

WESTEND SENIORS GENEALOGY GROUP

Meeting monthly on the first Wednesday - September through June



A Word from the Facilitator - Paul Rose

Several years ago I visited a casino in Ontario that was operated by the local Chippawa Indigenous tribe. I happened to notice these words written above their main entrance:

“A People who do not remember who they are cannot know who they are.”

I think these words speak to the importance of genealogy and individuals having some degree of understanding of their family heritage and their ancestors before them.

Genealogy is a fast-growing industry. 7 out of 10 North Americans feel that it is important to know their family history. Genealogy is the second most popular hobby among North Americans next to gardening. The Genealogy Products and Services Market was reported as being at US \$3.78 billion in 2022 and is projected to grow to US \$8.84 billion by 2030.

For those of us who pursue and enjoy this hobby, I can safely say you are not alone. I am proud to say that the WSAC Genealogy Group reflects some of this growth.

At a presentation I recently gave at the Active Aging Series at WSAC on October 24, I was delighted with the positive response I received by the attendees about my talk on our genealogy group and what we are about. In fact, we had ten new members sign up to join our group! Since assuming leadership of the WSAC Genealogy Group, our numbers have now grown to forty members. I am delighted with this and want to thank all those members who have contributed to ‘spreading the word genealogy at WSAC.

On October 19 the Edmonton Genealogical Society and the local Church of Latter Day Saints hosted a “Family History Fair” at the LDS church in Edmonton. Attendance was strong, and participants were offered four one-hour classes on a variety of genealogical topics. I met five of our members at the fair which speaks well to our desire to learn as much as we can about this hobby.

Thank you for your attendance. It has been my pleasure to facilitate the WSAC Genealogy Group over the past year or so. I want to thank everyone for your support and I welcome your suggestions for continuing to make our meetings both successful and enjoyable.

Thank you



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WSAC GENEALOGY??

Here's what you can look forward to in the coming months at WSAC Genealogy:

December 4.24: 'Share Your Family Stories' – presentations by members of their significant family members, stories, items or events in their Family History. We hope to make this meeting a Christmas celebration.

January 8.25: 'What We Learned at the Family History Fair' – presentations by members of their attendance at a variety of learning sessions at the Family History Fair held October 19.24 – using Family Search, Writing Your Life Story, Elevating Cemetery Sleuthing, Strategies for Organizing Research Material, and more.

February 5.25: 'The Harvest Excursions' and 'Women on the Prairies' – the import of men from Eastern Canada to help with the grain harvest in the early 1900s, and the campaign to attract women to the prairies.

March 5.25: 'Diseases and Illnesses' – what were the many diseases our ancestors encountered and how did they deal with them, as well as the trauma of the birth of children.

April 2.25: 'Military History and Research' – a guest speaker from the Royal Alberta Museum will guide us through the challenges of conducting research of our ancestors' military careers.

May 7.25: 'Computers and Genealogy' – what role do computers play in genealogical research?

June 4.25: 'Research Sources in Edmonton' – what and where are all the resources and places where genealogists can conduct research in Edmonton.





CHRISTMAS ON THE PRAIRIES

One observation I have made since coming to Alberta three years ago is that in the Prairie Provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba) there is a wide diversity of various ethnic and cultural backgrounds that comprise the general population of the region. Certainly the Indigenous peoples have lived on the prairies since very early times, but generally the majority of peoples on the prairies have settled in the region since the 1800s. Most of these peoples trace their origins to some distant land be it England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales, The United States, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Scandinavia, Iceland, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Rumania, Czech, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, China and the Far East, India and the Arab nations.

Canada is certainly a land of diversification. Although not all these nationalities are Christian, I think that at Christmas time we see many peoples celebrating their cultural background and their family origins. Foods and traditions from a wide variety of countries appear; pepperkaker (crispy gingerbread cookies) from Norway, kolach (round braided bread) from Ukraine, kottbullar (meatballs) from Sweden, stollen (fruited yeast bread) from Germany, borsch (red cabbage soup) and dumplings from Poland. I am sure there are many more favourites that I could list.

In addition, decorations depicting their country of origin adorn their homes, as well as the clothes they wear during the holidays. The important note here is that we all celebrate our cultural roots. We gather with our family members to celebrate the foods we enjoy, the decorations we display, and songs and music we might enjoy, the traditions we revive.

All of this speaks to not only our multi-cultural composition as a country, but that the traditions we revive at Christmas time remain important basics for each of us as a person, a recognition of our heritage, and pride in being Canadian.

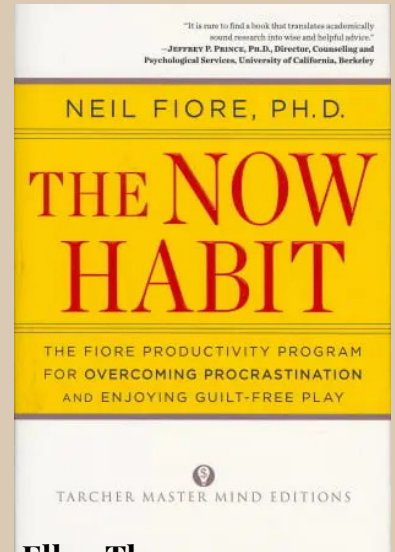
As the Holiday Season unfolds in the coming weeks, you may wish to reflect on your family who have gone before you and take thanks in the sacrifices and challenges they undertook to bring all of us to where we are today.

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the best over the Holidays and the New Year ahead.





**"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source,
a tree without a root."
Chinese Proverb**



Book Review

During our October 2, 24 meeting on the topic of “Forever” by Ellen Thompson-Jennings, she stated that one of the obstacles to achieving a level of organization when sorting through our “Scary Box” of family photos, documents and memorabilia is the matter of procrastination.

Common to most of us, we find that our intentions are often good, but our motivation lags behind. All those projects we know are waiting for us seem to get ‘shelved’ away until another day. Ellen referenced the book titled “The Now Habit” by Neil Fiore as a means of overcoming procrastination. If you would like to learn more about how to deal with this issue, this book may be of interest.

A review of the book: “One of the most effective programs to combat procrastination, THE NOW HABIT has sold over 200,000 copies and been translated into 11 languages. This revised and updated edition features a new introduction and a new section providing strategies to help deal with distractions from technology and the Internet.

THE NOW HABIT offers a comprehensive plan to help readers lower their stress and increase the time available to enjoy guilt-free play. Dr. Fiore’s techniques will help any busy person start tasks sooner and accomplish them more quickly, without the anxiety brought on by the negative habits of procrastination and perfectionism.” <https://www.neilfiore.com/now-habit/>



Want more Genealogy Resources??

If you are looking for even more Genealogy resources than what you are getting through membership with the WSAC Genealogy Group, you might want to consider joining the Edmonton Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS).

Their offices are located at 3162 – 14315 – 118 Ave. NW, Edmonton and are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, as well as every third Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For an annual membership fee of \$45.00 (senior rate), you have access to:

- Resource materials in the Library located in the office – local histories, reference books, microfilm.
- Digital Resources: Alberta databases and name indexes – newspapers, homestead index, etc.
- Courses and Learning – both in-house and conferences, to webinars, podcasts and webcasts as well as several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) online courses.

Check their website at www.abgenealogy.ca for more detailed information. Alberta Genealogical Society – 780-424-4429 or admin@edmontongenealogy.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS

Alberta Provincial Archives: May 7.24 to May 30.24:

Alberta Provincial Archives: Love and Marriage Display Archival records that illuminate many historic aspects of love, marriage and social norms in Alberta.

Alberta Genealogical Society:

Nov. 7.24 SIG Military Websites, Ancestors in Uniform 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

Nov 18.24 In-Office/In-Person The Dulmonges – Tracing an Irish Canadian Family 7:00 pm to 9:00 PM

Nov. 21.24 SIG Computers in Genealogy – Genealogy Data Backups 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Dec. 3. 24 SIG French SIG – How Can Artificial Intelligence help with your French Canadian Research 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Dec. 4.24 SIG German SIG – Christmas in the Old Country. 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM





Definition of
mythology:
genealogy without
documentation.



Meeting Schedule

Wednesday - November 6th
Wednesday - December 4th
Wednesday - January 8th
Wednesday - February 5th
Wednesday - March 5th
Wednesday - April 2nd
Wednesday - May 7th
Wednesday - June 4th

all meetings are from 1 to 3 PM
in the boardroom at WSAC

Genealogy:
In the end, it's all relative.

