

Roots and Shoots

Camrose Branch – Alberta Genealogical Society

Summer 2023

Volume 20, No. 3



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Important Upcoming Dates:

Thursday September 21st, 2023 is our first regular meeting this fall at our new location! Agri Building 4238-37 St. Join us at 7 pm.

Saturday September 23, 2023

Alberta Genealogical Society celebrates its 50th anniversary this year!

<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/ags-celebrates-it-s-50th-anniversary> for all the information about the conference and to register. It's being held at the Edmonton Inn Conference Centre.

DAYS AND LOCATIONS TO REMEMBER FOR CAMROSE MEETINGS:

Regular Monthly Meeting:

3rd Thursday of each month, 7 pm.

Held at the Camrose County Agri Bldg, 4238-37 Street.

Organizational SIG:

First Monday of every month, 1 pm.

Held at the Camrose County Agri Bldg, 4238-37 Street.

Military SIG:

3rd Wednesday of every month, 1 pm.

Held at the Camrose County Agri Bldg, 4238-37 Street.

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

Ongoing event: the last

Friday of each month has

been declared the "**Fay**

Carlson Friday Social".

Anyone interested can join

us at the **Norseman Inn** in

Camrose for a beverage

and finger foods.



Old time sled in barn at Steffler Museum

FIELD TRIP TO THE STETTLE MUSEUM *"The Hidden Jewel of Stettler"*

On June 10th a group of AGS Camrose members got together in Stettler for a tour of their open-air museum.

The museum consists of heritage buildings, many moved to the Stettler location from their original locations in the surrounding area.

Here is a list of the buildings: Main Building, Courthouse, Whetsel School #963, Nevis Post Office, Ransom School #1332, The Independent, Pioneer Home, CN Station and Caboose, Whispering Pines (a museum in a museum), Estonian Log House, Felix Randon Cabin, Lakeview Church, Harness Shop, Randon Barn, Fire Hall, Kirtley House, Kellough, Sports, Flour Mill and Grist Mill, Pole 1 & 2, Open Pole 1 & 2, Farm Equipment.

While we were in the courthouse, in the actual courtroom, we had an interesting presentation about Robert Raymond Cook. It was presented by his defense attorney's daughter.

As the story goes:

On June 28, 1959, police discovered Raymond Cook, 53; his wife, 37-year-old Daisy Cook; and their five children: Gerald, 9; Patrick William, 8; Christopher Fred, 7; Kathy, 5; and Linda Mae, 3; dead. The adults had been shot with a double-barrelled shotgun. The children had been bludgeoned to death with the rifle butt. The bodies were found in the grease pit of their garage in Stettler. The massacre had been committed three days earlier.

Robert, 22, son of Raymond Cook, had been arrested in Stettler the day before and charged with obtaining goods under false pretenses, after he traded the family's 1958 Chevy station wagon for a 1959 convertible. Inside the trunk, were many incriminating items from his father's house.

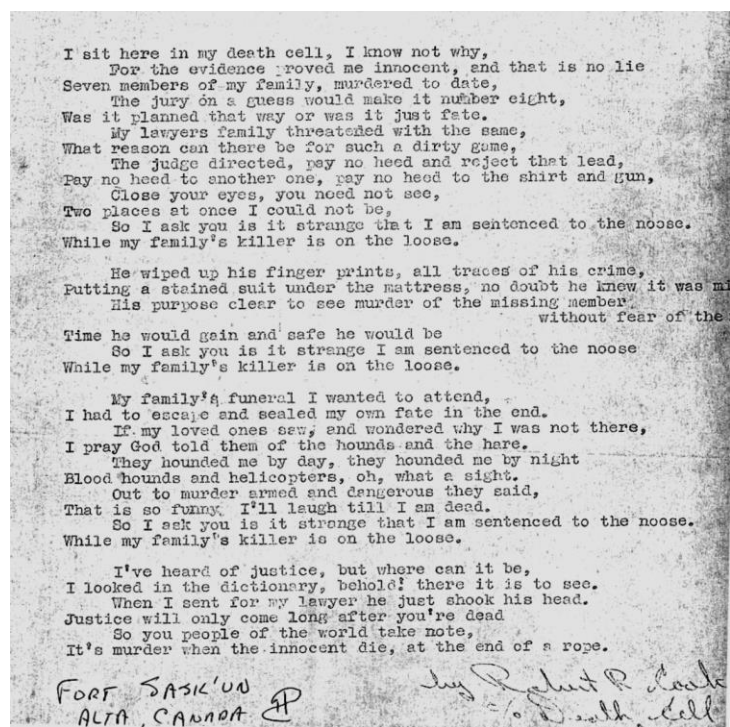
Robert was accused of committing the massacre. Although he was implicated in the deaths of his entire family, he was only charged with the murder of his father to speed up the legal proceedings.

Just after midnight on July 11, 1959, Robert escaped from the Ponoka Mental Institution where he was detained for a psychiatric assessment. He had been denied permission to attend the funerals of his family. Robert's escape sparked one of the biggest manhunts in Alberta history. Officials had 100 members of the RCMP, police dogs, 50 soldiers from the local militia, and aircraft search for Robert. Several days later, he was found hiding at a pig farm near Bashaw.

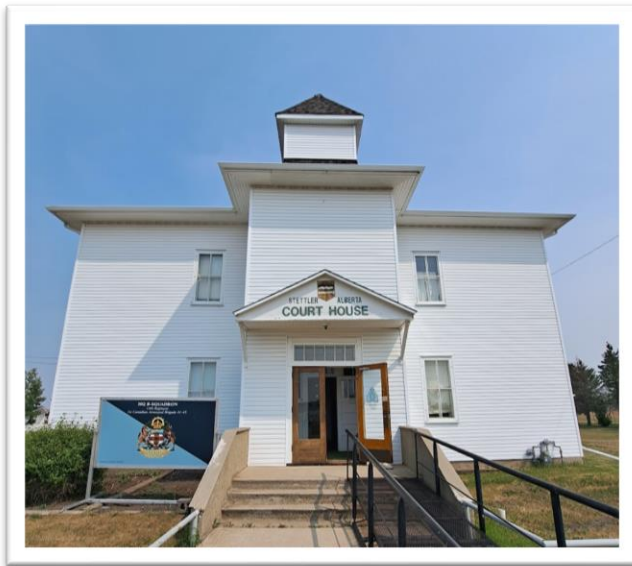
In December 1959, Robert was found guilty of murder and received a mandatory death sentence. He won a retrial on appeal but was found guilty of murder once more in June 1960. The jury did not make a recommendation of mercy either time.

Robert was hanged at the Fort Saskatchewan Provincial Gaol just after midnight on November 15, 1960. He was pronounced dead at 12:19 AM.

Robert Cook was the last person to be hanged in Alberta. He claimed his innocence to the end.



Poem by Robert Cook at Fort Saskatchewan Jail while waiting on death row



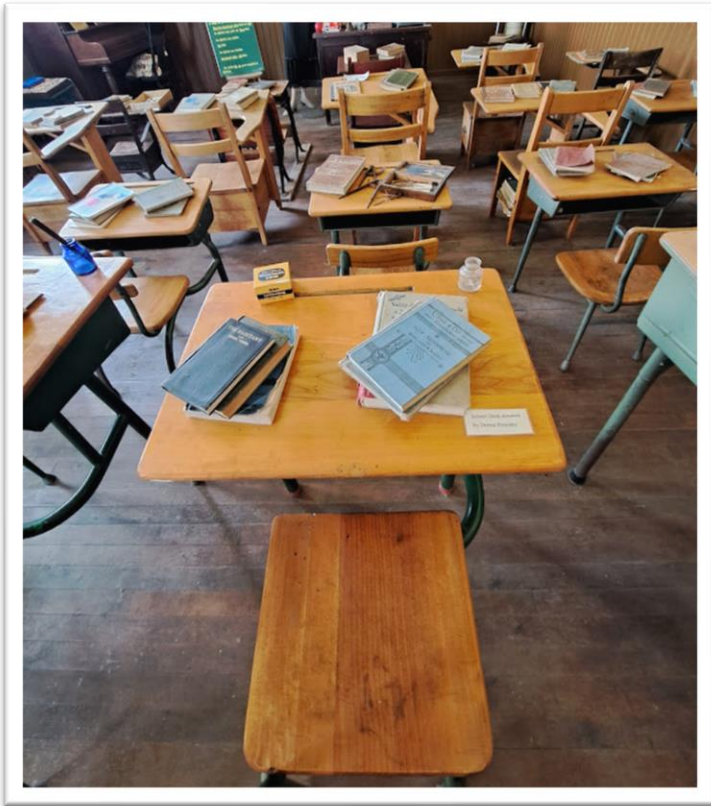
Stettler Court House, built in 1906



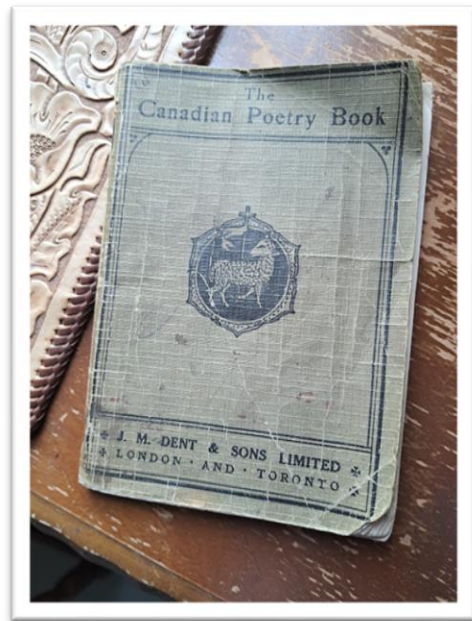
Military Display at Court House



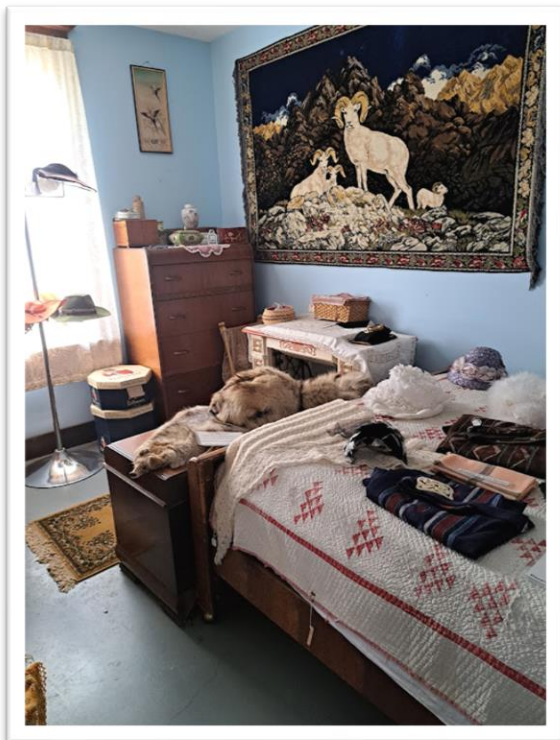
One of the streets at the Museum—L. to R. Ransom School, Nevis Post Office and Whetsel School



**Whetsel School House
previously located south of Erskine**



Pioneer Home, school book



French Inspired Pioneer Home



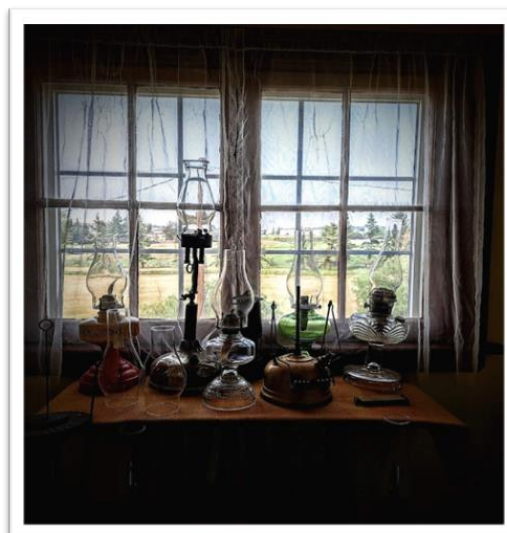
Inside Lakeview Church, built in 1908



Stettler CN Station, operated 1911-1976



Loading dock



Lamps



Estonian Log House, built in 1930s by George Tamberg



Kirtley House, built in 1910



From the Stettler Museum's car collection

FROM THE NEWSLETTER VAULTS

Spring 2008 issue

Quotes from the past issues of the Camrose Canadian:

by Fay Carlson

June 7, 1928

The weed inspector called in the district last week and had farmers sign agreements to have their patches of Canadian Thistle destroyed inside of five days although no human, to our knowledge, has been able to do it in less than one season so far.

July 19, 1928

Beware of all the transients who will be in Camrose for the Camrose fair. There will be many strangers in our town. Make sure that doors and windows are secure. Perhaps leave a light on during the night. Do not leave clothes on the line after dark.

Spring 2009 issue

Quotes from past issues of The Camrose Canadian:

by Fay Carlson

Feb 17, 1915 From District News Donalda:

A resident of our village is guilty of stealing a quarter of beef from the local Chinese restaurant. Pon Nam Washington, the proprietor, placed the following notice in the post office, Friday, last week.

"If man who did stealing of quarter of beef from honorable Chinese restaurant at town of Donalda - will leave his disreputable name at p.o., he will excite greatest of pleasure in causing his arrestedness for crime done by him. We express much hate to you, hoping you are the same. Chinese Resterant."

March 25, 1915

Heard on Main Street - A male was hauled up on a charge of vagrancy. He was sentenced to 2 months in jail and solemnly promised not to return to Camrose.

June 10, 1915

Four farmers from Castor were committed to the jail at Fort Saskatchewan to await trial, charged with assisting the enemy by contributing money for the benefit of the German Government.

CAMROSE BRANCH WRITING RETREAT *reviewed by Charlotte Curtis*

The writer's retreat was planned three months previous and then July 11 – 13 came before we knew it. Excitedly three of us, Linda Simpson, Janine Carroll and I, Charlotte Curtis, carpooled for the hour and a half trip to the village of Delburne, Alberta where we met up with our retreat coordinator, Cindy Mailer. Delburne, situated on highway 21, has a population of about 900 and is about 37 km (23 miles) directly east of the Centrium in Red Deer. It has a gas station, two or three restaurants, and a beautiful 9-hole scenic golf course with two campgrounds bordering it.

Bordering the golf course and campground is the lovely facility of Fawn Meadows Lodge. It boasts four very nice individual bedrooms, complete with queen beds and full bathrooms. A very large "great room" is nicely designed for retreats/workshops. A free coffee/tea/hot chocolate station sits in the hallway separating the

bedrooms from the beautiful great room. At the east end of the great room are two large leather couches facing a hanging 50" TV screen. Surrounding the whole room are large top to table height 4' wide clean windows, allowing such a picturesque view of the golf course with water fountain spewing over the small lake. Birds flit between the well placed trees, flower bed and planters.

Pic L to R: Linda, Janine, Cindy

We utilized the kitchen for our easy, quick food for the two days of no cooking! Oh yah, and a few bottles of wine that helped to settle our "whirring with research" minds (really?) more than once! There was even a rack of wine glasses for us. The first evening we went to the



hotel for the recommended "all you can eat" fish and chips; no, we had no beer nor alcoholic beverage at that time! The next day the sun smiled down on us and the wind hushed its breath so that we really enjoyed sitting outside at the picnic table for lunch, listening to the chatter of the birds, watching a golfer on his way to the next hole and inhaling the fresh air. On another afternoon we changed it up attending the rather small farmer's market uptown at the hall, where I did buy a jar of dilled snap peas and Cindy bought some fresh baking of which we gobbled up both during our continual snacking!

Along the walls and down the center of the great room were long tables on which we set up our computers

and were able to plug into the outlets. Did I say we were here to actually do some writing of our ancestral history? Of course, we tried to keep our focus on task and am pleased to say that we actually did feel satisfied with our accomplishments. I did get three short stories written, titled "Charlotte's Three Lives"! We learned from each other too as we went along. I learned that I had better start "backing up" my computer on a more regular basis than once in 5 years! And so, I did in the following weeks, with a bunch of help from Linda. *Pic: Cindy & Linda had the window tables. Janine & I*



against the wall beyond the shaded area.

The setting and atmosphere here were just so peaceful and calming that we all said we could easily spend another day writing. It seemed we just got adjusted and settled and the creativity began to flow in our heads when it was time to wrap it up and head home. The cost per night was \$130. One room had a queen and a double bed so more of our group could accompany us next time. All four rooms must be booked to have use of the great room.

Summer Gatherings~~



July Monthly Meeting at Camrose Valleyview Cemetery



August Monthly Meeting at Camrose Heritage Railway Station (a little damp)



Summer Social for Camrose branch, held at Bashaw Cemetery in August



Enjoying goodies at Bashaw Cemetery after Deb's tour

Upcoming Online Events



How Our Rivers Guided Us To Our New Homelands

Sept 7, 2023 5 pm MDT

Rivers and Waterways were more than just passageways to our Future Homelands. Some provided our ancestors with protection, others provided a livelihood, and the list continues.

<https://ogs.on.ca/september-webinar-how-our-rivers-guided-us-to-our-new-homelands-paul-barber/>



Life Cycle of a Record: From Clerks and Clerics to You, The Digital User

Sept 8, 2023 12 pm MDT

Understanding the history of a source, its life before the Internet, and the context in which it exists online today can help you discover more about the genealogical information it contains and the quality of that information, propelling your research forward.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/life-cycle-of-a-record-from-clerks-and-clerics-to-you-the-digital-user/>



Church Records and Jurisdictions for Norway

Oct 4, 2023 10 am MDT

This class is designed to teach students how to find which parishes are included in a clerical district.

https://churchofjesuschrist.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VRwFC2tQGicYRnX5hDc_g#/registration



Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library

Family History Activities and Storytelling with Children and Grandchildren

Nov 4, 2023 11 am MDT

Passing on family stories and traditions can help strengthen family bonds and the self-identity and well-being of the children. This presentation looks at the importance of family storytelling and provides activity ideas that parents and grandparents can use to make learning family history fun.

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/900535800404048983>

Genealogy Gleanings:

From the editor: A blog I find very interesting is *Glen's Travels: History, Photography and Travel in Western Canada* <https://glenbowe.home.blog/> It has a lot of interesting places, many in Alberta, he explores them in depth and has great stories and photos to accompany them.

Feeling a little overwhelmed by your research? Here's some reasons why...

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/family-history-research-overwhelm/>

Provincial Archives of Alberta Newspapers on Microfilm

<https://provincialarchives.alberta.ca/how-to/explore-paa-research-resources/newspapers>

YouTube is a great source of webinars for genealogical research, you can start anywhere. The following is Ontario's Genealogical Society's channel, with various branch channels within their umbrella. Try different provinces and countries to see what is helpful for your research:

<https://www.youtube.com/@OntarioGenealogicalSociety>

Does your genealogy have a future?

[Does Your Genealogy Have A Future? - Hound on the Hunt \(familyhistoryhound.com\)](https://familyhistoryhound.com/2023/08/does-your-genealogy-have-a-future/)

Genealogy Brick Wall Busters Free eBook

https://familytreemagazine.com/freebie/genealogy-brick-wall-busters-free-ebook/?trk_msg=1DKL937IUV54FBQQR9CNBF8M3G&trk_contact=BE1RC41FBQ5NJ9I9JOVEQAEEAO&trk_module=new&trk_sid=C3FUFQRMS4S65L5DDBO36MSCJK&trk_link=JHC5FRQ260RKRF4S20DDU6Q8A0&utm_source=Listrak&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=READ+MORE&utm_campaign=FT+Newsletter

Findmypast Free Collections You Can Search with No Subscription

http://familytreemagazine.com/websites/how-to-search-free-collections-on-findmypast/?trk_msg=LG5V0MA4657KF347V6S6AIRQIG&trk_contact=BE1RC41FBQ5NJ9I9JOVEQAEEAO&trk_module=new&trk_sid=CO7UNFJC05IIA90FK7BP0JSQC0&trk_link=GMATLO0VIID433TL05DCC00IFK&utm_source=Listrak&utm_medium=Email&utm_term=READ+MORE&utm_campaign=FT+Newsletter

New on Ancestry (under Search, Card Catalogue), Ancestry puts their newest groups on this list. E.g. Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada Death Certificates, 1950-1968

<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/70925/>

Three Things You Can Do With Mystery Family Photos?

<https://blog.familyhistoryhound.com/2023/08/three-things-you-can-do-with-mystery-family-photos/>

*****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**

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