



# CAMROSE BRANCH ALBERTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**ROOTS AND SHOOTS**  
**May 2017**  
**Vol. 14, No. 2**

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Camrose Branch website: [www.camrose.abgensoc.ca](http://www.camrose.abgensoc.ca)  
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Camrose Branch Mailing Address:  
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[Murphy's Genealogical Laws](#)

I should have asked them BEFORE they died!

## Upcoming Events

**May 11, 2017** – Regular Meeting, Topic: “Cleaning your Ancestor’s Gravestone – With Care” – Presenter Janine Carroll, Camrose Public Library, Irving Room, 7 p.m.

**June 8, 2017** – Regular Meeting, Topic: “Facebook Genealogy”, Presenter Deb Trout – Camrose Public Library, Irving Room, 7 p.m. Deb has started our own Camrose Branch Facebook page!

**July & August, 2017** – no regular meetings, but we will hold a Summer Get-Together - date, time, location TBA at a later date, by e-mail to members.

**Sept. 14, 2017** – Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. at Camrose Public Library, Irving Room, Topic TBA

## Branch News

Our longtime Camrose Branch Secretary Adele Goa has resigned her position.

Adele was CGS Secretary from January 2013 to January 2017.

Lilyon Lundy has graciously taken over, and is doing a fabulous job!

We want to thank Adele for serving the Camrose Branch so well over the years. Adele has also been instrumental in helping many others to find their ancestors’ history.

Thank you, Adele!



Adele enjoying our “Picnic & Scavenger Hunt in the Cemetery”  
July 2016, Camrose, AB

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Camrose Branch is hosting the 2018 GenFair here in Camrose! Watch our Camrose Branch newsletter “Roots and Shoots” for further information in the coming months – also the local newspapers! Mark Saturday, April 21, 2018 on your calendar!!!**

April General Meeting  
April 13, 2017

The topic was “What to do with those old photos, Preserving the Memories...”  
CGS member Deb Trout gave tips on how to preserve old photos and scanning photos so that your old pictures won’t end up looking like this!



Ghosts in Camrose!

Apparently, we have a “haunting” number of ghosts in Camrose!

Long-time Camrose resident and Camrose Branch Genealogical Society President Janine Carroll has started a Ghost Touring business. Janine has already earned the nickname “The Ghost Lady”.

Call the number below for more information, including group rates.

EXPLORE THE EERIE SIDE  
OF  
*Downtown Camrose*  
Take a walk with me...  
the Camrose Ghost Lady  
GhostTouring Camrose  
780-608-6243   
[www.ghosttouringcamrose.ca](http://www.ghosttouringcamrose.ca)

Downtown Camrose has a fair share of ghostly haunts and there's no shortage of stories. There's not much I enjoy more than to share some local history coupled with an eerie twist.

This story all started with a heartbreaking incident just over 100 years ago, a mishap that the Camrose Canadian reported as 'one of the saddest accidents in the town's history'.

### **Downtown Pony Race© Janine Carroll**

1914 downtown Camrose didn't quite resemble what we see today - there are a few buildings that remain; the CPR Station sprawled along the tracks at the north end of the street and facing it were marvellous hotels. The Windsor and Arlington were each examples of typical turn of the century hotel architecture, each very different; with indisputable charm befitting the town's steady growth. Neither of these buildings remain, nor does the CPR Station.

Main Street seemed extraordinarily wide, 100 feet - a wise decision credited to an extraordinary community leader, Francois Adam. It was lined on either side with 14 foot wide paved sidewalks and electric cluster lights! A thriving retail district stretched along both sides of Main; contemporary buildings with delightful storefronts typical of the Boomtown Trail.

On this particular sunny summer day storekeepers anticipated the hustle & bustle that came with the annual Sports Day! The annual Camrose Sports Day was normally held each July 1st. But in 1914 the event was postponed due to heavy rain. The reschedule date, Tuesday, July 28th dawned warm and clear. Our pioneer population anticipated the event eagerly. Folks from outlying communities began to flock to Camrose early, walking, by horse, riding trains (several special cars had been added). There was also some of those new-fangled 'auto-mobiles'. People eagerly anticipated football (a match between Camrose and Wetaskiwin promised to be an exciting game) and Tug-of-War matches featuring a \$100 combined purse. This was a huge prize payout for that time attracting teams from right across the district. The Camrose team called themselves "Camrose Vs. the World". There would be baseball, children's running races, broad jump, high jump, harness racing and the traditional AND the most popular - the Windsor Hotel Special Pony Race, down Main Street. The Maple Leaf Band from Pretty Hill would be on hand to entertain the crowds all afternoon and the day's festivities would end with a 'fitting climax', a special picture show scheduled at the David Theatre followed by a big dance.

In the July 30, 1914 Camrose Canadian, Sports Day was reported to be a resounding success, conversely overshadowed by the pony race on Main Street which ended with a fatality.

Fifteen-year-old Oscar Jensen and his younger half brother, Harry Scheie, rode into Camrose from Duhamel on that fateful day. Imagine the excitement the young brothers felt, getting a midweek reprieve from chores and heading to the largest festival in the county. But even during what must have been an animated, light-hearted journey there was forewarning. Not only had his step-parents lectured him not to take part in the pony races, Oscar's little brother made him promise that he would not enter. Harry had a bad feeling about the race and worried about his big brother.

You have to understand though, that Oscar was passionate about racing - and it was something this prairie boy excelled at! But, Oscar made the promise to his brother as he had promised his step parents.

Upon their arrival in Camrose, the brothers put up their horses in a nearby livery stable.

A large crowd began to gather on the streets as the much-anticipated race time drew near. It was scheduled for 11:00 am and would kick off the day's events. As was customary, the pony race was to start at the CPR Station, the 'track' was Main Street up to what is now 49 Ave.

Among the eager crowd were the Jensen brothers.

As the ponies began to line up, young Oscar could not contain himself. Things started to go really wrong. Seeing those ponies lined up at the starting line made Oscar forget his promises to his parents and his brother. Common sense deserted him. The temptation of the race was just too hard to resist. He rushed back to the livery stable, jumped on his pony and made a dash for the starting line. He was not even entered into the race and couldn't take the time now, because the starter yelled GO as Oscar rounded the corner. Oscar spurred his pony into the race!

Seven ponies tore down Main Street, the crowd cheering their absolute pleasure! Undoubtedly Oscar's younger brother was looking on, likely very fearful for his brother's safety, and justifiably so.

As they approached the crossing of the first block Oscar's mount stumbled, throwing the boy head first onto the hardpacked street. The pony fell and together the two slid many feet, Oscar trapped underneath the heavy horse. As the horse regained its footing the crowd was further horrified to see that one foot was wedged in the stirrup and the teenager hung limply.

Men swiftly sprinted in from all sides to hold the pony, and free Oscar. They carried him to an automobile and he was rushed to the hospital. An optimistic rumour spread through the crowd that the boy was still alive, but doctors judged that he died instantly suffering, among other injuries, a crushed skull.

It was the last Main Street pony race that Camrose would experience, almost 103 years ago.

It is said that late on quiet mid-summer evenings, when the noise of the traffic has come to an end; and few, if any, pedestrians remain on the sidewalks, that the unmistakable clamour of a pony racing down Main Street can be heard. I have talked to no less than 4 people who are convinced they have heard hooves hitting pavement as Oscar enjoys his last race over and over again.



Inscription reads:

"In Loving Memory of  
Oscar Cornelius Jensen  
Born May 3, 1899  
Died July 28, 1914  
Aged 15 Years  
& 2 Months  
Gone but not Forgotten"

Next issue: Read more about that fateful day in the next issue of Roots and Shoots - events that would lead Camrose and Canada into the Great War. We'll explore the genealogy and history of Oscar's family, still connected to our community. And, which team won that football game? – Janine Carroll

Editor's Note: Also, why is young Oscar's surname spelled "Hensen" on the base of his gravestone?

## AGS Conference 2017 Ye Olde Genealogy Faire

Alberta Genealogical Society's 2-day Conference is held bi-annually in Edmonton. On the alternate years, different branches of AGS host a GenFair.

This year, the Radisson Hotel in Edmonton was our host hotel; breakfast was included with the room rental. They gave us a reasonable group rate on the rooms.

The Conference was well attended with some participants dressing in costumes to go along with the Conference's Renaissance theme.

The decorations were done by the Red Deer Branch of AGS. The table centerpieces and "Medieval Occupations" scrolls were placed on each table in the Grand Ballroom where the Saturday night Banquet was held. Cards with various occupations printed on them were included in the arrangements. Pictured below are the decorations on our table.



The Saturday Evening Program was done in a scroll, as well. Heraldry scrolls were hung on the walls of the Grand Ballroom, with a "Welcome, Lords and Ladies to Ye Olde Genealogy Faire" scroll behind the stage. Good job, Red Deer!

### AGS 2017 Conference Speakers

Saturday lunch Keynote Speaker was Gena Philibert-Ortega whose specialty is researching women in history. The topic was "Fabric, Cigars and Murder: Reconstructing a Community of Women". What stories she told us! You should have been there...!

Saturday night's Banquet Keynote Speaker was Diahann Southard; her topic "How DNA made a Family out of Strangers", the story of Diahann's mother's search for her birth mother. Diahann is a fun, accomplished speaker, keeping the audience's attention at all times! Here's the link to her website: <https://www.yourndaguide.com/>

Sunday's lunch time Keynote Speaker was Kyle J. Betit, who spoke on the research behind presenting the 8-week annual television series "Who do you Think you Are?" Kyle showed us the process and time (approximately 700 hours to make a 42-minute show) involved in getting the show on air. Ancestry is the driving force behind WDYT...fascinating presentation from Kyle!

Other speakers during the 2-day conference were: Gary Schroder (Quebec research), Dave Tyler (Eastern Europe research), Lisa Alzo (Skeletons, Eastern research), John Althouse (Writing Family History and Youth), Susan Haga (Research in Canada), Ruth Blair (Scottish research), Peter and Linda Darby (computer program FamilySearch), John D. Reid (British research), Lianne Kruger (Social Media & S. African research), and Diahn Southard (DNA research).

### Banquet Entertainment

The Banquet entertainment was provided by the Jaburek family dressed in costume, in keeping with the Conference Renaissance theme. Lord Jaburek of the historical LARP group named “Red Stags” is Steward of the Red Stags, Marçais of the Celts and Crimson Ogre. Lady Jaburek is Seneschal of the Red Stags, Markgreifynja and Mother of the Vikings. We were disappointed only in the fact that Lord and Lady Jaburek did not perform a sword fight – perhaps due to the fact that Lady Jaburek is expecting a baby! When they perform at festivals and feasts, they use high impact foam weapons with real armour, and dress in authentic Medieval costume. The Red Stags, based in Red Deer, Alberta are a not-for-profit hobby group. Google “Red Stags of Red Deer” for more information.



“The Marketplace” had different vendors including “Shop the Hound” (selling models of the very useful ZCan for scanning photos and text); “Your DNA Guide” – Diahn Southard; “Write Now” – author Elaine Cust; “Mialisia Jewelry” – Marjorie Faulkner; “Kule Folklore Centre, U of A. “Not-for-Profit” exhibitors included Historical Society of Alberta; Susan Haga – “Handwriting Analysis”; “Join our Tweeting Community” – Patricia Greber & K. Liam Hobbes and “Alberta-Ukraine Genealogical Project”. Here’s the link for further information on these exhibitors:

<http://www.abgenealogy.ca/market?mid=1230>

A popular hangout in the hotel was the Popcorn Machine, which was “popping” both afternoons for a free snack, to enjoy while we listened to our session speakers.

It was a very successful Conference. Congratulations to Edmonton Branch for their hard work!

-Submitted by Joan Conley

## Tidbits

### **Photograph Cemetery Landmarks**

*George G. Morgan, Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today* author

The natural landmarks we recognize in cemeteries today may not be there tomorrow. These include trees, shrubbery, lakes, ponds, and other plantings. In addition, fences and walls may be added or removed, and other man-made structures may no longer be there in years to come. When you photograph ancestors' graves in a cemetery, consider taking a distance shot to show the grave site in relation to other permanent structures, such as nearby houses, the cemetery entrance, and larger, more prominent markers. These photos can help you and your descendants locate the grave site more easily in the future.

Source: OGS e-Weekly Update, Mar. 4, 2017

## Genealogy Websites and Blogs

Facebook for Canadian Genealogy - Gail Dever

<http://genealogyalacarte.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Facebook-for-Canadian-Genealogy-February-2017-1.pdf>

Google Translate – Gail Dever

To learn more about using Google Translate, read Gail's blog post, [How to easily translate a French website into English.](#)

Genealogy in France – Gail Dever – here's the link to Gail's blog on April 8, 2017:

<http://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=18893>

Researching women's obits:

<http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/5-tips-for-finding-womens-obituaries/>

*(Thanks for the tip, Deb...)*

## **Digitization of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Personnel Service Files – Update of April**

*Library and Archives Canada*

As of April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 427,651 of 640,000 files are available online in our [Personnel Records of the First World War](#) database. Please visit the [Digitization of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Service Files](#) page for more details on the digitization project.

Library and Archives Canada is digitizing the service files systematically, from box 1 to box 10686, which roughly corresponds to alphabetical order. Please note that over the years, the content of some boxes has had to be moved and, you might find that the file you want, with a surname that is supposed to have been digitized, is now located in another box that has not yet been digitized. So far, we have digitized the following files:

Latest box digitized: **Box 7260** and last name **Nelles**.

Please check the database regularly for new additions and if you still have questions after checking the database, you may contact LAC directly at 1-866-578-7777 for more assistance.

-Source: Ontario Genealogical Society eWeekly Update, April 15, 2017



Source: <http://agenealogistinthearchives.blogspot.ca/2017/02/remove-staples-like-archivist.html>

*Battle of Vimy Ridge 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
in France on April 9, 2017*

*A Canadian delegation was sent to France to attend a commemorative ceremony at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery. They were also to attend a Last Post commemorative ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium.*

*There are no longer any WWI Veterans alive.*

*More than 650,000 Canadians served by the end of the First World War. Over 66,000 Canadians died and 170,000 were wounded.*

*Vimy Memorial  
Dedication Ceremony 1936  
Took 11 years to build*



The land on which the Vimy Monument sits, as well as the surrounding 100 hectares of land, were given to Canada by France in 1922 in gratitude for sacrifices made by Canada in the First World War and for the victory achieved by Canadian troops in capturing Vimy Ridge in April 1917. This monument was built by the people of Canada as a tribute to their countrymen who fought in the Great War and, particularly, to the more than 66,000 men who gave their lives.

The monument was designed by Canadian architect and sculptor, the late Walter Seymour Allward. Walter Allward once said that his inspiration for the monument came to him in a dream.

Work began on the monument in 1925 and eleven years later, on July 26, 1936 it was unveiled by King Edward VIII. It cost approximately \$1.5 million, including site preparation and the building of roads. The story of its construction is an interesting one.

Built into the side of the hill at the highest point of the Ridge, the monument rests on a bed of about 15,000 tonnes of concrete, reinforced with hundreds of tonnes of steel.

The excavation had to be done with great care as the ground was littered with live bombs and shells.

The 20 sculptured figures which grace the monument were actually carved where they now stand from huge blocks of the stone.

Because of the height of the Ridge, the topmost figure - that of Peace - is approximately 110 metres above the Douai Plain to the east.

The First World War was referred to as "the war to end all wars". Sadly, during the half century that this monument has been standing, many wars have ravaged our world. Today, the memorial serves to remind us of the high price of war. It should also inspire us to work toward that lasting peace for which those commemorated here gave their lives.

*Picture & facts gathered from [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca)*

***HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!***



Grandma Clara Budd McKee's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration  
with 6 of her 7 children

Submitted by Clara's maternal granddaughter  
Joan Conley

By ascending to an association with our ancestors, by contemplating their example and studying their character, by partaking of their sentiments and imbibing their spirits, by accompanying them in their toils, by sympathizing in their suffering; and rejoicing in their success and triumphs, we mingle our own existence with theirs and seem to belong to their age. We become their contemporaries, live the lives they lived, endure what they endured, and partake in the reward they enjoyed.

—Daniel Webster.

**HAPPY 150<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY,  
CANADA**



*Have a great summer, everyone!*

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