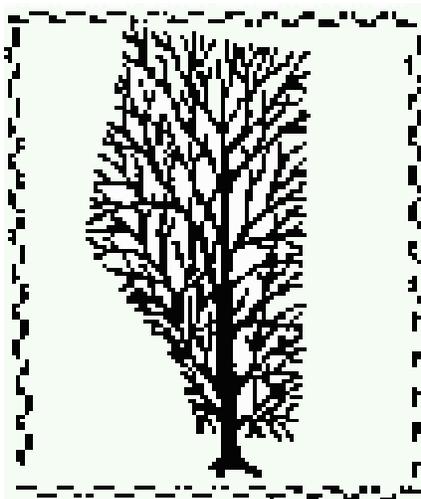


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
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## Editor's Corner



If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting websites 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](mailto:lethags@theboss.net).

Susan Haga, Newsletter Editor

### Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tues., Wed. & Friday 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. September through June. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our website at:

See our website at:

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

**Address: 1:28; 909 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North.**

**Phone: (403) 328-9564**

### Membership Dues

Regular individual or family membership (Includes 1 Branch)--\$50.00.) Seniors (65+) individual or family (Includes 1 Branch)--\$45.00

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President	Nestor Martinez
Vice President	Susan Haga
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Bev Tufts
Membership	Pat Barry

#### **BRANCH COMMITTEE**

B. M. & D.	Phyllis Burnett & Eleanor McMurchy
Cemetery	Phyllis Burnett
Librarian	Phyllis Burnett
Publicity	Win Evans
Researchers	Phyllis Burnett & Eleanor McMurchy
Computer	Phyllis Burnett & Doug McLeod
Newsletter Editor	Susan Haga
Web Master	Doug McLeod
Past Presidents	Doug McLeod,
Advisory Group	E. McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett & Win Evans

## President's Message

### Final Thoughts

My term as Branch President has ended. I would like to thank the membership for the support you gave to me and the executive. I know you will give Nestor and the new executive the same support.

Over the past two years, I've enjoyed being the Branch President. We have lost a few members and gained a few. We've had some great speakers and presentations, made a few presentations, had a great garage sale, and a few great social events. I have learned a few things about researching (although I still have a big brick wall). I also enjoyed going to the AGS board meetings.....

As I said at the Branch AGM last week, I really want to thank you all for your support since my stroke. Those that sent cards, e-mailed, or visited me, it was very helpful and still is appreciated.

So, as in life so it is in family research, we have to keep plugging along so:

Keep Plugging, Doug McLeod, Past President

### Monthly Meetings

Our annual meeting was held Thursday, February 17th and elections for our new executive were conducted. We have a new executive; Nestor Martinez as President, Susan Haga as (returning) Vice President, Pat Barry as (returning) Treasurer and Bev Tufts, who joined AGS in 1998, as our Secretary. I want to thank all the members of the past executive and all of our committee members for their help and support over the past two years to keep our Branch Society running smoothly.

Following the meeting Eleanor McMurchy gave an excellent presentation on "What's New on the Internet".

Next month on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Garry Allison will be giving his presentation on his book 'People of the Mines.' On Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. Irwin Easthope will be giving his presentation on "How to Google Your Family History." On Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Ritchie Whitehead (past Director of the Lethbridge Family History Center) will be giving his presentation on Digitizing Your 35 mm Slides.

Also if you have any ideas for presentations or topics you'd like to see at future meetings please send an e-mail suggesting your ideas along to our library e-mail address.

## **A Quick Look at Our New President**

Our President, Nestor Martinez. I was born in Montevideo, Uruguay and I have lived in Canada since 1974. I can't think of a time in my life when I didn't have the desire to know about my ancestors. I suppose it started when I began to learn about the history of my country and was fascinated by the lives of our national heroes and the story of the Spanish Conquistadors. I didn't think I had any family connections with them and was very surprised later on when I was able to trace my ancestry and discovered that I already knew the names of many of them. I joined AGS about 12 years ago and spent some years volunteering in the Brooks and District Branch in various positions. In 2006 I moved to Raymond and after that became a member of the Lethbridge and District Branch.

## **Lethbridge Family History Center Hours**

Fall/Winter Hours: Monday 9:00-5:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 9:00-9:00 p.m., Fridays (closed), Saturday 9:00-1:00 p.m.

## **Family History Classes**

**Thursday Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**—How to Effectively use Ancestry.com and Genline (Swedish Church Records)—Val Duncan

**Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**—The Genealogist.co.uk website—British Census, Birth/Marriage/Death, Non-Conformist, Parish Records, Land, Military and many other records. A great site for research—Norma Bosman

**Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Vital Records of Canada—BMD records and finding records available before civil registration began—Val Duncan

**Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.** Using American Ancestors.org (formerly NEHGS). Includes the New England States, New York, and some Canadian, British and Irish records. Also Heritage Quest website—Collection of American Genealogical sources dating back to 1700s—Faith Wood.

**Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.**—Where in the World Did I Get that Information—Genealogical information is only as good as the documentation behind it. Learn how to document your sources.—Evelyn Laqua

**Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**—Using Personal Ancestral File (PAF)—Learn how to computerize your family history. Please bring some family information—Gordon Evans

**Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>—7:00 p.m.** Webinars, Videos, Power Point lessons, Research Guides—Learn how to successfully research with help from current technology—Val Duncan

**Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.**—Using Footnote.com (American Historical documents) and World Vital Records—Provides access to a wide variety of International Records—Evelyn Laqua

**Wed, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** How to Gather and Evaluate your Ancestors Genealogical Data—Monta Salmon.

## **Life Goes Online After Death with 'Memory Boxes' (BBC News—Dave Lee)**

The death of a close elderly relative can often mean a sombre weekend or two going through old things, sorting through photographs, donating old clothes to charity.

But in an age when so much of our lives are online, little thought has been given to how we handle a person's digital world when they are no longer with us. As a person dies, should their online presence end too? What should happen to all that personal information?

Richard Banks believes he may have the solution. He is an interaction designer for Microsoft and his team, based in Cambridge, have been working on the concept of digital memories and how, even if a person is no longer with us, their digital self can still be enjoyed. He told BBC Radios 4's All in the Mind about how the death of his grandfather a few years ago inspired him to think about the future of bereavement.

"After he passed away, I became the recipient of a suitcase full of photos of his life. "Inside there was about 200 shots of different periods of his life, all old analogue photos, printed out, stored away in envelopes.

"It got me thinking about what the difference would be, now, with my photographic practices, and the kind of things I might leave behind for my own children."

He has created several devices that run independently from any computer or other internet device, instead of acting like a traditional box of pictures and memories.

Rather than physical photos, however, the pictures in this device are displayed via an interactive touchscreen. If I touch one of those photos at any point, then I get taken to a timeline," explained Mr. Banks. "What appears then is a whole range of photos spread over time."

"Suddenly it's a way of thinking can we start to take advantage of the digital qualities of some of this content, so that we can start to make objects that maybe represent a person's life, or maybe give a sense of their evolution over time, or where they spent time at different points in their life."

Mr. Banks hopes that his devices would mean digital memories would far outlive the technology they were created on – much like the old photographs in his grandfather's suitcase.

## **The Cloud**

This task is made easier by our increasing reliance on "the cloud" to host our information – rather than physical storage such as hard drives or floppy disks.

"I think we tend to think about the physical limitations of digital things through objects like floppy discs and DVDs and CDs that we've stored our

content on. “I think actually some of those physical limitations are going to go away as we start to store more and more content online. We’ll put them in places and they’ll pretty much just stay there.”

This, however, offers up another issue. Will there be simply too much data? If these systems save every utterance online, the suitcase of 200 precious pictures could suddenly become a vast collection of pointless data.

“I think that sense of quantity, and overwhelming numbers of content, is a tougher thing to handle,” says Mr. Banks. “I think there are ways to deal with that computationally – getting a sense of when photos were taken or who might be in the photos and those kinds of things.”

### Secrets beyond the grave

Our online personas can offer a candid look back at a person’s life giving glimpses into personalities and friendships. But with it comes a risk of sharing too much.

Abigail Sellen is also part of the team working on the project. She says that we may, while we’re still alive, have to consider what could be left behind when we pass away.

“A lot of those materials may in fact be quite sensitive or personal. “So if you leave all of that stuff behind to somebody that you care about, is that person going to be comfortable going through all of it?”

Ms Sellen says that finding secrets left behind by a deceased relative is nothing new, but e-mail archives and other information could be misinterpreted.

“In the past we might have worried about physical love letters and coming across those when you’re going through your grandfather’s things and being shocked by it. “At least in that case you know that they kept them for a reason and maybe it was important to them.”

In future, it may be that as we write our wills and maybe even burn our secret letters, we may have to also spend time cleaning out our online lives, ready to be put on show to those closest to us. (BBC News—Dave Lee)

### **Don’t Underestimate the Potential of Newspapers**

Newspapers can be gold mines for genealogists, but are often under utilized. They are frequently searched for marriage, death and birth records, but they offer so much more. Don’t overlook newspapers as a source, thinking that your ancestor was not newsworthy enough to make the paper. Older newspapers reported on the daily happenings of the surrounding communities, giving the family historian a wonderful opportunity to flesh out their kinfolks with a more rounded idea of their everyday life. Columns are often found dedicated to court

dockets, military activity, social and church events, club functions, fraternal organizations and surrounding community news, each involving residents of the area. The multitude of online newspaper databases makes researching these treasure troves easier than ever before.

### Court Dockets

Before each session of district court proceedings, the papers ran lists of the cases scheduled to appear. These would include both civil and criminal. While criminals lurking in our family tree are fascinating and fun to research, information on law abiding citizens can be found in these articles as well. The information listed can include jury members, witnesses and divorce and probate cases. On several occasions, the attorneys and law firms would be listed. In newspapers from the late 1800s through the 1920s, you will see many suits instigated by rural residents for property damage brought against the railroads. The outcome of all the cases would be reported at the end of the court session. It is here that you will find information on any cases dismissed or continued, convictions and exonerations, and any fines levied.

### Military Activity

During times of war, the papers usually listed the men from the community who had enlisted or been drafted into service. When any information was received about local service men, it usually appeared in the newspaper. This type of information might include any commendations, injuries or deaths. In peace time, military articles can still be a good source of information. Reunions of service regiments were often reported on in great detail. Civil War unit reunions were very common. Articles detailing these events would name those in attendance many times indicating the soldier’s rank. One of the most important pieces of information that can be obtained in reunion write-ups is the list of those members that have passed away since the last reunion, giving the family historian a time frame when looking for death dates. The criteria to receive a Civil War pension changed several times but, in 1904, President Roosevelt declared old age as a disability widening the range of those eligible to receive payment. Veterans and dependents applying for pension privileges were commonly listed in the newspaper.

### Social and Church Events

Church picnics, county fairs, barn dances and cemetery workings are some of the topics that will be found in columns about social and church events. The event will usually be recounted in detail, sometimes even to the extent of what the participants were wearing and what food they brought.

Information on revival attendance was sometimes reported. These types of articles are great sources for establishing the little details that bring our ancestors to life.

#### Club Functions and Fraternal Organizations

An abundance of information on club functions can be found in older newspapers. There was a club for just about every subject matter. Women's clubs, such as gardening, quilting and benevolence, were popular. The times and places for club meetings were announced a week or so before and a detailed write up about the meeting could usually be found the week after.

Fraternal organizations like the Masons, Odd Fellows and Woodsmen of the World articles were a staple in most newspapers. These articles listed new members, elections of officers, and where and when the group met.

#### Community News

In many cases, there might be only one or two papers published within a county. Articles were submitted by members of surrounding communities detailing the happenings in their area. These articles were packed with information on an array of subjects. If a community member was ill, it was reported in these articles. Extremely contagious diseases, such as small pox, were a constant threat, especially during the late 1800s. If any home was under quarantine, it was announced, as well as any travel bans or restrictions put in place due to the threat of the spread of the infection. Other types of information useful to genealogists included upcoming birthday parties, weddings and school events. If members of a community traveled, had visitors or suffered some type of loss, it was broadcast in this section of the newspaper. The condition of crops was a common topic and included whose crops were fairing better or worse than the neighbors.

It is the details found in all of these types of articles that make newspapers a wonderful source for genealogists. By combining the small nuggets found in newspapers with other sources, you are able to weave together the life story of your ancestors, filling in aspects of their daily lives that bring the past generations into focus, creating a family legacy instead of just lists of names and dates.

#### About Online Newspaper Databases

The number of online newspaper databases grows each day. With digitizing technology, not only are there more newspapers available, but searching them is easier than ever before. In the past, you had to read each and every page of each and every newspaper to find what you were seeking. Today, the online databases have powerful

search capabilities making that tedious research method a thing of the past.

The online newspapers sources fall into two major categories, those that are free and those that are subscription based. Check with your local libraries regarding the subscription based sites; many of them offer access to these sites to their patrons. If you are near a college or university, investigate their options too.

No single database will cover every newspaper. Analyze each database to find which ones maintain the geographic area most helpful for your research project.

#### Popular Online Newspaper Databases

Google News Archives Search, <http://news.google.com/archivesearch>, while technically not a database, it is a great place to start your newspaper search. Type in your ancestor's name or a location or any key word and this site will provide a list of any article in which your search term appears. Accessing the article will depend on the original paper. Sometimes only an abstract is available, other times the full article is available. In many instances, the abstract is available with the option to purchase the full article.

NewspaperArchives.com is the largest online newspaper database. It offers a selection of newspapers dating from 1759 to the present, with more than 51 million pages contained in the database. It can be searched by date or keyword. This is a subscription based site, but can be accessed through several libraries including Godfrey Memorial Library.

ProQuest.com offers 36 different newspapers, dating from 1764-2008, containing over 25 million pages. The majority of the newspapers found in this database are large city newspapers, such as New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. The site also offers three international newspapers.

Ancestry.com, probably the most used online source for genealogists, has a varied newspaper selection. They offer 16 million pages from over 1,000 different newspapers. They have newspapers from the US, the UK and Canada. They also have an extensive US obituary collection with over nine million obituaries.

News Bank, provided by Genealogybank.com contains over 1,000 small town and large city newspapers. The date range is from 1690-1980. They cover primarily United States newspapers.

Footnote.com has a total of 47 newspapers in their database, one of which is the London Times. The remaining 46 are newspapers from the United States. Many of the newspapers on this site are from small communities. (Shannon Gillette--Internet Genealogy--Oct/Nov 2010)

## Largest Collection of Canadian WWI Death and Burial Records Now Online

(Ancestry.ca—November 8, 2010)

Records offer rare insight into the circumstances of death and final resting grounds for Canadian soldiers who perished in the First World War.

The collections, Canada, CEF Commonwealth War Graves Registers, 1914-1919, and Canada, CEF Burial Registers, First World War, 1914-1919 will be of immense interest to the millions of Canadians with ancestors who fought in the Great War. For the 30 per cent of Canadians who claim not to know whether their ancestors took part, the collections can help them potentially make discoveries about previously unknown military heroes in their family tree.

Individual records contain rich information about the soldiers, such as their unit number, religious affiliation, date of death, circumstances of death, burial and name of nearest relative (next of kin).

The new collections will add to what is already the largest online collection of Canadian military records; one that includes Soldiers of the First World War, which contains the original Attestation Papers of all the 600,000 Canadians who enlisted.

Canada, CEF Commonwealth War Graves Registers, 1914-1919 contains more than 43 thousand records detailing the circumstances of death of more than two thirds of the 60,000 Canadian soldiers who fought and died in the First World War in Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

Canada, CEF Burial Registers, First World War, 1914-1919 detail the temporary and final resting place of Canadian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War. The authorities at the time kept track of the name and place of temporary burial locations. After the war, remains were brought together in the vast national military cemeteries.

Ancestry.ca Managing Director Karen Peterson comments: “We honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and reflect also on the bravery of those fighting today. “These military records will enable millions to learn more about the war hero in their family.

Of interest in the collections is the date April 9, 1917, which stands out not only as the first day of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, but also as the date with the most Canadian deaths recorded in this collection, with records of deaths for 4,344 Canadian soldiers.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was fought against the Germans in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France from April 9 to 12, 1917. The brave Canadian troops managed to capture the ridge within three days – a key turning point in the War in spite of the massive casualties suffered by the Canadian troops.

September 15, 1916 was another day of infamy, which is reflected in the death records for 1,832 Canadian soldiers. This date marked the last great Allied effort to achieve a breakthrough in the Somme Offensive, in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. Two Canadian divisions were part of the battle that is remembered historically for being the first ever to feature tank warfare.

The collections also provide opportunities for Canadians to learn the details of the death and final resting grounds of some of the key figures of the war, including:

-\*John McCrae (1872-1918)\* - soldier and poet; author of the famous poem recited by Canadians of every age at Remembrance Day, In Flanders' Fields

-\*George Lawrence Price (1898-1918)\* - the last Commonwealth soldier killed in the First World War. Price was shot and killed at 10:58 a.m., November 11, 1918, just two minutes before the armistice ceasefire that ended the war went into effect at 11:00 a.m.

-\*Henry Norwest (1884-1918)\* - the most famous sniper in The Great War, he held a record 115 fatal shots and was often selected for special missions due to his superb stealth tactical skills and expert use of camouflage.

These collections were created by the Ministry of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada, predecessor of the Department of National Defense. Along with all of Ancestry's military collections, they can now be accessed at

[www.ancestry.ca/Remember](http://www.ancestry.ca/Remember). Members can also visit our tribute page at [Facebook.com/ancestry.ca](https://www.facebook.com/ancestry.ca) [http://facebook.com/ancestry.ca](https://www.facebook.com/ancestry.ca)

### Scottish Websites

AncestralScotland.com

<http://www.ancestralscotland.com>

A free web site to search your Scottish ancestral roots.

National Archives of Scotland

<http://www.nas.gov.uk>

Scottish Archive Network

<http://www.scan.org.uk>

Scotland BDM Exchange

<http://www.sctbdm.com/index.php>

A free resource for Scotland genealogy for BDMs. Total records held: 77200

Scotland's Family

<http://www.scotlandsfamily.com>. Includes records of births, baptismal data, marriage data, burial and death data, censuses and directories and lists.

Scots Family

<http://scotsfamily.com> Free BMDs 1855 to present. Parish baptism and marriage records 1600-1700s to 1854. Wills and testaments and personal estate inventories. Archival records of Kirk session. (Submitted by Susan Haga)

### **The Best Canadian Genealogy Blogs**

Keeping up with Internet resources can be a full-time job! Fortunately, blogs and newsletters can help. Here are some favorite blogs and newsletters for Canadian genealogy.

#### Anglo-Celtic Connections

<http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com>

John Reid describes his blog as family history, related news and independent views with a British-Canadian perspective, from Ottawa, Canada's capital for more than 150 years.

#### Olive Tree Genealogy

<http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com>. Lorine Schultz writes this blog, which focuses on free genealogy resources, mostly in the U.S. and Canada. One of the features is the scanned images of actual records she posts in her blog, to show readers what they look like and how to read them.

#### Librarians Helping Canadian

Genealogists [www.canadianlibgenie.blogspot.com](http://www.canadianlibgenie.blogspot.com)

This is a great place to catch up on your Canadian genealogy news. Elise Cole, the author of this very descriptively named blog, is both a librarian and a genealogist,

#### Toronto 1861

<http://toronto1861.blogspot.com>

This fascinating blog is a play-by-play of Old Census Scribe's progress in creating a database based on the 1861 City of Toronto census (enhanced with information from the city directories and other biographical publications). She goes well beyond the actual census, to convey the history of the City of Toronto and describes its neighborhoods. She also tells all about the odd and interesting errors she's come across during the process of transcribing the census.

#### Prairie History Blog

[www.reginalibrary.ca/blogs/](http://www.reginalibrary.ca/blogs/)

If you live or do research in Saskatchewan, you'll want to bookmark this blog written by the librarians at the Regina Public Library. It's an excellent source for announcements about genealogical and historical events, new publications and genealogical resources. This way you don't have to join all the historical and genealogical societies to know what's in their journals—you can just check out the issues with articles of interest to you.

#### The Global Gazette

<http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/>

Published by Global Genealogy an online shop for genealogy books, software and archival supplies, this newsletter offers a wide range of articles by regular contributors Gordon Watts, Shirley Hodges, Rick Roberts, Fawne Stratford-Devai and many more. Articles cover genealogical news from all over the world.

#### The Ancestry.ca Newsletter for Canadians

[www.ancestry.ca/learn/learningcenters/](http://www.ancestry.ca/learn/learningcenters/)

(Scroll down and click on "newsletters" on right-hand-side). Ancestry.ca is growing all the time, adding new databases, publications and articles. It's hard to keep up! Fortunately, the site offers a monthly newsletter to keep you up-to-date. In addition to announcements of new resources, the newsletter also provides helpful articles and tips on how to use the collections. (Internet Genealogy—Oct/Nov)

### **Often Overlooked Sources for the Females in Your Family Tree**

#### Invisible Women Ancestors

The individual identities of women who lived prior to the twentieth century are often very tangled in those of their husbands, both by law and by custom. In many places, women were not allowed to own real estate in their name, to sign legal documents, or to participate in government. Men wrote the histories, paid the taxes, participated in the military and left wills. Men were also the ones whose surname was carried into the next generation by the children. As a result, female ancestors are often neglected in family histories and genealogies - listed with only a first name and approximate dates for birth and death.

This neglect, while understandable, is still inexcusable. Half of all of our ancestors were women. Each female in our family tree provides us with a new surname to research and an entire branch of new ancestors to discover. Women were the ones who bore the children, carried on family traditions, and ran the household. They were teachers, nurses, mothers, wives, neighbors and friends. They deserve to have their stories told - to be more than just a name on a family tree.

So how can you as a genealogist, locate someone who is "invisible?" Tracing the female side of your family tree can be a bit difficult, but is also one of the most rewarding challenges of genealogy research. By following a few basic research methods, with an added measure of patience and creativity, you'll soon be learning about all of the women who passed their genes down to you. Just remember, don't give up! If your female ancestors had given up you might not be here today.

## Records to Search for Your Female Ancestors

### Primary Records

The primary records which mention women, especially prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, include vital records, census records, cemetery records and land records. Yet, these records may not always provide the clue to a women's maiden name that we need to find her parents and trace her line back in our family tree. When you've exhausted those possibilities without success, however, these often overlooked records may also provide a clue.

### Church Records

You can usually find a woman's maiden name on church marriage records. Baptism and christening records also often contain the maiden name of a child's mother. Women also participated in many church activities, so membership records may also be of benefit.

### Wills

Wills and probate records will usually include the names of the children or, in the cases where a parent outlives his child. Surnames of female children along with their husband's names are often listed. Married women prior to the late 19th century did not leave wills, as all of their possessions automatically went to their husband.

### Military Records

Women have served in the military throughout history. Many of them participated disguised as men in the U.S. Revolution and the Civil War. You are more likely, however, to find your female ancestor mentioned in the pension record created by her husband, or as the mother or widow of a deceased veteran.

### Newspapers

Early newspapers often contained notices of births, marriages, divorces, deaths and other good genealogical information. County or local newspapers commonly list more biographical data than do newspapers in large cities. (By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide)

## **Want to Record/Write Your Family History?**

Genealogy involves much more than just gathering names, dates and places. You may have years of research data stored in binders, photo albums and in your genealogical software program, but what good is it if it stays hidden? Here are 15 web sites to inspire and instruct you on how to preserve, record and write your family history.

1. American Life Histories, Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940 Library of Congress American Memory.

[//memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/wpahome.html)

This site features more than 2,900 life histories, both in transcribed and image form, collected from 1936-40. The documents represent the work of more than 300 writers from the Federal Writers' Project of the US Work Projects Administration.

2. Ancestry.com's Audio Storytelling Service (\$) [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Ancestry's audio storytelling service allows members to share stories in their own words and voice to allow these to be preserved for future generations. These can be saved and shared, so that others who might benefit from a story will have access to it. This service is free for any registered user of Ancestry who has created a Family Tree. You can add as many stories as desired to your Family Tree, but each story has a recording time limit of approximately 12 minutes.

3. DoHistory Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History [dohistory.org/on\\_your\\_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html](http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html)  
Judith Moyer's comprehensive step-by-step guide to oral history (published 1993, revised 1999).

4. Family History Research: Steps to a Successful Interview

[//life.familyeducation.com/family/genetics/29663.html](http://life.familyeducation.com/family/genetics/29663.html)  
This site, in association with the Ellis Island Foundation, [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org), notes 13 easy steps for a successful interview.

5. Family Oral history Digital Tools

[www.familyoralhistory.us](http://www.familyoralhistory.us)  
This site explores how to use digital tools and media to record and preserve spoken memories of family members. The site has blog postings and pod casts in addition to various articles addressing interviewing trends, equipment and techniques and many real-life examples.

6. Footnote Pages (\$) [www.footnote.com/pages](http://www.footnote.com/pages)

This popular feature on Footnote.com, that's been dubbed "Facebook for the deceased", lets users create profiles of deceased individuals, based on the 80 million names from the Social Security Death Index or from WWII enlistment records, or from scratch. You must register to create your free page, but if you want to link images found on the site, such as census or military records or other premium content, you'll need to purchase a subscription.

7. GeneaBloggers

[www.geneabloggers.com](http://www.geneabloggers.com)  
One of the best motivations for writing is to start a blog! Once you've got some posts, consider registering your blog with GeneaBloggers – The genealogy community's resource for blogging. With a current blogroll of over 1,200 genealogy and

family history-related blogs, you're also sure to find many related to recording and writing your family history, as well as fun weekly blogging prompts, blog carnivals and other great blog resources!

#### 8. GenealogyGems Podcast (\$)

<http://genealogygems.tv>

Hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke, it's a free online family history radio show about all things genealogy. Also, be sure to listen to Cooke's new podcast, "Family History: Genealogy Made Easy", <http://personallifemedia.com/podcasts/415-family-history>, with entertaining 30-minute shows to guide you through the research process.

#### 9. GenWriters

[www.genwriters.com](http://www.genwriters.com)

Genwriters is your online source to add life to your family history. GenWriters points you to resources that will add variety and substance to your research. Look for links to general history resources, diaries and narratives, migration patterns and trails, timelines and chronologies, wars and the military, and other helpful tools to help you bust through your writer's block!

#### 10. History Matters: US Survey Course on the Web

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/oral>

Published online February 2002. Linda Shopes, a historian at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, "Making Sense of Oral History" presents an overview of oral history and ways historians use it, tips on what questions to ask when reading or listening to oral history interviews, a sample interpretation of an interview, an annotated bibliography and a guide to finding and using oral history online.

#### 11. Living Genealogy

[www.livinggenealogy.com](http://www.livinggenealogy.com)

This free site lets your family create web pages on ancestors and ancestral hometowns. Use the Ancestor Pages to include text and photos. Although you can't upload or download a Gedcom file, there are spaces to record names, dates, and places of birth and death. There are also Place Pages dedicated to geographic locales and you can offer tips on where to locate records, add maps or photos, and share local history and advice. There is an option to make User Groups private (open only to family members) or public (e.g., everyone researching ancestors in the same place) and a blog feature for sharing.

#### 12. National Library of Australia—Oral History & Folklore <http://www.nla.gov.au/oh/index.html>

Expand your Australian family history with this collection of over 58,000 oral history interviews and folk recordings, an electronic guide to

Australian oral history collections and free how-to-info for conducting your own oral history.

#### 13. StoryCorps (\$)

[www.storycorps.net](http://www.storycorps.net)

StoryCorps is a nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. Since 2003, tens of thousands of everyday people have interviewed family and friends through StoryCorps. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to take home and is archived for generations to come at the Library of Congress. Learn how to book a StoryCorps appointment at a mobile booth near you and listen to sample interviews online.

#### 14. TapeScribe (\$)

[www.oralhistory.uconn.edu/tapescribe.html](http://www.oralhistory.uconn.edu/tapescribe.html)

If you have taped interviews and are unable to transcribe them yourself, you can hire their staff to produce transcripts from audio tapes, CDs, video tapes and digital audio/video in the format you choose, for a fee.

#### 15. VoiceQuilt (\$)

[www.voicequilt.com](http://www.voicequilt.com)

With VoiceQuilt, you gather audio memories together to create a collage of voices into a special keepsake that can be played back and remembered long after an event is over. The cost depends on what keepsake you choose and on the number of days you purchase to invite friends and family to call in an unlimited number of toasts, tributes and greetings. CDs start at \$16.95 USD or an heirloom quality keepsake box (\$59 USD and up), and e-mail or download it (as an MP3) for free. You can try before you buy by signing up for one day of unlimited toll-free voice messages for free. The site has an idea center and you can listen to samples.

(Lisa A. Alzo—Internet Genealogy—Oct/Nov 2010)

### Best Genealogy Websites

#### German Roots

[www.germanroots.com](http://www.germanroots.com)

Even if you don't have German ancestors, this is a site you won't want to miss. Anyone with immigrant ancestors should check out the "Emigration & Immigration Records" section. Here, you'll find lists of ports and their records with links to online sources and instructions on how to access offline sources. Other sections of the web site have information specific to German research.

#### The German Genealogy Network

[www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html](http://www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html)

This site seeks to be "the number one source in German genealogy". There have been recent changes in the arrangement of information. Although some of the pages are only in German,

much is available in English – and all for free. From the home page, you can access regional pages, mailing lists and a variety of other resources.

#### Genline (\$)

[www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)

A resource as wonderful as Genline is sure to make anyone with ancestors who are anything besides Swedish jealous. Genline's database boasts a nearly complete collection of Swedish parish records, the most important genealogical source in Sweden. Subscriptions (which come in a variety of options) are required to access the records.

#### Danish Demograph Database (\$)

[http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd\\_en.htm](http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm)

Researchers tracing Danish roots will want to bookmark this page. The "Emigrants" section has information on over four hundred thousand people who left Denmark from 1869 to 1908. You'll also find a lot of great information in the "Census" section. Searches, which bring up transcribed entries, are free. You must pay to get further information. (Available for free at Family History Centers.)

#### Digital Archives of Norway

<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&sprak=e>

The Norwegian National Archives is doing their best to make it easier to trace Norwegian ancestors – for free. On their site, you can already find several censuses, parish records, photos of farms, and tutorials on Norwegian research.

#### Genlias (\$)

[www.genlias.nl](http://www.genlias.nl)

The best online place to look for ancestors who lived in the Netherlands is Genlias, a collaborative effort of several Dutch archives. The site's goal is to enter all the data from the open civil registers (the most important Dutch genealogical source covering the post 1811 period). Currently, Genlias has 13.5 million records representing over 55 million people. Searches are free. You can pay for further information.

#### Steve Morse's One-Step Webpages

[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

You won't find new databases here. But what you will find is more effective ways to search existing databases. Steve Morse's site allows the researcher more flexibility by adding more fields and options to the standard searches. The site has links to many databases, but perhaps where it really shines is in its ability to search immigration records.

#### WorldGenWeb

[www.worldgenweb.org](http://www.worldgenweb.org)

Although WorldGenWeb is not as well known as US GenWeb, it ought to be. Like the US version, WorldGenWeb is run by volunteers. From the homepage, choose any country in the world. Not all are equally covered, but the Western European sections tend to be strong. Contents vary by place, but many contain maps, information on sources, research tips, queries and histories.

#### An Atlas of the German Empire by Ludwig Ravenstein

[www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein](http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein)

When it comes to detailed, historical maps, you really can't beat this one. This map, printed in 1883 and put online by the University of Wisconsin, shows Germany as it was when your ancestors might have lived there—which is much different than the Germany of today. The accompanying gazetteer makes it easy to find even small villages.

#### Institute of Migration (\$)

[www.migrationinstitute.fi/index\\_e.php](http://www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php)

This may be the best online resource for people with Finnish roots. You can search the site for free, but must pay a yearly user fee to access further information. Online records include passenger lists, passport records, registers of Australian and New Zealand Finns, books and newspapers, and more

#### Italian Genealogy

<http://daddezio.com>

You will find links to all things Italian. These can connect you to articles on doing Italian research or on Italian history and culture; addresses of archives; websites for Italian genealogical societies; books, maps, and other things you can purchase and more. Access is free.

#### JewishGen

[www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

If you have Jewish ancestors, you'll want to spend some significant time at this site. Many of its resources are particularly strong for Eastern European families, but you'll find information for Western European ancestors too. Explore the "Databases" and "Research" links to see what information is available and searchable for free.

#### Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection

[www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/)

If you are looking for historical maps of places your ancestors lived, as this site is filled with all sorts of online maps. From the homepage, under "Online Maps of Interest", choose "Maps of Europe". Here, you'll find a long list of maps of different countries from different time periods.

#### ProGenealogist's Specialty Websites for Genealogy Research

[www.progenealogists.com/specialtiesites.htm](http://www.progenealogists.com/specialtiesites.htm)

This site is home to a professional genealogy company. But, it shouldn't be missed for the Country Specific Genealogy Research Web sites it contains full of wonderful articles on Western European genealogy research, written by some of the most knowledgeable experts in the world. You can also find maps, and gazetteers.

Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930, Harvard University Library, Open Collections Program <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/> Although not strictly a genealogy website, this site still has plenty to interest anyone with immigrant ancestors. The huge amount of digitized (and freely accessible) material here can help you gain an understanding of what the immigration experience was like. Take a peek at some of its 1,800 books, 9,000 photographs, 200 maps or 13,000 pages from manuscript and archival collections.

FamilySearch Wiki <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en> This Wiki, sponsored by FamilySearch, is a treasure trove of information. From the front page, you can click on a country of your choice. Within the countries, information is arranged by topic. You can learn about important record types, research methods, and repositories. This is a free online source.

#### Tracing Immigrant Origins

[www.genealogy.com.uni.immi.html](http://www.genealogy.com.uni.immi.html)

This site doesn't offer searchable databases, but instead it provides step-by-step guidance for those seeking to trace immigrant ancestors. You can make your way through the free lessons to learn methodology and resources that will help you identify your ancestor's hometown, and use passenger lists.

#### WorldVitalRecords (\$)

[www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)

This subscription database has been continuing to expand its collection. Click on "Search", then "Browse by Country" to see what's available for your place of interest. Most notably, they have a solid collection of English census records and some immigration records. You'll also find miscellaneous sources from family histories to gazetteers. (Leslie Albrecht Huber—Internet Genealogy—June/July—2010)

#### This Week in History

June 24—on this date:

--130 years ago, in 1880, "O Canada" was performed for the first time at the Skater's Pavilion in Quebec City. Three bands, playing together, performed "O Canada" during a banquet at a St. Jean Baptiste Day banquet. Canada's future

national anthem was reported to have been received enthusiastically. It became the national anthem in 1980.

August 9 on this date:

--170 years ago in 1840, Canada's first daily newspaper, the Advertiser, was started in Montreal.

August 13 on this date:

--100 years ago in 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at 90. During the Crimean War, Nightingale went with 34 nurses to the battlefield to help wounded soldiers. Her self-sacrificing service made her name synonymous with care and compassion in the nursing field. She was bedridden for the last 54 years of her life. (Sun Times June & August 2010)

#### Canadiana Discovery Portal Searches

<http://beta.canadiana.ca/co/en>

Canadians now have their very own search engine for discovering Canadian history and genealogy. The Canadiana Discovery Portal connects Canadians to over 60 million pages of Canadian content from various archive collections and includes information from multiple libraries, museums, universities and government agencies. There are multiple ways to search; name, city or subjects such as hockey. (Posted by Dick Eastman on January 18, 2011)

#### Geneological Tidbits

FamilySearch has added 72 million new records.

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Here are a few highlights:

4+ million records of Border Crossings from Canada to USA (1895-1956). These records were only available at Ancestry.com or on microfiche at Family History Centers. Now you can view them for free.

Montana County Marriage records (1865-1950) – most contain images. The 1881 and 1891 England and Wales Census—index only. Netherlands Civil Registrations 1792-1952. State Naturalization Records—various states.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? (celebrity genealogy searches) has returned for a second season. See <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

Ancestors in the Attic (Season IV repeats) are replaying on the History Channel (Channel 45 on Shaw Cable). The show is repeated 3 times daily.)

<http://history.ca/ontv/titledetails.aspx?titleid=110820&/>

(Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy)

## Books for Sale at Lethbridge Branch of A.G.S.

Phone: (403) 328-9564 E-mail: [lethags@theboss.net](mailto:lethags@theboss.net)

**Postage and Handling charges to be determined at time of sale**

Price	Title
\$30.00	Bridging the Years – Carmangay & District (Carmangay, Alberta) – Carmangay and District Home and School Association (1968) 475 pages
\$35.00	Drybelt Pioneers – Sundial, Enchant, Retlaw, Alberta – Southern Printing, Lethbridge, AB (1967) 330 pages
\$75.00 each (2 copies)	Our Treasured Heritage – A History of Coalhurst and District (Coalhurst, Alberta) – Coalhurst History Society (1984) 673 pages
\$25.00	100 Years Lethbridge School District NO. 51: The First 100 Years from Cottage to Composite 1886-1986 (1986) 230 pages
\$75.00	Pioneer Pemmican Club Roundup: 1885-1985 (Lethbridge, Alberta) – Pemmican Club Historical Society (1984) 709 pages
\$35.00 each (2 copies)	The Bend – West Lethbridge (Lethbridge, Alberta) – West Lethbridge History Book Society (1982) 274 pages
\$20.00	Lethbridge, A Centennial History (Lethbridge, Alberta) – Alex Johnston, A.A. den Otter, Lethbridge and Whoop Up Historical Society (1985) 240 pages
\$12.00	Lethbridge: Its Medical Doctors, Dentists and Drug Stores (Lethbridge, Alberta) – Lethbridge Historical Society (1991) 79 pages
\$6.00 (copy 1)	When The West Was Young, Historical Reminiscences of the Early Canadian West – J.D. Higinbotham - Herald Printers, Lethbridge, Alberta (1978) 328 pages
\$40.00	Coyote Flats – Historical Review 1905-1965 (Turin, Gold Ridge, Iron Springs, Battersea, Barrhill, Bulmer, Circle, Picture Butte, Granite Falls, Shaughnessy, Alberta) - Coyote Flats Historical Society (1967) 390 pages