

Thursday February 17, 2022

Find your family history

Connie Stuhl, President, Drayton Valley Branch/Alberta Genealogical Society

With Family Day rapidly approaching, I think about what family both past and present mean to me. My family, both close family members and extended family are dear to me and I enjoy our visits whenever they occur. For family members who have passed, I like to remember them as I build my family tree and research what their lives were like and what they endured throughout their life.

At the Drayton Valley Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society, we strive to promote the study of genealogy and encourage members to research their family tree. History has always interested me, and when I can apply some historical events to family that may have lived in that area, it adds another level of curiosity. How did some events impact them? Did some events prompt them to relocate to another area of the country or move to a new country? Building your family tree with dates and names can be interesting but adding in the stories provides so much more context.

At the Drayton Valley Municipal Library, we have many books available to help you in your research, from local history books to books that guide you, to books that assist in breaking through those brick walls that seem to pop up to impede your progress. You will find these resources in section 929 at the library.

Also available are kits for our Genealogy for Youth program, developed by the Alberta Genealogical Society and include workbooks to guide youth along with books that are for use with the instructional material. There are three kits, divided by age group. Kit 1, titled My Family Now and In the Past is for ages 6 to 8. Kit 2, titled Our Family Home – Here in Alberta and Far Away is for ages 9 to 11 and Kit 3, titled In Search of Your Immigrant Ancestor is for ages 12 to 14. Stop by the Library to borrow a kit. Once the workbooks are completed and the kit returned, a certificate of completion is presented. If a story, which may include pictures is submitted, you will receive a free copy of the quarterly magazine “Relatively Speaking” when your story is published.

A new resource for our Genealogy for Youth program is an escape room exercise with a family tree theme. If you would like to give this a try, please contact us and we can arrange a date and time.

Other resources available at the Drayton Valley Municipal Library include free access to Ancestry.com Library edition, as well as access to the FamilySearch Affiliated Library which gives you access to records that have restricted viewing. You only need a library card to access these databases to aid you in your research. If you are also a member of the Alberta Genealogical Society, there is free access to MyHeritage, a database with many European records.