YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
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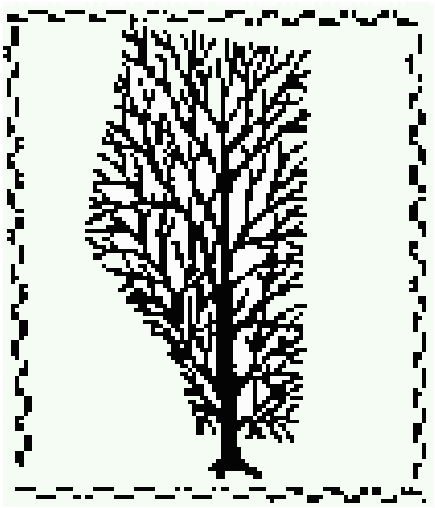

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Editor's Corner

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.
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 – 3rd 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

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Vice President	Susan Haga
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President's Message

Presidents Ramblings

I'm late getting this to the Editor, so this newsletter is late. Welcome to the new members, and I hope that the Branch will be helpful in your genealogical research.

The AGS Conference, Discover Your Roots, Share Your Stories is on April 18-19th in Edmonton at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre.

The AGS AGM is on Saturday, April 18th in Edmonton at the Conference Centre. I encourage all members to attend if possible.

At the February Board meeting a proposal to change the By-laws in regards to the levels of memberships was put forth. As By-law changes must be approved by the society members at the AGM, a ballot was mailed out to each member. Please vote and return the ballot by the 16th of April. Local (Lethbridge) members can bring the ballot to the April meeting and give it to me to take up to Edmonton to the AGM.

In 2017 Canada will celebrate 150 years. At the Board meeting it was suggested that each Branch or AGS member research and produce a story regarding the history of its particular area. The information must not have been previously published. Anyone interested...

Please take the time to complete the Relatively Speaking survey. Well, that's my ramblings for now. Hope spring comes sooner than later. President Doug Mcleod

Monthly Meetings

Our Annual Meeting was held Thursday, February 19th. Elections were held and at this time all Executive members remain in for another year. President, Doug Mcleod, Vice President, Susan Haga, Treasurer, Pat Barry, Secretary, Alma Berridge and Past President, Nestor Martinez. Following the elections portion of our meeting David Tyler of the Raymond Family History Center gave us a presentation on Reading Latin Records. There were about 20 people in attendance.

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.
A new Family History room is available at the Family History Center to visit with your entire family. There are pioneer dress-up clothes for the kids to enjoy, pioneer games to play as well as an opportunity to make rag dolls for the children. Parents are to accompany their children and can take the opportunity to curl up in a comfy chair and watch 'Little House on the Prairie' or another old western movie.

Your Family's Working Life

Whatever your forebear did for a living there are countless resources available online that will make your search into their occupation much easier. By adding meat to the bones of your ancestors' dates of birth, marriage and death is the essence of family history research. One of the most interesting

ways to do this is to discover their occupation and find out more about their day-to-day working lives. It's undoubtedly true that regardless of what jobs our ancestors did, employment and occupational records can give us a greater understanding of their lifestyles.

In addition, the information they provide adds vital details to any family tree that you may not find elsewhere. Thanks to the internet, it has become easier than ever to find this type of documentation, though sometimes it's difficult to discover a way through the confusing maze of resources.

Disregarding the common BMD records, census records and the often forgotten newspaper reports and gravestone inscriptions, there are lots of other options open to you when you're researching families in any trade or profession.

One of the best gateway resources for genealogical information regarding occupations of all types is unquestionably the GENUKI site (www.genuki.org.uk/big/occupations.html). Here you'll find a list of books useful to family historians researching occupations, and links to a wide range of work categories, ranging from servants, clothiers and customs officers to policemen, postal workers, railway workers, missionaries, stoneworkers and peddlers.

High Street Trade

Many of our forebears chose to work for themselves, perhaps keeping a shop or working as a tradesman. You can often easily find genealogical information about them and their family business in the town or city where they lived and worked. Newspapers, fire insurance certificates, maps, printed advertisements and even local guidebooks often provide a rich source of information regarding high street shops and local businesses. Trade directories are another useful source as you can find them in many local libraries and online.

As an example, a family history researcher who had hit a typical genealogical brick wall knew only that his ancestor J. Heath was a wheelchair seller. Despite a two-year search he could find nothing regarding his Christian name or where Heath's shop was located in the city of Bath. Using the historicaldirectories.org) he searched in Slater's Directory of Berkshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, and Somerset (1852-53). It unexpectedly revealed why all previous efforts to find him had proved unfruitful.

As is often the case with handed down information, there were a number of flaws in the ancestral details given by family members. The directory revealed J. (James) Heath, wasn't a shopkeeper at all, but was instead listed as a manufacturer of wheelchairs and coach axles situated in premises at 6 Broad Street, Bath. What's more, a second entry in the same directory under the trade heading Chair Manufacturers revealed the words "see advertisement" indicating that an advert for his business was somewhere within the directories pages.

The full-page advertisement at the back of the directory proved to be a delightful eye-opener in that it showed pictures of every 'bath-chair' Heath had manufactured and sold.

Tradesmen you find in these directories will often have started their careers as apprentices. The majority of apprenticeship indentures have either not survived or will have found their way to obscure local history collections.

Luckily, some records for 1710 to 1774 have now been extracted from Inland Revenue tax records and are at Findmypast (www.findmypast.co.uk/search/apprentices-of-great-britain). Ancestry.co.uk also has an apprentice register from 1710-1811. Additional information on how to find other apprentice (and masters) records in London is available at www.origins.net/help/aboutbo-lonapps.aspx.

The National Archives' online guide to apprentices at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guide-listing.htm is useful too, and the page contains guides for all the other occupations.

Henry Bailey Bruce (born Leicester 1843), the son of William Bruce, ran an elastic web-making company. We set out to find more about him and discovered his remarkable career. He appears on the 1861 Census working as an 'Elastic Warehouseman' living with his family and parents William and Mary.

Guild records are another good source of trade information and each major city will have its own records. For example Newcastle Guild information www.tyneandweararchives.org.uk/userguides/07guildrecords.htm while you can find similar documentation referring to Scottish guild members www.electricscotland.com/history/leith/11.htm.

Great amounts of information on London guilds and livery companies is at www.combs-families.org/combs/records/england/Ind/livery02.htm

Regrettably there is no single site that provides resources relating to all trades, though there are many individual sites that act as gateways to occupational records, deeds and documents.

One useful site is UK GDL www.ukgdl.org.uk/category/occupations) that offer all kinds of links to a wide range of resources including regional trade records, chimney sweep records, motor trade workers, local history information and similar specialized sources. You can find other trades, businesses resources www.allaboutgenealogy.co.uk/tradeandbusiness.html.

The GENUKI occupations page is another good resource that will point you in the direction of some diverse high street trades. It includes information about those that ran pubs and inns, clothiers, blacksmiths, photographers, brush-makers and church workers. There are also a growing number of one trade study websites. For an example, you can find out all about watch and clock makers at www.clockswatches.com/index.php; sugar bakers at www.mawer.clara.net/intro.html; and clergymen at www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/index.html.

Public Servants

Mainly, searching for public servants will be the same as searching for local traders, though in

theory these records should be even easier to find. Most council offices and town halls will have their own records of past councilors, aldermen, mayors etc. Indeed large plaques bearing their names and periods of office will often line the walls of public buildings. Local directories will most certainly list them all and old newspapers are a mine of information regarding their involvement in council affairs. A full list of local council offices and their contact details are on the DirectGov website www.direct.gov.uk/en/D11/Directories/Localcouncils/index.htm. TNA also has two guides to civil service personnel records.

Most high ranking and sometimes less important, public servants are often among the records of local authorities, but if all else fails do check the holdings at TNA. As an example, Civil Service Commission recruitment records concerning people who were at the time of application, or who subsequently became famous (or infamous), are under the classification CSC 11. The files are arranged in alphabetical order and contain personal details, such as parents and background, and also hard to find information which may include references, testimonials, education and even school reports. Results of civil entrance examination are in CSC10 as well. A full list of all types of records relating to public servants together with file reference numbers held at TNA is found at National Archives website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/civil-crown-servant.htm.

Eclectic Public Lists

Searching online for specialized databases of public servants can be very useful. As an example the Institute of Historical Research page www.history.ac.uk/publications/office will lead you to an eclectic assortment of lists, with government officials at a variety of levels, some going back before the 19th century. This valuable resource covers 1544 to 1646 and constitutes a collection of rarely found lists of officials and public servants. Particularly interesting are the early records of dignitaries in each county who were known as 'Custodes Rotulorum', (the keeper of the rolls). They were later succeeded by justices of the peace, and originally constituted the high civil service office in each county.

These include: the commissioners who controlled the revenue obtained from peddlers and hawkers licenses; those who dealt with hackney carriages; lord lieutenants, Navy board offices, ordnance officers who consisted of clerks, storekeepers, delivery officers etc; and even members of the Royal Household.

Also listed are the individual wine license commissioners from 1671 onwards. The last person to occupy this position was William Adams who had taken up the position on 16 June 1741 and remained as such until the position was abolished on 5 July 1757.

Rural Workers

During the 18th and early-19th centuries the vast majority of the population worked in agriculture trades. Rural workers of all kinds are relatively easy to find in parish records, census returns and BMD registers, though once found on the census, it can still be difficult to find where a particular building is located. A good tip is to find a particular home (or the site of a former one) on census returns and then to look for a nearby inn or other prominent building. Counting the number of houses backwards or forwards on the census return will help determine which particular house a family once lived in. Census records are available on many of the pay to view sites such as The Genealogist www.thegenealogist.co.uk, Findmypast www.findmypast.co.uk and ScotlandsPeople www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk, while free records are also available on sites such as FreeCen www.freecen.org.uk.

Agricultural laborers, often referred to as 'Ag Labs', were often intelligent people who were involved with the politics of the time. Some joined trade unions and others even began their own. One such person, George Edwards who had started to work as a human scarecrow at the age of five-and-half years old, later went on to form the Agricultural Workers Union. You can find out more about these early unions at Ancestry.com (UK) www.ancestryaid.co.uk/boards/family-history-genealogy-information/8583-agricultural-workers-union.html, as well as on the Trade Union Ancestors site www.unionancesters.co.uk.

If your family has Irish roots you'll be pleased to know that www.ancestryireland.com contains over 58,000 records relating to Irish flax growers in 1796. ScotlandsPeople is dedicated to ancestral research in Scotland and background material regarding farming in Scotland is on www.visionofbritain.org.uk.

Factory Workers

As the Industrial Revolution gathered pace, thousands moved from the land to new factories that began to emerge throughout Britain. This is a period when individuals and sometimes whole families moved from their traditional place of residence to new towns, often far away. Old Ordnance Survey maps www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun/outlinemaps provide some indication of which direction they may have moved, though often finding exactly where can be a time-consuming labor of love.

Factories in industrial areas employed thousands of men, women and children and at first few records were kept; by 1863 industrial legislation ensured that factory owners kept some basic records, and in theory kept their workplaces in good order.

Factory inspectors were employed to ensure that regulations were adhered to and they regularly toured Britain's factories. Their documentation records frequent breaches of regulations and individual names of employers and workers often crop up, particularly when prosecutions were made. Local and regional record offices in the area in question are the best place to begin your search. You can find a full list of county record offices, archives and other regional resources on the My

Time Machine site www.mytimemachine.co.uk/archives.htmTNA also holds a lot of material regarding factories. Its new 'Beta' search engine at http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI should make research much easier.

Another welcome feature at TNA is the introduction of documents that you can read online. These include Victorian factory inspectors' reports, records regarding factory accident and similar documentation. Inspectors' reports usually contain details such as: date of inspection; name of person(s) prosecuted; basic address of the place of employment; names of magistrates who heard the case; nature of the offence; the amount of the fine and any costs to be paid. Accident reports are often written by hand and can sometimes give graphic details of how an ancestor who worked in a factory came to be disabled or even died.

A less explicit example is provided on TNA child labor website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/struggle_democracy/childlabour.htm here you can also view correspondence referring to Martha Appleton who lost all of the fingers on her left hand while working as a child 'scavenger' in the factory of William Woods & Son in Wigan.

When searching the internet, do remember that often a subtle difference in the search term will bring better results. As an example: by inserting 'factory records' into the Google search engine will present you with a host of musical rather than genealogy related sites. However, if you use 'genealogy factory records' instead, the hits become immediately more relevant to family history. Don't forget also to use the side bar on Google to locate purely English sites or to find images and videos relative to your own particular line of enquiry. You can use similar 'tricks' on the other search engines and on the specialized genealogy search engine at GENUKI www.genuki.org.uk/search.

Big Business

There are some occupations that are more difficult to research than others. Searching for bankers and those involved in finance isn't always an easy task, though there are resources that may help you fill in the blanks regarding an ancestor involved in any financial business. Historically bankers and financiers have direct links to the merchants of old and though there are a number of resources dealing with this aspect of their history, finding more modern resources may simply involve contacting the bank or company for which they worked. Dan Byrne's database of Merchants and Bankers (www.danbyrnes.com.au/merchants) from 1095 to modern times is an ambitious project to fill the hole in our knowledge of our banking and financial ancestors. Though there are large gaps in the listings, it's a work in progress and could eventually be the source for genealogists to turn to when researching forebears in this particular field.

Another specialized resource is the Bank of England Archives dating from 1690, which is linked to a museum. There are details of how to use it found at their website at: www.bankofengland.co.uk/about/history/archive/index.htm. Business records generally fall broadly into two main categories as far as family historians are concerned, namely those that show a company's own growth and management records regarding its employees.

The ever-useful trade directories on Historical Directories and elsewhere are useful when locating a large company.

Similarly old telephone directories are always worth a look. Regional record offices will often hold local business records, particularly in industrial areas where museums and heritage centers have also been created specifically to preserve particular aspects of the regions heritage. As an example, Glasgow City Archives holds records of various families and estates in the Glasgow area, and records relating to a large number of businesses including Glasgow Incorporations of Trades, and lists of their members.

Holy Forebears

Finding records of clergymen can be a challenge. Some remained in a single church for virtually the whole of their career, while others flitted about from one church to the next. Even those who stayed in a single place often left the area to return to their roots on retirement, sometimes to a town hundreds of miles away. In such cases it's often a good idea to look for them in the area where they (or their wives) were brought up, or alternatively where brothers or sisters may have still been living.

Again, county record offices and public libraries are a good source of local trade directories that list clergymen, their addresses and the churches they were responsible for.

Look out also for bishops' records, parish records, copies of old newspapers, parish magazines and similar documentation which may also include details of Quaker, Jewish, Methodist and other denominations.

The present day clergyman of the church where your ancestor worked is also worth contacting. They will be sure to know where you can find vestry minutes and possibly even old photographs of previous incumbents. Though they aren't easy to find, look in libraries for bound copies of The Clergy, which began in the early-19th century. The publication was available every year until the publication of Crockford's Clerical Directories, which listed all clergymen in Britain and Ireland, including those serving in the armed forces and HM prison. Crockford's is particularly useful as they contain information showing where ministers studied, previous posts held and any posting abroad. You can search copies online at www.crockford.org.uk/standard.asp?id=1232.

for TNA's online guide to tracing British clergymen &The Clergy of the Church of England Database www.theclergydatabase.org.uk/upgrade/content.html will also prove useful. If you're willing to purchase lists and publications you will find a good selection

on the Parish Chest website (www.parishchest.com) (Colin Waters, Your Family Tree—Jan—2012)

Dial G for Genealogy

One sometimes hears something being considered "about as interesting as reading the phone book". But for the genealogist, the telephone book can actually bring some interesting family information to light. Since I can remember the old phone number that my family changed when I was eight years old, I'm glad old phone numbers are good for something!

There are two ways of approaching "phone family history". One is through telephone directories; whether digitized online versions or library hard copies, you may be able use them to track your family's addresses and moves over the years.

Another area of historical hints comes from the phone numbers themselves, as you can date them roughly from clues in the number of digits or their formatting.

Thus, you can estimate the age of an undated business card, newspaper clipping, receipt, or other paper document in your family files through the format of the telephone numbers in it.

New Haven, Connecticut had a telephone directory as early as 1878. Printed on one side of a small card, it listed 11 residential telephone subscribers and 39 businesses, professional, and government offices.

Early telephone exchanges might be so small that some of their customers had single-digit numbers. By the mid-1880's, when callers picked up a telephone, operators expected them to know the number they were calling. "What number, please?" was already becoming a catchphrase.
Callers would bypass the operator with the invention of the automatic switchboard. An undertaker named Almon Strowger patented the first such switchboard in 1891, after becoming convinced that a telephone operator was diverting customer calls to a competitor.

In the early 1900's dial telephones and automatic switchboards became common in the U.S. Callers picked up the receiver, waited to hear a dial tone, and then they dialed the number they wanted.

The number of digits in a number is, with some local knowledge an indicator of the era the telephone number was in use. Dial phones and increased business brought six-digit or seven-digit numbers to many towns.

As their telephone numbers grew longer, phone companies created a system for organizing them that combined letters and numbers. The first two numbers would correspond to the first two letters in the name of an "exchange", a collection of telephone customers. Often telephone numbers printed with the first two letters in the exchange name capitalized, as in "MUrray" or "KEystone". Callers would convert the first two (or occasionally three) letters in the exchange name into digits for dialing. Telephone dials displayed the number-letter combinations. 1 usually was just1, and 0 was used to call the operator. So in the exchange names a 2 might be represented by A, B or C; 3 might stand for D, E, and F, and so on.

Exchange-based numbers were a standard fixture of American life for decades. They are reflected in phone number-titled songs such as Glenn Miller's 1940 "Pennsylvania 6-5000", and the Marvelettes' 1962 hit "Beechwood 4-5798". Such phone numbers also appear in movie titles such as "Call Northside 777" or "Butterfield 8". For many years, in a town I used to live in, I always had a phone number beginning with 75. My older neighbors told me that this was because the first two digits stood for "PL" in "Plaza", and my numbers all would once have been in the Plaza exchange.

Although direct dialing for local calls bypassed the need for operators for all telephone communication, long-distance calls were another matter. You had to dial or ask for a long distance operator, who needed several more operators to complete the call. It could take several minutes to arrange, and often the customers could hang up and go about their business until the operator called back to say their calls were ready.

The labor and complexity involved in placing long-distance calls made them quite expensive for the time. A 1906 San Francisco telephone book gives rate information, showing that a 1 minute call from the city to Seattle cost $2.50. Each additional two seconds cost five more cents! To get some idea of the relative expense of such a call, US government statistics showed that the average annual wage for manufacturing workers in 1900 was $490. For a 6-day work week, that was not much over $1.50 a day.

Area codes, prefixes of three digits placed before phone numbers in the US and Canada, were introduced by AT&T in 1947.

By the late 1940's, long-distance calls were still placed by operators, but standardized 10-digit numbers simplified the operators' work. Direct dialing of long distance calls started becoming possible in the 1950's.

Area codes were assigned for geographic regions, so you could often narrow down a telephone number to a specific region of a state. Area codes changed quite a bit over the years. For a map of 1970's area codes, see LincMad's Telephone Page www.lincmad.com/map1970s.html.

By the early 1960s, telephone numbers became all digits as the old lettering system was dropped. Roughly speaking, then, a telephone number with exchange letters probably dates from the early 1900s to about 1960. Including an area code with a number would date it after 1947.

Telephone Books a Census Substitute

Often issued annually telephone books can be a great way to track with remarkable detail a family's moves between the decennial census years. One catch that hits some of my family is caused by living outside the city limits. Instead of street names and house numbers, residents of a rural

home might have a postal route and box number. Most entries include the name of the telephone subscriber, which more likely than not is the head of household. Standard sources such as deeds and tax records include property owners, but renters might have been listed in them. One advantage of directories is that they include phone subscribers who lived in rented accommodations, as well as home owners.

With married couples, the entries will usually be under the husband's name, but listings sometimes give the wife's first name as well. Children and relatives living in the home could be listed if they had their own telephones. You may also find clues about life events in the telephones. Singles may disappear as separate listings to become "Mr. and Mrs." Other changes in the way people are listed might reflect a death or a divorce in the family.

Even the appearance of a name in a telephone book can be an indication of economic status. Early subscribers included doctors and business owners who needed instant communication with their customers. In the early years, the cost of telephone service was too expensive for most families. Postcards cost only a penny in the U.S. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many large towns and cities had multiple towns and cities had multiple mail deliveries each day, so someone could mail a postal card and get a reply the same day. Other families may simply have resisted the lure of the new gadgets for years.

Phone directories may also have old city maps, and out-of-date (but historically valuable) information about the city's population, economy, and government.

Advertising helped defray the cost of the directories, and today, these old ads provide another helpful source of historical information. Ads for businesses owned by your family in the past might be nice little genealogical treasures today.

If you are researching your home or a historic house, telephone directories are an easy source to find who once lived in them. Likewise, the history of a business, church, or school can be enriched by clues gleaned from perusing old phone books. Entries can provide the names of previous owners of a business or store, and track the dates of any moves from one location to another.

Family information might also be contained in a surviving old rolodex or address book. Largely replaced by digital devices today, these items might have more than obsolete telephone numbers. You could find helpful information on various cousins, in-laws, and other relatives, such as their birthdays or wedding anniversaries.

Your libraries local history section may have old directories from the region. A few city directories were published in the U.S. in the late 1700s. Typically they might include an alphabetical list of householders, or a street-by-street list. Once telephones became common, a city directory might also include telephone numbers. Telephone companies also began distributing phone books to their customers, with listings of residential and business telephones.

An ever-growing number of historical city and telephone company directories are available online now. Two excellent free sources are the Internet Archive (www.archive.org) and Google Books (www.books.google.com). For states and towns of family interest to you, you might check the websites of state archives, universities, and city or county libraries. Many such institutions have digital archives that include directories.

Ancestry.com offers a rich selection of telephone directories. British Phone Books, 1880-1984 contains 1,780 telephone books from the archives of BT (British Telecom). Entries of course, handily arranged by surname in each book, but you can also search the collection by name or address. You can also browse individual directories to scan the advertisements and local civic information.

Also at Ancestry.com you can find Canadian Phone and Address Directories, 1995-2002, and several collections with telephone directories from Germany and France. In addition, they have a vast library of city, town, and regional directories. For the United States two collections, U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1 and Volume 2, include data from public records in all 50 states from 1950-1993. Included as sources are telephone directories, so with names and addresses current in old entries, there may also be old telephone numbers.

At Familysearch.org, the Family History Library has numerous microfilmed US and foreign telephone directories and related sources that can be borrowed.

The 1940 phone books for the five boroughs of New York City can be searched via the New York Public Library ay http://directme.nypl.org. Pages for each borough's directories can be browsed alphabetically.

`Old directories are frequently added to online collections, increasing the chances that if you're looking for late 19th or 20th century ancestors, you'll "have their number". (David A. Norris—Family Chronicle—March/April 2014)

Now What?

I've Hit a Brick Wall With My Northern Ireland Ancestors Before 1800. What Resources Can I Try?

Several census substitutes can help you find pre-1800 families according to the Ulster Historical Foundation www.ancestryireland.com. Indexes and originals for most are available through the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland www.applications.proni.gov.uk/DCAL_PRONI_ProniNames/SearchePage.aspx: (PRONI)

Hearth Money Rolls: Returns for this 1660s tax on hearths are arranged by parish and list householders who paid. Surviving records cover Northern Ireland better than the rest of Ireland.

Census of Protestant Householders: Not a true census, this 1740 enumeration by the collectors of the hearth tax lists names arranged by county,

barony and parish.

Religious Census of 1766: Church of Ireland rectors enumerated inhabitants by religion: Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic (identified as "Papists") and Presbyterians ("Dissenters"). Some rectors simply counted heads; others listed households. The original returns have been destroyed, but transcriptions survive in the Tenison Groves Papers, available on Family History Library microfilm www.familysearch.org
and are found on www.ancestry.com.

Petition of Protestant Dissenters: This dissenters' names was submitted to the government in 1775 PRONI has transcriptions. You can search an index covering the 1740, 1766 and 1775 databases at PRONI; results reference the original records.

Flaxgrowers List: In 1796, the government awarded free spinning wheels or looms to farmers who planted a minimum acreage of flax.
PRONI has lists of more than 56,000 recipients. Search an index at the Ulster Historical Foundation website www.ancestryireland.com/family-records/index-to-1796-flaxgrowers-bounty-list.

My Aunt Served in the Women's Army Corps During World War II. Does the National Archives Have These?

The answer is a big "maybe," according to the National Archives www.archives.gov. You can start your research and get some basic information by searching the World War II Army Enlistment Records, online in the Archives' Access to Archival Databases. These records include some 141,000 Women's Army Corps enlistees. But even if you find your aunt listed, her service record may not have survived a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis www.archives.gov/st-louis. The blaze destroyed about 80 percent of the records for personnel discharged between November 1, 1912, and January 1, 1960.

But the NPRC may have a "B" registry file for your aunt—auxiliary sources used to reconstruct her military service record; see www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/preservation-program/burned-records.html.

My New England Ancestor Was a Seaman. Would He Be Listed in Ship Records?

To help avoid impressments by foreign ships, sailors applied for certificates of citizenship from the local custom district. The applications include information of genealogical interest, and according to the Rhode Island Genealogical Society www.rigensoc.org, they're a particularly good source for men of color, who are often missing from town vital records. Consult the Register of Seamen's Protection Certificates from the Providence, Rhode Island Custom District 1796-1870 compiled by Family Tree Magazine contributor Maureen A. Taylor (Clearfield). The book is digitized on www.ancestry.com. Taylor's index gives a seaman's name, date of certification, age or date of birth, complexion, and place of birth. If you find your ancestor, check the microfilmed original records at the Rhode Island Historical Society (film # MSS28 SG1) for more details, including supporting oaths, crew lists, shipping manifests and hospital reports.

My Ancestor Supposedly Fought in the Civil War for the Confederacy, But He's Not in the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database.

Consider the possibility that your ancestor may have been a sailor rather than a soldier. Although the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors site www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm is quite complete for soldiers, it includes records of only about 18,000 African-American sailors.

To verify a Confederate sailor's service, consult the Subject File of the Confederate States Navy, 1861-1865. Its records relate to ships and personnel during the Civil War era, including pay-masters' vouchers. You can search this collection at subscription site www.fold3.com and in National Archives microfilm publication M1091
(David A. Fryxell--Family Tree Magazine—Jan/Feb 2015 pgs 16-17)

PERSI's New Home

Gaining quick access to relevant information on your ancestors is now even easier, thanks to a partnership of the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) Genealogy Center and findmypast.com. ACPL's PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)—the world's largest subject index to genealogy and history articles, with 2.5 million subject entries for articles in thousands of periodicals dating back to 1800. PERSI has a new home at Find My Past www.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index.html.

Created by Allen County Public Library Foundation and ACPL's Genealogy Center, PERSI is a subject index that can help you find information by surname, location, or keyword search. While it is not an every name index, PERSI is a useful research tool for finding genealogical and historical information which might not be online or in print elsewhere. You may find additional records from local sources, such as cemetery surveys, Bible records, marriage notices, obituaries, deeds, and wills.

You can also search for how-to articles to help you in your research. For example, the search results for Greenville, South Carolina, where many of my husband's ancestors settled, include articles on researching Civil War records at the Greenville County Library, online research tips for Greenville County Historical Records, researching South Carolina colonial land records, and South Carolina historical background for genealogy research.

For the first time, PERSI now includes digital images of original articles. At present, links are available to digital images from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, 1870-1920, with more images forthcoming: findmypast has also partnered with the Federation of Genealogical

Societies to help its member societies digitize and provide online access to their publications. If a digitized image of the article you find isn't yet available on findmy past, you can see if the periodical is available in a library or repository near you, contact the publisher to obtain a copy, or for a small fee, request a copy from the Genealogy Center by using its article fulfillment form, www.genealogycenter.org/Services.aspx.

The enhanced version of PERSI also has more search options. You can narrow your search results with various filters: last names, country, state, county, town/city, subject, article keyword, periodical, publisher and publication year. You can also limit your search results to one or more of 22 record types, ranging from biographies and church records to directories and history, and many other records. The best way to learn how to conduct successful searches is to simply explore the database, using different search terms and filters and comparing your results.

In addition to digital access to articles and improved search options, findmypast plans to update the index quarterly. These more frequent updates will be a welcome change and make PERSI an even more valuable resource for your genealogy research.

You can now access the enhanced PERSI online through all international findmypast sites, with personal subscription or its pay-as-you-go option. Findmypast is also currently working on a library edition. To find out more, check findmypast's blog, http://blog.findmypast.com/, or follow on Facebook, Twitter, or Pinterest.

First published as printed volumes, then made available on CD-ROM, and now as an online database with direct links to digital images, PERSI continues to evolve as technology improves. Since the project first began in 1986, it has become and will remain an important resource tool for genealogists. Take some time to visit PERSI at its new home on findmypast, and see what new information you can discover! (Carol Richey—Internet Genealogy—Oct/Nov 2014 pg 19)

Your DNA Autobiography

Genealogists are familiar with the value of reference materials such as biographies and online databases. A will or probate record, for example, can provide detailed information that is important in researching a family tree. However, written records are not always accurate. For example, census records can contain misspelled names, mistaken family relationships, and incorrect ages.
DNA on the other hand, can only tell you if two people are related, it cannot tell you how. DNA can also provide an estimate of how far in the pas t their common ancestor lived, but cannot tell you who that ancestor was. DNA and written documentation are complementary. Together they make a powerful set of tools for modern genealogist.

What is DNA?

Your DNA is the biochemical equivalent of your autobiography. A good autobiography will tell someone all he needs to know about your life. In analogy, if someone could read your DNA, he'd know all about your biochemistry.

A book is written using symbols we call letters of the alphabet. In English, there are 26 letters that are grouped together in words to convey meaning. DNA is composed of four letters of a biochemical alphabet known as adenine (A), guanine (G), thymine (T) and cytosine (C). The letters of this bio-alphabet are actually lage molecules that combine to form words that convey meaning in a biochemical sense.

Just as an autobiography may be divided into sections called chapters, DNA is divided into sections called "chromosomes". And just as each chapter tells a different part of your life story, each chromosome tells a part of your biochemical story.
The analogy between a book and DNA breaks down here. If a typo appears in a chapter, it will usually not prevent a reader from making sense out of the text. But a type or mutation in a DNA biochemical chapter can be fatal to an organism.

Fortunately, chromosomes come in pairs, so that if there is a mutation in one member of the pair that endangers the well-being of the organism, it has a second chance for survival if the other chromosome of the pair is healthy.

Mutations Can be Useful to Genealogists

When a book is copied, either by hand or by retyping it into a word processor, copy-errors are made. Likewise, when a cell divides and DNA must copy itself so that the two daughter cells each has its own copy of the genome, a type might occur causing a copy to differ from the original.

Fortunately, just as the "spell-check" of a word processor corrects most of the typos in a text, DNA has a biochemical "spell-check" that compares the copied DNA with the original, and in most cases, repairs any mutations that have occurred.

However, spell-checks are not foolproof, and sometimes typos make it into the copied version of a text. For example, a spell-check will not catch the use of block in the place of black. If a mistake is left uncorrected it will be present in any future copies of the manuscript.

DNA is the same way. Occasionally, a typo or mutation gets past the genetic spell-check, resulting in a mutation that is not repaired. If the cell that carries the mutation is a sperm or an egg cell, and the sperm or egg cell is involved in fertilization, and the fertilized egg results in a child, the child will have that mutation. Once the mutation is present, it will be included in any future copies of the genome, and carried forward by future generations of the family.

The greater the number of copies that are produced of a manuscript, the higher the probability that errors will occur. Likewise, the greater the number of generations that pass in a family, the more likely mutations will occur in the family's genome.

In the reverse sense, noticing how many mutations have occurred in a certain family line can

give you an idea of how many generations had to pass for them to appear. This provides an estimate of how long ago the person with the mutations shared a common ancestor with a family member who does not have them. A genealogist does not have to dig up dead people to use DNA to obtain information about his ancestors. He can use the DNA results of living family members to deduce information about the DNA of family members who died long in the past.

DNA Research in Genealogy

Scholars use a similar method to compare old manuscripts. To assess how many original versions of a manuscript existed, they don't compare text, they compare typos. Each time a scribe copied a manuscript, he added his characteristic mistakes to the text. The next scribe copied these mistakes not knowing they were errors, adding his own typos to the text, and so on down thru the manuscript generations. Manuscripts that share the same copy errors came from the same original version. If two manuscripts are almost identical, there probably have not been many copy generations since their common manuscript-ancestor. If two manuscripts are somewhat the same, but have several differences, they probably had a common ancestor in the more distant past. If two manuscripts have a large number of differences, they probably do not have a common manuscript ancestor.

Likewise, in genetic genealogy, if two people have the same DNA profile (called haplotype) they likely share a common ancestor in the recent past. If two people are close, but not exact matches, they probably share a common ancestor in the more remote past. If two people have many differences, they do not share a common ancestor, at least in a genealogical time period.

In this way, mutations are useful for sorting out which people in a surname group are related and can provide an estimate of how long ago their common ancestor was around. Occasionally, genetic genealogy reveals a so-called non-paternity event, where someone descends from an ancestor who was not genetically related to his legal family, due to an adoption, a name change, or an illegitimacy. Even so, when combined with geographical and historical information, genetic genealogy can reveal information otherwise impossible to obtain, and can lead you down exciting paths to your search for your family story. (Colleen Fitzpatrick—Family Chronicle—Jan/Feb 2015 pgs 46-47)

The Canadian Immigration Museum at Pier 21

A long Halifax's waterfront is the Canadian Immigration, housed on Pier 21. It's a logical location. Where better to locate a museum devoted to telling the story of those who migrated to Canada than what was, for 75 years, the primary point of entry into the country?

This world-class museum tells the story of the one million immigrants, refugees, war brides and evacuee children who came through this gateway between 1928 and 1971. It also related how, during the Second World War, almost 500,000 Canadian military personnel departed from Pier 21 bound for the conflict raging in Europe. As such it's more than a museum. It's a place where history actually unfolded. To visit Pier 21 is to tangibly touch the past, and perhaps even sense the turmoil of emotions—fear, joy, suffering, and homesickness—of those who passed through for three quarters of a century,

Halifax has been Canada's main port of entry since the community was founded in 1749. Initially, early colonists docked at the numerous finger piers that lined the harbor, but in post-Confederation period, a deep-water terminal, Pier 2, was established to handle larger vessels and process in an organized fashion the immigrants bound for Canada. This terminal was seriously damaged by the Halifax Explosion in 1917, but was quickly restored and put back into service. Even so, it was obvious that a new, modern facility was desperately needed.

In 1924, the situation was rectified when new facility known as Pier 21, was opened. Pier 21 was really a massive complex of buildings containing such facilities as Immigration Services, Customs, Health and Welfare, Agriculture, the Red Cross, a kitchen and dining room, store where supplies could be purchased, nursery, a hospital, detention centre and dormitories. To expedite the process of moving people and their possessions, Pier 21 was connected to railway lines. Although immigrants began trickling into the Pier in 1924, it did not officially open until 1928.

In the late 1920's, immigration, mostly from British Isles was brisk, but the Depression of the 1930's turned the steady flow into a mere trickle. Between 1930 and 1939, immigration to Canada never exceeded 15,000 people a year.

In addition to the immigrants who arrived seeking greater opportunities in Canada, there was another class of migrants passing through Pier 21in these years: The British Home Children. The Home Children movement was a humanitarian plan to relocate poor British children to Canadian farms to work as child labor. The movement, which began in 1860's, did not end until the Second World War and as a result, many of the final 100,000 Home Children passed through Pier 21.

The War Years

It was during the Second World War that Pier 21 saw its heaviest use. When Canada entered the Second World War on 10 September 1939, the facility was immediately taken over by the Department of National Defense. Every one of the 494,874 Canadian Soldiers, sailors and airmen bound for Europe embarked from Pier 21.

Throughout the war years thousands would arrive back on hospital ships.

During the war, Pier 21 also saw the arrival of 3,000 British evacuee children. Under the CORB (Children's Overseas Reception Board) plan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and

the United States agreed to house British children originating from heavily-bombed cities in Britain. In September 1940, the City of Benares was sunk by a German U-boat with the loss of seventy-seven evacuee children. The cross-Atlantic voyage was now deemed too dangerous and the CORB plan was abandoned.

With hundreds of thousands of Canadian servicemen in Britain and despite fraternization being officially frowned upon, wartime romances and marriages were inevitable. During the war years and upon demobilization in 1945-1946, 48,000 war brides and their 22,000 children began arriving at Pier 21.

These war brides were lucky, for across Europe, millions of refugees had no homes, and in some cases, no countries, to return to. Initially, Canada had little interest in housing these displaced peoples, most of who came from 'undesirable' ethnic groups from Eastern Europe. However, once the 15,000 prisoners of war who had toiled in farming, forestry and mining while in Canadian custody were repatriated, it became apparent that there was an acute shortage of labor in the country. Pro-immigration pressure began to grow from industrialists and manufacturers, and by 1947, Canada began to welcome large numbers of refugees.

Post-War Arrivals

The late 1940's and early 1950's would be the busiest years in the history of Pier 21. As many as 100,000 refugees arrived with the aid of the International Refugee Organization.

In addition, large numbers of Dutch fled their war-ravaged country in search of better opportunities. The Dutch would be the fifth largest ethnic group to enter Canada between 1928 and 1971, following the British, Americans, Italians and Germans. Finally, as many as 40,000 Hungarians fleeing the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 passed through Pier 21.

By the late 1950's and 1960's more and more immigrants were choosing to fly to Canada rather than to make the North Atlantic crossing by ship. Canadian immigration officers were splitting their time between meeting ships at Pier 21and meeting planes at the airport. It was decided that the number of immigrants arriving by sea was not large enough to justify the facility and, on 8 March 1971almost exactly forty-three years from its official opening, Pier 21 closed.

And there the story might have ended, if not for the vision and perseverance of a group of dedicated volunteers who formed The Pier 21 Society in the early 1980's. The mandate of the Pier 21 Society was to transform the shed into a facility of international importance, one that acknowledged the significance of immigration to the building of Canada and the country's vital role in the Second World War. The facility was to be a tourist attraction, a museum, a centre for genealogical research, and a receptacle of the immigrant and veteran experience.

After more than a decade of planning, work on the museum began in November 1998. The site re-opened eight months later on Canada Day 1999 as the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. It's a facility truly worthy of the stories it's dedicated to preserving and relating.

World-Class Genealogy Research Facility

Beyond being a state-of-the-art museum with moving and revealing multi-media displays, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is also a world-class facility for genealogical research. Indeed, it's a vital resource for anyone tracing roots that saw family members migrate to this country from overseas. But the museum is much more than merely a collection of immigration records.

One of the most widely accessed resources at the museum is the Ship Arrival Database, which is a schedule of all passenger ships calling at Pier 21 from 1928 to 1971. One caveat: dates are based on schedule arrivals dates, not actual arrival dates. As a result, the records may be off by a day or two due to delays the ship may have encountered at sea, such as foul weather or mechanical issues.

Accompanying this database is a massive collection of ship images, available for purchase at a fair and modest cost. Combined, this database and image collection represents a useful tool for genealogists.

Unfortunately, one must keep in mind that materials for 1960 and 1962-1966 are damaged or missing. In addition, some crossings, such as those chartered by refugee assistance organizations, may not be present.

Also located with the museum is the Scotiabank Family History Centre, which boasts resources that reach well beyond the period 1928-71, when Pier 21 was in operation. Indeed, staff members have access to immigration sources going back as far as 1685. In addition, resources go beyond immigration to include other related topics such as migration, nautical history, ethnic groups and genealogy.

The Museum of Immigration also includes several relevant and interesting collections. The Oral History collection, for example, is dedicated to capturing the memoirs of immigrants and veterans. Recordings are facilitated by an oral historian, preserving personal stories for future generations to examine and enjoy and breathing life into Pier 21's research holdings.

In addition, there is the Online Story Collection, a resource divided into major categories such as immigrants, British home children, veterans, war brides, British evacuation children, displaced people and refugees, and so forth.

Finally, an extensive Image Collection includes thousands of scanned newspaper clippings, immigration-related documents, and ship memorabilia. (Andrew Hind—Family Chronicle—May/June 2013—pgs 18-20)

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

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The National Genealogy Conference will be held at the Conference Hotel, The Westin Nova Scotian located at 1181 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2P6. It is just steps away from Pier 21, the conference location. The Maritime Museum and other attractions are within walking distance of the hotel.

Check out guided tours plus additional on-own time at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Immigration portal of Canada from 1928-1971.

During a short guided tour of Halifax, the Titanic Graveyard (Fairview Lawn Cemetery) will be visited. Experts will be on hand to enhance your experience.