

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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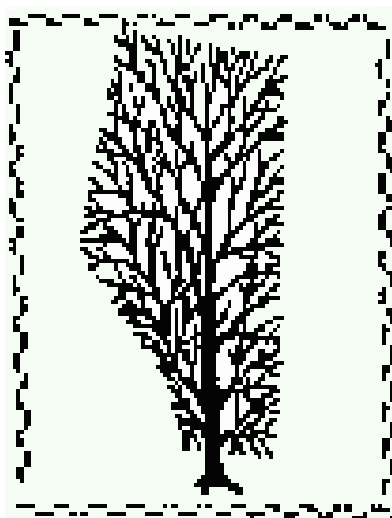


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Editor's Corner



If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting web sites 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: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. September through May. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our web site at:

<http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net>

Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Avenue North.

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

Individual or Family Membership (Includes 1 Branch)--\$60.00, Seniors (65+) Individual or Family (Includes 1 Branch)--\$55.00. If you receive Relatively Speaking digitally your membership is \$10.00 off, except for Youth membership \$5.00—Young Adult membership is \$25.00 (includes RS).

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President's Message

The first year of my presidency has now passed, and it has been an interesting and enjoyable year. Your executive remains the same for another year but look into the future as to which of you may wish to take over the reins of the Branch for next year, as all the positions will be open.

We are experimenting for 3 months with an evening opening of the library, the first Tuesday of each month from 6 pm to 9 pm. Drop by or advise others who may have trouble attending during the day to do so, we will have 2 volunteers on duty those days.

One of the things we need to work on is getting younger people to attend. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. Think of someone in your sphere of influence, maybe the person who one day will take over your research into your family and bring them along. It is not too early to plan for the continuation of your work otherwise it may become a lost project in 2 or 3 generations. Also remember that we have a youth membership of only \$5 for children in grades 1 through 12 and a young adult membership for years 18-23 for \$25.00. They may have done something on genealogy in school and have expressed an interest.

The question of providing a membership list to each member has resurfaced, and there are pros and cons to this. We will be doing a survey shortly on this, please give it your full consideration.

It looks like winter may be over, let's all shake off the winter blues and dig into our research, rather than that snow drift. --Cheers, John Squarek.

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m. Marilyn Astle gave a presentation on Publishing Your Family History Newsletter. In February we held our Annual Meeting. There were no changes to the executive. In March Len Ross a member of our Branch will be giving a presentation on Networking to Find My Mother's Polish Family.

Note: Don't forget to check on the AGS website at www.abgenealogy.ca for GenFair in April hosted by Camrose Branch!

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

The Lethbridge Family History Center hours are: Monday 9-5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 9-9 p.m. **Note:** The Family History Center will no longer be open on Saturday or Friday mornings.

Spotlight (Julie Miller)

I was born in Terrace, BC, and I went to Elementary School in Squamish, BC. I finished High School in Dawson Creek, BC and I am the oldest of three girls, I have three nieces and two nephews. My parents have passed, away, and one sister has passed away also. My two sisters along

with one nephew and one niece are interested in my findings of the family tree, so I am happy about that. My grandmothers' (mom's mom) family is from Poland, Austria, White Russia. They came to Barrhead/Sangudo, Alberta and worked the farm land. Some years later we went to a family reunion there once and the older generation was talking about past family members and I was interested in the conversation, so one of my mom's cousins was working on the family tree and she sent me her work and I was hooked. I continued for a few years when I was young about 16 years old and then I got busy and put it away.

When I moved to Lethbridge about 20 years ago, an Aunt of mine sent me some pictures and asked if I was still working on the family tree, which I wasn't, but I decided it was best to start working on it again. The idea of past relatives, what they looked like, how they lived, what they were like, has always intrigued me. I have always wondered if I looked like or took after someone from the past, and do I get my strengths from an ancestor. These questions are the drive I have to look and follow through on my family tree.

My grandfather on my mother's side was a Baker and his father was from England. He bought land in the west and came out here to work the land. He moved and lived for years in Provost, Alberta. My father's side of the family is from Ireland, and my father grew up in Creston, BC. This is my father's father's side. This side is difficult to find, so I am having a bit of a struggle with it.

My grandmother on my dad's side is from Hosmer, BC. I just found out that this side is actually Metis from Saskatchewan, so I am looking into this side and may have to see about Metis status. This was a shock to me, as none of the family knew about it. I am currently going to University, and so continuing on this family tree takes a bit of a back seat until the summer.

My husband's family is from Saskatchewan, and his ancestors came from Poland and the Ukraine. This is also interesting to me and I am slowly working on his side of the family. I enjoy hearing stories, and seeing old family pictures, it makes me feel a connection to family ties. I can almost imagine their life, and I enjoy learning about family and the history of the family. I will try to continue this work for years to come. (By Julie Miller)

Avoid Common Mistakes

(How the Genealogical Proof Standard can help you prevent errors in your family history research)

The Board for Certification of Genealogist does more than just provide certifications. It also provides a quality standard, which is called the "Genealogical Proof Standard". In summary there are 5 standards that your research should adhere to.

1. A reasonably exhaustive search for all pertinent information.
2. A complete and accurate citation to the source of each item used.
3. Analysis of the collected information's quality as evidence.
4. Resolution of any conflicting or contradictory evidence.
5. Arrive at a soundly reasoned coherently written conclusion.

This article is, however, not about these standards, but will show you how if you do not use these standards it's easy to make mistakes that can have far reaching implications for your family tree. You would be amazed to find out how many trees contain people who, at closer inspection, are not related at all.

Family Memory, Lore and Stories

Every family history starts with talking to your family members, drawing upon their memory, and recording their stories. Beware of embellished family stories. The bigger the claim, the more suspicious you should be. Family stories are a great source of information. But the greater the distance, time lapsed or more removed the family member, the less reliable it is.

Online Family Trees

Most family history researchers spend years trying to find their ancestors and get back in time. One researcher managed to his delight to get back to the 17th century in just a few days...or did he? In fact, what he had found were several family trees that were published online. These can be very tempting, especially if they link you up with famous people or families, or - as in the example above - bring your family history back several centuries. Online trees can be of significant help to researchers, but can also be very dangerous if blindly followed.

First, you need to prove that the tree you found online is related to your family, and not a family of the same name. Even if you prove beyond reasonable doubt that a person in a tree is one of your ancestors, keep in the mind that this person -- your ancestor -- might have been added in error. It does not prove that the rest of the tree is related.

Which brings us to the second point: a family tree made by someone else is only as good as the quality of their research. Before accepting the members of the online tree into your own, you will have to check each and every person. This is of course, made much easier, if the tree contains sources. The absence of which, should lead you to question if you should use the tree at all. You should spend time checking each entry, checking the source where mentioned or find a source where

not. This way you will be able to correct a lot of information, add dates, and exclude names that had been added erroneously, but also add the new names that you have found.

Finding an online family tree is great because it gives you many names that you can research; people that you might not have been aware of. But you should never accept any of them without doing the proper research yourself.

It's In the Records

You have not jumped to any conclusions, not made any assumptions: it is there in writing! However, don't forget that the people who wrote down the information were human. Church records were recorded by local clergymen, not all of whom were proficient in the art of writing. Nowadays, people are asked to fill in their own census form, but in the past, enumerators did not do this. They would make mistakes in names, in ages, professions or were misinformed. They might even have filled in the forms without visiting all the households, but recorded them from what they thought they knew. And in more modern times, transcription errors are not uncommon. So you cannot take what is in the records as absolute fact.

Dates and Ages

While spelling errors are not uncommon, dates and especially ages are more often wrong than not. This is the case in censuses, but also on marriage and death certificates. The enumerator or the person who came to notify the authorities of a death often estimated ages, and they often got it wrong.

Your ancestor's might also have lied about their age. Some wanted to be older (a young girl working as a maid, the teenage mother of a child, a more senior person claiming to be over the age to claim a pension, etc.) and some wanted to be younger (which probably includes most people over a certain age). This is why you often see that ages increase between different censuses, but not by ten years.

In family trees, we sometimes see birth years that are clearly just a wild guess as the creator of the tree has assumed that people were born 20 or 25 years before the individual got married or had their first child. Although this might be the case for the majority, there are many exceptions. You should resist making such assumptions.

Also take into account that dates can be written differently (US versus European notation) or even use a different calendar. Also note that dates of birth and baptism, dates of death and death notification can be very different. Wills are often proved long after the death of an individual, sometimes years.

However, all this does not mean that the data is useless. They will give an indication, as a 40 year

old would not claim to be 20 or vice-versa. Ages can also be very useful to check for generations: women did tend to marry in their twenties and have children afterwards. It was and is unusual for a woman to have a child after the age of 50. If you see the latter in the records consider that it might be a grandchild, raised by his or her grandmother, but recorded as a child.

Preventing These Errors

These are just some of the most common errors. Any seasoned researcher of family history will certainly be able to add to this list. To prevent them, it is important that any piece of information you find is backed up. Don't assume! You will need to find a reliable source (preferably official records, primary sources, etc.) and don't forget that once you do, record these in a research log with source citations.

Circumstantial information is very important: check the maiden name of a married woman, check names and ages of siblings and check the address where your ancestors lived, etc. Especially names and ages of siblings are important. Names might have been spelled differently, or an Elizabeth might have become an Eliza, ages might be all over the place (but the ORDER in which the children were born seldom is); but if they all match (you are lucky if there are no or only a single sibling with a common name), it is much more likely you have found the correct family. Make sure that you get all information and resolve any conflicts.

If you are estimating anything, or are not sure about a piece of data, always mark these clearly as such. This prevents you later from using this data as fact, because you forgot or you were not sure about them.

The most important advice is that sometimes something is not available yet or might have been lost. No matter how badly we might want to find an ancestor, sometimes it's just no longer possible. The worst thing to do is to reject this possibility, assume the information must be somewhere and shoehorn some individual into your family history. Remember, the information you find should be logical; the data has to fit and be believable. (Michael Van Turnhout --YourGenealogyToday-- Jan/Feb 2018)

Using a Blog to Write About Family History

A blog, short for a web blog is basically a very easy to use web site. A blog is basically an online journal--you just open it up and start to write--which makes it a great medium for documenting for your family history and sharing it with the world.

A Typical Blog

Blogs share a common format, which makes it easy for readers to quickly skim for interesting or

pertinent information. In its basic form a typical blog contains:

- Short informational entries generally arranged in reverse chronological order.
- A time and/or a date for each post.
- Links to other blogs or websites for additional content.
- Archives of all previously posted content, sometimes arranged into categories.

Blogs don't have to be all text either. Most blog software makes it easy to add photos, charts and etc. to illustrate your posts.

1. Determine Your Purpose.

What do you want to communicate with your blog? A genealogy or family history blog can be used for many reasons -- to tell family stories, to document your research steps, to share your findings, to collaborate with family members or to display photos. Some genealogists have even created a blog to share daily entries from an ancestor's diary or to post recipes.

2. Select a Blogging Platform

The best way to understand blogging is to jump right in. There are quite a few free blogging services on the web including Blogger, LiveJournal, or Wordpress.com. There are even blog hosting options geared specifically to genealogists, such as on the social networking site GenealogyWise. Alternatively you can sign up for a hosted blogging service such as Typepad, or pay for a standard hosting website and upload your own blogging software.

3. Select Format and Theme for Your Blog

The best thing about blogs is that they are very easy to use, but you will have to make some decisions about how you want your blog to look.

- **Color Scheme and Style**--most blog software offers a set of pre-designed templates, this is simply a matter to choose the one that you like.
- **Categories**--Many blogs use categories to define the general theme of each post, making it easy to find all posts on a particular topic. Basically, categories are an organizational theme. You may choose to categorize by surname or by locality. Or you can categorize by topic-- cemetery, census, death, etc. Or you can choose not to categorize your blog at all
- **Your Content Team**--if you want your blog to be a collaborative effort then you will need to select which people you plan to give access to post to your blog.

- **Comments**--if you want others to be able to post responses to your information, then you can open comments up on your blog. This makes it easier for other researchers to get in touch with you or add new information but sometimes can attract some crazies as well. You can always close comments if they don't work for you.

If you aren't sure about some of this don't worry. These are all decisions that can be changed and tweaked as you go.

4. Write Your First Blog Post

Now that we have preliminaries out of the way, it's time to create your first post. If you don't do a lot of writing, this will probably be the most difficult part of blogging. Break yourself into blogging gently by making your first posts short and sweet. Browse other family history blogs for inspiration. But try to write one new post every few days.

5. Publicize Your Blog

Once you have a few posts on your blog you will need an audience. Begin with an e-mail to your friends and family to let them know about your blog. If you're using a blogging service then make sure you turn on the ping option. This alerts the major blog directories every time you make a new post. You can also do this through sites called Ping-o-matic. You'll also definitely want to join Geneabloggers, where you'll find yourself in good company among over 2000 genealogy bloggers. Consider participating in a few blog carnivals as well such as the Carnival of Genealogy.

6. Keep It Fresh!

Starting a blog is the hardest part but your job's not done yet. A blog is something that you have to keep up with. You don't have to write every day but you do need to add to it on a regular basis or people will not come back to read it. Vary what you write about to keep yourself interested. One day you can post photos from a cemetery visit, and the next you can write about a great new database you found online. The interactive, ongoing nature of a blog is one of the reasons that it's such a good medium for genealogists - it keeps you thinking about, searching for and sharing your family history. (Kimberley Powell--About.com--June 2017)

A New Look at Old Yearbooks

Far more than being souvenirs of one's person's high school or college years, yearbooks can provide family historians with lavish supply of personal information and pictures one won't find anywhere else. More and more archives of yearbooks are

available online today, and many of them are available without charge. We'll take a look at some of the genealogical benefits of browsing vintage yearbooks, and some tips for finding digital images of the ones you need for your own family research.

An early version of the yearbook was the college "class book". Such books were manuscript records, collecting records of class or alumni meetings, biographical data on graduates, lists of students, and so on. Instead of every student having a copy of the book, the students contributed to a single volume that remained at the school as a memento of their class. Harvard, for example, had class books beginning around 1808.

Yale University is regarded as the first school in the U.S. to have what we think of now as a yearbook. A college newspaper founded in 1841 evolved into an annual publication called the Yale Banner. For years it was a single sheet folded into four pages, mainly consistent of lists of students and college societies.

Other colleges adopted the idea of an annual publication. Gradually, these periodicals added more and more content, absorbed "class books", and grew into a large bound volumes. Many colleges chose unique off-beat names for their annuals, such as the X-Ray of the Medical College of Virginia; or the Debris of Indiana's Purdue University.

Which Ancestors Might Be In a Yearbook?

Until the mid 1900's college graduates were only a tiny fraction of the population. In 1870, about three decades after the first college yearbook appeared at Yale, nationwide college enrollment numbered only about 52,000 out of a population of almost 40 million. College attendance arose to about 5% of Americans aged 18-21 by 1920, increasing to 30% by 1955.

When searching through the annuals, don't forget to check under the maiden names of female relatives. By the way, sometimes the "class year" in old college sources can cause confusion. In the 1800's, the "Class of 1876" (for example) might mean the students who entered a school in 1876, rather than those who graduated that year. Despite the lack of photos in early yearbooks, there may be other useful genealogical information. Lists of students and alumni often appeared. Sometimes, personal information, such as student's home town; and participation in sports and clubs was listed. Early photos in yearbooks tended to be group pictures of fraternities, sororities, college clubs and organizations, and athletic teams.

Yearbooks are a useful archive of a school's athletic history. One can get an outline of the dates the different sports were added or dropped, as well as the origin of a team's name or mascot's.

Ancestors may have photos in more than one

yearbook. Someone in the family may have transferred to one college to another, or halted their education for a time and resumed it at a different school. Graduates bound for professional careers may have studied law or medicine at another university.

Yearbooks and the World Wars

There are no comprehensive lists of US military personnel from World War I, so genealogists rely on a number of different sources to trace relatives who served in that conflict. College yearbooks, especially the digitized (and word-searchable) versions available online, are an easy place to check for WWI ancestors.

Perhaps the easiest place to find information is a college's 1919 yearbook (more and more college yearbooks are being digitized and placed online). These volumes often contain photos and a short history of their school's wartime program, and some of them have rosters. Ancestry.com collections include U.S., Lists of Men Ordered to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917-1918. The collection lists men who reported to an army camp for active service.

Finding College and High School Yearbooks

Local libraries and University libraries are good places to look for school yearbooks from a town or a region. Digitized yearbooks from hundreds of schools can be found online at: Google Book (<http://books.google.com>), the Internet Archive (www.archive.org), and the HathiTrust Digital Library (www.hathitrust.org).

Ancestry.com offers seven million images from 51,000 annuals in their collection. An Internet search may well find the college yearbooks you need to research your family. Individual college archives and libraries have online collections of their annuals, beginning as far back as the 1800's. Often, these digital archives include other useful material, such as school newspapers, catalogs, and photo collections.

Today, many colleges no longer publish yearbooks. The tradition is caught between rising print costs and the trends of a digital age. Genealogists of the future may well do much of their research of their ancestor's college days by searching archives of Facebook, Twitter and other online services. (David A. Norris--Internet Genealogy--Aug/Sept 2017).

Historical Sources on the Halifax Explosion

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion the Municipal Archives offers a summary of sources of its holdings related to the explosion. This rich and detailed documentary of Halifax and Dartmouth's response to the explosion

is provided through links to digitized copies of the original historical records. Follow the links to a direct connection to the events, decisions and people who were affected by the catastrophe and involved in the relief and reconstruction efforts that followed.

The Nova Scotia Archives and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic are the local centers for research on the Halifax Explosion. The municipal sources provided here are an important complement to the records and artifacts held provincially.

(<https://www.halifax.ca/about.halifax/municipal-archives-sources-guides/halifax-explosion.html>)

Halifax Explosion Remembrance Book --A list of those that died--Dec. 6, 1917--

The Halifax Remembrance Book was originally developed in 2002 as a commemorative project sponsored by the Halifax Foundation and its chair--the late Edmund Morris, a former city mayor. The objective of the project was to compile a definitive listing of the known dead from the disaster of 6 Dec. 1917. Two end products resulted in a fully searchable electronic database for extended research purposes and an abbreviated, limited edition version produced in paper format for general reference use at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

The database version of the Remembrance Book currently featured on this website is an expanded and updated version of the one developed in 2002. So great was the catastrophe of 6 December 1917 that within days, government officials decided to open a special ledger book in order to record the names and details of the victims--both those who had died immediately and those who succumbed to injuries and disaster-related illnesses in the weeks and months following the explosion. When the register was closed in December 1918, it contained 1,631 entries.

Over the years the ledger was kept in the Nova Scotia Vital Statistics Office and in 2004 it was transferred to the Archives. The 1,631 names recorded in the book have now been integrated into the existing electronic database and all 272 pages in the register have been digitized. These pages now form part of the revised website, linked directly to individual names in the database.

The database now contains 1,835 names--an enduring record of the men, women and children known to have died either in the Explosion, in the days immediately after, or in the following months as a direct result of the events of 6 December 1917. The supporting information provided in the database, fully referenced and sourced in this online version, was compiled by searching various records held at the Nova Scotia Archives.

The original chief source of information for the project was the list of 1,535 victims published in

McAlpine's Halifax City Directory for 1918, and entitled "Name of the Identified Dead Killed in the Explosion at Halifax 6 Dec. 1917". This source was also used in compiling an augmented list published in 1998 by the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia (Nova Scotia Genealogist, XVI (2), 1998, 94-112); the latter list was used as well in compiling the current database.

Due to the devastation caused by the Explosion, it's unlikely that the names of all the victims will ever be captured. The disaster took place at the height of the First World War, at a time when there were many newcomers and transients in the city, it is possible that some of their names were missed, and entire families could have been excluded for the same reason. Online visitors may also want to visit the Halifax 1917 Explosion Online Resources page to learn more about this defining event.

(<https://novascotia/archives/remembrance.html>)

Irish Land Records Looking for Family Footprints in the Old Sod

The large majority of 19th century Irish folk were tenants renting land on large estates. Truth is, the records associated with the land's boundaries, valuation, and taxation are among rather few remnants of their existence. This is due to factors such as the absence of virtually all pre-1901 censuses and the relative lateness of (and some lack of adherence to) the civil registration of births, marriages and deaths. Luck may lead us to entries of their baptisms, nuptials, or funerals in church parish registers. Then again, luck and all things Irish don't always intersect; so an ancestral hunt on the Emerald Isle should always include a thorough review of the land based records for traces of their footprints.

Here are some places to look:

Tithe Applotment Books

As far back as medieval times, tenants (aka "occupiers") of agricultural land in Ireland were obliged to forfeit one-tenth of their harvest. At first, these tithe payments supported local clergy or monasteries, but over time were re-directed to the Church of Ireland, the "official" church established by law in the 1500's. This came to be resented by many, particularly Roman Catholics...who represented the overwhelming bulk of the tenants. The tithing of the production eventually morphed into a tax of inconsistently-calculated cash payments. In 1823, a Parliamentary Act converted the Tithe into an apportioned fixed monetary amount based on historical average parish prices of wheat or oats.

To properly assess the tax, valuations of occupiers' agricultural holdings were determined between the years 1823 and 1837. In each parish

(as defined by Church of Ireland parish boundaries) and recorded in the "Tithe Applotment Books". The books look different across the parishes, but contain some uniform information, including the name of the occupier, holding size, valuation amount, and the payable tithe. These are not records of households, as there is no mention of family members. The only women listed are typically widowed and no children are recorded. Also, urban dwellers were excluded from the tithe books unless they also held plots of agrarian land.

The books represent the earliest surviving county-wide list of land occupiers and are among the exceedingly rare records pertaining to pre-famine era ancestors. They are arranged on a very locally-specific basis, either by town land (the smallest territorial division for civil administration purposes) or even smaller subdivisions. In most cases, if you locate your people in this record set, you will know the precise locale of where they lived.

The original books for the Irish Republic's 26 counties are held by the National Archives of Ireland and those for Northern Ireland's 6 counties are in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland ("PRONI"). The records for all of the Irish Republic, and a few parishes in Northern Ireland straddling the Republic are online, digitized and freely accessible at <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie>.

Griffith's Primary Valuation

The ravages of the Great Famine of the 1840's caused over a million deaths due to starvation and disease, and provoked the exodus of at least the same amount. Much of the remaining population was helplessly impoverished. Tax collections aided these poor, but were inconsistently levied. In response, the Government pushed the "final phase" of an in-depth survey of the country that had begun decades before to fairly assess how much each person should be taxed based on land value. An arduous appraisal was carried out all across Ireland. The end product was published between 1847 and 1864. It was dubbed "Griffith's Primary Valuation", named after the Director of the Valuation Office at the time--Richard Griffith.

Like the Tithe records, Griffith's Valuation lists the name of the occupiers upon each tenement; ordinarily, the male head of the household, with no family information--again, no children and very few women. The lessor/landlord is also named along with the description of the property, its acreage and the valuation. Keep a keen eye for notations next to the tenants names, inserted to identify same-named individuals in close vicinity. There's a fair share of "Jr" and "Sr", but also some descriptive terms used like "red" (hair color) or tailor (occupation). Better yet are those marked

with a family name reference such as their father or that of another prominent relative. These clues can frequently link family relationships...be sure to not overlook them.

The Griffith's Primary Valuation is more comprehensive than the tithe records in that all dwellings (rural and urban) are included. However most importantly, each property has a numbered map reference corresponding to the related Ordnance Survey map. These detailed small-scaled maps often have an outline of individual houses next to the numbered references. So while the Tithe Applotment Books could lead you to your ancestral town land or a subdivision, Griffith's Valuation can pinpoint the actual location of their home! Once you've got it go to the Ordnance Survey website (www.ois.ie) and view the progressive maps for the property through the years. With Google Maps or another mapping service, you can zoom in close enough to position yourself on the grounds of the old homestead. Griffith's Primary Valuation is available free online at www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation.html (with linked Ordnance Survey maps)

Ancillary Records for Griffith's Primary Valuation

The primary valuation records grab most of the land record limelight, but the supportive documents leading up to it are quite valuable in their own right. During the 20 years before the first publication of the primary valuation, there were tremendous amounts of legwork by Griffith's workforce; trekking the whole of the isle, note taking, cataloging, measuring, and mapping. In the wake of this effort are fact-filled manuscripts such as the House Books, Field Books and Perambulation Books.

The House Books and Field Books were compiled between 1830 and the 1860's. Their existence and usefulness vary by locality. Good specimens show names of occupiers and particulars such as quality of the soil, home dimensions, building materials used, and information on outbuildings on the property. The surviving Perambulation Books are the results of valuation officials' visits between 1844 and the early 1860's. They cover a broader range of lesser valued properties, including rural occupiers who rented collectively via "communal" usage of land. This was known as the rundale system--a common farming arrangement in old Ireland. Under this system, groups of families joined together in renting land; their simple cottages often clustered near each other on one end of the tract and the rest divided into areas used for crops, pasture, and bog.

In some cases, these communal tenants are not individually listed in Griffith's Primary Valuation, but however do turn up in the books. Also, since

these always predated the final valuation records, you may find otherwise "missing" ancestors therein. For the House and Field Books check them out at www.nationalarchives.ie.

The Subsequent Valuation Revision Books

There were continuing changes and updates to the data in the Griffith's Primary Valuation records as tenants (or landlords) moved, aged, or died and their holdings passed to a new occupier or owner. The revisions were duly penned into the original books; usually in different colored ink to highlight the revisions by crossing a line through the prior name and writing the new one above. Once a book became unreadable and littered with modifications, it would be marked as "cancelled" (hence these records are sometimes referred to as "Cancellation Books") and a new book would be opened in its place. This system continued through the 1970's (1930's for Northern Ireland).

Needless to say, the revision books are very useful for genealogists as they provide clues for family transitional events. Names crossed out could indicate a death, emigration or property sale, which may be traceable to civil records, ships' manifests, or revision books in a nearby town land. If the property remained in the family one can follow the succession through the revisions books into the 1901 and 1911 censuses, and beyond...potentially leading to living relatives!

"Extra" Terrestrial Records

The Tithe Applotment Books, Griffith's Primary Valuation, and the Subsequent Revision Books are the "prime real estate" of Ireland's land-based records, but others include:

Estate Records

These are the annals of Ireland's land-owning class in relation to their property and tenants (an ancestral landlord's name --the "immediate lessor"-- can be gleaned from the valuation records). Contained within their estate records may be lists of the tenants, rental arrangements, account books, maps and correspondence. Some go back to the 1700's. They are not housed in a central location. Several are in private repositories, others have been placed online by local historical or genealogical societies, and more are at the National Archives, the National Library or PRONI. There's also a very informative database covering numerous old estates and their proprietors at www.landedestates.ie.

Landed Estates Court Rentals Records

Landlords were impacted by the famine, as rent collections suffered and land values plummeted, while debt and annuity obligations remained. Over-encumbrance and sometimes bankruptcy ensued. Courts were established to administer the breakup

and sales of these "landed estates". To solicit purchasers, descriptive documents were printed with lists of tenants, terms of their tenancy, and detailed maps. A searchable digitized version of the collection is available at www.findmypast.com covering 1850-1885, representing over 8,000 estates and more than 500,000 tenants. The records can also be accessed in limited format through FamilySearch at LDS centers and affiliated facilities.

1901 and 1911 Censuses

Though not traditional "land records", these wonderful snapshots of Irish households are very worthy of review. Even if your ancestors emigrated prior to the census years; you may find relatives that remained on family land. You'll see the names, ages, professions, etc. plus a glimpse of the property, including the quality of the home, number of rooms and windows, and outbuildings. The census and surviving fragments of earlier ones are free online at www.nationalarchives.ie. (By Joe Graninetti--yourgenealogytoday.com--Feb 2016).

Ukraine Beginning Research

Understand the historical context, become acquainted with the best sources for genealogical research, the arrangement of records in an archive, and learn options to acquire information from the sources.

Gazetteers

ShtetlSeeker provides variants spellings and historical jurisdictions for places with Jewish populations which covers many places for all ethnic groups. URL: www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker.

The basic gazetteer for historical Ukraine are selected volumes from the Russian Empire postal directories: Spiskl Naselennykh Mest Rossiiskoi Imperii (List of populated places in Russia). S. Peterburg:Tsentralnyi Statisticheskii Komitet MinisterstvoVnutrennikh Del, 1861-1885. 62 vols. (Fiche 6,002,224/420 microfiches) identifies religious congregations.

One gazetteer for modern Ukraine is Ukrains'ka RSR admynstrativno-teritoryal'nilpodyl (Ukrainian Republic Administrative Territorial Divisions). Kiev, 1973. (Book 947.71 E5U). While published for other years, the 1973 edition is the basis for places in the FamilySearch.org Catalog.

An encyclopedia that provides historical details and names changes for places is Istorია Mist Sil USSR (History of Towns and Villages in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic). Kiev 1969-1974. 26 v. (Book 947.71 E5i).

Galicia & Bukovina (Western Ukraine)

Lenius, Brian J. Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia. 3rd ed. Anola, Manitoba, 1999. (Book 943.86 E51). Identifies religious jurisdictions.

German, Polish and Romanian versions of place names are provided by *Gemeindelexikon der im Reichsrath vertretenen Königreiche und Länder...* vom 31. Dezember 1900 (Locality Dictionary and Crownlands and Territories Represented in the Imperial Council). Wien, 1905-1908. Bd 12: Galizien, Bd. 13. Bukowina (Vol. 12: Galicia, Vol 13. Identifies religious jurisdictions). URL: [BYU Library Family History Archive: www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php](http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php).

Polish place names and jurisdictions are provided by *Skorowidz miejscowosci rzeczywospolitej polskie* (Listing of Localities of the Polish Republic) Bystrzycki, Tadeusz Przemysl, 1934, 2 volumes. URL: www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=12786 (Need to download a view called DJVu Browser) to see the images.

Transcarpathia

Dvorzsak, Janos, comp. *Magyarország Helysegnevtara* (Gazetteer of Hungary) . Budapest: "Havi Fuzetek," 1877 identifies religious jurisdictions. URL: [BYU Library Family History Archive: www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php](http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php).

Maps

Austrian pre-WWI maps for western Ukraine. *Generalkarte von Mitteleuropa* (General Maps of Central Europe). Vienna, 1898-1967. 249 maps. Scale 1:200,000 covers southern Belarus, western Ukraine, and Moldova. This map set uses Ferro as the Prime Meridian, which is 17 39 44 degrees west of Greenwich. URL: <http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.html>. Modern Soviet military maps, 1:100,000 are found at [Mana.com](http://mana.com) (<http://mana.com.ua/>)

Sources

Metrical Books or Parish Registers (metriki)

The majority of these begin in the middle of the 18th century. Normally two copies were made, one local and the other a transcript sent annually to a central ecclesiastical or civil office. Metrical books consist of forms filled out annually, filed and then bound into books. Over time they were filed in any order imaginable. Quite often the records of churches in a district for a single year are bound in the same volume. Most metrical books are found in state archives but ZAHs (civil registration) offices often have metrical books back to the beginning of the 20th century. These are normally the local copy of the metrical book. They are supposed to be transferred to State archives after 75 years.

Russian Orthodox

The keeping of metrical books was mandated by a 1722 decree of Peter the Great. A format of three parts--christenings, marriages, deaths--was

established in 1724; a printed format in 1806, and in 1838 a format that prevailed until the Russian Revolution in 1918. A Ukrainian diocese (eparkhiia) was coterminous with a Ukrainian state (guberniia).

Greek Catholic (Uniate)

Uniates were followers of the Byzantine rite that returned to union with Rome. In 1839 the Church was formally dissolved in Ukraine and its members considered Orthodox. The Church persisted in Galicia and Transcarpathia, then under Austro-Hungarian rule. When these areas were assimilated into Ukraine, this religion was outlawed. The descendants of Ukrainians may not be aware of the distinction between Uniate and Orthodox.

Roman Catholic

While these often go back to an earlier period, these were mandated by the government to be compiled in 1826. Three copies were made for the diocese, the deanery (dekanat level between the diocese and the parish). There were three dioceses covering parts of the Ukraine in 1900: Odessa (created in 1899), Tiraspol (located in Saratov), and Zhytomyr (Zhitomir).

Evangelical (Lutheran)

In 1832, Russia mandated keeping these records. The diocesan headquarters for Ukraine was located in St. Petersburg. The registers were kept in German until law of 1891 required that they be kept in Russian Jewish. In 1835 the government mandated keeping these records in two copies: one local and one for the government.

Baptist

Civil registration was mandated in 1879. Two copies were created, one for the provincial administration and the other for the regional police headquarters.

Revision Lists/Family Lists(revizskie skazski/posemeinye spiski)

The quickest way to identify families is revision lists, kept between 1719-1858 to support a national poll tax established by Peter I to change the basis of taxation from households to individuals. Encountering opposition, it still took several years for the returns to come in. The second revision (1743-1747) began after the ascension of Tsarina Elizabeth. The 4th revision, 1778-1787 was first conducted by a local institution, the region fiscal chamber (kazionnaia palata). Revisions 5-10 were conducted during: (5) 1794-1808, (6) 1811-1812, (7) 1815-1825, (8) 1833-1835, (9) 1850-1852, (10) 1857-1859. The last three revisions noted familial changes between revisions. Separate vols. were kept for the different social classes: (merchant)

(kupchestvo), urban citizen ((meshchane), peasant (krestiane), etc. Nobility, clergy, officialdom, army and higher strata of the urban population were exempt--5-10% in the 19th century. Family lists and local census records 1860-1917, later equivalents of the revision lists occur sparsely in archives.

1897 Census (Perepis 1897)

The 1897 census was the only universal census in Imperial Russia, including Ukraine. It was conducted in the middle of the winter because this was the time when the populace was least mobile. The census tabulated information on name, age, sex, relationship, social class, occupation, religion, native tongue, literacy, birthplace, residence, registration site, military status and disabilities. A copy was sent to St Petersburg and was destroyed. Local copies have survived in the Ukraine only for Kiev Province and for the Odessa City.

Conscription Lists (prizyvnye spiski)

The government instituted conscription 1874-1918. The drafting of selected groups began earlier but as of January 1, 1874, all 21 year old males were subjected to military service. Conscription occurred each year in October. The term of service varied from 3-5 years. Less than 50 percent of the draftees were inducted.

Lineage Books (rodoslovnye knigi)

The gentry nobility assembly (deputatskoe dvorianskoe sobranie) was established in 1785 by Catherine the Great as the local governing body of the nobility. These books were compiled and turned into the assembly to confirm their hereditary status as nobles. They normally identify males only and relationships from father to son.

Research Procedures

During the period of Soviet Rule, archives centralized and preserved a vast holding of genealogical sources dating primarily from 1721-1917. Since 1992, the Family History has acquired a substantial collection of these sources on microfilm and as digital images.

Russian is the primary language of the records but other languages are Polish, German and Latin. If the researcher identifies locations with the same name, he will need to track down the one in the appropriate jurisdiction.

When it is not in the FHL collection, you must determine in what archive the records are housed. There is a key site for Ukraine it's the Archives of Ukraine (<http://www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/>)

Other Websites Are:

Ukrainian Genealogical Research Bureau (<http://www.ukrgenealogy.com>)
Lemkos (<http://www.lemko.org>)
Indexes Germans in Ukrainian Records (<http://www.odessa3.org/collections.html>)
Genealogy of Eastern Galicia (<http://www.hagal.com/vitalrecords.html>)
Genealab.com (Genealogy Research in Ukraine) (<http://genealab.com>)

When visiting an archive, success depends largely on making prior arrangements so they know your purpose. Even then access is controlled by the disposition or the mood of the archivist. Travel conditions and facilities are usually below western standards. You may need a local guide/interpreter.

Ukrainian genealogical records are filed by record group (fond); the records of a specific organization, portion of an organization, or individual. Archives also create collections in which records of different organizations or individuals are filed together on a thematic basis. Thus, vital records of different religions can be filed together. A single volume, file or even a single sheet of paper is an item (sprava). Each item is given a title based upon the record type and contents. Items are usually filed chronologically by the earliest year of information found in that item.

An inventory (opis) is a list of items in a record group or collection. the inventory identifies the title assigned to each item, the sequential number, and information on inclusive dates and number of pages. There may be multiple inventories for a record group, reflecting different types of material or different accessions of records for the same institution. As a result, each item is defined by three numbers: fond, opis, sprava. Later insertions are given an alpha designation after the number such as 21a, 21b, etc. (A wiki article describing an online collection is found at: Ukrainian Births and Baptisms (Family Search Historical Records.)

25 Best Genealogy Websites for Beginners

Online genealogy records, where they exist are usually scattered across several internet locations. If you find a record, the website can be confusing at first.

- 1. About.com**--Dive into dozens of how-to-articles on research basics, online searching, and sharing and preserving the past. You won't do actual research on this site but you will learn a lot.
- 2. Ancestry.com** \$--Although a paid site can be found free to use at Family History Centers and at some Genealogical Societies. Take the most-used genealogy data subscription for a spin.
- 3. AfriGeneas**--Providing Education and resources for those researching African-American roots. Start with the Beginner's Guide under the Records tab,

then search marriage, death, surname and slave databases.

4. Archives.com \$--This site gives you access mainly to US censuses, vital records and old newspapers in the US, and some in the UK. The Help Center answers basic questions about searches and account information. The Learn-to tab leads you to how-to articles and video tutorials.

5. Atlas of Historical County Boundaries--Many genealogical records are created by counties, the boundaries of which may have changed over time. On this site, click a state, then View Interactive Map, and then enter the date for which you want to see county boundaries.

6. BillionGraves.com--Search an enormous GPS-tagged database of tombstone images. You can also upload tombstone photos you've snapped with a free iPhone/Android camera app.

7. Chronicling America--The Library of Congress' portal to historical newspapers has two important areas of content: digitized newspaper pages (1836-1922) from 25 states and Washington DC and an index to all known newspapers published in the US and where to find them today.

8. Cyndi's List--Consider Cyndi Howells' site your table of contents for online genealogy. You'll find lists of sites dedicated to researching particular places, types of records, ethnic and religious groups and more. Check out the Beginner's category for guides and tips just for newbies.

9. FamilySearch.org--This is one of the best free online resources available. Search millions of digitized and indexed records from around the world. Don't ignore the Learn tab; it's packed with keyword-searchable articles and online courses. The Catalog tab takes you to the most extensive genealogy library catalog in the world.

10. FamilyTreeMagazine.com--This website offers abundant tools and how-to's for beginners. The Get Started tab introduces you to the research process. Find free forms and cheat sheets under the Research Toolkit tab.

11. Find-a-Grave--Dig up ancestral burial information from millions of tombstone images here. Search by an individual or cemetery name. Users can upload tombstone photos and submit biographical information for memorial pages.

12. Findmypast.com \$--The flexible membership options (like a la carte pricing for looking at search results) will appeal to many beginners. You don't have to be a member to access the site's Get Started section, which offers a user-friendly guide to the research process.

13. Fold3.com \$--This is the go-to source for digitized US military records from the Revolutionary War forward. Anyone can go to the home page to "report for training."

14. GenealogyBank \$--This site is best known for its 6,000-plus historical newspaper titles. Search

results are labeled as historical or modern obituaries, marriage notices, immigration records--making it easier to find what you're looking for.

15. General Land Office Records--Find many records generated when our ancestors bought land from the federal government, especially in the Midwest and West. Access images of more than 5 million land title records dating back to 1820. Click on the Reference Center for more information about public land sales, patents and survey plats.

16. Google--In addition to the ability to search for names and places. Google offers several genealogy friendly tools. Google Translate, Google Books, Google Maps, and Google Earth.

17. Heritage Quest Online--Access this resource free if your local library offers it. Just click to search censuses, Freedman's Bank Records and Revolutionary War materials, local and family history books, articles and more.

18. JewishGen--Make this your first step for tracing Jewish roots. Under the Get Started tab, choose First Timer for an intro to Jewish research and the site.

19. MyHeritage.com \$--Discover several innovative features tech-savvy genealogists like, and many are free. Click on Genealogy for an overview of those features: build a family tree, run simultaneous searches across major genealogy databases and create a website.

20. Mocavo--This search engine is just for genealogy. It provides a central tool for searching records in other relevant locations on the internet, and lets you upload your own trees and documents. Basic searches are free--more-detailed searches require a subscription.

21. National Archives Resources--Genealogists
Here's your portal to the US repository for most federal military, census, immigration and other records. Some have been digitized or indexed; click on Online Research Tools, then Access to Archival Databases or Records Digitized by Partners.

22. NewspaperArchive.com \$--Access more than 120 million newspaper pages dating back to 1607. Browse newspapers by state and city, or enter names and other keywords along with desired dates and locations.

23. USGenWeb Project--Explore a directory to websites containing free genealogical resources for every US state and most counties.

24. Webpages by Stephen P. Morse--Beginners looking for passenger and immigration information won't want to pass up this site. Morse has created better search tools for data found on other websites.

25. World Vital Records--A budget friendly beginner option, World Vital Records provides digitized and index data from many parts of the world (find an interactive map on the home page). (Sunny Jane Morgan—familytreemagazine.com—September 2016)