YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS

Alberta Genealogical Society
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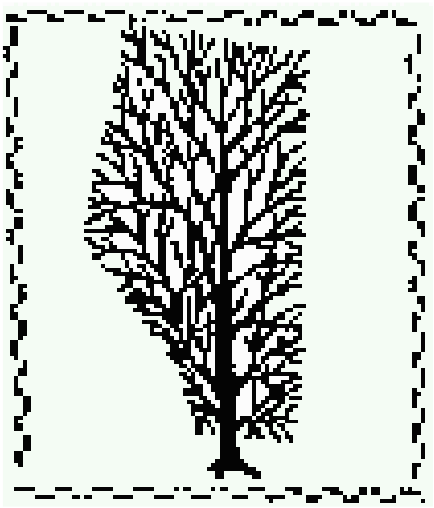

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Editor's Corner

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Doug Mcleod
Vice President	Susan Haga
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Alma Berridge
Past President	Nestor Martinez
Membership	Pat Barry

BRANCH COMMITTEE

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

President's Message

We just had our Branch, AGM on February 18th and so another years starts for the Branch with a full executive, the same executive as last year. I would like to welcome members back and also welcome the new members, and I hope that the Branch will be helpful in your genealogical research. A big, big thank you to all our volunteers—we had 3378 volunteer hours last year!

The AGS GenFair will be held on Saturday, April 23rd in Drayton Valley at the Royal Canadian Legion 5204 – 51st Ave. from 9:30-3:30 p.m. At 10:30 a.m. Ronald Kelland, Historical Places Officer, and Geographical Names Program Coordinator of the Historical Resources Management Branch, Alberta Culture and Tourism will give the keynote address. His talk will center on geographical place names and where lakes, rivers and areas got their names from. Our AGM will start at 4:00 p.m. right after the GenFair concludes. I encourage all members to attend both the GenFair and the AGM. The fee is $5.00 per person. No need for registration to attend this.

I want to wish all of you luck in your genealogy hunt and to remind you of the 'Members Research Interests' link that is on our Branch webpage. This is a list of surnames that our members are researching. Who knows, one of our members may be looking for the same family as you are. By the way–if anyone finds Amon, please let me know.
President Doug Mcleod.

Monthly Meetings

Our Annual Meeting was held Thursday, February 18th. No elections were held 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 Finding Your Family in London. 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 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'.

Catch the Wave

Research your family across the pond by surfing these European Genealogy Websites.

Deceasedonline.com www.deceasedonline.com
A central database for UK burials and cremations, you search registers by country, region, county, burial authorization and crematorium all free of charge. Registered users, with a voucher system, can access full data including cremation and burial records, digital scans of cremation and burial markers, photos of graves and memorials, cemetery maps and grave locations, and even data on other occupants in the same grave.

Findmypast.co.uk www.findmypast.couk
This site has an increasingly global span, including US census. It began as a resource for British civil registration records (its original names was 1837online, for the year those records began,) Today it still boasts civil registrations, but has added parish records, UK censuses, passenger lists, military records, and English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish newspapers back to the 1700s.

Genuki www.genuki.org.uk
This volunteer virtual reference library will get you going with all you need to know about GENealogy in the UK and Ireland: church history, heraldry, land records, manors, occupations, poorhouses, tax records, even how to decipher your ancestors' handwriting. Regional page links lead to county-by-county pages (pick from a list or click on the map) with in-depth local information.

Historical Directories
www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/index.asp
Stumped in your search for families in England and Wales? This digital library of local and trade directories (1750-191) from the University of Leicester might hold the answer. Find the directory you want by location, decade or keyword.

National Archives of Ireland
www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie
Irish researchers will think they've stumbled upon a leprechaun's pot of gold at this free site, which hosts databases of the 1901 and 1911 Irish censuses. Tithe Applotment Books (1823-1837), soldiers' wills (1914-1917) and the Calendars of Wills and Administrations (1858-1922). The censuses cover all 32 counties and are searchable by all information fields. Still to come are 19th century census survivals (1821-1851), Valuation Office House and Field Books (1848-1860) and more census searches.

National Archives-UK
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
Pursue any of three different paths at this official site: Read how-to info and guidance; search the 11 million documents in the Discovery online catalog; or click over to Access to Archives at website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a Where you can comb the holdings of more than 400 other record offices and repositories. If you happen to have black sheep in the family don't miss a new fourth option—an online collection of historical criminal records from England and Wales.

Ordnance Survey: Get-A-Map
www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk Try this site for free customized ("bespoke") maps of your UK ancestors' old haunts, up to 1:25,000 scale. All you need to do is enter a place name, full postal code or National Grid reference. With a subscription you can print as many maps as you like.

Origins Network www.origins.net ($)
This subscription site specializes in unusual, hard-to-find old British and Irish genealogy records. English kin can be found among burials, will indexes and probate documents, while Griffith's Valuation and the 1851 and 1901 Dublin city censuses can ID your Irish ancestors. A new free search tool lets you search any collection or the whole site without committing to register or subscribe, paying up only to view the actual records.

Scotlandspeople www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk $
This definitive site for Scottish research has free databases of wills and testaments (1513-1925) and coats of arms (1672-1913). Most of the other treasures here are pay-per-view, including vital records from Parish, Catholic and Statutory Registers, Censuses (1841-1911), and recent additions of the 1905 and 1920 valuation rolls.

Central Europe--French Genealogy Blog
www.French-genealogy.typepad.com/genealogie
Anne Morddel, author of the book French Genealogy From Afar (self-published), gets you started on finding French ancestors and keeps you up-to-date on the increasing number of French archives putting records online.

Geneanet
www.en.geneanet.org/first-step/search-your-french-ancestors> Databases here for finding your French families include user-submitted trees, municipal and departmental archives, civil status records and more. Start on the right foot with help from genealogy encyclopedia, blog and forums.

German Genealogy Home Page
www.daddezio.com/germgen.html Since 1998 this site has been serving up German genealogy how-to along with data on surname studies, passenger lists, military records, vital records and more.

German Genealogy Server www.compgen.de
Don't overlook this site from Germany's Association for Computer Genealogy just because it's in Deutsch. It includes more than 100 mailing lists, the largest and most active German-language genealogy forum, home pages for more than 345 genealogical societies, digitized books, a gazetteer, a WWI casualty list database, research aids and a wealth of getting –started FAQs. The databases in the affiliated GEDBAS www.gedbas.genealogy.net do have an English interface.

National German Military Grave Registration Service www.volksbund.de/en/volksbund.html
Search free for the names of more than 2 million German Soldiers dead or missing from World Wars I and II.

Register of Swiss Surnames
www.his-dhs-dss.ch/famn/?lg=e
This free database containing almost 50,000 entries covers all the families holding citizenship in a Swiss community as of 1962, with information on the place of origin, naturalization and previous place or country of origin.

Trace Your Dutch Roots
www.traceyourdutchroots.com
This helpful how-to-site and companion blog www.blog.traceyourdutchroots.com will get you started finding ancestors in the Netherlands and keep you up to date on Dutch, genealogy-wise.

WIE WAS WIE www.wiewaswie.nl/en/home
This is the successor the late, lamented Genlias site that served up Dutch civil registration records. The 865 million records here, including church registers and user-submitted family trees, are the go-to-source for finding kin in the Netherlands. The original Genlias records, not updated since 2011, are on the subscription genealogy website Ancestry.com.

Eastern Europe
Access to Russian Archives
www.online.eastview.com/projects/ticfia
This free database contains digital descriptions of 80,000 archival record groups from more than 20 guidebooks on Russian Federal Archives and 40 Regional Archives published from 1987 to 2004. It provides the most comprehensive access to the holdings of the entire Russian archive system in one place, with English transliteration.

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia www.ahsgr.org A network of village coordinators can help you find what's available for your ancestral stomping grounds, from census lists to rare surviving church records.

Avotaynu www.avotaynu.com
This and other Jewish genealogy sites will obviously be useful to researchers beyond Eastern Europe, but should be of special interest to those seeking ancestors in this part of the continent. Here, Jewish genealogy publisher Avotaynu offers the free Consolidated Jewish Surname Index, covering 699,084 surnames in 42 different databases totaling more than 7.3 million records.

Federation of East European Family History Societies www.feefhs.org
Click the Map Library link to get started using the online resources of this essential organization, from maps to how-to-guides to databases.

JewishGen www.jewishgen.org
Databases here that are especially helpful for Eastern Europe include memorial books (Yizkor), Holocaust victims, Russian Empire business directories and Russian religious personnel. All together, JewishGen's global resources total 21 million records, including surnames, Jewish communities (shtetls), burials and much more.

Poland GenWeb
.rootsweb.ancestry.com/polwgw/polandgen.html
This World GenWeb site has a records-transcription project, surname list, translation tools, a guide to using Family History Library microfilm, and links to other online resources (such as town locator tools and message boards).

PolishRoots www.polishroots.org
Covering not just present-day Poland but all the areas historically part of the Polish Commonwealth, this site shines with its getting-started guide, maps, links and back issues of the Gen Dobry e-zine.

Sezam
www.baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam.php?l=en
This database from the Polish State Archives can help you locate archival holdings at nearly 100 institutions within the current boundaries of Poland. Start by entering a town name in the "Title of Fond/Name of Creator" blank, then you can limit by type of archive and date range.

Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe www.sggee.org Focusing on the genealogy of Germans from Russian Poland and Volhynia, with some help for related regions, this society offers parish records, surnames and scanned maps. Join the society to access even more.

The Mediterranean and Iberia Italian Genealogy Online
www.angelfire.com/ok3/pearlsofwisdom/#HOME>
This site offers message boards, tools, guide to naming patterns, links, FAQ and tips on how to find your family's place of origin.

Italy GenWeb www.italywgw.org
Another useful starting place and one of the many country sites under the genealogical umbrella of the WorldGenWeb www.worldgenweb.org, this volunteer site varies in its resources depending on which ancestral place in Italy you're investigating. But it's definitely worth a look for its guides to different record types and general how-to.

Genealogia Espanola www.genealogia-es.com
Spain's home in the WorldGenWeb since 1997, this site is in Spanish—but Google Translate www.translate.google.com can help you with that if your high school Spanish is a little rusty. How-to information and links range from old-fashioned heraldry to newfangled DNA research.

Greek Genealogy www.greekgenealogy.org
Start your search for Hellenic kin with Lisa Catsakis' guides to Greek research, a gazetteer and maps, a transliteration chart, links, and info on microfilmed records.

Hispanic Genealogy
www.hispanicgenealogy.blogspot.com
Get the inside scoop on FamilySearch's ever-growing collections of Spanish records (as well as those from Latin America) with this in-depth blog from Lynn Turner. No amateur blogger, she holds a degree in family history and genealogy from BYU and works for FamilySearch as a records specialist.

LUSAWEB www.lusaweb.com
This online community celebrates Portuguese ancestry, history and traditions around the world. Databases let you connect with fellow researchers, share trees and explore passenger lists, and how-to guides help you get started.

Name Changes of Settlements in Greece
www.pandektis.ekt.gr/pandektis/handle/10442/4968>
Find your ancestral town, which likely changed its name in the 20th century due to war, a coup and/or Greece's switch to a republic, with this handy tool. Check not only the current town name but also the municipality (dimos), district (eparchial) and county (nomos).

Open Archives www.openarchives.gr
Explore 68 collections and almost a half-million records from Greek archives, universities, religious organizations and other institutions. Click EN to view the search options in English.

Portuguese Genealogy Home Page
www.dholmes.com/rocha1.html
Doug da Rocha Holmes is based in Sacramento, CA (home to a large Portuguese-American Community), but his site will help you get started researching on the other side of the Atlantic. You'll find a photo gallery, DNA info, some marriage databases, genealogy how-to-articles, a passenger ship master list and more.

Scandinavia
Arkivalieronline
www.sa.dk/content/dk/ao-forside The Danish State Archives Filming Centre is digitizing parish registers (with images of census pages up next). Almost all Danish parish registers up to 1950 are now online. You'll have to browse them as there's no search capability, and many show the signs of years of wear and tear.

Arkivdigital www.arkivdigital.net
This subscription site serves up color images of about 45 million Swedish historical documents such as church records, court records and inventories of estates. If you've seen only the black-and-white microfilm, these color images will be an eye-opener.

Danish Demographic Database
www.ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm
This free site lets you search Danish censuses from 1787 on, plus probate records from Thisted, Viborg, Aalborg and Randers. You can even check censuses from the Caribbean island of St. Croix taken when it belonged to Denmark.

Danish Emigration Archives
www.emiarch.dk/search.php3?l=en
Thank the Copenhagen police for this database of 394,000 names of emigrants from Denmark between May 1868 and 1908. They kept tabs on everyone leaving—and now so can you. Search the database by any combination for e.g. name, occupation, age, last residence, parish, county, destination (city, state, country) ticket contract number or number of registration. Besides these fields, hits also include birthplace (beginning in 1899), family status, name of the immigration agent and name of the ship. The collection combines direct emigration from Copenhagen and indirect, search a stop in another port, which must be searched separately on microfilm.

Digitalarkivet
www.arkivverket.no/eng/content/view/full/629
This free site from the National Archives of Norway offers most all the essential resource for finding Norwegian families, with an ever-growing collection of church records in addition to its censuses, tax lists, probate records and etc. It's also the most English-language-friendly of Scandinavian websites.

Genealogy Society of Norway-Dis
www.disnorge.no Check the British flag to see the English-language pages on this site. View a forum, database of researchers and search the tombstone records with photos, links and maps.

Genealogical Society of Finland
www.genealogia.fi/indexb.html In addition to a forum, publications and how-to, Finnish researchers should check out the society's HisKi project. Its ambitious effort is putting Finnish church records online, along with a search capability (still in the testing phase). There's also a tombstone transcription project.

Institute of Migration
www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php
It's free to search this institute's collection of 318,000 passenger-list records, 261,000 passport records and other migration resources for your Finnish families. Full access for your hits requires and annual subscription fee. You'll also find an online library of 9,000 publications about Finnish emigration; a database of 12,000 photos; and a Migration and Ethnicity Research Network, a database of 450 researchers and others interested in migration and ethnicity research in Finland.

RIKSARKIVET www.sok.riksarkivet.se
Here, Swedish researchers can explore the National Archives database and the Digital Research Room of digitized church archives and censuses. Full access requires a subscription to the SVAR e-service (about $150 a year).

Swedish Roots
www.genealogi.se/finding-your-swedish-roots
This step-by-step site from the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies will lead you through essential information from understanding patronymics to Swedish correspondence. Once you've got the basics, click on Our Forum to visit Anbytarforum. Posts are in Swedish, but most Swedes will be able to understand queries written in English. (Editor, David A. Fryxell—familytreemagazine.com—May/June 2014—54-59)

Time Saving Tech Tools

(These 17 apps and online tools will help genealogists organize their research materials).

From work and family commitments to volunteering from squeezing in a visit to the dentist, it's a feat to find enough hours in the day for doing genealogy. It's easy to get overwhelmed with the thought of so many ancestors; so little time Your family history to do list might include searching online databases, visiting repositories, writing up source citations, scanning pictures, calling up second cousin Sally, starting a family history, cataloging heirlooms, organizing your files and more.

But don't let your burgeoning to do list bog you down. We've found 16 apps and online tools to help you save time and get a handle on those backed-up research projects.

Note Takers
As a writer and a genealogist, I'm always making notes and collecting information in the form of text, images, web addresses and documents. I also brainstorm ideas and scribble notes about new ancestors or family connections I find. You probably do the same. In the past, saying and managing all this data was cumbersome (and required lots of paper), but now note-taking and brainstorming tools make it easy to organize the information you process in your genealogy search.

Evernote www.evernote.com: This dynamic tool is an online notebook where you can store textual notes, family photos and recipes, articles clipped from websites and even audio and video files. Just like on paper, you can keep different notebooks for different projects. I have a notebook for general genealogy information, plus one for each surname I'm researching, ones for various book projects and others for recipes, travel and articles I'm working on.

You can create text notes, clip URL's or entire web pages, add images, import photographs (or take photos with Smartphone or tablet within the Evernote mobile app), and create voice or video recordings. In addition, every Evernote account comes with a unique e-mail address. To find it, look in the Account Info area (the exact process will vary depending on the device you use). This is especially useful if a cousin sends an e-mail you want to file with your family history research or if Aunt Betty e-mails you her famous pumpkin pie recipe to make for Thanksgiving.

You also can e-mail notes to Evernote—just specify in the subject line which notebook you want the note in, and any tags associated with the note. Use the @ symbol with the name of an existing notebook, and to add a tag, include a # sign followed by an existing tag. For example, to e-mail Aunt Betty's stuffing recipe to your Evernote Recipes notebook, give it the subject line might be: @Recipes #thanksgiving. This creates a note in the Recipes notebook tagged with "thanksgiving."
Evernote works on Windows PC and Mac platforms, as well as mobile devices. It offers easy syncing across different devices. The free version is adequate for most basic users, but the Premium Version offers more flexibility, larger upload and search capabilities, additional storage space or other functions.

iPhone or iPad users also may like EverClip www.trunk.evernote.com/app/everclip/iphone for easily collecting websites, text and images, and having them to your Evernote Account. Simply run EverClip in the background, switch to other apps, copy anything and the items copied will be imported. EverClip does have a few quirks and limitations, such as not being able to edit a note once you've saved it. That said, I love this app and use it pretty much every day.
For more tips on using Evernote for genealogy, see the Evernote Blog www.blog.evernote.com/blog/2012/11/19/how-to-use-evernote-for-genealogical-research and Tonia's Roots Blog www.toniasroots.net/2010/06/24/using-evernote -for -genealogy

FHNotebook
www.familyhistorynotebook.com/apps/mobile:
This web tool is similar to Evernote, but is designed especially for genealogists to securely store notes, documents, photos, videos and audio files, as well as record discoveries and manage to-do lists. Access your family history notebook from any computer connected to the internet, capture research on the go with the free Family History Media Smartphone app, and clip snippets of articles and vital records with the free Family History Web Clipper browser extension. In addition, a free Family History Box desktop app lets you back up your FHnotebook to your computer.

FHnotebook's free plan lets you securely store up to 100 files or 1 GB of data and share your research with one friend. Additional pricing options range from $19.99 to $59.99 per year, depending on

amount of storage needed and the number of people you want to share your research with.

Microsoft Onenote
www.office.microsoft.com/en-us/onenote

If you have the Microsoft Office package of Word, Excel and PowerPoint, you probably have OneNote. It's essentially a virtual notebook that includes the same elements as a physical notebook—pages, section tabs, grouped sections and more. You can have notebooks for each surname you're researching, localities and specific tasks. After you set up your system, it's easy to organize your research (no more shuffling through stacks of paper). To learn more about using Microsoft OneNote for genealogy, visit The Paperless Genealogist blog www.paperlessgenealogy.blogspot.com/2011/11/well-ive-started-using-microsofts.html and YourFamilyStory's blog www.4yourfamilystory.com/how-do-i-use-microsoft-onenote-to-make-a-research-plan.html

Scapple
www.literatureandlatte.com/scrapple.php

Scapple is a free form text editor that allows you to make notes anywhere on the page and connect them using straight dotted lines or arrows. Unlike more traditional "mind-mapping," you don't have to start with one central idea that everything else branches off from. You can make your own connections as to how your ideas best fit together. For e.g to create notes, double-click anywhere on the canvas and start typing. Make connections between ideas by dragging and dropping one note onto another. The best part about this app is that you'll never run out of paper.

The program is available for Mac computers, with a beta version for Windows ($14.99). An iPad and iPhone app is in the works. Try it free for 30 days of actual use.

Scrivener
www.literatureandatte.com/scrivener.php

This hybrid word processor and project management tool is affordable and simple to use. Try it free for 30 days of actual use before you buy; then you'll need to export all your work or buy a license to continue using it. Click on the Video Tutorials link to watch short visual demonstrations of the program's features.

Time and **Task Managers**

From lists of genealogy records to find or to-dos for the next family reunion, time management apps and web tools can help you organize all the things you need to do. Some even send you automatic reminders to keep you on track. The variety of options available allows you to choose ones best suited to your personal tastes and organizational style.

AnyDo www.any.do

This simple to-do list app claims to help you remember everything you have to do. It lets you keep all your to-dos in sync, use drag-and-drop tools to plan your agenda, add reminders so you don't forget anything and attach notes or subtasks.

It automatically sets up categories for tasks into Today, Tomorrow, Upcoming and Someday, and you can check off each task as you go. The default folders are Personal and Work, but you can create your own (such as Genealogy Research Requests, Family Reunion or Family History Writing). You also can speak into the app to quickly add a task if you don't want to type it. The app is available for free on Android, iPad, iPhone and has a Google Chrome browser extension www.chrome-google.com

Idonethis www.idonethis.com
Working with a group of researchers? This e-mail-based productivity log keeps a calendar of completed tasks and sends you and/or your project manager) daily messages. The iOS personal version is free; add $5 per person per month for collaborators. Use it on your iPad, iPhone, iPod touch and Mac desktop.

Trello www.trello.com Trello is a free, web-based tool for organizing projects. You can get the large overview of a project or drill down to the details. If you like to use index cards to organize your files, Trello may appeal to you.
Log in using your existing Gmail account or create a new account. It's easy to use and flexible. You can set up different boards, which have collections of customizable lists. The lists contain cards. A good genealogy setup might be one board for each surname you're researching, another for a family history book project and one for each genealogy conference or online class you attend.
You can put your cards into lists to track progress or categorize tasks. You also can add members if you're working on group projects, and get notification of changes made to the lists. Because I'm a visual person and like the "storyboard" method for my family history writing, I use Trello to help organize and track my writing-related tasks. Trello works with Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Internet Explorer web browsers. An app is available for Android, iPad, iPhone and Windows 8 devices.

Workflowy www.workflowy.com
If you like seeing your tasks in outline format, this free web-based tool could be just what you're looking for. WorkFlowy is especially good when you want to focus on one thing at a time, such as searching for a specific record. You also can use it for note-taking, brainstorming and keeping a journal of things to remember such as alternate surname spellings, questions that arise during research or genealogy conference registration deadlines. You must be connected to the internet to use it on a computer, but the mobile apps (iPad, iPhone and iPod touch) let you work online or offline. Android users should check out Workflowy Agent in Google Play store.

Tome Trackers
Family and local histories, data compilations, reference books, historical fiction: Most genealogists love books particularly the old fashioned-aka paper—kind. These apps can help you catalog your collection like a library's.

iBookshelf www.itunes.apple.com
I have hundreds of genealogy books and in the past, I had to keep track of them in my head or on a typed sheet of paper. Now I can use iBookShelf on my iPad, iPhone or iPod touch. The "lite" version lets you store up to 20 titles; the premium version ($1.99) gives you seemingly unlimited space.
You can enter new books automatically (enter the ISBN and it loads the remaining data from the internet) or manually. iPad users with a Cue Cat USB scanner and USB camera kit can scan the book's barcode to add the title to a virtual bookshelf. You can search for books in your library and enter a "loan status" to remember whom you loaned a book to or borrowed it from. The app also tells you where you can buy the book, how much it costs and what libraries have it.
Android users might like Bookshelf www.play.google.com

Goodreads www.play.google.com
Do you have a favorite genealogy book you'd like to recommend or want to read? Use the Goodreads app available for Android or for iPad and iPhone www.itunes.apple.com this app lets you search for and review books, see what friends are reading, update your to-read or alrea-read lists, and more.

Remote Accessers
What if you're at a library and you need to check a record you haven't yet moved to the cloud? Remote access tools let you access your home computer if it's on and connected to the internet. Here are a few to consider:

GoToMyPC www.gotomypc.copm
This tool works on Windows PCs or Macs, and offers mobile access from your iPad, iPhone, Kindle Fire or Android device. It lets you access your desktop files and print remotely, transfer files between computers, and copy and paste between computers.

Logmein www.logmein.com
A free version of this tool lets you access your desktop computer to open files, check e-mail and run programs from a mobile device or other computer.

Splashtop Personal www.splashtop.com
This app lets you view and edit multimedia files stored on your PC or Mac from a mobile device. You'll need to buy the "in-app" anywhere Access Pack to access your files away from home. The iPad app is $6.99, iPhone/iPod touch app is $2.99 and app for all Windows mobile devices, as well as Mac and Windows PC desktops is free.

Device de-complicators Genealogists are always surfing the web, making discoveries and looking for ways to share what we've found. The following tools will help make your surfing, sharing and organizing tasks simpler.

Lastpass www.lastpass.com Tired of having to keep track of all your e-mail, social media, online tree and other passwords? Let LastPass remember them for you. LastPass provides a master password and securely synchronizes your data across browsers. It's free to use on your computer, but to sync with mobile devises you'll need to sign up for the premium version ($12 per year).

Split Screen www.itunes.apple.com I love my iPad but it's a pain to switch between two web browser windows. The free Split Screen app lets you view two websites at once by giving you side-by-side browser windows. For example, I can have a Greek Catholic church record I found on the FamilySearch website at www.familysearch.org on one side, and Google Translate translate.google.com on the other, or I could view Twitter www.twitter.com on the left and an article a genealogy friend tweeted on the right. Split Screen also includes many standard web browser features like bookmarks, history and an integrated search bar. Other dual browser apps for iPad lack these basic features.

Fuzel www.fuzelapp.com: this handy iPhone app lets you create beautiful photo collages. It's great for holiday cards and sharing pictures online. Choose from seven aspect ratios (proportion of width to height), including one for a Facebook cover image. Use one of the 60-plus layout templates, design your own, or make purchase unique ones in-app. You can import images from your photo library, Google Images or your Facebook account, and then share your collage on Flickr www.flickr.com, Instagram www.instagram.com, social media sites or via e-mail. I like using this app to make collages of a family line, to honor a particular ancestor for his or her birthday, or for special occasions such as Mother's Day or Father's Day.

When it comes to time management tools, it seems like there's always something new to help you get more done in less time. Since no two genealogists work the same way, no single app or program is a "one size fits all" solution. You may need to test several before you decide which one to go with. (Lisa A. Alzo—familytreemagazine.com—Oct/Nov 2013-pages—28-31)

What's New, WorldCat?

WorldCat was created in 1971 by the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) as a way for libraries to share cataloging information, WorldCat, www.worldcat.org, has come a long way in the past 40 years. Originally a union catalog for OCLC members only, you can now search WorldCat online, free of charge, to find materials in your local library and thousands of libraries worldwide. If you've never used WorldCat, or you haven't done so lately, below are 5 reasons to take a closer look:

1. A unique library tool for finding and accessing materials is available to you online.

One of OCLC's original goals for WorldCat when it was first envisioned—to make it easier for libraries to find and loan materials—has led to it becoming an invaluable online resource for genealogy research. By searching WorldCat.org, you can quickly find full bibliographic information on genealogy resources in a wide variety of print and electronic formats.

Among the many valuable items you can find through WorldCat are indexes to birth marriage, death, and burial records, cemetery, probate, land, and military records; county, town, local, and family histories; diaries, family Bibles, correspondence, and other family papers; and city directories, inventories, and maps. In addition to cataloging their regular collections, many OCLC libraries have catalogued their special collections, which are often strong in local history.

Book results often include print, electronic, or microform formats. You may also find archival materials such as historical documents, oral histories, and other primary sources. You might locate journals, magazines, and other periodicals; sometimes you may even find articles or chapters. Perhaps you'll find audio or visual materials, interactive multimedia, videos, or maps. Your search may take you to another online resource, such as the digital collections of an archive, museum, or university. You can view all formats or limit your results to specific ones. You can also refine your search further by author, year, language, content, audience, and topic.

Since WorldCat isn't limited to only genealogy materials, it may help you discover new items you might not think to search for elsewhere, such as a relevant historical record in a library's special collection, a finding aid for a promising source, or a recently published book on an area of interest. Perhaps you'll view a digital version of a rare item, explore materials in a repository you haven't yet searched, or identify additional local resources near you.

A word of caution when searching WorldCat.org: Your search results will only contain holdings in libraries that subscribe to OCLC's FirstSearch service. For more detailed searching, see if your local library is a subscriber.

2. WorldCat is constantly growing!

It took nearly 34 years for WorldCat's holdings to reach one billion, but technological advances have allowed WorldCat to expand rapidly, with a new item added every 10 seconds. Last year, the WorldCat database reached its two billionth holding, more than doubling its numbers in less than eight years.

OCLC's global network also continues to expand. What began as a small group of libraries working together has become a collaborative effort involving thousands of libraries and organizations. Now the world's largest library cooperative, OCLC is a network of more than 25,900 member libraries, archives and museums in 170 countries and territories. More than 74,000 libraries have used its services, and OCLC now partners with more than 300 organizations.

3. The world's largest online library catalog now includes holdings from the world's largest genealogical collection.

Thanks to the partnership of OCLC and FamilySearch International, which began last year, two powerful research resources for genealogists—the WorldCat and FamilySearch catalogs have been brought together.

Genealogists can search both catalogs from either site, gaining quicker access to even more genealogy resources, and WorldCat now links to more than one million FamilySearch records.

Through WorldCat, you can access other genealogy library catalogs, including the Allen County Public Library, the Newberry Public Library, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and many other libraries with large genealogical collections. The WorldCat catalog also includes holdings from the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, and Library and Archives Canada, as well as numerous historical societies, museums, and state and university archives.

You will also benefit from WorldCat's other partnerships when using such online services as Google Books, Google Scholar, Internet Archive, Goodreads, and others. For example, the recent death of a fellow researcher led me to re-examining research on that family line. A Google Books search brought up a new resource: church records printed over several volumes in Nebraska Ancestree, the Nebraska State Genealogical Society journals. A click on the "Find in a library" link brought me to the record in WorldCat, which showed that the volumes are available at my local library.

4. New options make WorldCat even more user friendly.

So you've found an item of interest through WorldCat; what now? You can request circulating items from your local library, view it at a nearby library, or consider hiring a researcher to examine it for you. You could request it from another library through WorldCat's inter-library loan system or obtain copies or scans of pages of interest (particularly useful when you find a non-circulating item). You might be able to view it online through links to EBSCOhost, HathiTrust Digital Library, and other online databases.

For books still in print, WorldCat provides links to buy it through online booksellers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Better World Books. If you think it's a promising resource, but would like to know more, the WorldCat record may include a preview or reviews. You can also find additional information about the author, view similar items, or search related subjects.

If you register for a free account, you can also save searches, mark items as favorites, create public or private lists to track your finds, and share your results.

This year, WorldCat launched a new suite of cloud-based applications, WorldCat Discovery Services, which will replace FirstSearch after a year-long transition. The new subscription service brings together WorldCat and a central index of nearly 2,000 e-content collections, giving users increased access to more than 1.5 billion physical, electronic, and digital sources.

5. WorldCat now includes even more digitized records

One of the many services offered to organizations is the WorldCat Digital Collection Gateway, a tool which allows them to upload their digital content metadata to the database. The result is the addition of even more digital resources to WorldCat, including photos, maps and correspondence, newspapers, and other primary source documents.

Successful research is all about making connections, OCLC's public purpose—to improve access to information found in libraries worldwide—has resulted in a powerful online tool which allows you to make those connections more easily. Let WorldCat help you go global, and discover the rich resources in the collections of thousands of libraries, archives, and museums. (Internet Genealogy—Aug/Sept 2014—Carol Richey—pages—7-9).

Tombstone Humor

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back towards his car when his attention was diverted to another man kneeling at a grave. The man seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating "Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?

The first man approached him and said, "Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your private grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply? Perhaps a child or a parent? The mourner took a moment to collect himself and then replied, "My wife's first husband."

Extracted Records versus Original Records

In this day of computers it is very easy to find extracted records. They are convenient and in many cases they are easier to read than originals. Are extracts enough?

Look at the following example:

1. from ancestry.ca (Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952)

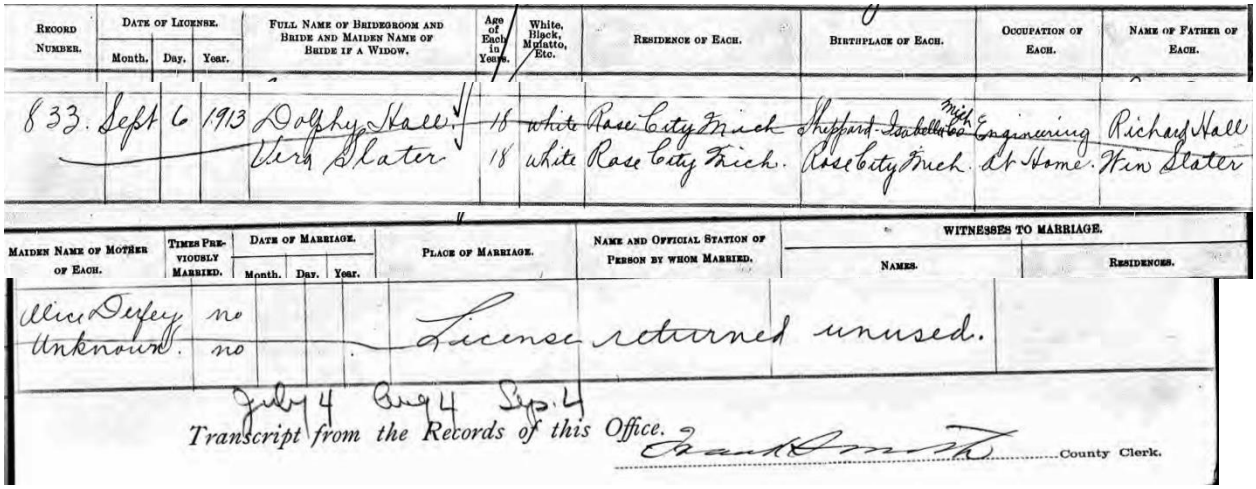
Name: Dolphy Hall
Gender: Male
Race: White
Birth Year: abt 1895
Birth Place: Sheppard Isabelle Co, Michigan
Marriage Date: Sep 1913
Marriage Place: Ogemaw, Michigan, USA
Age: 18
Residence Place: Rose City, Michigan
Father: Richard Hall
Mother: Alice Derfey
Spouse: Vera Slater
Spouse Gender: Female
Spouse Race: White
Spouse Age: 18
Spouse Birth Place: Rose City, Michigan
Spouse Residence Place: Rose City, Michigan
Spouse Father: Win Slater
Record Number: 833 Film: 115
Film Description: 1913 Lenawee - 1913 St Clair

2. from familysearch.org ("Michigan, Marriages, 1868-1925,")

Name: Dolphy Hall
Age (Expanded): 18 years
Birth Year: 1895
Birthplace: Sheppard, Isabella Co., Mich
Spouse's Name: Vera Slater
Spouse's Age (Expanded): 18 years
Spouse's Birth Year: 1895
Spouse's Birthplace: Rose City, Mich.
Event Date: 06 Sep 1913
Event Place: Ogemaw, Michigan
Father's Name: Richard Hall
Mother's Name: Alice Dufey
Spouse's Father's Name: Win Slater
Spouse's Mother's Name: Unknown
GS Film number: 2342702 , Digital Folder Number: 4209235 , Image Number: 438 ,
Reference ID: v 4 p 3 rn 833

We have two indexed records of the same marriage event. They both give a marriage date and place of the marriage for this couple. From these records we know that a marriage took place. Right? WRONG!

Look at the original record.



Record Number	Date of License. Month.	Day.	Year.	Full Name of Bridegroom and Bride and Maiden Name of Bride if a Widow.	Age of Each in Years.	White, Black, Mulatto, Etc.	Residence of Each.	Birthplace of Each.	Occupation of Each.	Name of Father of Each.
833.	Sept	6	1913	Dolphy Hall	18	white	Rose City Mich	Sheppard-Isabella Co Mich	Engineering	Richard Hall
				Vera Slater	18	white	Rose City Mich.	Rose City Mich.	At Home.	Win Slater

Maiden Name of Mother of Each.	Times Previously Married.	Date of Marriage. Month.	Day.	Year.	Place of Marriage.	Name and Official Station of Person by whom Married.	Witnesses to Marriage. Names.	Residences.
Alice Dufey	no				License returned unused.			
Unknown	no							

July 4 Aug 4 Sep. 4

Transcript from the Records of this Office. ..... County Clerk.

There is no date or place of marriage. The date is the day that the license was issued. Under the marriage particulars is the following notation: "License returned unused."

By looking at the original, we know that the marriage never took place. It is interesting to speculate what happened. Were the two eighteen year olds planning to elope? Did their parents put a stop to it. Did the couple get cold feet? Who knows? What we do know is that they did not get married at that time (and she was living in her parents' house at a much later date and listed as single).

Probably errors like this are rare, but there are many extracted records that are wrongly indexed. Henry has been indexed as Leary and Garfield as Garfuba. McPherson has been indexed as McPhoma and Wilson as Nelson. Even places are indexed wrongly such as Quidi Vidi indexed as Ouidi Vidi. Close to home, my mother's name was Zelly. On Ancestry she is indexed as Jelly on the 1921 census and Belly on the 1940 census.

The lesson from all this is: always find the original record if it is possible. Extracts are wonderful, but certainly not perfect. (Submitted by Anne Baines)

Fun Websites for Family History

Surname Distribution Maps
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Surname_Distribution_Maps
Search for surnames distribution maps for United States, Canada, Spain, France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

American Ethnic Geography
www.geolounge.com/american-ethnic-geography
These are maps that show the distribution of ethnic groups, culture regions, religion groups, language spoken, politics, and family facts, all taken from the 2000 census.

My Time Capsule Website ($)
http://www.mytimecapsule.net
My time capsule is a website where you can create your own digital time capsules. They will keep it for you to reveal it whenever you want to.

Death Test Websites:
The Death Test:
https://www.okcupid.com/the-death-test
Ever wonder when you will die or what will kill you?

The Death Clock
www.thedeathclock.org
This site uses your Body Mass Index to calculate your death date.

Family Relatives ($)
http://familyrelatives.com/
World Database of birth, marriage and death records from 1837-2005, Parish & Probate Records for England & Wales from early 1500's, Trade Directories, census records and military.

How Many of Me?
http://howmanyofme.com
There are 305,080,225 people in the U.S. The U.S. Census Bureau statistics tell us that there are at least 88,799 different last names and 5,163 different first names in common use in the United States.

Genealogy Fun Time
http://www.bjhughes.org/funtime.html
Christmas stories, funny epitaphs, funny wills, genealogy experiences, Murphy's Law of genealogy, genealogy funny paper, and etc.

Genealogy Calculators/Date & Calendar Tools--Ancestor Search
www.searchforancestors.com/utility/
This website includes age calculator, birthdate calculator, cousin calculator, day of the week calculator. Includes Easter holiday finder, inflation calculator, metaphone calculator, Roman numeral converter, soundex converter, Julian to Gregorian Calendar Chart.

Archive Timelines
http://www.infoplease.com/spot/timelinearchive.html Many timelines regarding world history, country history, U.S. history, Disasters, biography, and health.

ANYDAY Today-in-History
http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/
(Taken from a handout by Mary Tollestrup)

2016 AGS GENFAIR

Date: 23 April 2016
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
AGM starts at 4:00 p.m.
Where: Royal Canadian Legion,
5204–51st Ave. in Drayton Valley, AB

Fee: $5.00 per person
(No registration is required.)

Held every two years, (on the even years) the AGS GenFair is a genealogical open-house. The location changes throughout Alberta, and this year it is located in beautiful Drayton Valley, Alberta.

The purpose of having a GenFair is to promote the interest in genealogy. This will help attendees to find answers to their questions. There will be several vendor's tables will be available to visit during the day with one-on-one conversations, computer lookups, and presentations. There will be merchandise for sale and door prizes as well.

Keynote Speaker: Ronald Kelland, Historical Places Officer/Geographical Names Program Coordinator of the Historical Resources Management Branch, Alberta Culture and Tourism. His presentation will focus on geographical place names and where lakes, rivers and areas get their names from. Other speakers during the day will be AGS President, Susan Haga and First V.P. Lianne Kruger.

GenFair Hosted By: Drayton Valley Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society.
Phone: (780) 542-2787
For more information, or table registration, please contact Connie Stuhl at
ags.dvbranch@gmail.com