

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 38 No. 1
February 2021
ISSN 0836-5319

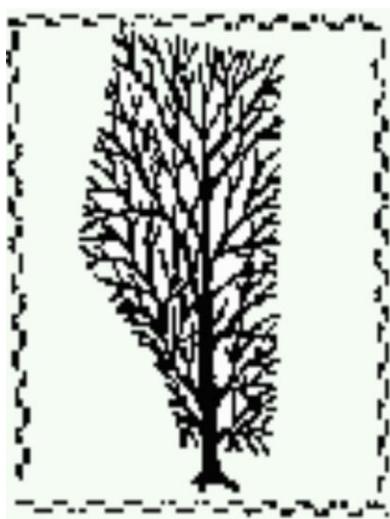


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Editor's Corner



If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting web sites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can drop off your submissions to our library or phone (403) 328-9564 or send an e-mail to lethags@theboss.net Susan Haga, Newsletter Editor.

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are all virtual for the time being (3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.) Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our web site at:

<http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/Exec.htm>

Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Avenue North.

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

Individual or Family Membership (Includes 1 Branch)-\$60.00, Seniors (65+) Individual or Family (Includes 1 Branch)-\$55.00. If you receive Relatively Speaking digitally your membership is \$10.00 off except for Youth membership \$5.00—Young Adult membership is \$25.00 (includes RS).

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President's Message

As we approach the March 13th one-year anniversary of closing our Resource Centre to the public, I am impressed that our branch has remained as active as possible throughout the pandemic. Initially, when we hoped COVID-19 restrictions would be brief interruptions to normal life, we cancelled meetings. Then, settling in for the long haul, we started holding branch meetings by video conference. We have since had two meetings with speakers, our newsletter editor Susan Haga in September and David Tyler from Raymond, in January. Both are very experienced speakers who have addressed our branch on several occasions but neither had previously presented via video conferencing and each did a superb job.

Meanwhile, our volunteers have continued with research and recording activities on behalf of the branch and we are still logging volunteer hours, so important for funding applications.

Until we can again meet in person, I encourage you to carry on with your research, asking your genealogy colleagues for any assistance you may need and offering such help to others. With the large number of online learning opportunities available, many at no cost, we can continue increasing our knowledge of our specific research areas from the comfort of home. Stay warm and stay well. Spring is ahead!

--Marilyn Astle --President Lethbridge Branch

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. David Tyler gave a virtual presentation on "Using North American Records to Trace Your European Ancestors". Our AGM will be held February 18 via Zoom and Alma Berridge and Bev Tufts will present "Beyond the Dash". Please log in on zoom to hear this presentation and our annual meeting.

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

The Lethbridge Family History Center **Note:** The FHC is no longer open due to the pandemic.

Irish Ancestry

Irish Geography—the Two Irelands

In 1534 Henry VIII began a full scale, conquest of Ireland and in 1536 the Church of Ireland, the Irish equivalent of the Church of England, was created and made the established, or the State Church and the only legal church in the country. In 1606, following a failed Irish rebellion, James the 1st confiscated lands from Catholic Irish nobleman in the Northern provinces of Ulster and Munster, and settled the area with protestants from England and Scotland. Many of these were

Presbyterians.

Irish support for the attempt to restore the Catholic Stuarts to the English throne was finally crushed in 1691, and from that time on Protestant rule was absolute. Catholics were not permitted to sit in Parliament or hold any public office.

In 1801 those restrictions were finally lifted, and the Act of the Union created the Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

However, Ireland was economically neglected even after the Act of the Union and the Irish poor who were the vast majority, of the population, worked the lands of absentee English landlords and lived almost exclusively on a diet of potatoes. Between 1845 and 1849 the potato harvest failed as a result of blight and millions starved. Millions more emigrated to England or to North America.

In the late 19th century, the question of Home Rule for Ireland was hotly debated. Catholics wanted it, Protestants did not.

In 1916 there was a failed attempt at a military coup, the Easter Rising. In 1919 Irish rebels declared an Irish Republic and fought a war with Britain until 1921 when the two sides agreed to partition Ireland and set up two states: **Northern Ireland:** which consisted of six counties of Ulster and has remained British, and **The Irish Free State, (later to be renamed 'Ireland' and now the 'Irish Republic')** which consisted of the remaining 26 counties and is an independent country.

Northern Ireland

Consists of the counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone.

It remains part of the United Kingdom and has a Protestant majority and a Catholic minority. Its capital and the seat of its National Archives is Belfast.

The Republic of Ireland (Eire)

Consists of the traditional counties of:

Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow. It is an independent country not part of the United Kingdom and has a Catholic majority. Its capital and the seat of its National Archives is Dublin.

Prior to 1922 to Island of Ireland was one country. The language most widely spoken is English. In the Republic of Ireland, the Irish Gaelic language has official status; in Northern Ireland it has some official recognition along with Ulster Scots.

Irish Emigration

The Scots-Irish emigration 1715-1775

The Scots-Irish were those people who settled in the North of Ireland after 1606. Many of their

descendants subsequently emigrated, as a result of religious persecution and oppression by the landlords.

Later Emigration

Since 1850 there has been continual emigration from Ireland for a variety of reasons.

Transportation to the American Colonies

From 1610 thru to the American Revolution, Britain's courts sentenced many of its criminals to be transported to its American 'colonies to work in penal camps, in order to save the costs of keeping them in jail and 'export the problem'. Between 1788 and 1868 they employed the same policy, but this time transporting criminals to Australia.

Over the years many Irishmen and, indeed, Irish women, were transported for both major and petty crimes. That was especially the case in the famine years 1845-1849, when the desperate Irish were often reduced to stealing food. This gave rise to court records of sentence, ship manifests, and, if the transportation was not for life, certificates of release, all of which are valuable sources for the family historian.

Many of those sentenced to fixed terms chose to stay once released, so check the American colonies and Australian records as well.

Using Gazetteers and Maps

Once you have discovered the name of the place your ancestor came from you will need to find exactly where it is. Use gazetteers and maps. There are many available.

Try the Alphabetical List of Townlands and Towns of Ireland. The 1871 edition is on FHL microfilm 476999 or fiches 6020345 -53. The 1908 edition is on FHL microfilm 865092 and online at www.seanruad.com

For Civil areas, use the Ordnance Survey Maps at www.irishhistoricmaps.ie

For modern gazetteers and maps, go to www.epa.ie

For maps of the Catholic parishes, go to the Irish Times website.

Religious Denominations

The Roman Catholic Church

The majority, of the population of the Irish Republic and a significant minority of the population of Northern Ireland is Catholic.

The Church of Ireland

From the time of Henry VIII until 1871 it was the official State Church, though attended by a minority of the population.

The Presbyterian Church

The majority Church in Northern Ireland.

Others

There are many other churches in Ireland, including the Methodists, Baptists, Quakers, and LDS, as well as Jewish and Muslim communities.

Researching Scots-Irish Ancestry

Since the Scots-Irish emigration was as early as 1715-1775, Irish records are very, limited.

Presbyterian and Catholic records had often not yet started and approximately 1/3 of the Church of Ireland records were destroyed. Those that survived usually did not start until the late 18th century.

In 1922 a fire in the public records office in Dublin burned wills, marriage licenses and other records.

As a result, you may never find a record that directly, states date of birth or marriage, so then look for indirect evidence, unless you are fortunate enough that your ancestor came from one of the areas where there are still existing records.

Some Indirect Sources

Canadian and American Sources
Biographies, Compiled Genealogies
Land records, Military records
Church records
Naturalization
Parochial certificates

Civil Registration in Ireland

Civil registration in Ireland began April 1 1845 but only for non-Catholic marriages.

Registration of births, deaths and all marriages began in 1864, but it was patchy in the early years. The poor law unions became the registration districts (see www.seanruad.com to find the poor law union for your parish).

FHL catalogue has following civil records for Ireland:

Births

All Ireland 1864-1880, 1900-1913
The Republic of Ireland 1930-1955
Northern Ireland 1922-1959

Marriages and Deaths

All Ireland beginning 1870.
Northern Ireland 1922-1959.

All others are obtainable from the General Register Office of Ireland (www.groireland.ie)
See also the General Register Office for Northern Ireland (NIDirect) (www.groni.gov.uk)

All Ireland Sources

Registry of Deeds (Contracts--sale property)

Deputy keeper reports (Reports from the Deputy state archives)

Hayes' Manuscripts Sources for the History of Irish Civilization

Fasti of the Irish Presbyterian Church 1613-1840(the Fasti is a list of Church Ministers)

Most Useful Post-Famine Sources—North America

Civil Registration
Censuses
Tombstones, Death certificates
Sexton's Records
Obituaries, Funeral Home Records
Church Records (Catholic registers in Canada often give the exact place of birth)
Newspaper searches for missing friends etc.
Occupational records (police, post office, railways)
Military records

Most Useful Post-Famine Sources--Ireland

Civil Registration, Church Records
Censuses and census substitutes
Court records, Probate records
Taxation records
Land Transactions, Military records
Newspapers
(David Tyler's—Raymond FHC handout).

Quebec and France Research

Selected Sites

★**CanGenealogy**--one of the best sites--gives quick links to major Quebec 1764-1841 ★resources. www.cangenealogy.com

★**National Library and Archives Canada**--Includes Land Petitions of Lower Canada

★**Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales Du Québec**--Lots of information! Original digitized images via their Archives-Pistard catalogue. <http://www.banq.qc.ca/>

Pioneers

★**Fichier Origine**--Marcel Fournier's site of Pioneers to New France until 1865. Gives their vital stats, family and source for that information. <http://www.fichierorigine.com/>

★**La Société des Filles du roi et soldats du Carignan**--Organization offers membership for those who can trace ancestry. Has lists of the Filles du Roi and Carignan soldiers. <http://www.fichierorigine.com/>

Genealogy Dictionaries

Tanguay Dictionary--7 volumes, over 4,000 pages available through Ancestry, Banq. **Census (Online)**

★**1666 Census of New France** Index on Hugh Armstrong's site; transcription on PDRH ★**1825, 1831, 1842 Census of Lower Canada** Head of Family. FamilySearch and Ancestry

★**1851 to-1911 Canadian Census.** All of the household on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com.

Vital Records

★**Catholic Church Records 1621-1979**--Index not complete. Images also. On FamilySearch.

★**Non-Catholic Church Records 1763-1867**--Index not complete. Images also. On FamilySearch.

★**Drouin Collection**--Quebec Vital & Church Records 1621-1967; Acadia Vital and Church Records 1670-1946; Ontario Catholic Church Records 1747-1967; Early US French-Catholic Records 1695-1954; Misc. French Records 1651-1941. Ancestry and Quebec Records.

★**Quebec Records**--Subscription based. Drouin Collection, LaFrance, Loiselle, Marriages and Obituaries 1926-1996. Several others. See www.genealogiequebec.com ★**Loiselle Marriage Index**--Father Loiselle transcribed the Quebec marriages onto index cards during his spare time. Available on FamilySearch as PDF. ★**PRDH**--Subscription site. Sources include the Tanguay, Drouin Collection, Hospital registers early Quebec census and over 200 others. View people in families.

★**BMS2000** Pioneered by five founding societies in 1998, Groupe BMS2000 is a cooperative project for establishing a common database with the BMS records — births, marriages and deaths (burials or sepultures) — of 24 genealogical societies of Quebec province. Close to ten million BMS records have been collected.:" www.bms2000.org

★**YourFolks**--Subscription site. Lovely interface. Partner with the Banq and others. Search by individual. No images.

★**Civil Registration**--Started in 1994. Parish records are easier to obtain! Online applications at Directeur de l'état civil. You must provide proof of identity and relation to individual whose record you request. <http://www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca/en/default.html>

Notarial Records

★**Quebec Notarial Records 1647-1942**—Repe "Pioneereditoire and some indexes. The repertoire contains a date, number and short description. Drouin collection via Ancestry. ★**Quebec Notarial Records 1800-1900**--Images only. Organized by place, notary and time period.

Other

★**Canada, City and Area Directories, 1819-1906** on Ancestry.

★**Early Canadiana**--Some is free. Some requires subscription. Can access for free on-site at Lethbridge University library.

★**OuRoots.ca**--Lots of local Canadian histories digitized and searchable for free. ★**Metis National Council Historical Online Database**--Link: <http://www.metisnationdatabase.ualberta.ca/MNC/>

★**McCord Museum**--119,000 items from the McCord museum and 17,500 items from partner museums is available to search and view to get a visual glimpse into New France <http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca>

★**Virtual Museum of New France**--Lots of info learn about life in New France. <http://www.historymuseum.ca>

More Quebec Online Databases article with links on FamilySearch Research [Wiki https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Quebec_Online_Genealogy_Records](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Quebec_Online_Genealogy_Records)

Selected Timeline of Quebec

1600s

1608--Samuel de Champlain founds Quebec City.

1615--Arrival of the Récollets

1621--Catholic Parish registers begin (FamilySearch & Drouin Collection, Transcripts at PRDH)

1629-1632--Kirke brothers take Quebec, then Quebec returns to French rule www.findfamilystory.com

1663--Fille-du-Roi "King's Daughters" begin arriving (list at Fille-du-Roi society website) 1665--Arrival of the [Carignan-Salières Regiment](#) of 1,300 soldiers (list at Fille-du-Roi society site)

1666--First census of New France reveals a population of 3,215 people in 548 families (transcription at PRDH, index at Hugh Armstrong's site)

1681 Census of New France (PRDH)
1689 Iroquois, attack.
Lachine killed or kidnaping
many of the inhabitants.

1700's

1744 Census of New France (PRDH)
1755--Beginning to Acadian Expulsion
1763--Treaty of Paris signed ending the
Seven Year war between Britain and France.
France gives the north part of New France to
Britain so they can keep Guataloupe. 1763
Protestant church registers begin (images on
FamilySearch, Drouin Collection)
1763--The part of
New France called
'Canada' is renamed
Quebec 1764--First
edition of the Que-
bec Gazette pub-
lished
1763--Exiled Acadians may now return to Nova
Scotia.
1783--8,000 United Em-
pire Loyalists arrive and
settle mainly in Ontario
1791--The south part of
Quebec is renamed Lower
Canada.
1795--First property tax introduced in Lower
Canada (searchable Collections Canada) 1796-
-Durham--the first of the Eastern Townships--
is created.
1798--Irish begin immigrating to Canada.

1800s

1812--War of 1812
1825--Census Lower Canada records Heads
of Families (FamilySearch & Ancestry)
1831--Census Lower Canada records Heads
of Families (FamilySearch & Ancestry)
1842--Census Lower Canada records Heads
of Families (FamilySearch & Ancestry)
1837--1838--Rebellion of Lower Canada.
1839--12 patriots hanged.
1841--Lower and
Upper Canada
United in the Prov.
of Canada 1850--
Beginning of Que-
bec immigration to
the States.
1851, Jan 11--Census All members of house-
hold now listed (Ancestry, FamilySearch)
1861, Jan 13--Census for five provinces in-
cluding Quebec (Ancestry, FamilySearch)
1867--Confederation.
1871, April 2--Census

Cy Father Cyprian Tanguay publishes the first vol-
ume of his 7 volume Genealogical Dictionary
(last volume published in 1890)
1881, April 4--Census
1891, April 7--Census

1900's

1901, March 31--Census
1911, June 1--Census
1921, June 1--Census
1926--Vital Events could be registered civilly
without the church record. 1938--Gabriel Drouin,
son of Joseph Drouin of the Drouin Institute, be-
gins microfilming the parish registers for all
faiths in Quebec.
1960s--LDS Church microfilms Catholic
and Non-Catholic parish records. 1960s--
Many people chose to register births and
marriages civilly without having a church
record.
1994, Jan 1--Quebec now keeps separate civil
registration as well as the church registration.
Prior to this date the church kept the record and
sent a copy to the civil archives.
(Compiled by Jessica Coupe, family history
consultant Lethbridge FHC)

Research in Austria and the Austro- Hungarian Monarchy

What constituted Austria has changed radically over
the centuries, so successful research depends on hav-
ing an understanding, of those changes and their ef-
fects on Austrian geography.

History

The name *Ostarrîchi* (Austria) has been in use
since 996 AD when it was a margravate of the Duchy
of Bavaria and from 1156 an independent duchy
(later archduchy) of the Holy Roman Empire of the
German Nation (*Heiliges Römisches Reich
Deutscher Nation* 962–1806).

Austria was dominated by the House of Habsburg
(*Haus Österreich*) from 1273 to 1806, when their
empire came to an end. Austria then became the
Austrian Empire, a part of the German Confedera-
tion until the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, after
which Austria continued as the Austro-Hungarian
Empire (1867–1918) as a dual monarchy with Hun-
gary. When this empire collapsed in 1918, Austria
was reduced to the main German speaking areas of
the empire (its current frontiers), and adopted the
name German Austria, since it wanted to join the
new German Weimar Republic. However, this union
was forbidden by the Allies at the Treaty of Ver-
sailles.

Following the First Republic (1918–1933) Aus-
trofascism tried to keep Austria independent from
the German Reich, but in 1938 it was annexed by

Nazi Germany with the support of the majority, of the Austrian people. After the Second World War Austria again became an independent republic as the Second Republic in 1955 and joined the European Union in 1995.

Population migration

Throughout the 19th century and especially in the latter part of it, there was considerable migration of people from the rural areas into the towns and cities. This, was largely as the result of technological change leading to the creation of a wide range of factories, including those for heavy industry, offering new employment opportunities. This combined with increasing moves away from the feudal system towards greater personal freedom in the town and cities made them attractive. Nowhere was this more the case than in Vienna, which, by the end of the century had become one of the largest very, well-known cities in Europe. Accordingly, your ancestors may well show up in records for Vienna or one of the other major cities.

Geography

The Holy Roman Empire, and the subsequent Austrian Empire, contained the territories of the present-day states of Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and parts of Italy, Romania and Ukraine.

When the Austro-Hungarian Empire was created in 1806, Hungary itself, Croatia and Slovenia passed to Hungarian administration.

In 1918 Austria was reduced to the present nine Bundesländer (Provinces): Burgenland, Kärnten (Carinthia), Niederösterreich (Lower Austria), Oberösterreich (Upper Austria), Salzburg, Steiermark (Styria), Tirol (Tyrol), Vorarlberg and Wien (Vienna).

What this means for your research

An ancestor whose records say he came from "Austria", might have come from any of the above-mentioned areas, where his records might have been generated and might now be kept! Those records may be in any of the languages spoken in those areas. The town he came from may now be in another country and have a completely different name. **Accordingly, you must find out exactly where he came from (town or village), what country that place is now in, what it is called today and where the records for it are kept.**

Search North American (U.S./Canada) records for the ancestor who came here to find his place of birth in "Austria". Check online websites to find out where that place may be now, and what it is now called. Maps and gazetteers can help you find where genealogical records for that place might be kept.

The Records

The most useful research records in Austria are:

1. Emigration records
2. Church records
3. Military records
4. Civil registration
5. Recent censuses
6. Einwohnermelderegister
7. Court/notarial records, wills and estate records
8. Seignorial records
9. Newspapers
10. Cemeteries

1. Emigration records (Auswanderungsakten)

If your ancestor emigrated to North America or elsewhere, these records are very, valuable for making proper connections to place of origin and residence in Austria and other countries formerly in the Austrian Empire. About 50% of the researchers do not know their ancestor's place of origin, which, of course, must be determined before research can continue. They cover the period from 1710 to the present and include lists of emigrants and documentation permissions for those moving to other provinces within the Austrian Empire.

They give the name of emigrant, date and place of birth, place of residence, occupation, usually country (and sometimes town) of destination; given names and ages of wife and children; reasons for emigration; amount of taxes paid; military service, etc. They are located, in city, and state archives.

2. Church records

Transcripts begin as early as 1784, but some do not start until later. They extend until the advent of civil registration. Transcripts are similar in content to original parish registers and civil registration.

Printed forms were used, and indexes added that make them easier to search than parish registers. Occasionally transcripts have more complete data than parish registers. Sometimes the originals have more. Very often separate transcript registers were kept for major towns in the jurisdiction of each parish, whereas the originals have only one register which includes all towns.

Contents: Baptismal/birth records: Dates and places of birth and/or baptism; names of children, parents (often mother's maiden name is given); names of godparents and sometimes their relationships to infants. Marriage records: Names of couples, date of marriage and/or date of proclamation; often names of parents, names of witnesses. Death/burial records: Names of deceased, date of death and/or burial; often age and cause of death; often name of spouse, especially of women; names of parents of deceased children. Confirmation records: Children were confirmed between the ages of 12 and 16.

Name of child, age, place of residence and name of father. Church censuses, membership lists, family registers: Names of married couples, their ages or birth dates and places, sometimes dates of marriage, names of children, ages or birth dates, death or burial dates of children. Sometimes marriage dates and names of spouses of children are given.

Location: Local parishes and/or church archives. Some regional state and/or church archives. Transcripts are usually in civil archives and diocesan archives.

3. Military records

The military played a significant role in the lives of the citizens of the Empire. Prior to 1802 a soldier's term of service was for life, although he was not necessarily on active duty the entire time. Those exempt from military service included the clergy, the nobility, certain government officials, and workers employed in mining, iron production, and necessary agricultural occupations.

After 1802 the term of service was reduced to ten years, but many were still exempt from military service. In 1868 a universal conscription went into effect. Every male citizen was obligated to serve three years of active duty with the military. This was modified in 1912 to a two-year term of active service.

The Military Archives in Vienna contain documents relating to the Austrian military from the sixteenth century until the end of WWI. The earlier records contain less genealogically relevant information. Some of the most recent records have been claimed by modern successor nations, notably Hungary and Yugoslavia.

The major collections in the Vienna War Archives have been microfilmed. Indexes to many of the records are available, especially if you ancestor happens to be an officer, staff member or official. In addition to indexes of soldier's names, indexes of regiments and recruitment places are available. Enlisted men can be located when the name of the regiment or military unit, or place of recruitment can be discovered. If the regiment is not known, then place and regimental indexes must be consulted.

4. Civil Registration (Standesamt-Register)

Civil registration of births and deaths began throughout Austria on 1 January 1939. Civil registration of marriages started on 1 August 1938; however, marriages celebrated between 1 August 1938 and 31 December 1938 were conducted at regional district offices (*Bezirkshauptmannschaften*).

Civil registration began in Hungary in 1895 and those parts of the modern federal province of Burgenland which were then part of Hungary will have civil registration records.

To obtain a certificate, you need to contact the registry office which registered the event. For Vienna only Municipal Department 35 provides the

relevant service. To find an address for a local registry use the Austrian Government Help Portal.

5. Recent censuses

The first census in the Austrian Empire was taken in 1754 under Maria Theresia, because of resistance by the nobility and clergy the next census was not taken in the Austrian Empire (without Hungary) until 1869, 1880, 1890, 1900 and the last census in 1910. One can find their statistical information about number of inhabitants and houses per village/town -- but NO NAMES of individuals.

During the First Republic a census was taken in 1923 and 1934. While annexed to Germany a census was taken in 1939. Since 1945 (Second Republic) a census has been taken every 10 years beginning in 1951. These censuses give names of family members (and sometimes of servants), ages or birth dates, places of origin and residence, occupation of parents and sometimes of children. They are located, in city and state archives. A few local censuses before the 1920's also exist.

6. Einwohnermelderegister

These are registers of current residents, registers of new arrivals and those requesting moves in a community and registers of those with specific occupations such as domestic servants, tradesmen, laborers, etc. They cover the time, period from 1798 to the present. They contain names of residents, new arrivals and those requesting moves in a community. Includes birth dates, birthplaces, names of parents, names of spouses, names of children, names of relatives, previous residence, dates of removal and arrival, current residence, occupations, and citizenship status. They are located, in town offices and some city and state archives.

7. Court and notarial records

These are used as a back-up of parish registers for birth, marriage and death information, relationships, etc. They are records of local civil courts involving contracts, marriages, inheritance and property disputes covering the period from 1200 to the present. They give names, sometimes age or birth date, place of residence, names of relatives, relationships, sometimes place of origin. They are located, in local city and state archives.

Wills and estate records (Testamente und Nachlaßakten)

They provide information that helps establish family relationships and linkage. There are wills and divisions of estates for deceased individuals with property covering the period from 1200 to the present. They give the name and age of testator, residence, legatees or heirs, relationships, description of land and property, date of will, probate and death, signature,

witnesses. They are located, in local courts, and state archives.

8. Seigniorial records

Local jurisdictional authority in Austria was held by Seigneurs prior to 1848. Seigniorial authority was granted by the Emperor to individuals who reigned as lord over their manor (Herrschaft) within a given village or community. Civil records created within a manor are referred to as Herrschaft or Seigniorial records. The older Herrschaft records of the four

Lower Austrian Kreisgerichte (KG) are stored at the Landesarchiv in St. Pölten. In 1848, a modern court system was implemented in Austria, and the Seigneurs were instructed to transfer all records needed to continue administration of justice to the recently established district courts (Bezirksgerichte).

This generally included all Herrschaft records back to about 1750-1800. The earlier records, those that had been closed prior to 1750, were transferred to Kreisgerichte. However, a significant quantity of these records, remain in private hands or have become a part of the archival collections of other institutions.

Familysearch has a collection of these online that includes feudal documents from many places throughout Upper and Lower Austria for the years 1537 to 1920. The documents pertain to legal matters, complaints, property, insolvencies, orphans, criminal proceedings, etc.--everything that was later handled by the court system. This collection will continue to be updated as records are acquired. The original records are located in the Niederösterreichischen Landesarchiv, St. Pölten, and in the Oberösterreichischen Landesarchiv, Linz, Austria.

9. Newspapers

The Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek) hosts ANNO (AustriaN Newspapers Online), a virtual newspaper reading room. There, is an alphabetical list of titles already available and in the process of being digitised. You can select a specific newspaper title or choose a date and see all newspapers which published an issue on that date.

Most of the newspapers are in the German language. Some are in Italian, Czech or Hungarian. Some newspapers in this collection have been prepared for full text search which is in Beta version. Nearly 200,000 newspaper issues with nearly 2 million pages of searchable full text are online from 1704 to 1872. This is more than 97 percent of the newspapers located on ANNO up to 1872. The full text is based on an OCR (Optical Character Recognition) data read, an automated process; early issues are printed in the Old Gothic font (Fraktur). As a result, in the quality of text recognition varies. Success in locating a name or place might be increased with the use of wildcards.

The website is: anno.onb.ac

10. Cemetary records

Cemetery inscriptions (Friedhofsinschriften)

Often death information in early parish registers is very meager. Cemetery inscriptions may be used to identify adults and surviving children in parish registers. There are lists of gravestone burial inscriptions and sexton's records covering the period from 1350 to the present. They give name, age, birth date, birthplace, death date, burial place, sometimes relatives. They are located in local city, and state archives.

Vienna Cemeteries

The City of Vienna has put most of its Cemetary Records online, by searching who is buried in the same grave you can put families together. Sometimes the birth day is given in addition to the burial. <http://www.friedhofewien.at/eportal/> For Jewish graves in Vienna and several other cities in Niederösterreich consult the website <http://friedhof.ikg-wien.at/search.asp?lang=en>

Other records:

House books (Hausbücher)

These are often a very, useful linkage tool as ages and names of all family members are given for various time periods. They are lists of owners and residents of a given house covering the period 1430 to 1900. They show names, ages, family relationships, taxes paid, dates of residence of individuals and families. They are located, in local city and state archives.

Funeral sermon collections (Leichenpredigten- und Totenzettel-Sammlungen)

They provide linkage, as deaths are often difficult to identify in church records. They are collections of funeral sermon summary sheets and death notices covering the period from 1518 to the present.

They contain names of the deceased, relationships, birth, marriage and death dates, places of death or residence, occupations, family members. Funeral sermon collections are popular in Protestant areas, while death notices were generally a catholic phenomenon. They are located, in city and state archives, and some are in private archives.

Inquisitions postmortem (Totenerklärungen)

Again, these provide linkage, as deaths are often difficult to identify in church records. They are death certifications covering the period 1649 to 1850. They are certification by a city official of an individual's death, name and place of death, age at time of death, relationships, name of cemetery, some birth dates. They are located, in city, and state archives.

Guardian and Ward records (Vormundschafts- und Waisenakten)

They give names, ages or birth dates, other relationships, or guardians. They are court and city records of guardianship and orphan care covering the period from 1350 to the present. They contain names of guardians, wards, orphans, parents, ages, birth dates, place of residence and origin. They are located, in local city and state archives.

Genteam.at

Genteam.at is a group of genealogists who are creating a digitized database of Austrian and Austro-Hungarian records and making them available for free. Their website is in English as well as German.

Amongst their current records are gazetteers, Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish records, seignoral indexes, civil marriages in Graz and Salzburg, newspapers and obituaries, and records from Bratislava, Slovenia and Steyr.

To access these records, you need to first to register online – registration is free. You will receive confirmation of your registration by e-mail.

They are constantly adding new records, so check their website regularly.

Other online and microfilmed records

There are relatively few other Austrian records online.

Familysearch has: Births and baptisms 1651-1940, Marriages 1722-1898, Burials 1768-1918. Upper-Austria Catholic Church records 1581-1919, Vienna population cards 1850-1896 + Many seignorial records for Upper and Lower Austria

Ancestry.com has: A few births, marriage and deaths, census, military and immigration records

BUT There are many databases of Austrian records on Familysearch microfilm, covering census, church, civil and court records, emigration, cemeteries, gazetteers and maps and much more.

Some Useful Websites

Familia Austria (Austrian Society for Genealogy and History), www.familia-austria.at

Libweb - Directory of Libraries in Austria www.lib-web.org

Council for European Studies--Austria www.councilforeuropeanstudies.org

Displaced Persons' Camps Austria Table of Contents www.dpcamps.org/Austria

Directory of Royal Genealogical Data--Austria www.hull.ac.uk/php/cssbct/genealogy/royal/Austria

3rd Military Mapping Survey of Austria-Hungary Maps III katonai_felmeres.laza.rus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm.

Map of the Austro-Hungarian Empire <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary>

Austria Genealogy links www.genealogylinks.net › Europe › Austria

Austria Genealogy Resources by FEEFHS (Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies) www.feefhs.org/links/austria.html

Internet Genealogy 25 Great Austro-Hungarian Sites www.internet-genealogy.com/austriahungary25.htm

Date change

Prior to 1582, all Europe used the Julian Calendar, so records prior to that date will be in that calendar. The year started on March 25th (!), so, for example, March 24, 1508 was followed by March 25, 1509. Genealogists would write March 4, 1508/1509. However, by 1582 it was some 11 days out of synchronization with the solar year. Pope Gregory XIII introduced a reformed calendar (the Gregorian Calendar) which was adopted in February 1582 throughout the Holy Roman Empire (which included Austria). It is the calendar we use today, with the year beginning on January 1st. In order to get back on track with the solar year, Julian Thursday, 4 October 1582, was decreed to be followed by Gregorian Friday, 15 October 1582. So dates on records after 4th October 1582 will be Gregorian. There is an online Julian to Gregorian conversion table.

Assistance

The FamilySearch Research Wiki (<https://familysearch.org/wiki>) This is an invaluable source for information on all aspects of research in Austria and any of the countries of its empires. You will find comprehensive lists of what records are available and where to find them, genealogical word lists, research guides, links to many useful websites and much, much more.

So Austrian research can be challenging, and you may end up having to write to a state or city archive to get the records you need. (By Dave Tyler e-mail: davidtyler@gmail.com)

Unique Genealogy Websites

Alberta Canada Obituaries <https://www.lenecrologue.com/obituary/state/alberta>

Alberta Newspaper Archives <https://newspaperarchive.com/ca/alberta>

Archive Society of Alberta www.archivesalberta.org/membership/directory-of-archive

AutomatedGenealogy

www.automatedgenealogy.com

It includes census records 1851 (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.) 1901, 1911 for all of Canada and 1906 Prairie Province Census. It also includes the Soldiers of the First World War records.

British Home Children in Canada

www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weekly.com

This is a major immigrant group, especially to Ontario because between 1869 to early 1930's 100,000 British, Scottish and Irish children who came to Canada to work as farm laborers or in the case of the girls as domestic servants and they were called home children. The British Isles Family History Society of Great Ottawa (BIFHSGO) who have indexed many of the children sponsored by various groups to Canada.

Canadian County Atlas Digital Program

www.digital.library.mcgill.ca

Started by McGill University in Montreal in 1998. It mainly covers the property owners of Ontario who appeared on the township atlases.

Canadian Obituaries Forum Alberta

www.archivesalberta.org/membership/directory-of-archive

Canadian Virtual War Memorial ((CVWM)

www.veterans.gc.ca This is a registry of the more than 118,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who have given their lives serving Canada or in the United Kingdom. It was established to allow all Canadians the opportunity to honor and remember their sacrifices.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>

Doukhobors in Alberta

www.doukhobor.org/alberta.html

FamilySearch Research Wiki

www.wiki.familysearch.org

Glenbow Museum Newspaper Clippings

www.glenbow.org/search/library/NewspaperSearch.asp

Library and Archives Canada www.bac-lac.gc.ca

The official site of Archives Canada includes a huge wealth of information and searchable databases including marriage, census, land and military records, directories, and much more..

Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

<https://mennonitehistory.org>

OurOntario www.ourontario.ca

Have numerous newspapers from Ontario. Also expanding to the U.S. (Illinois & Michigan so far.)

Passenger List Indexing Program

www.nanaimofamilyhistory.ca

This project was carried out by the Nanaimo Family History Society of British Columbia and they have recorded 757,749 passengers from 31 July 1903 to 13 October 1910 going to Montreal and Quebec City.

Peels's Prairie Provinces

www.peel.library.ualberta.ca

Contains resources for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There are 75,000 digitized books, over 66,000 newspaper issues (4.8 million articles), 16,000 postcards and 1000 maps.

Provincial Archives Naturalization Records

<http://hermis.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa/Default.aspx?Dept>

Richard Heaton's Index to Digitalized British and Irish Newspapers Online

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleu/BritishandIrishNews.html>

South Peace Regional Archives Surname Database

www.Southpeacearchives.org/online-databases/surname-database/

Stephen P Morse Genealogy

<https://www.stevemorse.org/>

The ShipsList. www.theshipslist.com

And NewZealand.Search free databases on TheShipsList.com for lists of passengers to USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, St John NB,

TONI www.ogs.on.ca

This is the free database of Ontario Genealogical Society called the Ontario Name Index contains more than 3 million names and is always growing. (Compiled by Susan Haga, Editor)

Helping Youth with Family History

Children and youth learn through stories and activities. The more senses that are used to teach a concept, the better they will remember it. Keep this in mind when you are planning family history to share with children and youth that you may know. Of course, it is also important to adjust what you are teaching to the age level of the youth you are working with.

Where do I begin?

Begin with your own story or personal history then broaden one generation at a time. Ask the

youth what they already know about a specific parent or grandparent and build on that and expand out.

Gathering

Have them talk to their family at family reunions and they may find information will come from unexpected sources. Collect family pictures, memorabilia, and stories. Older family members love to talk about their lives in the past. Its better to start right away before key people in your family has passed away.

Start interviewing older generations and nowadays you can even use your cell phone to record special stories and history. Start writing down questions to ask family members as you interview them. Sometimes you can even interview family members you live far away over the telephone or through virtual means. Do not, be surprised if two people remember the same experience with different views. That is okay because that is what history is all about.

Remember to record the information, the date, and the place the interview was conducted at. Make sure you state this at the beginning of the interview and then type it out at the beginning of your transcription. Record all accounts remembering that the person who was present at an event will likely be more accurate than the one shared by a person who heard the story from someone else.

Following is a list of some possible ways that stories may be shared. Remembering that the hands-on approach will help the youth remember it more:

Oral family histories

Published personal and family histories.

Scrapbooks and photo albums

Story books from times your ancestors lived.

Existing family trees and ones that the youth can create on their own.

Family History Puzzles

Family History games to help youth figure out who the individual ancestors are.

Ancestral dolls and toys your family had.

Check out Puzzilla on www.familysearch.org

Check out <http://kids.familytreemagazine.com>

Google—Pioneer Games for Kids

Genealogy Coloring Books with ancestral photos. See www.familytreemagazine.com

See Climbing My Family Tree: For Kids of All Ages: Family History Coloring Books

www.climbingmyfamilytree.blogspot

DIY Family History Crafts (How to make a Family History Coloring Book)

www.mycanvasblog.com

Pioneer Children – fun, games, toys. Web Pages for Students

www.saskschoolsinfo.com

(Compiled by Susan Haga, Editor)

Wetaskiwin GenFair 2021

Date: Saturday, April 24th

Virtual GenFair—Zoom

Held: Seniors Centre 5216 -54th Street

Presentations: Start at 12:30 pm—40 minutes each with breaks in between them

Presentation Topics: “What’s in a Name?”, “Finding Richard”, “The Legacy You Leave”.

AGM Time: 3:00 p.m. sharp!

Fee: No fee required but need to still register.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/AGSGenFair2021>

You will need to register prior to April 22, 2021.

(You will receive a confirmation e-mail when you register. Log-in instructions will be e-mailed to you prior to April 24th.)

Thank you to Wetaskiwin Branch for being willing to host this again in 2021, and for your work in 2020!

Genealogy Humor

Genealogy is like a mirror. Look into it and pretty, soon, interesting faces appear.

Every family has one weird relative. If you do not know who it is then its probably you!

There is a fine line between a packrat and a serious family historian.

You know you are a genealogist if you have considered storing precious genealogy records in a family safe!

I research my ancestors so I will finally know who to blame!

My ancestors are hiding in the witness protection program!

Genealogists do not get Alzheimer’s they just lose their census!