waterman* was a converted Victory Class troop and cargo ship. It was built in Portland, Oregon in 1944 and originally named *La Grande Victory*. It was 455 feet long, with a beam of 62 feet. It had capacity for 900 cabin-class passengers and, on this voyage, carried 754 intrepid travellers hoping to start a new life in a new land. As the physical separation from my family grew, the memories and vision of them standing dockside, waving, seemed to weld themselves to the back of my mind.

I will never forget the time my father, Johannes (John) Gerardus Minten, who was a member of the Dutch underground during the war, had taken

in a Jewish refugee. We were to hide him in the attic for three days, until he was moved to the next safe-house and eventually secreted away to England. We had done this successfully four or five times before and knew the drill. If the Germans came to the door, Dad would do all the talking. We were to tell no one about the refugees – ever! We never knew their names or what they did for a living but assumed they were either rich or important to have this kind of assistance escaping the war. They were always dressed in local styles in order to not draw attention if they were seen while being moved. That first night, with this particular refugee, my mother became quite agitated. We found out why the next morning.

My father had managed to secure a whole pound of butter a couple of days earlier and my mom had put it in the attic to keep it cold and fresh while it was rationed out. Fresh butter was worth its weight in gold at that time. Dad went into the attic to check on the refugee and to get some of the hidden butter for breakfast. When he went to get the butter it was gone! The refugee had a big sheepish, greasy grin on his face. Dad exploded! That pound of butter would have helped feed his family of nine for a week. This guy ate the whole thing in one night! He was supposed to stay in the attic for two more nights, but dad threw him into the street that morning. I never saw him again and wonder to this day whatever happened to him.



SS Waterman

Credit: Copied from www.arendnet.com/waterman.htm

As a member of the Dutch underground as well as the Red Cross, there were many other things to be done. Messages needed to be passed from person to person quickly and discreetly. My father would also collect silverware from neighbours and friends. This would be melted down and sold. The cash from it, combined with donations, would be used, in part, to pay off guards in order to help prisoners escape. It would also be used to help pay for feeding, housing and moving them. My older sister, Kitty, who was about 11 at the time, and small for her age, was sometimes used as a “mule.” The German soldiers would usually leave young children alone, letting them come and go as they played in the streets. As a member of the Red Cross, Dad was allowed to take food and water to the Jews on the trains when they stopped at the local station. He would typically get Kitty and As, using their bikes, to carry the food and water to the prisoners. The soldiers got used to seeing the girls on their bikes with packages. They would eventually let them pass without question. Dad took advantage of this. He would package up food, money and table utensils (for digging out of the camps). Kitty, not knowing at the time what she was carrying, would hop on her bike and take the package to someone across town. Dad was also skilled with radios. Radios were not allowed in the hands of the general public. The Germans did not want people tuning in to their plans. People would bring broken radios and spare parts to Dad. He would piece them together and get them working and able to tune in to the frequencies used by the military, thereby gaining insights into their activities and general whereabouts. It was in these ways that our father helped people in the prison camps, as well as those just trying to avoid capture, survive and escape.

At the railing of the ship, I had a good view of the city of Rotterdam. I waved back to my family as I wondered what was next. I felt good about leaving at that time. There were lots of opportunities in Canada. I had my Electrical and Plumbing Engineer degrees. I was in good physical shape, especially after the lengthy cleanup from the big flood of February 1, 1953.

On the night of January 31, 1953, a huge storm had blown in from the North Sea. In the provinces of Zuid-Holland, Zeeland and Noord-Brabant the dikes proved to be little resistance against the surging power of Mother Nature. Water rushed in, sweeping away everything in its path like toys in a gutter. Trees, buildings, farm animals and people – nothing was spared! The people who could flee the rushing waters did so in great numbers, heading for high ground. In the end, 70,000 people were evacuated. The following day, as the storm slowly moved on, seemingly unconcerned about the devastation it caused, people began to return. What they found was a strange waterscape of half submerged buildings with muddy waves gently lapping at their doors and windows. With people sandbagging the broken dykes and pumps running at full capacity, the waters slowly receded. We worked day and night dealing with the dead, the disrupted and broken families and the damaged buildings. It took months to clean everything up. Many people were never found.



Great Flood – Amsterdam, February 1, 1953

Credit: Copied from

www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/17-01/ff_dutch_delta?currentPage=al

My girlfriend and future wife, Adrianna Petronella Heesbeen, whom I called Addy, worked for the township in Roosendaal. The city was fortunate to not have been inundated by the storm surge which made it possible for the residents to set up shelters. Addy volunteered,

handing out clothing and blankets to those who had lost almost everything. She gave some clothing and a blanket to one man who had very sad and empty eyes and asked if he needed anything else. With a blank look he said no and walked away. The girl next to Addy said that she knew the man, that he had 21 kids, and had lost them all. Over 2,000 people were killed and missing. Tens of thousands of farm animals were drowned and thousands of buildings damaged or destroyed. Those memories would always be fresh in my mind. As a parting gift, a friend gave me a picture book about the flood.



Great Flood – Amsterdam, February 1, 1953

Credit: *US Army picture taken from a rescue helicopter overflying the flooded Dutch town of Oude Tonge; copied from www.digitaljournal.com/image/45840*

I was suddenly pulled from my reverie when I felt the ship shudder as it began to pull away from the wharf. A wild mix of excitement and fear of the unknown, plus both good and bad memories of the past, were swirling around my brain. I prayed I was making the right decision. To use an old cliché, there was no turning back. I looked out into the vast expanse of the ocean and was in awe of its immensity. That awe would soon turn into a retching hatred, as I discovered I had no stomach for seafaring. Being seasick is worse than the worst hangover or flu you could imagine. There seems to be no way to escape it except to get back onto land, and that was eight days away! I'll spare you the details but suffice to say I lost a little weight crossing the "Big Pond."

One night, while trying to sleep during a particularly calm sea, I found myself drifting back home to one eventful night in 1942 when we heard the dreaded air raid sirens. These times always struck fear in us. We knew there would be death and devastation somewhere in the city. The whistling sound just before the explosion always seemed to be right above you. The concussion of a nearby bomb would hurt your ears if you didn't plug them with your fingers. Staying in a building where a bomb landed was much worse than in the open. The confined concussion tearing at your eardrums and the flying bits of wood and glass were much worse than being outside, preferably in a depression in the ground. The best place to be was in one of the bomb shelters located around the city. On this occasion, there was a lot of screaming and chaos as Mom and Dad quickly got us all out of bed and began to herd us outside. We could hear bombs exploding in the distance, getting louder and closer. We started running through the streets toward the nearest bomb shelter. This was made extra difficult due to the imposed blackout conditions. There were no streetlamps or light from the windows of the houses along the street.

After stumbling along in the dark with the flow of people for a couple of blocks, one of us suddenly realized we had forgotten Baby Lily. Somehow in the confusion Lily was left alone in the house. With bombs exploding all around us, As turned around and began forcing her way back through the crowds of people heading for the shelters. After successfully struggling to get back to the house, she ran in to get Lily, only to find an unexploded bomb sticking through the ceiling. She grabbed Lily from the crib and ran back outside, eventually catching up to us. Nobody wanted to go back into the house after the raid ended, so we stayed at the shelter all night. The next day, when we returned to the house, some neighbours had already called the bomb squad to remove the bomb from the house.

I awoke with a start, remembering I was on a ship heading to Canada, got out of my bunk and wiped my face with a cold damp cloth, the seasickness temporarily replaced a cold sweat.

After eight, excruciatingly long days, we finally saw a hazy strip of land rise from the western horizon like a giant blue-gray storm cloud. Eventually trees and buildings began to take shape and colour, changing the storm cloud into a recognizable landmass. I could feel the seasickness wash away as a great sense of excitement overwhelmed it. Canada! A new start! With the end in sight, I couldn't wait to get off this dreaded tub!

The ship finally landed in Halifax on May 16. With many other ships and boats in the harbour, it was quite a spectacle. I was amazed at the hustle and bustle in the New World. Putting my feet on solid ground again felt both comforting and weird. I had heard about sea legs and I must have had them. It seemed to me that the ground was swaying under my feet. I couldn't walk properly. It was like I was drunk. As the sensation slowly left me, I had to focus on the next part of my journey, which was by train, thank God. With help from some fellow passengers I'd met on the voyage, I found the train station and bought a ticket to Toronto where As and her husband, Joe, lived. After buying the ticket I was pretty much broke. With the seasickness passing, I felt the urge for a cigarette. I asked around for a smoke from the other disembarked passengers. I finally found a priest who sold me his pack, taking my last 27 cents. "Geez," I thought to myself, "you'd think a priest might give a poor guy like me a break."

And so began my new life – a pack of smokes, no food, no money and no job, not to mention I didn't speak English. What did I get myself into? As it turned out, the train ride was much better than the ship. I loved the vast and ever changing countryside that rolled past the window. People on the train were generous, sharing food they had brought with them. This might turn out to be a good life after all!

I settled in Toronto, living with my sister for a short while until I could

support myself. With the help of a friend of my sister's who spoke Dutch and English, I got a job washing dishes in the kitchen of a restaurant at a gas station. On my lunch break on the first day, I grabbed a cup of coffee, and sat at the counter looking at the menu. It might as well have been written in Chinese. I couldn't read a thing and there wasn't a single picture to help me out. I heard the guy next to me order bacon and eggs. When the waitress came to me I proudly said in heavily accented English, "bacon and eggs" not even knowing what I ordered. As it turned out, I got lucky. I happened to like bacon and eggs. For about the next week or so, all I ever ordered was "bacon and eggs." Later, when I could order other things, I didn't order "bacon and eggs" for a long time.

Eventually, with help from friends, I got a job as an electrician. On December 16, 1953, my fiancée, Addy, flew out to Montreal from Amsterdam and took the train to Toronto. The plane landed in Gander, Newfoundland, for refuelling. Everyone disembarked and was fed a picnic style lunch at long tables with benches. The train trip from Montreal to Toronto took twelve hours. It stopped for cows, moose and other wildlife as well as every little town and village on the line. Clearly, it was the proverbial milk run. A meal of bacon and eggs on the train was 60 cents, relatively cheap compared with the equivalent of about \$4.00 in The Netherlands. I picked her up at Union Station and brought her to my sister's place. We were legally married right after Christmas, and followed that with a church wedding on January 2, 1954. Our first child showed up ten months later and by March of 1962 we were a family of seven making our way together.

Late in 1954, my parents and other siblings followed. We were all together again, sharing new adventures in a New World.

###

Addy and Bill Minten on their wedding day
Credit: *Minten family files*



CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY By Christine Hayes

Family History Coaching takes place at the Central Library, in the genealogy area on the Fourth Floor, on the last Saturday of each month from September to June (but not in December) Volunteer coaches from AFHS as well as staff from Calgary Public Library will be there to help you with your genealogical quest from 10:00 AM to noon. No advance registration is required but, in order to access the databases, a Calgary Public Library membership is required.

Historic Calgary Week: Ancestors and Their Attics 2.0. We will be presenting an updated version of our very popular century homes presentation which traces the history of a home and its family. No registration is required
Central Library, Lower Level, Meeting Room 2
Thursday August 2, 2012 – 2:00-3:00 PM

100th Anniversary Celebrations: This year is Calgary Public Library's 100th Anniversary. A number of special events are planned for all library locations to celebrate. Check out the Calgary Public Library website for more information and plan to join us to celebrate your library!

Other programs on offer

Calgary 1912. It was a watershed year for Calgary. Join three wonderful speakers, Don Smith, Brian Brennan and Aimee Benoit to find out about the energy, passion and vision (not to mention a healthy dose of eccentricity) that made this city great. No registration is required.
Memorial Park Library
Tuesday, July 31, 2012 – 7:00-8:30 PM

Historic Walking Tour of Central Memorial Park. Heritage architect, Lorne Simpson will take you on a guided tour of this newly restored park and its historic neighbours. No registration is required.
Memorial Park Library
Saturday, July 28, 2012 – 1:00-2:30 PM

###

LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY SERVICES NETWORK By Christine Hayes

A new services network has been established within the Canadian Library Association in order to represent the concerns of librarians and others who provide assistance to genealogists and local historians. I am proud to be included among the founding members of the Local History and Genealogy Services Network, whose ranks include librarians from across Canada. Working as a group, we will be able to address concerns specific to genealogy and local history. We will also be able to develop educational programs, discussion groups and, if need be, provide a cohesive voice for researchers and information professionals.

If you are interested in finding out more about this group, go to the relevant page on the CLA website:

www.cla.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/CLAAatWork/Networks1/Local_History_and_Ge.htm

###

WHAT'S OUT THERE By Linda Murray

Century and More: The National Genealogical Society Quarterly

In 1912, the first NGS Quarterly was issued from Washington, D.C. Follow the history of this important publication over the past hundred years. As well, at the end of this volume, information is supplied about the eighteen previous editors of the NGS Quarterly.
National Genealogical Society Quarterly, (2012, March), 100(1), 5-14.

Finding Family in Norway

This article on finding people in Norway is printed in a Scottish journal because, as author Ingvild Begg points out, the two countries are close in proximity. Many Scots have ended up in Norway and Ingvild lists several websites to research when trying to locate them.
Caithness Family History Society Journal, (2012, Jan/Feb), 40, 20-23.

Going Public

David A. Fryxell tells us everything we need to know about the just-released 1940 Census of the United States. He covers three indexes that are currently being put together and tells us how to find our ancestors within the enumeration districts. As well, he includes the questions that were asked for the 1940 census to give you an idea of the information you might find.

FamilyTree Magazine, (2012, May/June), 13(4), 19-21.

Lt. Mark L. Golden: A Case Study in WWII Research

A search to learn the fate of an heroic B-17 pilot leads Mary Roddy to investigate many resources for military research. This case study includes websites and other ideas to bring a military story to life. The author hopes that readers are inspired by Mark Golden's story to research their own heroes.

Family Chronicle, (2012, May/June), 16(5), 18-21.

Master Mariner, Captain James Robinson

Jennifer Clark has researched the fascinating life and career of Captain James Robinson. James was born in 1833, in St. John's, NL, and, in 1855, he was one of a group of twenty-one people to sail to New Zealand to settle there. It was an eight month voyage on a small schooner. James went on to become master of at least 30 vessels between 1864 and 1900 and to sail many voyages around New Zealand and the South Seas.

The New Zealand Genealogist, (2012, March/April), 43(334), 64-67.

One-place Studies

Roy Stockdill explains the concept of one-place studies (OPS) and how you can get a better view of your own genealogy by learning about your ancestor's neighbours and the historical events of the area. He reviews several ongoing one-place studies including Wing in Buckinghamshire, Wirksworth in Derbyshire, Sheffield and Bubwith in Yorkshire, Lanham in Rutland and others.

Family Tree, (2012, May), 28(8), 16-22.

The Search for Pocahontas

Rob Milson, a member of the Alberta Genealogical Society discovers his relationship to Thomas Rolfe, son of John Rolfe and Pocahontas. Read about his research and subsequent visit to the burial place of Pocahontas in Gravesend, Kent, England.

Relatively Speaking, The Alberta Genealogical Society quarterly journal, (2012, February), 40(1), 15-18.

The Underwear Fire Family

What does the Cooper Underwear Company have in common with the Iroquois Theatre fire of Chicago, Illinois? Leanne Broughton follows the lives and careers of three Cooper brothers who were successful in the hosiery business.

Unfortunately, two of the brothers perished on December 30, 1903, in the worst fire in US history. Leanne has used newspaper accounts and other sources to tell of both the success and tragedy of this Cooper family.

Cariboo Notes, The Quesnel Branch of the British Columbia Genealogical Society newsletter, (2011, Winter), 28(3), 7-9.

Trip to Halifax Land Registration Office

If you have a research trip planned to Nova Scotia and plan to look for land transactions, you may want to read this informative article. Janice Fralic-Brown and Pamela Wile tell about their experiences searching for land transactions in the Land Registration office in Dartmouth. They include lots of practical and helpful information.

The Nova Scotia Genealogist, (2012, Spring), XXX (1), 37-39.

1866 Militia Roll for Westminster Township

If your ancestor lived in Westminster Township, Middlesex County, ON, in the mid-1800s, you may want to check this list submitted by Gerry Tordiff. Included are the names of residents who appeared on the militia roll and their location, as well as their military status. The original list can be found in the J.J. Talman Regional Collection at the University of Western Ontario.

London Leaf, The London & Middlesex County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society newsletter, (2012, February), 39(1), 8-11. ###

Calgary 1912

One hundred years ago, brothers George and William Baptie began their careers in Calgary as contractors, building homes in the Elbow Park and Mount Royal areas. At least four homes built in 1912 can be found in the building permit registers at City Hall Archives. They built homes mainly for prominent people as they had in their original home city of Peterborough, Ontario.

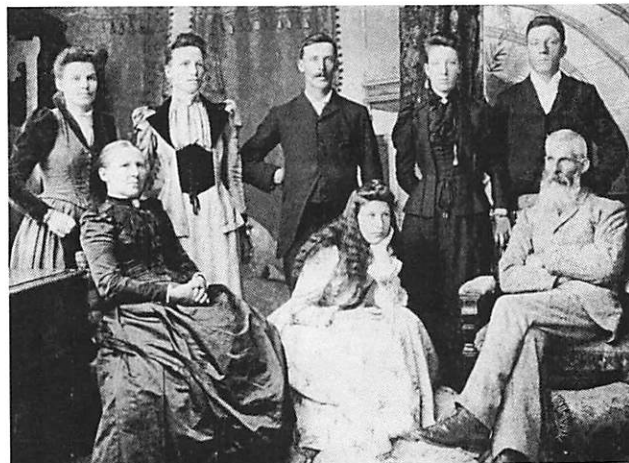
For example, they built the future home of Alberta Supreme Court Judge Alfred H. Clarke on Prospect Avenue in Mount Royal. Mount Royal was considered to be the perfect example of a “Garden Suburb” in Calgary. Built in the Arts and Crafts style, the house was a stunning three-story Edwardian Age Tudor Revival featuring a large hall foyer that measured over 15 by 8 feet and had four fireplaces. Judge Clarke even put in a library on the third floor. Like all the Baptie houses, it was a well-crafted home, built to last. At the time there was just a scattering of homes in the area. Sadly, it was torn down in 2009 by the then property owner, only a few years after it had been evaluated as a Class A Heritage Site.

CPR Superintendent Alfred Price’s Tudor-styled home across the street was also built in 1912. There were many Tudor Revival-style homes on Prospect Avenue. It was a promising start and, in 1913, George and William brought their families out west from Lakefield, ON. George brought his wife, Elizabeth, and ten children, Clarence, Flora, Fred, Lola, Peter, Gertrude, Ruth, Ruby, (Margaret) Marion, and (George) Alexander. William brought his wife, Marietta, and two children, Ray and Dora.

Scotland to Canada

In 1828, Walter Baptie, grandfather to George and William, came to Canada, from Roxburgh, Scotland, armed with a lot of hope and sufficient capital to tide him over the rough spots. Walter made his mark in the Peterborough area. He had

several children, one of them an ambitious son named Peter who became a carpenter and built a planing and sawmill in Lakefield. Peter and his sons, George and William, owned and ran the planing mill until 1892. They are said to have supplied the lumber for 75% of the town.



Peter Baptie Family, ca 1890 – Back row, left to right: Emma Baptie, Margaret Jane Baptie, George Baptie, Mary Edith Baptie, William Baptie; Front row: Mary Ann Barrie Baptie, Agnes Maude Baptie, Peter Baptie
Credit: *Best family files*

The Baptie brothers built many homes and barns in the Lakefield and Peterborough County area. The home Margaret Laurence lived in at Lakefield is a Baptie build. One of the homes William and George started in 1908, and completed in 1909, was for the General Superintendent of Canadian General Electric (Ltd.), Mr. E.G. Patterson, on Hunter Street in Peterborough. It is a two-and-a-half story, brick building that has maintained its architectural integrity and looks much today as it did when it was built over 100 years ago. The building contract resides in Trent University Archives.

We even know how the Bapties voted on temperance issues. In 1877, William Baptie was among the 93 majority who voted to prohibit the sale and consumption of alcohol in Lakefield, according to the Lakefield Temperance Poll books. There is a street named after them in Lakefield called Baptie Lane.

1892 Calgary Trip

George and William came from rural Ontario through to Calgary by train, in 1892. It was a well-planned trip and not a moment was wasted. Prior to the trip, the Bapties sold their planing mill which they had built up to a first class, sash and door factory. This was just before there was a widespread economic downturn called the "Panic of 1893" which they may have anticipated. This freed them up for other opportunities, such as a working trip out west. Staying very close to the newly built CPR train line, George and William stopped in at Brandon, Manitoba, to build a dance hall on the way. They travelled on to Calgary and a few miles south to help out a man named Robert Shield with his farm out-buildings. The Shield family had come out earlier from the Lakefield area, which explains their connection. The Baptie brothers didn't stay out West long on that trip. However, it was their first introduction to the Calgary area.

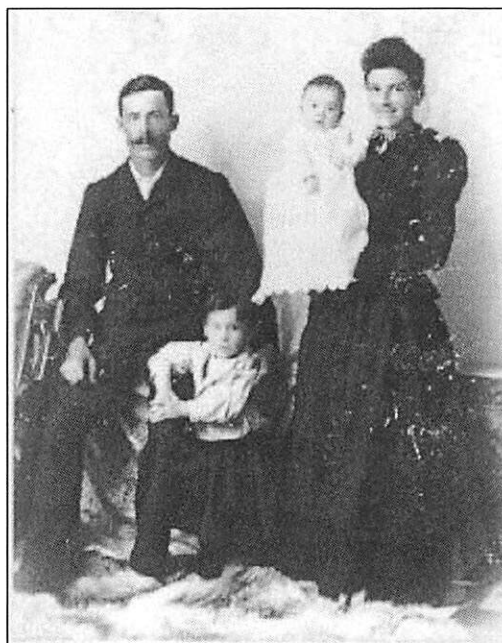
Klondike Venture

The Strickland family, one of several major manufacturers of canoes, was very powerful in Peterborough County because of their historical connections to the British monarchy. The Royal Family is a strong supporter even today, through the Peterborough Canoe Museum. The Stricklands were well-known across Canada and had sold many of their canoes in the Klondike, in the Yukon Territory. In 1897, William and George Baptie went to the Klondike, on a well-equipped expedition with the Strickland men on behalf of a company headed and formed by former Prime Minister and Father of Confederation, Sir Charles Tupper. Ex-Lieutenant Governor Edgar Dewdney was in charge of the trade and transportation aspect of the company. William was asked to go along as construction engineer by "Polie" Strickland, his close, childhood friend. The Baptie Klondike party-built cabins were not far from the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) post in Tagish, where Commissioner Walsh and Inspector/Postmaster Darcy Strickland had established their home base. That event is well-

documented as William kept a diary. Many photos were taken of the expedition and the large boat they built to shoot the rapids. The Baptie diaries and Klondike photos are kept at Glenbow Archives in Calgary.

Back in Lakefield

The Baptie brothers stayed up north until 1899 when they returned to Lakefield. They resumed their building careers, taking over from their father, Peter, who died that year. The Baptie brothers were also directors at the Lakefield Canoe Company in 1910. That year the factory burnt down and the Baptie brothers built a new brick one in its place. (Fort Calgary had a display of canoes from the Canoe Museum in the fall of 2011, one being a Lakefield Canoe.) They likely helped put out the fire as they were also members of the volunteer Fire Brigade. Their father, Peter, was the first Fire Chief. He was elected in 1889. George and William Baptie lived in Lakefield and had illustrious building careers there, but with a family of ten children, George quickly outgrew the place. In 1912, George and William left Lakefield, their mother Mary Ann and four sisters, Emma, Margaret, Mary Edith and Agnes, bound for Alberta.



George and Elizabeth Jane Baptie
with children, Clarence and Flora, ca 1892
Credit: Best family files

World War I

George's growing family distinguished itself in school and at work. His daughters, Flora and Lola, both trained as nurses in Calgary. Lola graduated at the top of her nursing class in 1916. She worked at the Holy Cross Hospital while Flora nursed at the Calgary General Hospital. There were only a handful of nurses on staff. Prior to that, George, along with his sons, Clarence and Frederick, enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) to serve in World War I. Fred was in the 50th Battalion. George was in the 50th Battalion for less than a month when he was taken on by the 56th. George and Fred went over on the *SS Baltic*. Clarence served in the 50th CEF. While overseas, Fred was drafted by the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. George was transferred for a short time to the 64th (perpetuated by the Princess Louise Fusiliers) before he was discharged but always considered himself as part of the 56th.



Peter, Frederick and Alexander Baptie
at Mt. Norquay, ca1919
Credit: *Best family files*

Even during the war the Baptie men used their carpentry skills. George was utilized by his battalion as a carpenter while on site in England. Clarence was in the Forestry Division of the 50th CEF. The Forestry Division felled trees, even working sawmills to supply the army in difficult-

to-access locations. They supplied the army with wood for bridges, railroads, portable huts and trenches, between serving in the front lines. Today the 50th is perpetuated by The Calgary King's Own Regiment and the 56th Battalion is perpetuated by the Calgary Highlanders.

Tragically, the only family member to die at that time was Flora, who nursed at the General Hospital. She died of the Spanish flu while treating patients during the worldwide, 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic.

The war had a deep and lasting impact on George, Fred and Clarence. Their common bond was evident during the Depression when their houses were situated not more than a block from each other.

Work and School

After George's oldest children had made their mark, the younger ones began to make their presence known. Ruby finished school at Crescent Heights Collegiate School, where future Alberta Premier, William Aberhart, was Principal. In 1922, Ruby was part of the first class to attend Normal School at the newly built Southern Alberta Institute of Technology location. Dr. E. W. Coffin was in charge of the student teacher's program. Peter trained in surveying and travelled all over the province as a government surveyor. Most of the other children had decent jobs and the girls all eventually married. Ruby taught school out of town, at Crocus Plains, after she graduated, and married Harold Smith, in 1931, when she came back. Ruby, her husband and first child, Violet, lived at the historic Colgrove Apartments which still stands today. The Colgrove, built in 1912, is also celebrating its 100th year anniversary. Hopefully it will not be added to the list of casualties in the Victoria Park area and end up as "Colgrove Towers."

Building Homes

At least four sons of George and William continued on in the building trade. William's

son, Ray (Reynolds), was a builder and so were George's sons, Clarence, Frederick and Alex (George Alexander). After WWI, Fred became a carpenter and Clarence oversaw the building of Ridgewood Hall, in the Pine Hill District of Alberta, in 1922. They built homes all over Calgary. Specific homes are hard to track down as the city building permit registers weren't saved from 1913 to 1945. Ray Baptie built houses right up until the 1960s. He was a partner with his father, then the Bolderheys, for a time.



Baptie-built home in Lower Mount Royal, Calgary –
constructed ca1912
Credit: *Best family files*

The Baptie children were also involved in sports. Ray was on several rugby, basketball and football teams. Clarence, Fred and Peter liked to ski at Mount Norquay. Ruby and her family went swimming and rode horses. George's wife, Libby, took care of the lion's share of the child-raising, so when the men were away, everything was left in her capable hands. Descended from a staunch British Loyalist family, she was understanding when the men went off to war.

Religion

Interestingly, the Calgary Bapties and Carscallens have a longstanding connection through the women of both families. Both have Scottish ancestry, but not all members were Presbyterian. George Baptie's wife, Elizabeth, was from the Hoffman family (centuries-old Swedish/German) who were one of the core Irish

Palatine families that settled in Ontario. The Irish Palatines are credited with the introduction and spread of Wesleyan Methodism in Canada and the United States. The Carscallens became involved with the Hoffman family through Methodism. Calgarian Eula Carscallen/Lapp wrote *To Their Heirs Forever*, a book about her family and the Irish Palatines.

The Saskatchewan branch of Carscallens claim to have always had a close relationship with the Hoffmans. Elizabeth Baptie's daughter, Ruby, taught at King George School in Calgary, in 1930, at the same time Eula taught at Parkhill School. By then the Presbyterian and Methodist faiths had joined through the United Church. Given the Hoffman family's lengthy history, it is not surprising that providing a stable home life for her family topped the list for Elizabeth (Hoffman) Baptie.

Bapties Today

Modern day Baptie descendants are numerous and scattered all across Canada. Many make their homes in the smaller towns in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario, as well as in the larger centres of Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Some are in the ranching and oil businesses, having risen to high levels of success. As for George Baptie, he remained a builder in Calgary until 1943, when he was 77. He passed away in 1953. William passed away in 1960. George and William were very dedicated to the business of building homes for Calgarians.

While there is no one in the family left to carry on the building tradition, there is no doubt the Baptie family made its mark on the Calgary community and their buildings will long survive to illustrate those contributions.

Reference:

Lapp, E. C. (1977). *To their heirs forever*. Mika Publishing Company: Belleville, ON.

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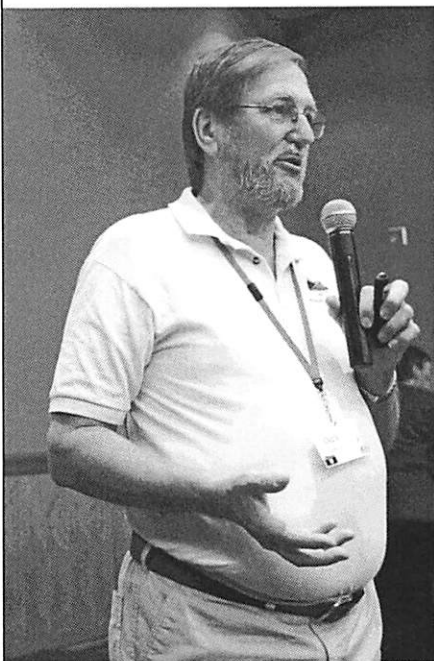


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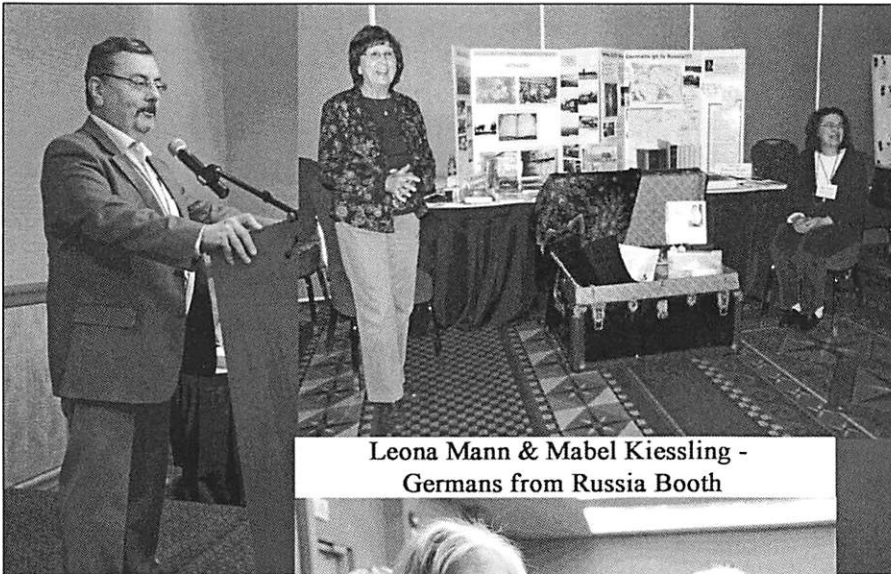
Jean Tilbert - Speaker



Linda Murray & Marion Peterson -
Happy AFHS Participants

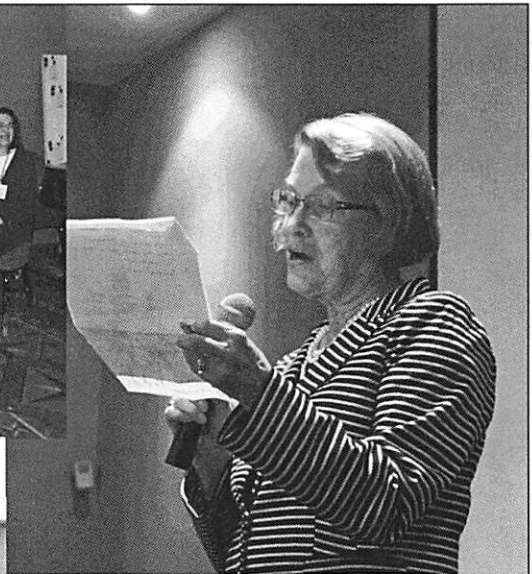


Photos by Marion Peterson (AFHS) & Peter Staveley (AGS)

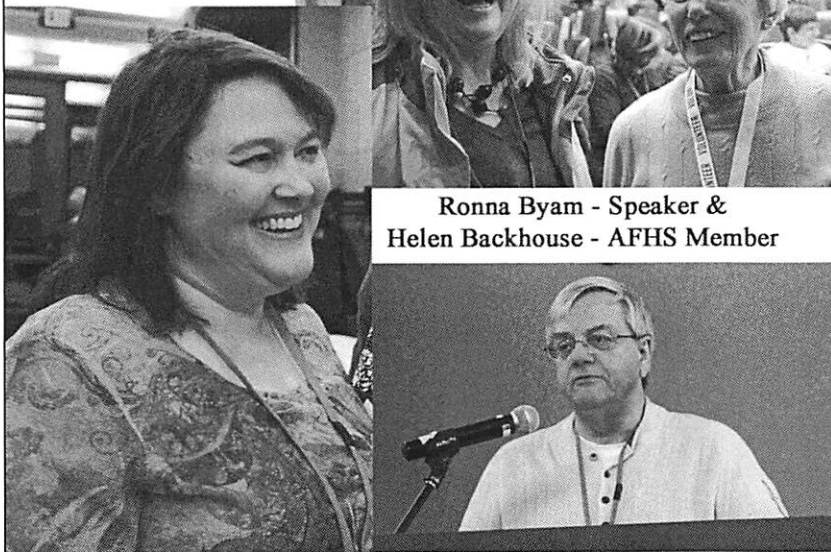


**Leona Mann & Mabel Kiessling -
Germans from Russia Booth**

**Jim Benedict -
Speaker**



Nancy Millar - Closing Address



**Ronna Byam - Speaker &
Helen Backhouse - AFHS Member**

**Gena Philibert-Ortega -
Featured Speaker**

Wayne Shephard - Speaker



Michael Dawe - Speaker



Photos by Marion Peterson (AFHS) & Peter Staveley (AGS)

PROJECTS

By Heather Williams

Income from Queries for our last fiscal year was \$1,680. Thanks to Vickie Newington for an outstanding year. It is our hope that researchers will continue to use the resources AFHS has to offer. On the note of Queries, an inquirer called me by telephone from Michigan. Our conversation followed a variety of topics, but a remark made by this inquirer has stayed with me and I thought it was worth sharing. "One of the best resources for a family researcher is a genealogical society or an historical society. They know their local resources very well and provide a report or package of information that is thorough and accurate, including the sources for the data being sent. If they can't find the info, they provide referrals or suggestions for where to look."

Newspaper extractions are ongoing. We can still use more volunteers if anyone can help in this area. Contact Heather Williams at 403-289-1310 or heather.williams@shaw.ca

We have been working with a cemetery committee member from Springbank United Church Cemetery, updating their cemetery records. The cemetery was done by us prior to 2000. This will give us more burial information. Photos were completed in May.

###

HERO OR GUARDIAN ANGEL

By Chuck Pollock

This story begins on a bright and sunny day in July when my cousins, Chester and Ed, and I had one of those lazy days on my grandparents' farm. We had walked in the pasture, roped fence-post steers, better than any cowboy in the Calgary Stampede, rode old Tom, the retired race horse and, for the fun of it, rode the cows and pigs which, by the way, have no sense of direction. Also on the farm was a flock of geese wandering about very peacefully minding their business of eating and drinking. In this flock of

brown, white and black critters was a very nasty black and white one. He, I presume, was the top gander of the flock who would hiss his displeasure when we ventured too near. He would have preferred going about his business, wandering the farm yard in search of food.

I'm not saying we were meant to be together this day, but there we were – a flock of geese and three boys. And what do *innocent* boys with little to keep themselves occupied do? You guessed it.

We would scatter the flock that would squawk and hiss at the intrusion much to the delight of the three of us. When calm returned to the flock we would repeat the performance. Could this fun last? You see we were *innocent kids!* So one more time we put the run on the flock. But this time who should come out of the pack but the black and white terror in the form of the old gander. He had had enough of this tomfoolery.

Now as you can imagine we *poor innocent boys* were not going to be able to stand up to this hissing and wing flapping monster coming at us. What were we to do? We did the only logical thing for very young and "foolish" boys to do. We turned in unison and ran, and I mean *ran*, as fast as our little legs could carry us to the safety of the farmhouse. The harder and faster we ran the harder and faster the gander chased. About the time we thought the gander would be beating us severely about the arms and legs, out of the house came a figure, waving and shouting, to neutralize the imminent danger at our backs. We scampered through the open door and dropped to the floor, exhausted. We were safe! Safe – until my Amma returned to the kitchen and gave us an excitable lecture, or more precisely, a tongue lashing, mostly in Icelandic!

Now, to most of you, this little incident may not seem like an heroic deed, but, to a youngster of five years of age, my Amma was my Heroine or, should I say, my Guardian Angel. To this day, for this and many other loving deeds, she remains my *heroine* and *guardian angel*, Gudbjorg Gudmundsdottir Sveinbjornson.

###

ROMEO AND JULIET IN CALGARY By Bev Smith

Are either of these people in your brickwall? Helping with the indexing of the early *Calgary Herald* newspapers, I came across a curious story – two small death notices on page three of the May 1, 1915 issue – that were insignificant until you compared them:

“SWINDELLS – Suddenly, in Calgary, April 29th, May Swindells, aged 34 years. The remains were removed to the undertaking parlors of B. H. Armstrong, 1206-10 First street east where the funeral services will be conducted on Monday afternoon at 2:30 o’clock, after which interment will take place in Union cemetery.”

“TOWSE [*sic*] – Suddenly, in Calgary, April 29th, Chas. Towse, aged 29 years. The remains were removed to the undertaking parlors of B. H. Armstrong, 1206-10 First street east where the funeral services will be conducted on Monday afternoon at 2:30 o’clock, after which interment will take place in Union cemetery.”

These were the only deaths that day. Did they die together in a death pact as our famous Shakespeare characters? Were they out for a drive in a new-fangled automobile and crashed? Why were they buried together with such dissimilar names?

In an issue a couple of days later, their joint funeral was described and my curiosity was really piqued. It seems they were struck by lightning. Mourners listed were: May Swindells’ cousin, G. A. Turner; her employer, Mr. A. M. Peters, manager of the Bank of Montreal; and Mr. Webster, from the Robin Hood Flour Mills where Charles Tawse worked. An unusually large number of people had attended the funeral at Pro-Cathedral and interment at Union Cemetery on May 3rd.

Now I needed to know more. So I went back a day to a news story in the April 30, 1915 *Calgary Herald*.

May and Charles were engaged to be married. She was from Macclesfield, England, and had



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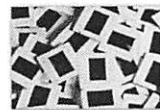
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been in Canada about three years. He had come from Scotland about eight years earlier and they must have met in Calgary. She had been a servant for Mr. Peters. They were walking home from visiting friends when lightning hit him and, passing through his arm to her, killed her also. Her family in Macclesfield had been contacted. They were looking for his brother, believed to be in Winnipeg.

Being so curious, I began to search the regular routes (ancestry.com, findmypast.co.uk and automatedgenealogy.com) and may have found their families in 1901 and 1911 England Census returns. I was not lucky finding the brother although there were Tawse/Towse families in Manitoba (Winnipeg and Whitewater). They had missed the 1916 Western Canada Census by a year.

So, I decided to write this up for the interest of others and on the off chance it may help someone with their "brickwall" about a connected relative.

References:

Calgary Herald notices reviewed at: *Our Future Our Past* website: www.ourfutureourpast.ca

###

We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiraling chains of knowledge hidden in every cell of our bodies.

~Shirley Abbott, author and editor

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EVENTS By Laura Kirbyson

Conferences and Seminars

August 29 to September 1, 2012 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

Birmingham, Alabama

Indians, Squatters, Settlers and Soldiers in the "Old Southwest"

The focus is on Societies and there will be nationally recognized speakers.

www.fgs.org/2012conference/

September 28-30, 2012

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society Kelowna, BC

Harvest Your Family Tree 2012

Conference, workshops and marketplace.

www.kdgs.ca/p/genealogy-conference-2012.html

Webinar and Podcast Events

A number of organizations offer online seminars (webinars) and lectures (podcasts) about a variety of topics. As the focus of this issue is Heroes, here are some specific to this topic:

FamilySearch:

Ancestors Season 1: Looking at home (Free)
Search your home to find treasures that will lead you to know who your ancestors are and how you can come to know them. Who knows? You may find a hero!

<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/ancestors-season-1-looking-at-home/158>

Veterans Chronicles – At Podcast Alley:

This podcast is an hour-long program sharing stories of American heroes.

www.podcastalley.com/podcast_details.php?pod_id=59888

Hometown Tales Podcast – At Podcast Alley:
Stories of local legends, folklore and more from around the globe.

www.podcastalley.com/podcast_details.php?pod_id=176

###

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION By Irene Oickle

ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY based in Calgary, Alberta, is a non-profit organization formed in 1980, to promote and encourage family history research.

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- See other benefits at www.afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/memship.shtml

Membership Year

The membership is from September 1st to August 31st. Applications from April 1st are extended to the following year for **new members**. Renewals not paid by November 1st annually may result in removal of all privileges afforded to members.

Privacy Statement: The AFHS respects the personal information you provide on this form. A copy of the Society's Privacy Policy can be read on the AFHS website. A paper copy can be obtained from the AFHS office.

Copy or cut out, then complete and mail this membership form with payment to the address below.

MEMBERSHIP FEES*

Submit the following fees (Note – we accept payment in either Canadian or United States funds):

\$35.00	Individual or Family or Senior 65+ (individual) or Senior 65+ (family)
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***Please make payment by cheque or money order.**

Print the membership form from the webpage: www.afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/docs/membership_application-2011.pdf or complete the Membership Application/Renewal form below.

Mail your payment to the address at the bottom of this page or bring it in person to a monthly meeting held the first Monday (except for holiday Mondays when it is the second Monday) of every month from September to June at River Park Church, 3818-14A St. SW.

AFHS Memorial Fund: A tax receipt is available for a \$10.00 minimum donation.)

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Other Contact#:	Membership Type 2: \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional	
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Alberta Family Histories Society
Attention: Membership Secretary
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AFHS PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Please refer to www.afhs.ab.ca/publications/cemetery.shtml#publications for additional information.

AFHS Digital Library Vol. I: 70 Southern Alberta Cemetery, Crematorium and Jewish Society Records	\$30.00
AFHS Digital Library Vol. II: Two Cemeteries on Garden Road that Straddle the Eastern Boundary of Calgary's City Limits: MD of Rockyview Garden of Peace and Mountain View Cemetery	\$20.00
AFHS Digital Library Vol. III: Cochrane Cemeteries and more	\$20.00
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Births, Deaths, Marriages, from Calgary Newspapers 1883-89	\$15.00
Births, Deaths, Marriages, from Calgary Newspapers 1890-99	\$25.00
Nominal Rolls 3rd, 12th, & 13th Regiments, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF, 1915-16	\$22.00
Nominal Rolls 50th Battalion, CEF, 1914-15 (In Digital Library Vol. V)	\$15.00
Obituary Index of Turner Valley Oilfields Residents, Past and Present	\$13.00
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THE SOCIETY

The Alberta Family Histories Society is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote and encourage an interest in family history research worldwide. The activities of the Society are funded by membership dues, fundraising projects, donations, bequests and corporate sponsorship. To make a donation, arrange a bequest or become a sponsor, contact the Society at the above address, phone number or email a Board member. See www.afhs.ab.ca/aboutus/contacts.shtml

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society is open to those interested in family history and genealogy, and may be obtained at the monthly meetings or by mailing the form on **page 29** to the address above and directed to **Attn: Membership Secretary**.

Membership fees are due September 1 each year. If a new member joins on or after April 1 that membership is valid until September of the following year. See further details on page 29.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote the study of family history and genealogical research;
- To encourage and instruct members in accurate and thorough family history research;
- To assemble, preserve, print and publish information relevant to family history study;
- To raise funds for any of the foregoing objectives and to accept donations, gifts, legacies and bequests;
- To use any profits or other accretions to the Society in promoting its objects without material gain for its members.

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The AFHS Library is located at the above address. For hours, please see the Calendar at the above website or phone 403-214-1447.

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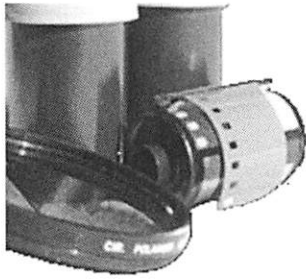


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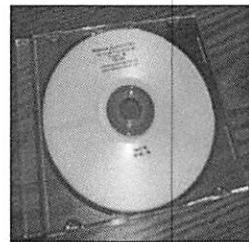
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