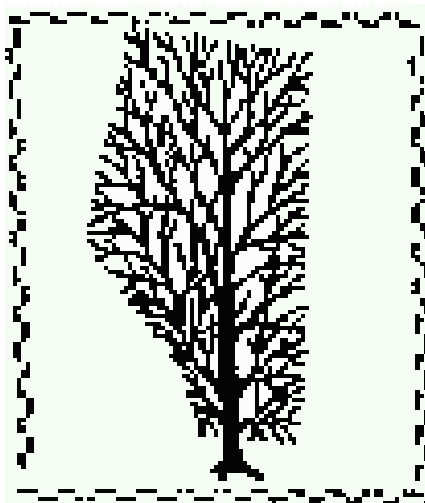


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
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## Editor's Corner



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. Sept. through June. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request.

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, E. McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett & Win Evans
Advisory Group	

## President's Message

We have all heard many times, and probably said it ourselves: "Time sure flies".

It is often followed by: "...when you are having fun". My term as President of the Lethbridge Branch is coming to an end and I feel to echo the above saying.

Being Branch President is not an onerous task when dedicated branch volunteers continue doing what they have done in the past and others take on new responsibilities. We all get to contribute something. Sometimes some of us may wish they could do more but are prevented due to personal circumstances. Every member of the branch is important. The basic fact of maintaining our personal member status is the first support that we can provide to the organization. Anything else that we do will depend on our own circumstances. Every effort and contribution from our volunteers is important and valuable. Let us continue doing it.

---President, Nestor Martinez

## Monthly Meetings

Our Annual Meeting was held Thursday, February 21st. We put in a new executive. Our new President is Doug McLeod, Vice President: Susan Haga, Treasurer: Pat Barry and Alma Berridge as our new Secretary! Thank you to the outgoing Presidency for all their support—Nestor Martinez as President, Susan Haga as Vice President, Pat Barry as Treasurer and Bev Tufts as Secretary! Then John Squarek gave his presentation on DNA and Genealogy; it was very interesting and informative.

On Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. David Tyler will give a presentation on Researching in France. On Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m. Inger Schaufert will give us a presentation on Researching in Hungary.

## **AGS 2013 Conference—"Same Roots, Different Branches" April 20th & 21st, 2013**

Location: Chateau Louis Conference Centre—11727 Kingsway, Edmonton, Alberta

Registration and information available at [www.agsconference2013@gmail.com](mailto:www.agsconference2013@gmail.com) Blog us: <http://agsconference2013.blogspot.ca/>

## **New Books at Lethbridge A.G.S.**

A Harvest of Memories- Oban, Neola, Avalon, Elwell, Monarch, Louvain, Kensmith, Twin Hills, Fairmount, Vanceview, Gagenville, Curths Hill, Castlewood, Whiteshore, Wilson Lake, Saskatchewan

Hanna Centennial History Book, Hanna, AB (2012)  
Bassano, Best in the West by a Damsite, 1900-1940  
Trails to the Bow, Carseland & Cheadle Chronicles  
Crossfield & District, Families, Friends, Neighbours, Community 2 volumes

Harvests of Time: History of the R.M. of Edward, Manitoba

Beaver Tales: History of Ryley & District, Alberta  
Early Foundations: Willingdon and Area History, Willingdon, Alberta

Through the Years: A History of Ardley, Delburne, Lousana Districts, Alberta – Vol. I & II (re-issued Dec 2012)

The Park Country, History of Red Deer and District by Annie L. Gaetz

Trails of Yesterday, Folklore of Red Deer area by Annie L. Gaetz

Brass Buttons and Silver Horseshoes-Stories from Canada's British War Brides by Linda Granfield

The Window of Our Memories, a Collection of Oral Histories of Black Pioneers in Alberta by Velma Carter and Wan

Reflections of Time: A History of the R.M. of Albert, Manitoba – Tilston, Broomhill, Bede, Bernice c. 1984

Yorkston, York Colony to Treasure Chest City, Saskatchewan

Souris, A Pictorial History, Then and Now 1989, Manitoba – author; William John Sanderson

Trails Along the Pipestone – Reston, Pipestone, Sinclair, Manitoba

Handcarts to Zion – Leroy R. and Ann Hafen

Pioneers by Train to Alberta Plains Vol. I & II – Georgia Green Fooks

St. Michael's School of Nursing, Laboratory and X-Ray 1953 – 1973, Lethbridge, AB

I Promise, a History of Girl Guides in Alberta, Racille Ellis

Shaughnessy Echoes, Shaughnessey, Alberta

Prairie Grass to Mountain Pass, Pincher Creek & District (2013) due in February 2013 (Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy)

### **Lethbridge Family History Center**

Hours: Mon: 9:00-5:00 p.m., Tues-Thurs 9:00-9:00 p.m., Sat 9:00-1:00 p.m.

Classes: Mon---March 11—2:00 p.m. Roots Magic Introduction—Marlene Blackwell, Wed--March 13—7:00 p.m. Apps, Gizmos, Voice Recognition and Other Devices—Jim Hillyer, Thurs—March 14<sup>th</sup>—7:00 p.m.—Personal Family History Using SM1 Note—Dick Robertson. Phone the Family History Center at (403) 328-0206 to register for the classes.

### **Raymond Family History Fun Fair**

The Raymond Family History Center is sponsoring the Raymond Family History Fun Fair. This event will be held Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Raymond LDS Stake Center. Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Fireside held at the Stake Center with speaker Don Evans, Area Family History Advisor. Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. there will be an Open House at the Raymond Family History Center. At 9:00 a.m. at the Raymond Stake Center there will be a Devotional and theme introduction and from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. there will be displays from various organizations and family history products held in the Cultural Hall of the Raymond Stake Center. At 12:30 p.m. lunch will be served in the Cultural Hall. If you have any questions please contact Nestor Martinez.

## **10 Common Genealogy Mistakes**

Beginning your genealogy can be an exciting and interesting journey. Through census records, birth and death certificates, military documents, and many other historical records, you are able to locate information on ancestors you had never even heard of before. This leads you to wanting to find more information, and even more after that. And before you know it, you have a chaotic mass of information and documents and no clue where any of it is, where you got it, or where to go from here. This confusion is often caused by several mistakes commonly made by new genealogists, but it is completely avoidable given a little organization and a few tips from an experienced genealogist who was once in your shoes.

### **Don't Neglect to Document Your Sources**

Documenting your sources may take a few extra moments now, but will save you time in the future. You will have a reference to look back at if there is ever a question about conflicting information, or if you realize that you didn't get all the information from a particular source. You also provide credibility to your research by letting others know where you obtained the information.

### **Don't Believe Everything You See**

Just because a family history is published in a book, or online, does not mean that it is accurate. There are likely to be a few (or many) transcription errors, typos, or missing information in any compiled genealogy. It is also common that genealogical records found on the Internet contain transcription errors. Avoid making the same mistakes in your genealogy by always verifying the accuracy of information yourself through other documented sources.

### **Don't Limit Yourself to Just One Spelling**

For various reasons, the spellings of names may change over time or between records. Illiteracy was quite common during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, due to limited education or language barriers among immigrants. For this reason, persons filling out documents often misspelled names. It was also common for immigrants to change their surnames to sound "more American," or to adopt the English translation of their foreign name. If you are experiencing difficulties in locating a document for a particular ancestor or family, write down any possible spellings of their names, listing common mispronunciations, alternate spellings or language translations.

### **Keep a Research Log**

Research logs assist you in tracking repositories where you have obtained information. These timesaving charts can keep you from accidentally looking for records in the same place twice, while also allowing you to recall where information came from should you later question it. Your research log should, at the very least, list the repository's name, type of record found, and the ancestor who the

record was about. You may also want to include a transcription of the document if you are not making photocopies.

### **Don't Accept Family Legends as Facts**

Virtually every family has a few legends that have been passed down through the generations, such as great grandma being a full-blooded Indian or an ancestor who traveled on the Mayflower. While old family stories are fun to share and reminisce about, as a genealogist, you need to be able to separate truth from fiction. Be aware that through your research, you will likely uncover stories that have become distorted through the passage of time or some that may not hold any truth whatsoever. Be open to discovering these facts, but be cautious when sharing your findings with other family members who may become upset to learn that their beloved stories and legends were falsified or exaggerated.

### **Organize, Organize, Organize**

As you become more and more involved in your genealogy, you will accumulate lots of notes, documents, genealogical publications, correspondence, and more. The sooner you create a system of organizing what works for you, the less stress you will cause yourself down the road. There are several ways to organize your genealogy findings: computer software programs, online family tree programs, file folders, 3-ring binders, or anything else that you can come up with to help you easily and efficiently keep your genealogical information in order. Charts and forms, such as pedigree charts, family data sheets, and the research logs discussed above, making organizing information neat and simple.

### **Start Small and Expand Later**

Researching your genealogy can become overwhelming and chaotic if you attempt to do everything all at once. When you are first starting in genealogy, it is often best to focus your goals on one side of your family. You may also want to focus on obtaining information for your direct ancestors (grandparents, great grandparents, 2<sup>nd</sup>-great grandparents, and so on). As you progress in your research, you can include other lineages and collateral ancestors (aunts, uncles, and cousins).

### **Don't Become a Name & Date Collector**

Genealogy is more than simply collecting a list of names and dates. Your ancestors likely left behind wonderful stories and life experiences that should be remembered and preserved. Look for these memories in newspapers, diaries, military records, old letters, and town history books. If you enjoy writing, you may want to consider compiling some of this information into ancestral biographies. And if you are a history buff in general, you may also find it interesting to research the history of your ancestor's hometowns.

### **Don't Forget Your Living Relatives**

Genealogists often become so absorbed in researching their deceased ancestors that they forget a very important piece of doing genealogy: interviewing their living relatives. Living relatives, especially elderly relatives, often contain a wealth of knowledge about your family's history. Make time to ask them about their childhood memories, their parents and grandparents, cousins and siblings, how they met and married their spouse, and any other information they are comfortable providing. With their permission, it is a good idea to record your conversations in case you have any questions about what was said later on. If you cannot meet with a relative in person, send them a letter that explains what you are doing, and ask them if they are willing to share any memories with you.

### **Don't Publicly Publish Information about Living People**

The Internet is filled with wonderful genealogy websites, including some that allow users to upload their family trees for sharing with other genealogists. These sites can be a valuable resource, especially to genealogists who wish to connect with long-lost relatives. However, it is important that you leave out information regarding living relatives when publishing your genealogy online. Not only does this cause a breach in a person's privacy, but can also jeopardize their safety. (Jacky Gamble—Family Chronicle—Jan/Feb—2013—pgs 18-20)

### **Protect Your Intellectual Property**

Many years ago, mapmakers had a few tricks to discourage intellectual theft. The most important one? Just add irrelevant information. It could be a sliver of a river, or a fantasy name, or anything else that didn't really exist.

Then, if the same information appeared on someone else's map, there would be solid evidence of copying. The person who had created the original could then go after the plagiarist.

Family historians face similar concerns today. Technology has made it amazingly easy for others to copy our work, to claim it as their own, and to spread it without our permission. In some cases, that's not a real problem. In other cases, it is.

What kind of material can be stolen? It could be family history data. It could be photos. It could be lists of links. It could be just about anything that we post to the Internet or send by email.

Some family information is well-known and well-documented. Other information might be far more sensitive. Whether or not we agree with the reasons for keeping things under wraps, ethical genealogists will respect a request for discretion. Sleazy genealogists, on the other hand, will grab whatever they can, without shame or regard for the other people involved.

And then they will add it to data they have grabbed from other researchers, mash it all together if some names seem similar, and claim success.

Their trees suddenly have thousands of names, and they make the rest of us look like slackers.

Many errors are making their way online, and trying to correct them can be an exercise in frustration. By the time you alert some loser that he has made dumb errors with part of your family history, his information will pop up somewhere else, because some other loser has grabbed it and claimed it. It's like the Whack-A-Mole carnival game, except it's not nearly as much fun.

Some of my own family history research is available on the Internet, even though I didn't put it there. The information was taken from emails I sent to friends, family members and contacts. There are errors in all of the online data that was drawn from my work. That is because the people who posted it did not have any concern for accuracy. They made assumptions, they made connections, and they have nothing to back it up.

In one case, a name aggregator—I refuse to think of her as a researcher—grabbed information on my family that had been posted online by one of my distant relatives, and tacked it on to her own family. To make it work, she had to ignore the evidence that proved she was wrong, and fail to consider that she had nothing to back up her silly conclusions.

Even link sites can be plagiarized. A single web link is not an issue, but a large set of them should be considered the work of a computer. Cyndi Howells, of the legendary Cyndi's List, has been a victim of intellectual theft because other people can't see right from wrong.

So what should we do? Be careful about what you post online, because once it's out there, you lose control. And when using websites, be careful with any information you find. If possible, trace it back to the source data. And above all, respect the hard work of others.

Let's hope we don't have to revert to the cartography trick. Let's hope we don't have to introduce imaginary siblings or misspelled names. Sadly, though, that might be the only way to slow the information thieves. (Dave Obee—Family Chronicle—Jan/Feb 2013—pg 54)

### **Family Tree DNA Unveils \$39 DNA Test**

Family Tree DNA Unveils \$39 DNA Test in Major Step Toward Universal Access by Individuals to their Own Genetic Data.

The world's lowest cost genetic test offers an introduction to the insights and knowledge to be gained from personal genetic and genomic research.

The genetic genealogy arm of Gene by Gene, Ltd., is dramatically lowering the price of one of its basic Y-DNA tests to \$39, making it the lowest-cost DNA test available on the market, in order to take a major step toward universal access by individuals introducing themselves to the insights and knowledge to be gained from personal genetic and genomic research.

Family Tree DNA pioneered the concept of direct-to-consumer testing in the field of genetic genealogy more than a decade ago, and has Yesterday's Footprints

processed more than 5 million discrete tests for more than 700,000 individuals and organizations since it introduced its Y-DNA test in 2000.

The test investigates specific Y-DNA locations for males that provide individuals with their haplogroup, or the deep ancestral origin of the paternal line. In addition, it can indicate if different individuals are likely to share a common male line.

Gene by Gene is also working to lower the cost of Family Tree DNA's comparable mtDNA test, which would be applicable to both females and males and provides data on the direct maternal line. The company expects to unveil new pricing for this test in spring 2013.

As the sponsor DNA Workshop of "Who Do You Think You Are – Live" in London this February, Family Tree DNA expects that the reduced price test will add a great number of individuals to its already large database – the largest of its kind in the world.

"We believe the first step to unearthing your personal and family history is to better understand your DNA," Gene by Gene President Bennett Greenspan said. "That's why we are continuously investing in new technology and experienced scientists at our Genomics Research Center, enabling, us to conduct tests more accurately, efficiently and at lower prices. Our \$39 Y-DNA test is just the latest example of how we are working to help individuals gain access to their genetic data." Individuals interested in Family Tree DNA's \$39 Y-DNA test, or any of its ancestral testing products, can visit [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) for more information. (Dick Eastman—Feb 21, 2012—Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter)

### **Google Voice**

[www.google.com/gooflevoice/about.html](http://www.google.com/gooflevoice/about.html)

I was first introduced to Google Voice when my husband moved to DC and we wanted to have local numbers for each location, though not necessarily multiple phones, answering machines, voice mail plans, etc. I used Google Voice to create a DC area phone number that when called, rings to my business phone here in North Carolina (or I can have it ring to my cell phone, house phone or just go straight to voice mail).

I have also now converted my cell phone, voice mail over to Google Voice. When I am called on my cell phone, and don't answer, messages are now left on my Google Voice mailbox. A nice feature of this is that I have set the parameters so that I get an e-mail with the content of the message that I can see immediately. To be honest, most of the time, the messages are so garbled that they mostly give me a good laugh and what is nice is that I can quickly see who called and left the message and figure out if it was critical or not, all from my computer. This is handy when I am working in the archives and can't take a phone call, but don't necessarily want to stop what I am doing to call someone back unless I have to.

And you always have the option to listen to the messages by clicking on a link in the e-mail which

will take you to your Google Voice mailbox when you can listen to the messages as originally left.

Some other features are:

- Custom handling for individual phone numbers or groups of phone numbers. For example, I have a family group, friends group and work group – each have a customized greeting and each group’s calls are handled a bit differently (e.g. work calls go to my office phone, family and friends go to my cell phone first, etc.)
- International calling.
- Free SMS (text messaging).
- Conference calling and more...

So, if you are seeking a great way to manage phone numbers, voice mail, etc. Google Voice might be an option. Be sure to check out the “About” page and watch the helpful videos which illustrate the various features in action. (Diane L. Richard Internet Genealogy—June-July 2009.)

### **Name Dropping**

Clues in your ancestor’s given names could help you identify earlier generations. Here’s how.

In Today’s America, where children are named after reality-show stars and parents christen their offspring Khaylee and Jaxon, it’s hard to imagine such a thing as naming traditions. But not that long ago, parents routinely followed patterns for passing on given names from generations past. The traditions varied by country, but if you know your cultural heritage, you often can use these patterns to make educated guesses about the brick walls in your past.

Just because your first-born British ancestor was named John doesn’t prove his paternal grandfather shared that name, of course. But once you have a name to investigate, you can research possible connections. Here, then, is a look at traditional first-name patterns in some of the most common ancestries that found their way to these shores.

#### **British Isles**

Because British colonists made up so much of early America, first-name traditions from back in Merry Old England often continued in the colonies. This scheme was common especially in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries:

- the first son was named after the father’s father
- the second son, after the mother’s father
- the third son, after the father.
- the fourth son, after the father’s eldest brother.
- the first daughter, after the mother’s mother.
- the second daughter, after the father’s mother.
- the third daughter, after the mother.

- the fourth daughter, after the mother’s eldest sister.

In families where this pattern would lead to duplicated names—both grandparents were named Robert, for example—the parents might skip to the next in line. In this case, the second son would be named after the father.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this English naming pattern was also common in Wales. The Irish followed this scheme, too, with the fifth son typically named after the father’s second-eldest brother or mother’s eldest brother. A fifth daughter might similarly be christened after the mother’s second-eldest sister or the father’s eldest sister.

Scottish families often followed this pattern, though sometimes the parents’ names were skipped for the third son or daughter, going right to the grandparents. Some traditions then christened later children first for the father’s and mother’s paternal grandparents for boys, and their maternal grandparents for girls. Other Scots gave precedence to the father’s paternal side and mother’s maternal side for sons, but honored both paternal grandmothers first for daughters. Some Scottish traditions provided for as many as 14 offspring of each gender, just in case, working their way similarly through the parents’ great-grandparents (the father’s first for boys, the mother’s first for girls).

#### **French and French Canadian**

French families followed a similar naming pattern to the British, with a few twists. The first son was typically named after the father’s father; the second son, after the mother’s father. The first two daughters were named after their grandmothers, but the order varied depending on whether Grand-mere was still alive—deceased grandmothers got precedence.

Most children were given hyphenated first names, which could cross genders. A boy might be named Pierre-Marie, in honor of his female patron saint. In French Canada, many boys were named Joseph-something and many girls named Marie-something, in honor of the Holy Family.

#### **Italian**

From innkeepers to inventors, everyone has a patron saint. Italian villages adopted them, too, and the locals traditionally celebrated their saint with an annual feast day. In America, Italian immigrants continued to observe their patrons designated days. Neapolitans honor St. Gennaro; Sicilians from Palermo laud St. Rossilia; and in Torino, John the Baptist rules. If you don’t know where in Italy your ancestors originated, note saints or feast days that pop up in your research. If you find a promising mention, search for the saint’s name at [www.catholiforum.com/saints/patronnf.htm](http://www.catholiforum.com/saints/patronnf.htm) or [www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php](http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php). Both are compilations of patron saints listed alphabetically by the groups that adopted them. This may lead you to your ancestral village. Then look for genealogical evidence to back up your work.

If you know your Italian ancestors' traditional naming patterns, you can use the names of bambini to guess the parents' and grandparents' identities:

- the first son was named after the father's father
- the second son, after the mother's father
- the third son, after the father
- the first daughter, after the father's mother
- the second daughter, after the mother's mother
- the third daughter, after the mother

Italians also used necronymics—naming a baby after a deceased sibling—so if you see two or more Anna Francescas in one family, don't assume it's a mistake. Because parents chose names to honor older generations, they'd pass a moniker onto their next-born if the first child given that name died.

### Spanish and Mexican

In Hispanic families, many of these naming traditions combine—adding to a pileup of given names. At baptism, a child might be given one or two extra names, including the name of the saint associated with the baptismal day. But the child might never be called by the first baptismal name (*nombre de pila*). In church records, the parish priest often added to the child's name a superfluous Jose or Maria that you'll have to learn to ignore.

### Polish

Polish families adhered to an entirely different first-name tradition—one that might help you narrow down when an ancestor was born. Catholic parents typically named their children after the saint whose feast day fell close to the child's birth or baptismal date. So a boy born in early August, for example, might be named for Saint Dominik (Dominic), whose feast day is traditionally celebrated Aug. 4. For a list of common Polish first names and their associated saints' days, see [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polish/namelist.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polish/namelist.html)

### Russian and Ukrainian

Similarly, children born in Ukraine and Russia were named for saints on the Byzantine calendar, which differed from the Roman Catholic feast days. If a girl's birth or baptismal date fell closest to a male saint's day, she might still be given that name, feminized by adding an "a" to the end. A list of common Ukrainian first names and their associated saints' days is at

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polish/namelist.html#ukrainian](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polish/namelist.html#ukrainian)

. See common Russian name days at [www.behindthename.com/namedays/lists/rus.php](http://www.behindthename.com/namedays/lists/rus.php).

### Hungarian

As with many immigrants, those from Hungary often changed their own names to be more American: Anglicizing the spelling, choosing an English equivalent or picking a new name entirely. Uncle John might've been Janos in the old country; Great-grandma Elizabeth, Erzebet.

Hungarians usually have just one given name,

but be aware that they commonly put their family names before their given names, the reverse of most Western cultures. So, for example Szabo Mihaly would be the Hungarian equivalent of Michael (Mihaly) Taylor (Szabo, Hungarian for tailor). Women often won't appear in records by their own name, but by adding the suffix *-ne* to the husband's. For example, Great-grandma might show up as Kovacs Matyasne (equivalent to Mrs Maryas Kovacs) instead of Anna Kovacs. You can learn more about Hungarian names at [www.reocities.com/Athens/1336/magyarnames101.html](http://www.reocities.com/Athens/1336/magyarnames101.html).

### Jewish

Not surprisingly, Jewish families' naming traditions in Eastern Europe differed from their Christian neighbors. Biblical names were of course popular, and beginning in the 1200s, many Jewish children were given two names—a religious name to be used in the synagogue, plus an everyday, secular name. In Jewish tradition, these names are not assigned until the eighth day after the child's birth (which means birth certificates may read simply "male" or "female").

Jewish children were often named for ancestors though not in a hard-and-fast pattern. Ashkenazic Jewish children were never named for a living ancestor. Rather, a child might be given a secular name that honors a recently deceased ancestor, often with a similar but not identical name.

### German and Dutch

Families in the Netherlands might follow this pattern:

- the first son was named after the paternal grandfather
- the second son, after the maternal grandfather
- the first daughter, after the maternal grandmother
- the second daughter, after the paternal grandmother

Given the prevalence of infant mortality, these four names—recycled as necessary—were often enough. In a family with all daughters, a third child might receive a feminized version of a grandfather's name, such as Wilhemina or Hendrika.

Both Dutch and German families typically gave children two Christian names—Maria Wilhelmina, for example. This may have been to keep a favorite name in the family. All the sons, for instance, might be named Johann plus a second name. In daily life the child was usually called by the second name, though sometimes Dutch parents might choose a third name for everyday use.

### Greek

Traditionally, Greek families named their children after the father's parents and then the mother's parents. In this male-dominated naming scheme, girls also can be named after their grandfathers (e.g. Dimitra for Grandpa Dimitris). The father's name

often was added as a middle name.

Exceptions to the patterns occurred when, for example, a relative died soon before a child was born in which case the newborn might be named in honor of the recently deceased.

Children were also named after patron saints, particularly if the child's birth coincided with a saint's feast day. Unlike many cultures that have a paucity of given names, Greek families enjoyed a wide variety of names to choose from.

### Scandinavian

The patronymic surname system common throughout Scandinavia into the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century solves one genealogy puzzle while creating another: There's seldom any question about the first name of a person's father, because children took their surnames from their father's first name. In Sweden, Magnus' son's last name became Magnusson; his daughter's would be Magnusdotter. In Denmark and Norway, if Hans Pedersen had a son named Lars, the boy would be known as Lars Hansen (or Hanson) and his sister Anna would be Anna Hansdatter. Urban Danes began to adopt permanent surnames about 1850, while rural areas kept patronymics until about 1875. Permanent surnames didn't become official in Sweden until 1901 and Norway until 1923. Iceland still uses Patronymics. Changing surnames create their own challenges, but at least you know the father's given name.

Children's given names were generally assigned as follows:

- the first son was named after the father's father
- the second son, after the mother's father
- the third son, after the father (often resulting in a doubled name, as in Haakon Haakonson, due to patronymics)
- the first daughter, after the mother's mother
- the second daughter, after the father's mother
- the third daughter, after the mother

Subsequent names honored the parents' siblings. This pattern wasn't a hard rule, so there can be exceptions, cautions Elisabeth Thorsell, editor of the Swedish-American Genealogist [www.etgenealogy.se/sag.htm](http://www.etgenealogy.se/sag.htm). If the children in the family do not seem to follow this rule, it might be that you have not found all the children, like babies who died soon after birth. If a spouse died, the next child of the right sex in the next marriage was often named for the deceased spouse.

No matter your ancestors' nationality, it's smart to abide by this advice from Thorsell: "It might be dangerous to build ancestral trees by just assuming that these naming rules are very strong, as you might not have found all the children of a couple," she says, "But used carefully, it can be regarded as a hint or a possibility." And sometimes a hint, like a chink or a crack, is all you need to break down those brick walls. (David Allen Fryxell—Family Tree Magazine—January 2012)

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## Places to Find Your Ancestor's Religious Records

Have you identified the religious records available for your family history research? The records of a non-government institution can substitute for civil records that may be non-existent for a specific time period or locality. There are many reasons to use religious records, including their ability to serve as a vital record substitute, confirm your ancestor's residence at a specific time and place, and provide social history information that can help in reconstructing your ancestor's life. However, sometimes suggesting the use of religious records is easier said than done.

To begin with, what are religious records? The answer to that question is a complex one, but basically, religious records include documents that were created at the time of an event, as well as materials that tell the history of that congregation and its members. The complexity involves the fact that churches keep different records and have varying policies about what they do with those records including archiving them or destroying them. So these records can cover everything from christening, marriage and baptismal records, excommunications, almanacs, censuses, photographs, membership records, directories, periodicals and ephemera. Ephemera are paper items that were not originally meant to be archived; they often had a onetime use and were meant to be thrown away once they were used, such as newspapers, correspondence and church bulletins.

Unfortunately, religious records may be stored in many different repositories, either connected to or not connected to the religious congregation. Often, just finding the records can be the battle. So where can you find religious records? The following are some suggestions for where these records could be archived.

### Start With the Source

The first place you should try in your search for church records, for some denominations is at the individual church level. Not all churches archive their records at this level, but it's better to rule that out as you start your research. Beginning your research with learning more about a religion or denomination might help inform your search on what records may or may not be available. Search the Internet for research guides, websites and books about researching your ancestor's denomination or religion. If it looks like the records may be kept at the individual church level, consider the best way to contact that church. Remember when you contact a church, they may have limited or no staff. Because their first concern is the welfare of their present-day parishioners, you may want to e-mail or mail the church and be specific about what you are looking for. When you make your request, stay away from vague requests like "any church records for the 1800s", instead, ask if they have records for a specific time period for your ancestor. You may also want to include a sentence in your letter asking if they do not store their older church records what



repository might have them. Make sure to offer a donation to the church for their time involved in assisting you.

### Google

If you know the name of your ancestor's church, you may want to Google the name and place. This will help you determine if there is any information online.

Another important resource is Google Books. Oftentimes, Google Books has local histories and directories that may be of use. Search in Google Books for the name and location of the church you are researching. One example of what you find is a church almanac. Several different denominations put out almanacs, which include information about the history of the church, as well as names of various leaders within the church.

One example found on Google Books, the Church Almanac by the Protestant Episcopal Tract Society provides information about various dioceses around the United States, clergy names, and vendors for the church. This particular set includes almanacs for the years 1852, 1862, 1869, 1872, and 1880, so make sure that you go through the whole digitized copy.

### Genealogy Subscription Websites

Subscription websites have many different types of digitized documents, indexes and transcriptions, including religious records. On Ancestry.com, search through the Schools, Directories, & Church Histories category, <http://tinyurl.com/6konl5c>. This collection covers the years 1600-1999 and includes church records, histories, encyclopedias and more.

WorldVitalRecords has a few different collections of religious records, such as the International Parish Record collection, [www.worldvitalrecords.com/contentsearch.aspx?ca=t=iprc](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/contentsearch.aspx?ca=t=iprc) and a large LDS collection, UK subscription site Find My Past also has a Parish Records Collection, [www.findmypast.co.uk/parish-records-collection-search-start.action?redef=0&event=B](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/parish-records-collection-search-start.action?redef=0&event=B), spanning the years 1538-2005. For those with Australian ancestors, Find My Past's Australian website has a religious records category.

### Regional Archive

In some cases, religious records may have been transferred from an individual church to a regional church archive, like a diocese in the case of Catholic Church records. When researching the church records of your ancestor, inquire where the individual church may have sent records to an archive and the contact information for any archive facilities they may have. In the case of a Catholic Archdiocese, they often have websites with archive information, including what their holdings are and their policies regarding onsite research.

### University Collections

Universities often house archival collections that tell the history of their community, including religious records. While it goes without saying that a church-sponsored university will have some type of religious records, such as in the case of the Catholic Church and Notre Dame University or the Mormon Church and Brigham Young University, other universities may have religious collections from nearby congregations. One example of a church record collection archived at a university can be found at the University of Nevada (Reno) Special Collections. The records of The First Baptist Church of Reno, Nevada include minutes, histories, membership rolls and correspondence. A research guide for this collection can be found at <http://knowledgecenter.unr.edu/materials/specoll/mss/NC1108.aspx>. As you peruse a university library's card catalog, you will want to search through their manuscript collections, digital collections or special collections. Another way to search for manuscript collections is to use a union catalog, such as National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. [www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc).

Most school library catalogs are online, so you can search through the online catalog to see what may help you with your research. You can find a list of theological schools at [www.ats.edu/memberSchools/Pages/Alpha.aspx](http://www.ats.edu/memberSchools/Pages/Alpha.aspx). When you speak to a librarian at a seminary or a university, it can be best to talk about the research you are doing and not label it as "genealogy". For some, when they hear the word genealogy, they may think they have nothing for you, when, in fact, they do. Remember that as a genealogist, you are doing historical research.

### Church Historical Societies and Libraries

Some religions or denominations have a historical society, library or museum. One example is the Congregational Christian Historic Society, [www.congregationallibrary.org](http://www.congregationallibrary.org), which has over 255,000 volumes relating to the protestant faith of Congregationalism, including the United Church of Christ. There's a lot to like about this website, including a necrology search on the homepage with obituaries for 25,000 clergy and missionaries covering more than two centuries.

This website features an online catalog and a Resource tab that includes a history of the denomination, resources such as primary sources and a tab for archives and finding aids. The Digitized Resources page under the Resources tab includes periodicals, digitized manuscripts, and more. This library is on Facebook and Twitter.

### State Archive/Library

It may seem strange to look in a government archive for a church record, but state archives and libraries do have religious records that have been donated to them. One example is the Connecticut State Library, [www.cslib.org/church.htm](http://www.cslib.org/church.htm), which has records for over 600 churches.

## To Learn More

As you research new areas, be sure to consult the FamilySearch Research Wiki at [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main\\_Page](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page). Their nearly 63,000 articles include pages for church records. One example of what is available can be found on the page for Missouri Church Records. This page includes repositories for Baptist, Methodist and Catholic records.

Cyndi's List has a Religion and Church category, [www.cyndislist.com/religion.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/religion.htm), as well as pages for churches and religions including Catholic, [www.cyndislist.com/catholic](http://www.cyndislist.com/catholic); Quaker, [www.cyndislist.com/jewish](http://www.cyndislist.com/jewish); and Methodist, [www.cyndislist.com/methodist](http://www.cyndislist.com/methodist).

When researching at a library or archive, make sure to ask about any finding aids or guides they may have for their church record collections. One such guide can be found for the Allen County Public Library, [www.genealogycenter.org/pdf/guides/church.pdf](http://www.genealogycenter.org/pdf/guides/church.pdf).

These ideas for your search into religious records are just a start. A successful search for your ancestor's religious records will include a combination of Internet searches and looking through archives and library collections. Don't stop your search at the church door; make sure to look at other repositories whose collections include the locality your ancestor lived in. (Gena Philibert-Ortega—Internet Genealogy—Dec/Jan 2012)

## FamilySearch Adds 18 New Collections Including Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and the United States

Included are 19 new collections: 7 from Napoli, Italy, 7 from the United States, 4 from Germany, and 1 from Netherlands. Among these collections are the United States Draper Manuscript Collection from 1740 to 1960 (more information can be found here), the Germany, Brandenburg, Bernau bei Berlin Jewish Records from 1688 to 1872, and the United States Revolutionary War Rolls from 1775 to 1783.

## FamilySearch Wiki

What is FamilySearch Wiki? FamilySearch Wiki is a large, on-line library that is part of FamilySearch.org where you can find thousands of articles (70,842) and how-to-instructions about doing family history. It is a free collection of family history articles provided by family history enthusiasts from around the world. The wiki makes it easy for people to share research information and useful tips. Research Wiki articles are valuable resources for anyone who wants to learn more about their family history.

Family history can be a life-changing experience. Learning about your ancestors can bring perspective and understanding to your own life and in turn you can pass on what you learn to others.

FamilySearch Wiki is a tool people can use to

learn how to find their ancestors. It offers information on how to find, use, and analyze records of genealogical value. FamilySearch Wiki is based on the same principle as Wikipedia. The site's content is variously targeted to beginners, intermediate researchers and experts. Some things you will find are:

- Instructions on how to find, use and analyze records that is genealogically useful.
- Historical definitions of legal terms, occupations and other terms that is useful to genealogists.
- Images of records used as example of the kind of information a type of record will contain.

## How to Find an Article

In the search box at the upper left of the screen, type the title of the article you want to find. Or you can type in pertinent key words such as "county boundaries Ontario". For help, read Search for Articles in the Wiki.

## Please Share Your Knowledge and Experience!

If you have information on how to do family history, please write an article and share it on the Wiki. Read the help article Help: How to create an article. (Submitted by Susan Haga (information taken from [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Temple:Main\\_Page/Welcome\\_to\\_FamilySearch\\_Wiki](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Temple:Main_Page/Welcome_to_FamilySearch_Wiki)))

## Researching in Quebec

The region that is now Quebec was occupied by prehistoric Indians as early as 10,000 years ago, and was continuously inhabited by various nomadic tribes. Archaeological evidence indicates that there was a Viking settlement on the Ungava Peninsula in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The French arrived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and they found throughout what is now Quebec scattered groups of Algonquin-speaking peoples, chiefly the Algonquin and Montagnais Indians.

## Dit Names

Found primarily in France, New France (French-Canada, Louisiana etc.), dit names are basically an alias tacked onto a name or a surname. Dit in French is a form of the word dire, which means "to say," and in the case of dit names is translated loosely as "that is to say," or "called."

Therefore the first name is the family's original surname, passed down to them by an ancestor, while the "dit" name is the name the person/family is actually called or known as. Dit names are used by families, not specific individuals, and are usually passed down to future generations, either in place of the original surname, or in addition to it.

Dit names were often adopted by families to distinguish them from another branch of the same family. Interestingly, many dit names derived from military service, where early French military rules

required a nom de guerre, or nickname, for all regular soldiers. The specific dit name may have been chosen for many of the same reasons as the original surname – as a nickname based on trade or physical characteristics, to identify the ancestral place of origin.

A dit name can be legally used to replace the family's original surname, so you may find an individual listed with a dit name, or under either the original surname or the dit name. Dit names may also be found reversed with the original surname, or as hyphenated surnames.

### Online Databases

Catholic records contain some of the most detailed genealogical information. For example marriage records not only include the names of bride and groom but their parents also. The French women retained their maiden name on official documents like parish records. Some excellent BMD databases online include the following (\$ means fee is required to access all features):

- Quebec Catholic Parish Registers 1621-1900 [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- \$PRDH 1621-1799
- (<http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/>)
- \$Drouin Collection 1621-1967 ([www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca))
- \$Your Folks (<http://www.yourfolks.com/>) contains just marriage transcriptions
- Fille-du-Roi and Carignan-Saleres Regiment <http://www.fillesduroi.org>
- Library and Archive of Quebec <http://www.banq.qc.ca>
- Canadiana—search scanned books <http://www.canadiana.org/>
- Encyclopedia of Quebec History <http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/encyclopedia/index.htm>
- [www.cangenealogy.com/armstrong/qc1666.htm](http://www.cangenealogy.com/armstrong/qc1666.htm) (First Census of New France 1666)
- [www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/quebec.htm](http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/quebec.htm) (Mary's Genealogy Treasures)

### Loiselle Marriage Index

An alternative to the online databases would be the Loiselle Marriage Index on microfilm found at the Family History Centers. However, this is not as complete as online records.

“The Loiselle Marriage Index and its supplement are some of the best sources for finding Catholic marriages in Quebec. They are easy to use, and most entries are typewritten. The index and supplement contain over a million marriage records. About 70 percent of the Catholic marriages before 1900 are included. A smaller percentage of marriages after 1900 are included. There is very little duplication between the original Loiselle Marriage Index and the supplement”

### Years and Localities Covered

The original index and the supplement include marriages from the mid-1600s to about 1960. The original index covers 520 Catholic parishes in Yesterday's Footprints

Quebec and a few parishes outside Quebec where there were large settlements of French Canadians (such as Madawaska County, New Brunswick, and Manchester, Hillsboro County, New Hampshire).

The supplement extends the original geographical coverage to the Montreal region, to the Ottawa River Valley in both Quebec and Ontario, and to a few parishes in western Canada.” (Submitted by Susan Haga, some information taken from FamilySearch Quebec Research Guide and About.com Genealogy)

## Ten Tips for Reading German Parish Registers

German parish registers are an indispensable resource in German genealogy. Yet, many of us hesitate because of the difficulties in reading these rich mines of information.

Despite these challenges, you can train yourself to read and interpret enough of the records to make substantial progress on your genealogy. The tips below will help you to get started. They are most powerful when used in combination. As with any new skill, you will improve with practice.

### 1. Print out alphabet in different Germanic scripts.

I have several printouts from online sources and books that I keep in my German research file. I take them along whenever I look at German records. There are several varieties of German script and some are harder than others. Make sure your list has the common letter combinations like “sch” and “st.” See the sidebar for resources.

### 2. Focus first on names.

Proper names are often easier to decode than the rest of the record. Notice how the letter is formed. You can even start your own alphabet list of capitals and consonants for your particular clerk's handwriting.

### 3. List villages in your parish

Finding out the village names for your parish will save you time. You can easily distinguish say, Oesterwiehe, from Bornholte, without reading every letter in the word. Once you see how the clerk formed the letters in these names, you can use this knowledge to decipher other words. I often use Meyer's Gazeteer, which is free on [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Type in a parish and the associated villages appear in the hits.

### Examples of Germanic Script:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kobie/scr ipt.htm>  
[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)  
[www.rootdig.com/european2.html](http://www.rootdig.com/european2.html)  
[www.kindredroots.com/What/germanletters/german letters\\_1c.htm](http://www.kindredroots.com/What/germanletters/german letters_1c.htm)  
<http://knol.google.com/k/paul-karl-moeller/german-scripts/3pj5r6n3-uurvd/11>

#### **4. A later or earlier clerk may have better handwriting**

When I find a clerk with particularly bad handwriting, or if the record pages are faded, I scroll backward or forward a few years to see if I can find a record set that is easier to read. How does my surname look in these records? What do the first names look like? What do the most common terms look like? When I switch back to the harder-to-read records, I'm amazed by how much easier it becomes.

#### **5. Look for a word you recognize on the same page**

A person's handwriting can start out fine and become harder to read as they become tired or if they had a bad day. I have often found that if I read five or six entries up on a page, I can read the word that is almost unrecognizable later on. In addition, you may see the word in a more obvious context. When I compare it to the entry I want to decipher it until it becomes obvious.

#### **6. Pick out the vowels**

Even when the rest of the word seems difficult, you can usually pick out the vowels. Watch for the dot over the "I" or if there is an umlaut (a double dot over the u, sometimes called a trema). If there is an umlaut, you know you have a vowel.

#### **7. Use a good genealogical dictionary**

I use Ernest Thode's German Genealogical Dictionary, not only for word meanings, but also to help me read a record. If you can get the first two or three letters, you can check the dictionary for possible matches that start with the same letters. You can often narrow down the choices that make sense in the context.

#### **8. Word Length**

Pay attention to word length. Using your dictionary again, you can rule out possibilities. Be aware that clerks will use an equal sign to indicate that they are splitting a longer word up at the end of a line. When I combine the word length technique with #7, I'm often left with only one possible answer to my puzzle.

This technique can still help even when you don't get the answer right away. I had a record for Johannes Gerhard Steneberg. For his occupation, I could decipher "meister" at the end of the word. The first letter was written in a column break and the rest was a scrawl, except for an "i." I googled his name and found that he was a "papiermeister". When I looked back at the record I had photocopied, it fit perfectly in word length. Puzzle solved.

#### **9. Look for letters that go below the line**

You can narrow down possibilities by focusing on letters that sweep down. The capital letters E, G, H from the examples above, and I sometimes sweep below the line. The consonants f, g, h, p, s (sometimes), y and z also sweep down. Combine this tip with picking out vowels (see Tip #6).

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#### **10. Design your own "key" sheet**

Try writing out your surnames in German script yourself. You can also write out the most common genealogical terms that you'll encounter in the records. In her book, *If I Can, You Can Decipher Germanic Records*, Edna M. Bentz has already done some of this work for you, although I sometimes do it myself to train my eye and to mimic the handwriting of my particular parish clerk.

Reading old German handwriting can be a challenge, but it is possible to use a good dictionary, alphabet sheets, and detective skills to decipher the words you need. Brain experts recommend crossword puzzles to keep your mind sharp. Think how much sharper you will be when you start puzzling out those German words, and as a bonus, add generations to your family history.

(Gail Blankenau—Family Chronicle—Nov/Dec 2011—pgs 13-14)

#### **Genealogy Humor**

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it all up, like the Minister said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer." (Rootsweb Review 28 Jan 2001)

#### **Absentee Landowner**

My great grandfather, Charles Roddy, and his wife, both born in 1800, were buried in an old burial ground. My father, who died at age of 98, was buried beside them. One day I received an urgent request to go to the cemetery office. When I got there, I was told that somebody else owned the plot. "Goodness," I said, "there must be some mistake. The other day I found a receipt for perpetual care paid by my father." He may have paid for perpetual care, but that doesn't mean he owned the plot. "Well who does own it?" A light dawned when he replied "Charles Roddy," When was he last in?" I asked. "1850," he answered. (Originally contributed by Lyn Sutherland, M.D.) (Found on bulletin board at the Lethbridge Family History Center).

#### **Wise Words**

"The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears that is true." (James Branch Cabell)

The great gift of family life is to be intimately acquainted with people you might never even introduce yourself to, had life not done it for you—Kendall Hailey

It is fortunate that each generation does not comprehend its own ignorance. We are thus enabled to call our ancestors barbarous—Charles Dudley Warner.