

# Roots and Shoots

Camrose Branch – Alberta Genealogical Society

Late Winter 2023

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## New Look Newsletter

### Trying something new!

Please let us know what you think about the new newsletter format.

**Genealogy coincidence:** I volunteer at the Camrose & District Centennial Museum. A lady from B.C. had contacted us to donate photos, genealogy information and her grandfather's trumpet. He was a well know musician in Camrose in the 20s, 30s, 40s and the family wanted it to be a part of the museum's collection. I corresponded with her a lot and got to know the names in her family.

Over Christmas 2022, I was updating information on my genealogy software from a family history book about my paternal grandmother's family. I am busily entering the details when a familiar name catches my eye. It turns out that Sue and I are 3rd cousins once removed!

**Deb Trout**



### DATES AND LOCATIONS TO REMEMBER:

#### ***Our AGM is in March!***

Saturday March 18, 11 a.m.,  
Camrose Public Library  
(CPL)

Saturday April 15, 11 a.m.,  
CPL. TOPIC: *SPIN2*, use this system for land titles data, township images and other land information services.  
Presenter: Kurt Paterson

Saturday May 27, 11 a.m.  
CPL. TOPIC: Obituaries and Eulogies. Presenter:  
Charlotte Curtis

#### ***Organizational SIG: 1<sup>st</sup>***

Monday of every month  
held at 4238-37 Street @ 1  
p.m.

***Military SIG:*** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, held at the Camrose & District Centennial Museum @ 7 p.m.

***Writing SIG:*** Every Monday via ZOOM @ 10 a.m.

# My Sámi Heritage

By Cindy Lindstrand Mailer

***The Grundberg family homesteaded in the Armena, Alberta area in 1904. They came from Västerbotten, Sweden and had lived in the parishes of Åsele and Lycksele in the southernmost area commonly called Lappland. It is now known as Sápmi and is where the Sámi people live.***

Per's maternal ancestry line includes Sweden's indigenous Sámi, whose culture and traditions were lost when their ancestors became settlers several generations before they emigrated to Canada. Descendants of Sámi immigrants typically know little of their heritage because their ancestors purposely hid their Indigenous background to avoid discrimination from the dominating Scandinavian culture.



**Grundberg Family 1907**

Margareta and Per August with children Jonas, Nanny (Wilson), and Mathilda (Thronsdon).



When learning about the Sámi, you must understand the meaning of the term "settler." The dictionary defines a "settler" as a person who moves to live in a new country or area with a group of others. In Canada, being a settler means that you are non-Indigenous and that you or your ancestors settled in a land that Indigenous people inhabited. In northern Scandinavia, a "settler" was a person of Indigenous Sámi heritage who relinquished their nomadic lifestyle to settle on the land and become farmers. The two main groups were the Fell Sámi, a nomadic reindeer-herding people, and the Forest Sami, who worked in the woods as subsistence farmers and loggers who lived within settlements.

Colonization of Sápmi started in the 1650s when the state encouraged farmers from southern Sweden to settle in the northern areas.

"Lappmarksrå" allowed the Swedish farmers to use the land for 15 years tax-free, then at a reduced tax rate and freedom from conscription. By the early 1900s, the Sámi had abandoned their traditional tents or huts for houses, put down permanent roots and settled on farms.



**Sámi family 1900**

The Church of Sweden (Lutheran) established residential and day schools to make the Sámi good Swedish citizens. Not only were the Sámi forced to change their way of life they were subjected to abuse, racism, and discrimination. Their culture and language disappeared as they assimilated into Swedish culture.

A notable Sámi ancestor in the Grundberg family, Mårten Mårtensson, was born in 1660 in Falträsk, Lycksele. Mårtensson attended school and became one of Lycksele's first settlers. In 1686, he was a "fjärdingsman," a country constable, a position that required literacy. In this position, he assisted the sheriff of Umbyn's Sámi Village. He eventually served as County Governor and is also mentioned in court records as sheriff in 1699. He was a church official for many years and served as a "klockare" in 1694 with responsibilities to assist the parish priest and as the bell ringer. His household consisted of a house, land, a horse, seven cows, 20 sheep, boats, and nets.

Mårtensson is mentioned in several entries of the Swedish court books regarding land rights and use. In 1687 Mårten has just married and wishes to reclaim his father's land. The court ruled in his favour to regain these rights from the farmers who had intruded on the land.

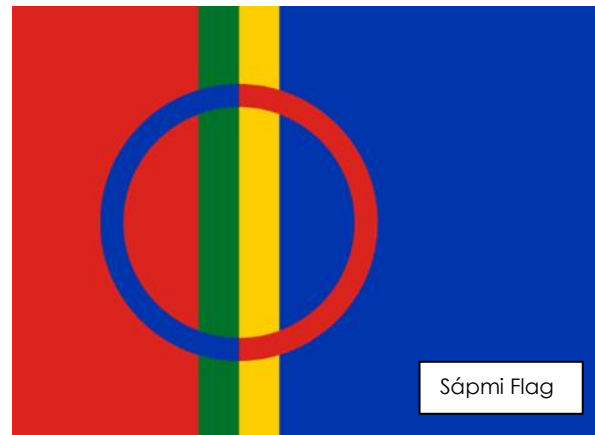
Falträsket Lake and surrounding lakes were sought-after fishing areas, and there were often disputes regarding fishing rights. In an ongoing dispute, a farmer accused Mårten Mårtensson of fishing in his lake for years without paying. He was supposed to pay two "lispund" (35 to 40 pounds) of dried pike per year but hadn't paid. An agreement was made that Mårten Mårtensson would pay eight riksdalers (\$200) and two lispund of dried pike as restitution.

In 1703, sheriff Mårten Mårtensson was accused of shooting a man who was later drowned. An older woman testified that she had heard the rumours from many sources but couldn't remember who told her because of old age. The man's relatives never believed he was murdered, and there were no such wounds on his body. The court confirmed there was no truth to the story, and the sheriff was declared innocent.

Mårtensson was accused of not being in church on August 8, 1708. Everyone was expected to attend church, with fines and corporal punishment as potential penalties. Some continued Indigenous worship practices in their everyday tasks, which the Lutheran church considered "idolatry." A nomadic lifestyle and long distances to church made it difficult for them to participate in regular church life. They also feared being kidnapped while attending church and forced to become soldiers by Swedish farmers.

Mårten Mårtensson's wife, Karin, is also mentioned in court records. In 1696, Nils Gran, the schoolmaster, accused Måns Bång, his brother-in-law and the parish priest, of spreading rumours. Måns Bång, in the presence of several witnesses, claimed that Nils Gran was suspected of having had illegal contact with Karin Mårtensdotter. While baptizing Mårtensson's children, Måns Bång asked Karin who was the "real" father of the children.

Today the Sámi are the only Indigenous People of Scandinavia recognized and protected under the international conventions of indigenous peoples. Reindeer herding is legally reserved only for Sámi people in some Nordic countries. Today they no longer live a completely traditional lifestyle; however, interest in their culture, religion and traditional languages is increasing.



For citations, please contact Cindy!

# Upcoming Online Events

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Annual Genealogical Meeting of the Alberta  
Genealogical Society

## **“Breaking Through Brick Walls”**

Saturday, April 23, 2022 (Virtual via Zoom)

Hosted by Grande Prairie Branch

To Register: [genfair@abgenealogy.ca](mailto:genfair@abgenealogy.ca)

(you will receive an email when registered)

## **RootsTech 2023 – Something for Everyone!**

March 2-4, 2023

The virtual event is FREE. With over 200 NEW classes and a host of keynote speakers, plus the ability to connect with friends, family and industry experts, you won't want to miss the world's largest family history conference. Register here:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/registration/>

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Southern California Genealogical Society and  
Family Research Library presents:

## **Canadian Genealogy Online in 2023**

by Dave Obee

Wednesday April 19, 7:00 PM – MT

Many Americans have ancestors or cousins in Canada, and research north of the border can be rewarding. It is important to understand the differences between research in Canada and the United States - and to know what is new. Canada has hundreds of websites of prime value to genealogists.

Instructions on how to attend at:

<https://www.scgsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

Ontario Genealogical Society presents:

## **In Her Own Words - Lives of Women**

Presented by: Diane Richard

DATE: Thursday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm ET

Documenting our female ancestors can often prove challenging. They are less likely to appear in many of the public records created at the time – land, estate, court, tax records, and more. Let's explore how are you identify and access these materials as relevant to your research.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0of-mgqiljH9Oh1j1CF2L\\_9RnTqMwH5wyZ](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0of-mgqiljH9Oh1j1CF2L_9RnTqMwH5wyZ)

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Qualicum Beach Family History Society invites you  
to this Zoom presentation:

## **“DNA Matches” & “DNA (Genetic Genealogy) Tools”**

Presented by  
Mags Gaulden

Saturday, March 25, 2023

10:00 AM – 12 Noon, PT

<https://www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers/>

Qualicum Beach Family History Society invites you to  
this Zoom presentation:

## **“Through the Prairies to the Rocky Mountains: Records of Western Canada”**

Presented by  
Lianne Krüger

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 7:00 PM PT

<https://www.qbfhs.ca/category/speakers/>

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## Genealogy Gleanings:

Info on Ontario Township Papers

<http://wherethestorytakesme.ca/untangling-township-papers/>

<http://wherethestorytakesme.ca/twp-papers-how-to-find-them/>

10 Best Strategies for Researching "Brick Wall" Ancestors

<https://www.thefamilyheart.com/best-strategies-brick-wall-ancestors/>

Apps to Use and Tips on Scanning Documents Quickly Using Your Phone

<https://familytreetips.co.uk/apps-to-use-and-tips-on-scanning-documents-quickly-using-your-phone/>

The newest at Family Search

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/tag/about-familysearch/whats-new-at-familysearch>

*\*\*\*If anyone has found a link to a website you'd like to share, or anything other items of interest, please send it to me for the next newsletter! [camrosegeneo@gmail.com](mailto:camrosegeneo@gmail.com)*

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**[www.abgenealogy.ca](http://www.abgenealogy.ca)**

### **Camrose Branch Executive**

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