

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

Feb 2021

Vol. 18, No. 1

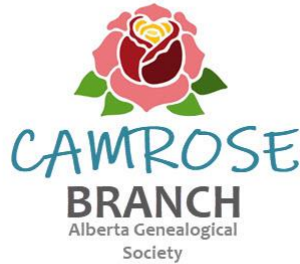


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"I couldn't afford an Ancestry DNA kit, so I just announced that I had won the lottery.
I soon found out who all my relatives are."

From: The Camrose Booster, "Booster Banter", January 12, 2021

Alberta Government Telephone books transcribed

***** Medicine Hat Branch has transcribed old Alberta telephone books from the AGT (Alberta Government Telephone) telephone books. Phase V will complete the Yellow Pages.
This is very helpful in tracing your ancestor's movements.

Click on this link mhdgs.ca and look on the first page or go to the Searches part and see Telephone Books.

There is a Donations box. No donation is required but if a donation is made, a tax receipt can be requested.

Branch News

CGS Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Writing your Family History

Every Monday at 10am. Contact Deb @ camrosegeneo@gmail.com for the link. Membership perk. One visit available for non - members.

Organizing your Genealogy

1st Wednesday each month at 10 a.m. Contact Deb @ camrosegeneo@gmail.com for the link. Membership perk. One visit available for non - members. Next meeting Feb 3/21

Valentine's Day in Canada 1944



A Canadian couple, (her a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps/CWAC, him, a member of the Canadian Air Force), chalking hearts onto a tree on Valentine's Day 1944.

Source: Wikipedia

Upcoming Events

NOTE: all Branch meetings will be held via Zoom until Covid-19 restrictions allow us to meet personally.

Family Day – Alberta - Feb 15, 2021

Regular Meeting – Wed. Feb. 17, 2021 via Zoom 7 p.m. President Deb Trout will send out the link to join us.
Topic: “What person/people or stories motivated you to become a Family Historian?”

Regular Meeting – Wed. Mar. 17, 2021 via Zoom 7 p.m. President Deb Trout will send out the link.
Topic: “Which ancestor/ancestors have been elusive in your search?” Talk about your frustrations & breakthroughs.

Regular Meeting – Wed. April 21, 2021 via Zoom 7 p.m. Deb will send the link.
Topic: October is Family History Month. What community event can our Branch plan for October?

GenFair – April 24, 2021 - Alberta Genealogical Society will hold an all-day GenFair on April 24. It will be a virtual event with their annual general meeting during the fair. Meeting link will be sent out prior to...

Regular Meeting – Wed. May 19, 2021 via Zoom 7 p.m. Deb will send the link.
Topic: Bring photos, artifacts and share your family’s ties to farming or nature.

Canada Census Day – May 11, 2021

Tidbits

The joke’s on you...

My mom believed for years that her 2nd name was “Aloysius” although Mom spelled it “Alliwishes” (understandable because that’s how it is pronounced). When Mom had to register for a Social Insurance Number, she needed to produce her Birth Certificate. When the copy arrived, there was no Aloysius in her name. Her dad had teased her for years that her 2nd name was “Aloysius”! It is a boy’s name, to boot! The girl’s name is Aloysia. I have even found this 2nd name on some of my sibling’s birth certificates!

(This is one of the stories that Mom told me. Actually, Mom’s 1st name, Zetta, is unusual, too but it’s real.) Google Search - Zetta is a diminutive of Rosetta, which was the name of one of my maternal grandmother’s younger sisters.)

Source: Google Search - **Aloysius** was historically common in **Ireland**, and is occasionally passed down in **Irish** families today. The feminine form is Aloysia.

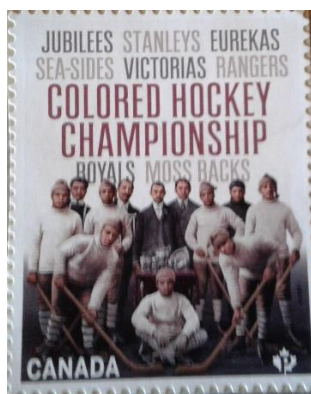
Submitted by CGS member Joan Conley



St. Patrick’s Day March 17

Black History in Canada Colored Hockey Championship

February of each year is Black History Month in Canada. A commemorative stamp was issued in January 2020 in recognition of coloured hockey players, residents of Nova Scotia, who established a hockey league in 1895. The hockey team names are included on the stamp: Jubilees, Stanleys, Eureka's, Sea-Sides, Victorias, Rangers, Royals and Moss Backs. Each year for the past 12 years, Canada Post has issued a stamp to honour and recognize the contributions made by Blacks coming to Canada.



The Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes (CHL) was an all-Black men's [hockey](#) league. It was organized by Black [Baptists](#) and Black intellectuals and was founded in [Halifax, Nova Scotia](#) in 1895. It disbanded in 1911 and reformed in 1925 but fell apart by the 1930s. Play was known to be fast, physical and innovative. The league was designed to attract young Black men to Sunday worship with the promise of a hockey game between rival churches after the services. Later, with the influence of the Black Nationalism Movement — and with rising interest in the sport of hockey — the league came to be seen as a potential driving force for the equality of [Black Canadians](#). [Canada Post](#) issued a commemorative stamp in honour of the league in January 2020.

These black hockey players men were descendants of American slaves who had fled from slavery in the southern United States to Long Island, New York, using the Underground Railway. From Long Island, they moved on to Nova Scotia, many settling the village that they built and called “Africville”. They were playing hockey in an established league before the National Hockey League of Canada was formed.

Read the whole story by clicking on the link below. There are also interesting short videos of their history included in this story.

[Colored Hockey League | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

Canada Post's 2019 stamp honoured Canada's first black letter carrier, Albert Jackson. Read more at this link:

[Canada Post celebrates Black History Month with new stamp | Magazine | Canada Post](#)

Editor's Note: See also Camrose Branch newsletter “Roots and Shoots” August 2020, Vol. 17, No. 3 on our website, under the heading “Newsletters” – article about Black settlers in Amber Valley, Alberta. Here's the link -

www.camrosegenealogy.weebly.com

A History of Hair Wreaths in My Family, by Janine Carroll ©

My Grandma, Gladys May (Barker) Morris, was an innovative artisan. She always had “busy fingers”, as she called them. Without the distraction of internet and television (rarely did her set go on), she accomplished a lot. Her 12 granddaughters often received similar hand made Christmas gifts – one year was a pixie doll that would lay on your pillow, another year was quilted pillows, each a unique combination of materials and pattern. There were embroidered hankies and pillow cases, pyjama pouches, aprons and fancy knitted toilet paper covers. One year she tatted each of us a doily, each slightly different, every stitch perfect. The simplicity of each belies the time and skill each of the fine lace pieces took. Even 50 years ago a skilled tatter was rare and my grandma was a master.



Left – The tatted doily my Grandma, Gladys Morris, gave me one Christmas, circa 1975
Right – My Pixie Doll, a Christmas gift made by Grandma, a little worse for wear and missing its gloves and slippers. Grandma used her own hair for the bangs, circa 1965

Grandma constantly looked for new challenges. When a craft caught her eye, be it knitting, crochet, doll dress, wall hanging – anything, she would study it closely, look at the backside, flip it over and over in her busy fingers. She would then go home and make a perfect match to the one she studied, other than perhaps color, fabric or weight of wool. And, she would often improve on what she copied. She went through a period when she would create wall hangings made from plaques of wood. She would sand and stain and use all kinds of media to decorate. Our family received the one which she formed lobster tail shell segments to make a spike of flowers. Her pride and joy and one that hung in her own living room was also flowers, and in the centre of each was one of her own grey-brown gallbladder stones. I cannot tell how much that freaked out her children. In her quest to create new and challenging projects Grandma pulled an art form out of her own family history, that of the friendship hair wreath. So her story went, in the early history of western Canada, when craft supplies were scarce, ladies would exchange a lock of long hair when visiting each other; and would use it to create intricate flowers.

Strands of hair were wrapped around a knitting needle and wrapped tightly in fine wire to create loops, and the loops were then folded into flowers. With a variety of donors, the flowers would multiply and would be crafted into wreaths. Although many ladies likely made a few flower clusters, completed wreaths are rare, judging from the few that are in museums. Grandma made 6 hair wreaths in the 1970s. She called upon her long-haired daughters and granddaughters to donate. I had short hair so missed out contributing. My sister's long blond hair and my cousin's red hair are in all the wreaths. (Except the one made for one particular aunt, who thought the use of human hair was morbid. There is, after all, another legend in which it's said that a common practice was to take locks of hair from the dead to make a spray of flowers for a wreath. The wreath made for this aunt was compiled only of wool). Another aunt owned a hair salon and would ask her patrons to donate. This way Grandma got a variety of red, black, blond and browns. (She would have lit up with excitement to see some of the dyed reds, purples and blues of today). This aunt's wreath was made entirely from hair and it was gratefully received by the Royal Alberta Museum, donated by my cousin in 2014. There is just one other hair wreath on collection at the RAM, crafted in 1856 by Elinor (Hodgins) McDermott. It doesn't surprise me that amongst my grandmother's things were photos of Mrs. McDermott's wreath. Grandma likely studied it long and hard before embarking on her project.



Gladys Morris's wreath given to her daughter Audrey Morris, later donated to the Royal Alberta Museum.

The wreath crafted with wool was donated to the Leduc West Antique Society by my aunt Dorothy Colbens. Another was donated to the Stony Plain and Parkland Pioneer Museum by my uncle Norman Morris's family. The remaining 3 are still in possession of the family to which they were given.



A Friendship Wreath
(MADE WITH WOOL NOT HAIR)
By: Gladys Morris (1970's)
Donated By: Dorothy Colbens

The wreath made with wool, given to Dorothy (Morris) Colbens, donated to the Leduc West Antique Society.



Photo credit: Stony Plain and Parkland Pioneer Museum This wreath was donated and is on display in their women's exhibit. Grandma resided near "Stony", attending the Carvel Corner school.



Wreath given to Ruby Lampkin



Wreath given to Ron Morris. Photo credit: Lori Ross

Three of the above wreaths are a combination of hair and wool.

But... the family history of hair wreaths didn't start with my grandma, it started with her grandmother – my great, great grandma Annie Emma (Carlow) Clarke, who, I've been told, learned the craft from her mother and grandma. In a September 7, 1941 Victoria Colonist newspaper story, Annie Emma Clarke's long history of entering crafts (and a baby) into the Victoria Fall Fair is referenced. Her very first entry was a hair wreath in the mid 1880's. – Victoria Colonist , Sept 7, 1941





Annie Emma Clarke - my grandma's grandma. Daughter of Horatio Nelson Carlow and Mary Ann (McGlynn) Carlow, born in St. Andrews, NB 1858, died in Victoria, BC 1950.

This family heirloom was given to Elsie (Barker) Spong, one of Annie Emma's granddaughters (my grandmother's sister). She displayed it for many years in her home. Several family members remember it being displayed in a shadow box coffee table. The Spong family donated the wreath to Irving House in New Westminster.



The following are the notes the museum collected at the time it was donated: Spong family hair wreath. Note from donor "Hair Wreath This wreath was made by Anna Emma Clarke (nee Carlow) and contains the hair of her children as well as her own. She started the wreath in 1884 while living on Deas Island, B.C. And continued working on it for several years after moving to New Westminster, B.C. and later to Victoria, B.C., where the rest of her twelve children were born. The frame which contained the wreath is believed to have been made by her husband Wm. H. Clarke." Deas Island is now in Delta, B.C. Family Tree chart shows Anna Emma Carlow was born as an eldest daughter in New Brunswick April 23, 1858 She died in Victoria, BC July 19, 1950 aged 92.

The pictures below are closeups of the hair wreath, showing how the hair was wound and tatted.





Some of the dates don't quite add up, and she was not the eldest daughter according to the 1871 census, she was the fourth. We encounter that often in family history when information relies on memory. We make sense of the inconsistencies. The wreath that Annie Emma Clarke completed was extraordinary – each flower is intricate and meticulous and there is so much variety. What a wonderful credit to her skills to have it on permanent display at the Irving House in New Westminster. And what an incredible tribute her granddaughter, Gladys May (Barker) Morris bequeathed Annie Emma when she (Gladys) took it upon herself to create a hair wreath for each of her children. It was a dead art, even in the 1970s, and for many decades prior. The massive project took determination and enormous perseverance to see it through. It took grandma many years to complete the 6 wreaths and in all that time she continued to give her granddaughters hand made Christmas presents. As one of my cousins wrote, "Who can forget the Javex bleach bottles transformed into piggy banks."



Grandma with all of her grandchildren...I am centre front with my piggy bank, sister Judy is to my right.



Grandma and me...my hair was almost long enough...

Both woman, Annie Emma Clarke and Gladys May Morris have created a legacy for themselves with hair wreaths. They were masters at many art forms and legendary in their own time and place. Aren't we lucky to have museums? The ingenuity of these two Pioneer woman has been captured and they will be remembered.

Submitted by Camrose Branch member Janine Carroll

Editor's Note: Janine's article will also appear in the February 2021 Issue of "Relatively Speaking", the AGS quarterly newsletter. What a fascinating story! Thank you, Janine...



Rare book from 1943 acquired by Library and Archives Canada
The Holocaust during WW11

This book was one of the first sources to sound the global alarm about the Holocaust in progress. Here's the link to the news release (January 27, 2021) on the Canada.ca website regarding LAC's acquisition of this important book. "According to a 2019 study by the Azrieli Foundation, 15% of Canadian adults and more than one fifth of Canadians under the age of 34 – 22% - have never heard about or are not sure if they have heard about the Holocaust.)"

https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/news/2021/01/rare-book-from-1943-acquired-by-library-and-archives-canada-was-one-of-first-sources-to-sound-global-alarm-about-holocaust-in-progress.html?utm_source=eWeekly&utm_campaign=290f512be2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_ewekly_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_61ed05796b-290f512be2-91721933&mc_cid=290f512be2&mc_eid=b36b56e10c

My Christmas Miracle ©

by CGS member Joan Conley

Christmas 1956 – our Conley family of 8, Mom, Dad and 6 kids including baby Penny, were invited to have Christmas dinner at my Uncle Don and Auntie Evelyn Carson's home. They also had a large brood of about 6 kids so the house was full! It was a real treat, because we were currently living in the garage that Dad built. The house that Dad was going to build never was built. Instead, we moved to another area of Edmonton for 2 years, then purchased a brand-new home in the Jasper Place suburb of Edmonton. We gathered around their large Christmas tree to sing songs and take family pictures. Then we enjoyed Christmas dinner. After dinner, Uncle Don announced that he had tickets for all so that we could go skating at their local community rink. Some of us did not have skates but somehow Uncle Don supplied skates for all. It was one of the best Christmases that I have ever had!

Fast forward to Christmas 2020 - Camrose Branch Christmas meeting in December...we were telling our Christmas stories. After I told my story, Branch member Lilyon Lundy said, "Joan, we need to talk. I will call you tomorrow." Lilyon called the next day to tell me that she has been friends with one of those Carson children for decades.

Since then, Lilyon has connected the two of us. I have invited Sharon to view my family tree on Ancestry and we are going to compare information. Sharon and her sister just became interested in the family tree a couple of years ago. I have been working on mine for years. We are both excited to share our stories and eventually meet when all of this pandemic business is over.

That was my 2020 Christmas miracle! Through the telling of my story and Lilyon hearing it,
I have been able to connect to a Carson cousin!

Golden Rules of Genealogy



1. **There is No Easy Button in Genealogy.** You will work hard to find your ancestors. Genealogy will require more than passion; it will require skills, smarts, and dedication. Don't believe the hype of instant hints, smart matches and shaky leaves. If it were that easy, the journey of discovering our roots would have little or no meaning.
2. **Research from a Place of "I Don't Know."** Your genealogy research will likely run counter to your cherished family stories. It will upend your preconceived notions about certain events and people. It will change the way you think about your ancestors. This can only happen if you research with an open mind and take off the blinders.
3. **Track Your Work and Cite Your Sources.** When I started out in genealogy, I'll admit I was a name collector and would "dump" almost any name into my database. Years later, I am crossing out entire branches of a tree that never really should have been "grafted" on to mine. Use a research log, track your work, cite your sources, and analyze data before it is entered into any software or online family tree program.
4. **Ask for Help.** The genealogy community is populated with people of all skill levels and areas of expertise, most of whom want to assist others. There are no stupid questions; we all started as beginners. There is no right way to ask. Post a query on Facebook or ask a question during a webinar or email your favorite genealogy rock star.
5. **You Can't Edit a Blank Page.** Which means: you have to start in order to have something to work with. That project you keep putting off, like publishing your family history, won't complete itself. Commit yourself to move from "obsession" to "reality." Remember: *A year from now, you'll wish you had started today.*
6. **Work and Think Like Your Ancestors.** While I'm not sure about your ancestors, mine were resourceful and developed tools and skills to get what they wanted. They were not "educated" *per se*, but they had "street smarts" and knew where to go so they could learn new things. Also make sure you have a plan; my ancestors didn't just wake up one day and on a whim decide to come to America and make a better life. They had a plan, they had a network of people to help them, and they made it happen.
7. **You Do Not Own Your Ancestors.** Researching your roots can create emotional connections to not only your ancestors, but to the actual research itself. Many people become "possessive" of their ancestors and fail to realize that a 3rd great-grandparent is likely the ancestor of hundreds of others. You can't take your research or your ancestor with you when you die; take time to share your research and be open to differences in information and research when collaborating with others.

8. **Be Nice. The Genealogy Community is a Small Place.** While there are millions of people searching for ancestors, genealogists worldwide have developed a community with relatively few degrees of separation. Whether it is online in a Facebook group or in-person at genealogy conference, it is likely you'll already know someone. Being "genealogy nice" is not fake; the connections with other researchers tend to be deep and genuine. We know that all of our roots are inter-locked and a genealogist can't always go it alone.
9. **Give and Be Abundant.** Exchange information freely with other researchers; don't hold data "close" to you or exchange it in lieu of something else. Most genealogists who have heard me speak know my own story of abundance: Don't let your hand keep a tight grip on information. Let it go. Once your hand is free, it can be open and ready to receive the next good thing coming your way.

Editor's Note: Printed with permission from Thomas MacAntee, professional genealogist, blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder and more. He has 42 years of family history research experience. Thomas was laid off after a 25-year career in the information technology field, so he started his own genealogy-related business called High Definition Genealogy.

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Genealogy without Documentation is Mythology.

Here's an interesting article from Dick Eastman about why our immigrant ancestors came to the new world -

<https://www.eogn.com/page-18080/10035593>

Conley ancestor – submitted by Camrose Branch member Joan Conley©



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