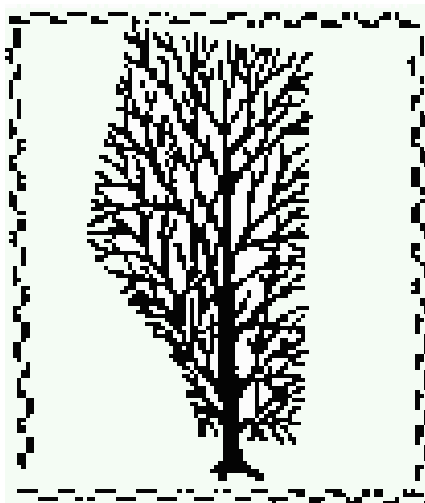


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
**Vol. 31 No. 1**  
**Feb 2014**  
**ISSN 0836-5318**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Executive Committee	2
President's Message	2
Monthly Meetings	2
Lethbridge Family History Center Classes	2
I'm My Own Grandpa	2-3
Aunt Flora	3-4
Newspapers Online	4
Reading Old Latin or English Documents	4
The Chuck Wagon	4-5
Genealogy Moving from Boring to Hip	5
Genealogy Research Tips	5
25 Sources of Death Information	6-8
Western Canadian Genealogy Websites	8-9
Finding Your Ancestors in Hotels & Boarding Houses	9-11
Ghost Towns of Alberta	11
The Family History Widow	11
Who Has Seen the Wind, Wise Words	11
Family History Seminars	12

## 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	Doug McLeod
Vice President	Susan Haga
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Alma Berridge
Membership	Pat Barry

### BRANCH COMMITTEE

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

## President's Message

Welcome back—another year of brick walls and serendipity moments. Welcome new members and welcome back returning members.

Over the past year or so, I have heard people say they, or someone in their family tree, are related to someone in a number of different ways. I was surprised until they showed a family tree. It reminded me of, and it is printed later in this issue, a song “I’m My Own Grandpa”. It is a bit funny but it could happen.

During the past few months, some of us have been gathering on Monday afternoons for some self guided training on Legacy 7.5 and 8. I hope it has been useful to those attending, I know it has for me.

Our indexing of the digitized church records from the Galt Museum is progressing well and should be ready for proofreading in the near future.

Our website now includes an excel file of our members research interest. Any member wanting to add to this file or make corrections, please contact us.

A reminder that GenFair will be held in Edmonton on April 26, 2014 at the Parkview Community League, further information is forth coming.

Finally thanks to all the volunteers for your efforts throughout 2013 and into 2014.

## Monthly Meetings

Our Annual Meeting was held Thursday, February 20th. No elections were held this time all executive remain in for another year. Nestor Martinez gave a presentation on FamilyTree on Familysearch.org and showed us all how to use Puzilla!

On Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. Evelyn Laqua will give us a presentation on Drilling down through Ancestry.com. In April David Tyler will return and give us a presentation on Researching in Germany, and in May Jessica Coupe from the Lethbridge Family History Center will give us a presentation on Researching in Quebec and France.

## Lethbridge Family History Center

Hours: Monday 9:00 –5:00 p.m., Tues-Thurs 9:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00-1:00 p.m.

Classes: Mon—March 10th at 10 a.m. How To Use Flip Pal Scanner, Class repeated again at 2 p.m., Thurs, March 13 at 7 p.m. Family Tree—Uploading Photos and Documents, Wed March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. FamilyTree Adding Information, Sat March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. How to Find Your Family Between the Censuses, Mon March 24th at 10 a.m. Digitally Preserve Your Records, Wed March 26<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Scrapbooking Your Story, Sat March 29 at 10 a.m. Saskatchewan & Manitoba Research.

“I’m My Own Grandpa” was written by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffee. (Ray Stevens)  
Many, many years ago when I was twenty-three.  
I married a widow who was pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red. My father fell in love with her and soon they too were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law and really changed my life. For now my daughter was my mother, 'cause she was my father's wife. And to complicate the matter, even though it brought me joy. I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad. And so became my uncle, though it made me very sad. For if he were my uncle, then that also made him brother. Of the widow's grownup daughter, who was of course my step-mother.

Father's wife then had a son who kept them on the run. And he became my grandchild, for he was my daughter's son. My wife is now my mother's mother and it makes me blue. Because although she is my wife, she's my grandmother too.

Now if my wife is my grandmother, then I'm her grandchild. And every time I think of it, it nearly drives me wild. 'Cause now I have become the strangest 'case you ever saw. As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa.

I'm my own grandpa, I'm my own grandpa.

It sounds funny, I know but it really is so.

I'm my own grandpa.

Note: There is a YouTube video by Ray Stevens with a family tree (of sorts) diagram.

(Submitted by Doug Mcleod)

### **Search for Aunt Flora**

When I attended the October Lethbridge Branch AGS meeting and heard Gord Tolton talk about the Northwest Rebellion little did I know that within the month I would find family ties to that event. Shortly after the meeting Ancestry came out with the index to the 1921 Canadian Census and I decided to consult that census to see if it would help tie up loose ends in my family records. One of the first that I searched for was my grandmother's half brother, Angus James Campbell.

Our family knew Angus as Uncle Gus. He lived at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and his wife was Aunt Flora. They must have lived in a modest house as my mother told me about a visit she, my dad, my uncle and aunt made to the Campbells. The three ladies all slept in one bed and someone slept on a table, and where the others found a place to sleep I don't remember. There no longer is a house at their address according to Google Maps.

Although I had quite a bit of information about Uncle Gus, I was unable to find anything about Aunt Flora. Someone in the family told me her maiden name was Flora Fiedler. I had a phone conversation with one of Angus' nieces in Nebraska and she read me the entries that were in a Campbell family bible. One entry was: Angus James married Flora Lorand 6 August 1912 at Rosthern. In 1974 I received a death certificate for Angus and his spouse was named Marguerite

Clemence Tourond. I contacted both the United Church and the Catholic Church in Rosthern asking about a marriage record for this couple with negative results. I even had the records of St. Antoine de Padoue in Batoche searched for the marriage.

Finding no marriage I gave up until the 1916 census was released. I found Angus J. and Marguerite T. Campbell living at Fish Creek, Saskatchewan. Marguerite was 31 years old and had been born in Saskatchewan. Now I had her approximate birth date—1885. This week I looked at the 1921 census and found Angus and Clementine Campbell still at Fish Creek. There was a land description included on the census: Section 30, Twp 41, Range 1 W3.

A Google search for Fish Creek, Saskatchewan brought the following entry: [Fish Creek Saskatchewan Genealogy and Homestead History](#). The first item on this URL was a Centennial Map of Fish Creek and looking at the land description for Angus Campbell, I found the owner of the land had been Calixte Tourond. Googling Calixte Tourond brought the following entry:

#### **Fish Creek, Saskatchewan; born: 30 October, 1885 at Fish Creek**

[collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?)

Tourond, Marguerite Clemence; address: Fish Creek, Saskatchewan; born: 30 October, 1885 at Fish Creek; father: Calixte Tourond (deceased Métis); mother:

This site contained a five page document from Library and Archives Canada titled North-West Half Breed Claims Commission (oops, they didn't worry about being politically correct in those days.) The document was an application for "Métis Scrip" and included the name, birth date, birthplace, parent's names, and a letter from the church of St. Antoine de Padoue giving her baptismal information. There was also a document from her mother attesting that Marguerite Clemence Tourond was who she said she was. Her application was approved for \$240. Interesting information was that Calixte Tourond had died and the mother was now married to Boniface Lefort.

What is Métis Scrip? It wasn't compensation for losing land because as late as 1937 the Campbells were still living at Fish Creek when Angus's mother died at the home of her son in Fish Creek. The Western Canada Land Grants have a listing for Clemence Tourond, and her brother, Jean Baptiste Tourond claiming the same land that Calixte had lived on.

The following was found on the Library and Archives site under Métis Scrip records: this database primarily focuses on the records created by the Department of the Interior in support of the various commissions authorized to enumerate Métis residents in Western Canada. This enumeration process was undertaken by the federal government for the purpose of extinguishing any land rights the Métis may have had as a result of their aboriginal status.

The Métis Museum has a document found on the web: VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF THE 1885 NORTHWEST RESISTANCE. This document lists Tourond, Calixte. (1853-1885) Spouse Josephte (Gervais). The "FindAGrave" site has Calixte buried at Batoche at Saint Antoine de Padoue Roman Catholic Cemetery with death date May 1885. He died about five months before his daughter, Marguerite Clemence Tourond, was born.

In the book, *Prairie Warships*, by Gordon E. Tolton it is mentioned that "Fish Creek, known to the Métis locals as Tourond's Coulee, after a nearby settler", was the place where the Battle of Fish Creek took place on April 24, 1885. Although the Métis had some success, when relief for the Canadian field troops was arriving, the Métis leader, Dumont... "began to draw off his little force, keeping a few of his best marksmen to cover his retreat". The Canadian military field troops "embarked on a spree of unbridled destruction. Houses of Métis and white settlers alike were looted and burned indiscriminately. The Tourond house, near the battlefield, received particular attention by the wrecking crew, as they broke furniture and set the house ablaze." Less than a month later Calixte Tourond was at the Battle of Batoche and both he and his brother Pierre Tourond were killed.

With the information about Mrs. Tourond's second marriage I was now able to search for Marguerite Clemence Tourond on the 1891 to 1911 censuses. The reason I hadn't been able to find her previously was that she was listed with her stepfather and was listed under his name. The 1891 census listed J. Bte Lefort & Clemence Lefort as step children. The 1901 had L. Baptiste Lefort, fils (son) and Clemence Lefort, fille (daughter). Marguerite Clemence was not with the Lefort family in 1906, but in 1911 she was back with the family and enumerated as Flora Lefort.

Interestingly there was a Flora Fiddler who was on the 1906 census, but she was married and was on the 1911 and 1916 censuses with the same husband. In 1911 next door to the Leforts was a Fiddler family who had a daughter, Flora much younger than Aunt Flora. What made our family think Flora's surname was Fiedler?

So the search which covered many years has now ended with Angus James Campbell being married to Marguerite Clemence Tourond, alias Flora, a daughter of Calixte Tourond who lost his life in May 1885 in the Northwest Rebellion.  
(Written by Anne Baines)

### Newspapers Online

[Genealogy Canada] Site Launch: new version of the IslandNewspapers.ca

A message from Mark Leggott, University Librarian/Privacy and Copyright Officer, University of Prince Edward Island, launched a new version of the IslandNewspapers.ca site, which features a new interface and all of The Charlottetown Guardian issues from 1892-1957.

The launch recently took place on Tuesday, Yesterday's Footprints

February 11<sup>th</sup> in the Art Gallery at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum (Grafton Street Entrance) in downtown Charlottetown. Check out <http://islandnewspapers.ca/> (Posted by Elizabeth Lapointe to Genealogy Canada.)

### Welsh Newspapers Online

Wales—Welsh Newspapers online has added 27 new publications to their growing database of historic newspapers. The collection now consists of some 100 historic newspapers 630,000 pages and 6.8 million articles. The newspapers span the years from 1804-1919. The records can be searched by news, family notices and advertisements. The collection can also be browsed by date and newspaper title. Access is free. Here's the link: <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>.  
(Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy)

### Reading Old Latin or English Documents: Practical Online Tutorials for Beginners

Many old documents in Europe and in the British Isles were written in Latin. That presents a challenge to genealogists who wish to read the information. The National Archives (of Great Britain) has an online tutorial that provides a lot of assistance. The tutorial covers Latin as used in England between 1086 and 1733, when it was the official language. After 1733, official documents were written in English.

The 'Beginners' Latin section of The National Archives web site states: No previous knowledge of Latin is required. This tutorial is suitable for everyone who wants to learn. You may be a beginner or if you want to refresh yours skills and have studied classical. All of the grammar is fully explained. No previous knowledge is required. You can practice by translating sentences taken from real documents held at the National Archives. For example, some are from the Domesday Book, written in 1086. It is the earliest surviving public record. You can find the *Latin Online Tutorial* at <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners>.

The National Archives also has a similar tutorial for reading old handwriting in English. It will help you learn to read the handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800. Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting 1500-1800 can be found on the website at <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography>.  
(Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter—Feb 28, 2014)

### The Chuck Wagon

The chuck wagon carried everything a crew of ten or twelve men would need during a journey lasting several months. Strapped to one side of the wagon was a big wooden water barrel, to the other a heavy tool box. Slung under the wagon like a hammock was a dried cowhide called the "caboose," which carried kindling wood. The bed of the wagon held cooking utensils, an ax and shovel, ropes and stake pins, and the men's bedrolls. At the rear of the wagon, facing aft, was

the chuck box with its hinged lid that folded down onto a swinging leg, making a worktable for the cook. Inside the chuck box were many drawers, cubbyholes, and compartments holding such items as coffee, sugar, bacon, beans, flour, and salt, along with medicines like castor oil and horse liniment?

At mealtimes the men sat on the ground near the wagon while they ate. At night, they rolled their bedrolls in a tight circle around the wagon. Meals tended to be monotonous, with lots of boiled beans, fried bacon biscuits, black coffee, and dried apples or prunes. Even though they were surrounded by beef cattle, the men did not often eat beef during a trail drive. Killing a steer on the trail was wasteful, since only a small part of the meat could be eaten before it spoiled.

The cook was always the first man awake in the morning. When breakfast was ready, he shouted for the rest of the crew to get up. A short distance away, the cattle were still sleeping on their bed-ground, watched by the two cowboys on the last guard. They stayed with the herd while the other hands gulped hot black coffee from tin cups in the predawn darkness.

At daybreak, the night guards were relieved by two other men so they could have breakfast. The wrangler, meanwhile, had driven the remuda to a rope corral near the chuck wagon, where the cowboys caught and saddled their morning horses.

The men tied up their bedrolls and tossed them into the back of the wagon. The cook cleared away his pots and pans and hung them back in place. Then he climbed into his wagon and headed up the trail to help the trail boss pick out a good spot for a midday camp. (Cowboys of the Wild West—By Russell Freedman)

### **Genealogy—Moving From Boring to Hip**

So what does it take to move a field like genealogy in its perception by the public from boring to hip? Here are some ideas:

Create an “under 30” club at your local genealogical society. Many non-profits especially opera and symphony societies have experienced tremendous growth by allowing younger patrons access to the same benefits of membership as others but only at a lower membership price and with special events geared towards their interests.

**Use younger genealogists as role models and spoke persons.** In your organization’s materials including printed as well as on-line, make sure to include a balance of young and old.

**Go to the schools where the younger set rules.** Along with exposing school-aged children to various professional fields, make sure your local district includes genealogists and family historians in such outreach efforts.

Focus on ancestors when they were in their teens and 20s. When you write narratives try to highlight ancestors at a time in their lives which young people can relate to. Did Grandpa go off to college or have trouble adjusting when he moved away from home? Did Grandma leave a diary with thoughts on dating?

Don’t be afraid to let the young lead the way. Those “whippersnappers” with solid genealogical research and scholarship skills should be allowed to lead and not relegated to just following. Doing so is probably the best way to create a win/win situation for all of us in the genealogy field.

Genealogy can only continue to expand by attracting new participants. And the exchange of information techniques and methodologies between old and young will help keep genealogy a vibrant and engaging pursuit. (Gwen Goth—Kick-Ass Genealogy website—2004)

### **Genealogy Research Tips**

**Government Web Sites**—Most governments will have a site for their official archives, libraries and record offices with lots of “how to” guides and information about what is available and how to access it. Many provide indexes, databases and sometimes images of records for free.

**Stephen Morse’s One Step Web pages**—<http://www.stevemorse.org>. He has tools to easily search the following: A One-Step Portal for On-line Genealogy, NY Passengers and Ship Lists (1820-1957), Castle Garden Passengers, Census, SSDI Records, and NY City Death Records.

**Parish Locator**—is a free downloadable program which finds parishes in the British Isles. It can tell you a distance between two Parishes, gives you a grid and a list of surrounding parishes and can print it out—download Parloc26.exe from [www.parloc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/parishlocator.html](http://www.parloc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/parishlocator.html)

**Meta-catalogs**—Archival and Library organizations have created meta-catalogs, which enable you to search all the catalogs of their member’s archives. For example Library and Archives Canada at [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca) has a link under Libraries to Amicus catalog which will search many Canadian libraries for titles etc. Search for similar sites as below:

Canadian— [www.archivescanada.ca](http://www.archivescanada.ca)

American--The Archival Research Catalog (ARC) is the online catalog of NARA’s nationwide holdings in the Washington, DC area, Regional Archives and Presidential Libraries at

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/>

English and Welsh— [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**Fototagger** [www.fototagger.com](http://www.fototagger.com) – free software that helps you label (tag) individuals and items in a digital or scanned picture. It can also add descriptions of items make comments or include links to relevant sites in a tag.

**Google Book Search** <http://books.google.com> this tool checks text of books (old and new) and tells which books include your search terms. Some books may be digitized and you may be able to read the book online. It will include links to booksellers or libraries where the book may be found.

## 25 Sources for Death Information

As new genealogists, we are taught that the place to find information about a death is a death certificate. But what happens where there is no death certificate? Is a vital record the only document that tells the story of our ancestor's death? The following 25 sources can help to shed light on your ancestor's death. Now, some of the documents listed below may not give you an actual death date, but they may give you a clue. In some cases, you can find the documents through an online genealogy subscription website, or you may find them by researching at a library, archive or museum. This list is not exhaustive, but should be a guide to places that you should be looking for information on an ancestor's death.

### Death Certificates

This is usually the first source we look for regarding the death of an ancestor. One place to find information on where to order death certificates can be found on the website Vitalrec.com, [www.vitalrec.com](http://www.vitalrec.com). However, before ordering a certificate, make sure that it is not available online at FamilySearch [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) has some digitized images. Additionally, some states have digitized images of their vital records certificates. Also, check out genealogy subscription sites, such as [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com), [www.Archives.com](http://www.Archives.com) and [www.WorldVitalRecords.com](http://www.WorldVitalRecords.com), for indexes and digitized images. For more information on what is available online, check out Online Death Indexes at [www.deathindexes.com](http://www.deathindexes.com).

### Church Records

In cases where a government has not recorded the death, the next step is to consider the religion of the deceased. It's possible that the death could be recorded in some type of church record. The type of record may depend on the denomination of the deceased. In some cases, the deceased might be buried in a church cemetery, or their obituary may be published in a church newspaper. Keep in mind that church records can be found on an individual congregational level, a regional level, a church sponsored museum, archive or university or even in a state archive. Also, conduct a search in the Family History Library Catalog ([familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)) for church records for the place where your ancestor lived.

### Military Records

Was your ancestor in the military? One of your first steps should be seeking out their military records. One way to do this is by using Form 180, found at the National Archives website, [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html). Some military records, such as those for the Civil War, are available online. Check the web site for Fold3, [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), which specializes in digitizing military records held by the National Archives.

### Military Pensions

Military pensions can provide lots of great information about the soldier, and in some cases, the spouse. Don't forget that there are more than just the pensions given out by the federal government. After the Civil War, the former Confederate states had to pay out their own pensions. For confederate pensions, check state archive websites. I would also recommend the William Dollarhide book, *Genealogical Resources of the Civil War Era*, available at [www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product\\_view.php?id=281](http://www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product_view.php?id=281), for information about Civil War research. For pensions, check the National Archives website and Fold3.

## Manuscript Collections

### Scrapbooks

Scrapbooking is not a new craze, the Victorians loved scrapbooking and they pasted newspaper clippings about their family, friends and neighbors in their scrapbooks. In some cases, scrapbooks were donated, and are part of manuscript collections. Conduct a locality search in NUCMC [www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc), or check out the beta version of ArchiveGrid, <http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid>, for possible hits, as well as a search through a university library, museum or archive in the area you are researching.

### Journals/Diaries

Journals and diaries served an important function in the lives of our ancestors. It not only provided a place to write feelings and memories, but it helped document their day-to-day lives. It doesn't matter that your ancestor didn't keep a journal, what matters is that someone in their community might have, and they may have written about your ancestors. Whether it is a country doctor noting who he took care of, or the neighbor who went to your ancestor's funeral, a journal or diary might provide you with important death information. To find one, search local repositories to where your ancestor lived, or check NUCMC or ArchivGrid.

### Membership Records

Our ancestors liked to join groups. Lucky for us, membership organizations leave behind records. If your ancestor was a member of fraternal organization, community club, or lineage society, start looking at those groups for any records that may be available. Clues to the groups your ancestor may have been a part of may be found in their obituary, on their gravestone, or among artifacts they left behind, such as jewelry or other items worn as part of their membership.

## Government Records

### Social Security Death Index

The Social Security Death Index contains over 90 million records of deaths that have been reported to the Social Security Administration. This file includes the following information on each decedent, providing the data was available to the Social Security Administration: Social Security

number, name, date of birth, date of death, state or country of residence (prior to March 1988), ZIP code of last residence, and ZIP code of lump sum payment. It's also important to understand the limitations of the Social Security Death Index. The Social Security Act was signed into law in 1935. Only those who received Social Security benefits, or were reported to Social Security as being deceased, will be listed. Those who never paid into Social Security, such as those who worked exclusively for the Railroad, will not be listed. You can search the SSDI through many sites, including Fold3, [www.GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com), Ancestry.com and others.

#### U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedule

For genealogists, the most popular parts of the census to search are the population schedules. But don't forget that there are also the Mortality Schedules, available for the 1850-1880 census years. The limitation of these schedules is that they only report deaths that took place the year prior to the census year. Free transcriptions of these schedules can be found at MortalitySchedules.com, <http://mortalityschedules.com>. Mortality schedules are also available in the census collection on Ancestry.com.

#### Tax Records

Benjamin Franklin was right, the two things that are inevitable are death and taxes, and both hold genealogical data. Your ancestor may be on the tax records one year, but may not appear in subsequent years. This could indicate a move or a death, but, in either case, it's a clue that needs to be followed up on. Look for tax records in the Family History Library Catalog, as well as online subscription websites.

#### Court Records

Even if you don't know when your ancestor died, start looking at probate indexes for possible probates of their estate. It doesn't matter if they didn't leave a will, their estate may still have been probated if they left assets and/or debts. In some cases, these indexes may be available on microfilm through the Family History Library. Otherwise, check with the website for the county courthouse and consider hiring a local researcher to look for the records. To learn more about courthouse research, consult Christine Rose's book *Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*.

### **Periodicals and Books**

#### Newspapers

City and regional newspapers provide much more to your research than just an obituary. Newspapers provide legal notices, funeral notices, death notices, and articles. Newspapers can be found on genealogy subscription websites, such as GenealogyBank, Newspaper Archive, Ancestry.com, Fold3 and WorldVitalRecords. You can also find newspaper digitized through state

digitization projects, such as Utah Digital Newspapers, <http://digitalnewspapers.org>, and Colorado Historic Newspapers, [www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org). Search the state archive for microfilmed newspapers. You can also find newspapers through state archives. Check out the Kansas Historical Society, [www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org), where there is a large collection of newspapers from throughout the United States, available to researchers on microfilm through interlibrary loan.

#### Specialty Periodicals

Ethnic, religious, occupational newspapers, newsletters and magazines may be a source for a death notice or obituary. As you research, take note of all the membership organizations your ancestor took part in, religious periodicals that exist, and other activities that might have included some sort of periodical. Once you've identified some possibilities, look to that organization, if they still exist, for archived copies, or to a repository in the locality that the organization was located for possible copies. In one organization I belonged to, each newsletter included a list of the members who died, when they died, and how long they had been a member.

#### Periodical Source Index (PERSI)

(PERSI) is an index of periodicals, dating from the 1800s to the present day, which is available to search at Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. If you belong to a public library, you may also have access if your library subscribes to one of these services. Created by the Allen County Public Library, PERSI is a resource that indexes article titles from historical and genealogical periodicals. Use PERSI to search for your ancestor's location; it is indexed by title of the article, so if you search by your ancestor's surname only, you may miss valuable articles. Remember that these include articles from society newsletters and, in some cases, may include newspaper excerpts, cemetery transcriptions, casualty lists and more.

#### County History Books (Mug Books)

County History Books, also referred to as Mug Books, are important sources detailing the history of an area, including autobiographical data. Be careful though, the data contained within them may need to be verified. In some cases, the subject of the biography may have exaggerated or accidentally provided incorrect dates for family events. Nevertheless, these are good sources to look for information.

#### Cemeteries

##### Gravestones

The dates listed on a gravestone provide clues to the birth and death of an ancestor. But remember, these could be incorrect. In some cases, gravestones hold much more information than a birth and death. I've seen the names of children, marriage information, and photos included on a stone.

### Cemetery Records

Depending on the type of cemetery your ancestor is buried in, you may find records that provide a lot of information, including cause of death and next of kin, or you may find records that simply state where the person is buried, or there may not be any records at all. Check with the owner of the cemetery—a city, county, church or private institution—for what information they have on your ancestor's burial.

### Cemetery Transcriptions

Cemetery transcriptions have been a project for many groups, such as genealogy societies, membership organizations, Boy Scout Eagle Projects and church groups to name a few. One place to find a transcription of a cemetery is through the Family History Library Catalog. If there are several cemetery transcriptions available, check out all of them. In some cases, what one transcription misses, another will reveal what you are looking for.

### Funeral Home Records

Funeral homes have been around since about the time of the US Civil War. For years, these were operated by single families, but have grown to include corporations that own many locations in different cities across the nation. Funeral home records are private business records, and may be stored, or disposed of, according to the wishes of the business owner. When visiting to inquire about records, be patient and considerate of the work the proprietor does with those who are dealing with the recent death of a family member.

### Funeral Cards

Given to those who attended a funeral, funeral cards hold valuable information about the birth and death of a person. Largely found as a home source, there is one genealogy subscription website, Genealogy Today, [www.genealogytoday.com](http://www.genealogytoday.com), with a database of over 23,000 names gathered from funeral cards.

### **Home Sources**

#### Photographs

Look for clues in photographs for a death. Some examples are: photos taken of the deceased at the time of a post mortem; family group photos taken at funerals; and gravestone photos and photos of the deceased inserted in a family photograph. While photographs are largely a home source, be it yours, or a long lost cousin's, there are also websites, such as Dead Fred, [www.deadfred.com](http://www.deadfred.com), or Ancient Faces, [www.ancientfaces.com](http://www.ancientfaces.com), that archive vintage photos.

#### Work Pension

If your ancestor received a pension from his or her employer, then chances are the employer was notified of the death, and stopped paying out their benefit. As you research your ancestors' lives, consider their occupations and any records from

Yesterday's Footprints

those occupations that might indicate a death. Information from an ancestor's work might provide the vital record information you need. One such industry that provides retirement information is Railroad Retirement, located at [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov). Once on this website, click on the link for genealogy to learn more about what is available, and for what time periods.

### **Medical**

#### Medical Records

Typically, medical records are off limits for genealogical research because of privacy laws. However, there may be some cases where you would have access to a medical record. One such instance is when the record is a home source. In some cases, a spouse, or other family member, may have the medical records from the deceased's last hospital stay. In other cases, where an ancestor had a condition that may have a medical bearing on a living relative, those records might possibly be obtained through a physician's request or even a court order.

#### Coroner's Inquest

When a coroner looks into the death of a person, this action may result in a coroner's inquest. These records can shed additional light on the cause, and circumstances, around an ancestor's death. One example of a coroner's inquest database can be found on the Missouri Digital Heritage website, [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/coroners](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/coroners).

As you can see from the sources we've covered here, there are many different ways to come around the problem of finding information for an ancestor's death. Be methodical, start with the most obvious sources and then widen your search by including the lesser-obvious methods as you go. And, never give up! (Gena Philibert-Ortega—Internet Genealogy.com—Oct/Nov 2012)

### **Western Canadian Genealogy Websites**

#### Genealogical and Historical Records of Alberta

There are numerous genealogical records available on ancestry. It includes Alberta Census and Voter's Lists. There are Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Registers for 1828-1910, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and Index to Cemeteries 1890-1987.

#### The Lethbridge Herald Archives [www.lethlib.ca](http://www.lethlib.ca)

This is fully searchable online with your Lethbridge Public Library card and gives you access to the Lethbridge Herald and the Lethbridge Daily Herald for the years 1905-2007. Also you can access the Lethbridge Herald newspaper for the following years: 1938, 1941-60, 1967-68, 1971, 1973-74 and 1976-77 on Ancestry.ca.

#### Alberta Stories, Memories & Histories

History of the Province of Alberta



Yukon News—Obituaries of Albertans—1960-2000 (free) a transcription by Scott Wilson, a former Coordinator of Yukon GenWeb Project, of obituaries of Albertans that appeared in the Yukon News found at web site:  
[www.globalgenealogy.com/links/Canada-ab.htm](http://www.globalgenealogy.com/links/Canada-ab.htm)

BC Wills Index Online (free) [www.abbygs.ca](http://www.abbygs.ca)  
The Abbotsford Genealogical Society has been indexing the surnames for 62 volumes of official wills probated in B.C. The index has 12,600 entries (as of May 2007). The society will provide full copies of specific wills for a small fee.

B.C. Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes  
[www.search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)  
They have B.C. Birth Indexes 1872-1899, B.C. Marriage Indexes 1872-1924 and B.C. Death Indexes 1872-1979 also available at Family History Centers.

Vernon District & Family History Society  
[www.vdfhs.com/index.htm](http://www.vdfhs.com/index.htm)  
Have Tombstone Inscriptions for Cemeteries in the Vernon District and all of the major cemeteries and many of the smaller ones in North Okanagan and in the Shuswap area of B.C. They also have City Directories in Vernon, B.C. that have been transcribed for 1889, 1897-98, 1909-10, 1919, 1921, and 1924.

Armstrong Advertiser Newspaper—Obituaries  
[www.vdfhs.com/.../armstrong-advertiser/index](http://www.vdfhs.com/.../armstrong-advertiser/index)  
Obituaries as published in the Armstrong Advertiser (B.C.) newspaper is transcribed.

Genealogical Records of Saskatchewan  
There are numerous records available on Ancestry.ca. It lists the Saskatchewan Census and voter's lists. Includes Saskatchewan Residents Index 1800-2012, Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Records Registers 1828-1910. It includes Saskatchewan Birth index 1875-1908, Death index 1889-1916, and Burial index 1802-2011.

Homestead Records Index—available at the Saskatchewan Archives. A file locator database to the homestead files at the Saskatchewan Archives. It contains 360,000 references to those men and women who from 1872 to 1930, under the terms of the Dominion Lands Act, took part in the homestead process in the area now known as Saskatchewan. Also included are those who bought or sold North West Metis or South African scrip or received soldier grants after World War I.

Births, Marriages and Deaths—Saskatchewan Health (Government) [www.health.gov.sk.ca/](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/)  
Saskatchewan is building a searchable database for registrations of birth, marriage and death. The births index was completed May 2006. Eventually the site will include all births more than 100 years ago; deaths more than 70 years ago; and marriages more than 75 years ago.

Canadian Mennonite Board of Colonization  
Data Extraction Project (free) Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
[www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/archives/](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/archives/)  
20,201 individuals moved from USSR to Canada 1923-1930. A registration form was created for each family. This provides a free index of those people, including the reference number needed to access an original image. The Society will provide an image of a specific record for a small fee.

Saskatchewan Mennonite Cemetery Finding Aid--  
Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan  
This is a free site and they list numerous Mennonite cemeteries found at [www.mhss.sk.ca/](http://www.mhss.sk.ca/)

Yukon News—Obituaries of Manitobans 1960-2000 (free) The Global Gazette. A transcription by Scott Wilson, a former Co-ordinator, of the Yukon GenWeb Project, of obituaries of Manitobans, that appeared in the Yukon News.

Genealogical and Historical Records of Manitoba  
There are numerous records available on Ancestry.ca. Manitoba Census and voters lists, birth, marriage, and death indexes. There also Canada, Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register 1828-1910. They also have Manitoba Newspapers and Henderson's Directories.

Birth, Marriage and Death Records (free) Province of Manitoba. This database provides unrestricted access to the following records: Births more than 100 years ago; Marriages more than 80 years ago; Deaths more than 70 years ago.

Manitoba Daily Free Press Newspaper—1874-1892  
The Manitoba Daily Free Press newspaper was located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. This database is a fully searchable text version of the newspaper for the following years: 1874 and 1877-92. This newspaper can be browsed or searched using a computer-generated index. (Submitted by Susan Haga)

**Digital Data Rights After the Owner Dies**  
You believe you have taken care of business. Your family Gedcom file is backed up, several times over, your children have access to your passwords, your will clearly states who gets what part of your family research.

At the Canadian Bar Association annual meeting in August of 2013 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan this may not be so clear. The law, as it is written in Canada, does not take "Digital Assets" into account. For example, if you want to pass down say a digital copy of a book on your Kindle than what you actually own is "a non-transferable license to access a digital copy."

What about your loved ones continuing on with your social media family information? Google will give parents and executors full access to a deceased person's account. Facebook will allow them to transform a person's page into an online

memorial on demand but with limited ability to manipulate information on the site. Twitter will shut down an account if advised of a death.

Not only would an annual birthday reminder, that cannot be turned off, be painful for those grieving an untimely death, but also the parents of a child who died unexpectedly and perhaps mysteriously may want access to social media to try to piece together what had happened.

This was gleaned from a recent Canadian article, for which the full text can be read at <http://www.canada.com/> (Written by Jim Benedict on AFHS-Discussion—August 21, 2013)

## **Finding Your Ancestors in Hotels and Boarding Houses!**

At some time in their lives, many of our ancestors checked into hotels while traveling, or made boarding houses their homes. And, quite a few family trees have relatives who owned or worked in establishments providing shelter and hospitality to travelers. Your ancestors' hotel stays may have left records that can benefit your family history research today.

The English word “hotel” comes from the French hotel. Originally, a hotel was a large townhouse or public building. By the late 1600s, the word began to apply to businesses that provided accommodations for paying guests.

In the colonial and early Federal period, most American travelers were lucky to find accommodation in small, crowded inns. Guests could expect to share rooms with strangers, and even to get piled into the same beds with them! In rural areas where inns could be few and far between travelers often stayed in private homes.

As improved roads, canals, and above all, steam-powered riverboats and railroads sped up transportation, the old inns and boarding houses of the past could not accommodate the ever-increasing numbers of travelers. New, modern hotels catered to visitors to large cities, as well as to growing numbers of passengers going through railroad towns. The very word, “hotel” implied the promise of a large, comfortable establishment of a higher level than the traditional inns. Many small-town hotels were named for famous trend-setting hotels in New York, such as the Metropolitan, the St. Nicholas, the Astor House and the St. Denis. Boarding houses and hotels in Washington, DC catered to congressmen and other officials who were in the city when Congress was in session. Similarly, legislators needed rooms on a temporary basis in state capitals when legislatures met.

By the late 1850s, the largest city hotels had surprisingly modern features. Elevators hauled guests to the upper floors of five or six-story buildings. Hot and cold running water, steam heat and gas lighting adorned the grandest establishments.

Hotel restaurants and bars welcomed the general public as well as their own guests. Quite a few hotels were centers for socializing, as well as conducting political or commercial business. In the Yesterday's Footprints

Civil War era, Willard's Hotel in Washington, D.C. was an informal meeting place for visiting military officers and government officials and much about the Unions conduct of the war was decided in its rooms and public areas.

Resort hotels let well provided visitors enjoy the beauty of the seaside of the mountains, in company with other people of similarly acceptable social rank. Temperance hotels catered to visitors who disliked alcohol. In port towns, hotels called seamen's bethels provided affordable accommodations for mariners who were between voyages.

## Finding Your Ancestors' Hotels

Newspapers carried surprisingly comprehensive records of hotel guests. A column listing new arrivals was a common feature in newspapers, ranging from the greatest national New York dailies to small-town weeklies.

Typically, the “Hotel Arrivals” or “Personal Intelligence” column listed each hotel with the names and home towns of its guests, sometimes with the day the checked in. At times, you might learn the name of a ship or steamboat they arrived on, or perhaps which railroad or stagecoach they took to reach town. Newspapers might have lists of arriving and departing steamship passengers as well; these usually include only first and second-class passengers and omit the names of immigrants or anyone else traveling in steerage.

As is frustratingly common with other genealogical sources, the hotel arrivals columns often use only initials instead of first and middle names. Women are often identified only as, say “Mrs. Smith” (or in a phrase such as “Mr. Phineas Smith and lady”) instead of “Victoria Smith”.

Just the same, searching for your ancestors' names in digitized historic newspapers may well find them on a long-ago business trip, vacation, or enroute to a new home. A hometown newspaper might even list the hotels of local folks who were spending “the season” away at out-town resorts. Browsing such lists will also turn up many traveling celebrities, including literary giants, such as Mark Twain (often registered under his real name Samuel Clemens), former Civil War generals and famous politicians.

Printed hotel guest lists in the newspapers also opened the way for a new con game. A “sharper” picked out a new arrival on the list, and signed the victim's name to a telegram sent to his home town, asking for money. He would then intercept the money before it got to the intended recipient.

Larger hotels had safes where guests could keep their valuables, and employed house detectives to protect their guests from thieves and con artists. Smaller hotels would not have much in the way of security, and thefts were common. Newspaper listings of petty courts often mention hotel thefts.

Newspapers during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries also published lists of unclaimed letters at local post offices. It was only in the 1890s and early

1900s that rural free delivery routes meant that mail would be delivered to every address. Before home delivery, people had to call at their post office to claim their mail. Unclaimed letters were advertised in local newspapers. Such letters were sometimes intended for hotel guests who were thought to be in town.

Military officers often traveled on army business for purchasing supplies, reporting to new postings, or serving on court-martial duty. One of my ancestors, Capt. James J. Goodrum, was a commissary officer in the 65<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry and other Confederate units. His compiled military service files from the National Archives (viewable through Fold3.com, formerly known as Footnote.com) had numerous papers detailing his reimbursements for travel expenses. The entries included hotel stays although usually the town, but not the name of the hotel, was given.

### Hoteliers in the Family

There are also ways of finding ancestors who owned or worked in hotels. One of the easiest is through the US Census. During and after the 1850 Census, enumerators counted and named hotel and boarding house staff and guests just the same as they did people living (permanently or temporarily) in private homes, ships and steamboats, army posts, jails or anywhere else. Something of the hotel's quality can be gleaned from a list of its guests' occupations and financial worth as indicated in the census.

My great-great-grandparents, Thomas and Carolina Goodrum, appear in the 1880 Census living in Dahlonga in Lumpkin County, Georgia. Thomas is listed as a "boarding housekeeper" and Caroline "keeps house". The rest of the household consists of three men (variously born in Connecticut, Vermont, and Tennessee), all listed as "boarders" with the occupation of "clerk in store".

The US Census, being conducted only once every 10 years, is much more useful in finding lifelong hotel owners and workers than in randomly netting a few guests each decade. Newspapers are a rich source for filling in the story of a hotel and the people who ran it. Hotels were major landmarks in towns of any size, and newspapers reported when these landmarks were built, remodeled or sold.

Editors and writers may well have spent a fair amount of time in hotels, meeting new arrivals and keeping ears open for town gossip. The owners might also place newspaper ads with detailed descriptions of the accommodations, restaurant, saloon, barber shop, billiard room and so on, as well as giving the times that the hotel carriages went to, and from train stations or boat landings.

Fires were a dreaded hazard of early hotels, and newspapers reported many tragic stories on this theme as well. (David A. Norris—Family Chronicle—September/October 2012)

### **Ghost Towns of Alberta--Burmis**

As tourists enter the Crowsnest Pass from the east, the first major pioneer landmarks they will see are Yesterday's Footprints

the famous Burmis Tree on the north side of Highway 3, and a little further west, the abandoned ruins of the Mohawk Tipple. Unfortunately, the Burmis Tree is the only point of interest left of the once prosperous coal mining and lumber town of Burmis, which is now comprised of just a small collection of recreational properties. The unique and starkly shaped tree, named after the community, is Limber pine that is more than 300 years old. The town's name came from combining the names of two early settlers, Robert H. Burns and Jack Kemmis.

The first coal mine was opened in 1910 when the Davenport Coal Co. began production. With the mine, a busy village of 75 families was quickly established, which included a Mounted Police post, two general stores, a restaurant, pool hall, barber, school, livery barn and a Presbyterian church. However the mine closed in 1914, and although men quickly found work at nearby mines, the town was all but finished by the mid 1920s.

But in 1933, a planning mill was built at the dying settlement after the Burmis Lumber Company was established nearby. The town grew once more and prospered until 1956 when the area's timber lease was finally depleted. Burmis' last commercial building was the original general store. It struggled on until 1976 before closing its doors forever. Burmis, as a town was then finished.

Shortly after visitors traveling west on Highway 3 pass the barren former town site of Burmis, the ghostly remains of the Mohawk Tipple stands at the edge of a ravine overlooking the Crowsnest River. The tipple, due to a lack of demand for the coal in the area, was closed in 1952. A fire gutted the structure in October 1953 and today only the brick portion of the tipple remains.

### **The Family History Widow**

My husband is gone, no longer around.  
Grass needs mowing and he's nowhere to be found!  
Sink needs fixing and the house needs some paint.  
So many honeydoos I think I will faint!  
No he hasn't passed on and he isn't dead.  
He's oft with his relatives who've gone on ahead.  
He's studying their pasts, oft in his own little room.  
If I don't get some attention he'll be with them soon!

When I'm not sure where he is. It's neer a mystery!  
You see he's off working on his Family History!  
(By J.C. Hoskins, printed in Talbot Times newsletter. Sept 2003)

### **Who Has Seen The Wind?**

"Family Bible in possession of William Snyder until he died, then in possession of Harold Harvey until he died, then in possession of Aunt Mamie till the tornado hit. Now only the good Lord knows where it is." (Legacy Newsletter April 25, 2001)

### **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)

**GENEALOGY  
IT STARTS WITH YOU!  
Alberta Genealogical Soc.**

**GENFAIR**

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 26, 2014**

**WORKING ON YOUR FAMILY  
TREE? NEED HELP?**

Bring your questions about:

Beginning genealogy  
Canada/USA  
Compugene  
England/Wales  
Germany  
Scotland  
Ukraine/Galicia/Austria

Dau's of American Revolution  
Mayflower Descendants  
United Empire Loyalists

Open to the Public!

Don't miss this opportunity.  
Get answers to genealogy questions.

\$5.00 per person, \$15 per family  
Register at the door  
Parkview Community League Hall  
9135 – 146 Street Edmonton  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Bring Cash  
Vendor Tables on site

Alberta Genealogical Society  
Phone: 780-424-4429  
Website: abgensoc.ca

*The Alberta Genealogical Society is supported by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Edmonton Heritage Council, the City of Edmonton and Alberta Lotteries.*

**KELOWNA'S "HARVEST  
YOUR FAMILY TREE"  
CONFERENCE 2014**

Hosted in Kelowna by Kelowna &  
District Genealogical Society

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2014**

Pre-registration is required. Go to their  
website at [www.kdgs.ca](http://www.kdgs.ca) for more  
information.

**Internally Renowned Speakers:**

Dave Obee (Victoria, B.C.)  
May Chan (Regina, SK)  
Ann ten Cate (Victoria, B.C.)  
Dwight Radford (Salt Lake City, UT)  
Helen Smith (Brisbane, Australia)  
Xenia Stanford (Kelowna, B.C.)  
Maureen Taylor (Providence, RI)  
Stephen Young (Salt Lake City, UT)

**FAMILY ROOTS SEMINAR (AFHS)  
A Seminar on Genealogy in Canada  
Spend the day with Dave Obee!**

Saturday, April 5, 2014  
Held: Sheraton Cavalier Hotel  
2620 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N.E.  
Calgary, AB

Dave Obee is an award-winning  
journalist, author, speaker and  
genealogical speaker.

**Presentations:**

Destination Canada  
Canadian Genealogy on the Internet  
Mining the Canadian Census  
Canadians in the First World War

The fee is now \$45.00 (it was \$35.00  
before March 1). No refunds after March  
15, 2014.

For more information and to download  
the registration form go to AFHS website  
[www.afhs.ab.ca/familyroots](http://www.afhs.ab.ca/familyroots).

No organized lunch will be provided but  
there are a number of restaurants in the  
area of the Sheraton Cavalier hotel.