

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 36, No. 1
February 2019
ISSN 0836-5318

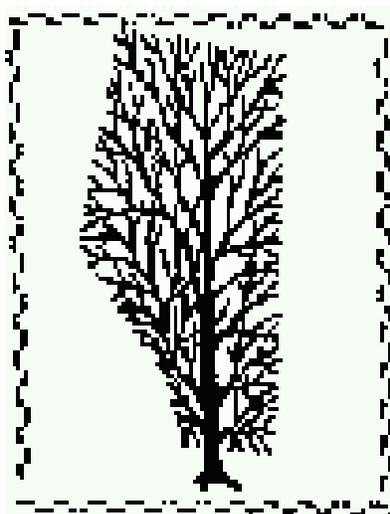


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Committee	2
President's Message	2
Monthly Meetings	2
Lethbridge Family History Center	2
RootsTech 2019	2
Occupations of Yesteryear	3-4
Do You Have Ancestors Who Were Indentured Servants?	4-5
Researching Around Ireland's Destroyed Records	5-6
Historical Timelines	6-8
Maps in Family History Research	8-9
What Are Dit Names?	9-10
Tips for Reading Handwriting.	10-11
Alberta Churches, Archives & Societies.	11-12
Genealogy Quotes	12

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/Exec.htm>

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

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

Individual or Family Membership (Includes 1 Branch)-\$60.00, Seniors (65+)-\$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

I guess my previous message was wishful thinking on the part of the weather, since as I write this its -25 C outside.

We are approaching the elections to be held at the February 2019 meeting for the Branch Executive. The positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary are open and will be elected at that meeting. Please come out and support the new executive.

At the meeting we will also discuss a proposal to have Dave Obee present a workshop, and we would like your comment and input on this. The Proposal has been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

AGS is looking for an Editor of Relatively Speaking publication. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact me.

Don't forget that on the weekend of April 26-28, 2019 in Edmonton the Alberta Genealogical Society is hosting another provincial conference celebrating the human story—Images Through Time. Visit the AGS website for further information.

I said in the last message that it would be my last, but alas, Susan has asked for another, so I will repeat what I did say relative to my time as president. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the position, and I encourage others to consider involvement with the management of the Branch. If you have ideas on membership or youth activities, this would be a good place to start.

--John Squarek

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. Belinda Crowson of the Galt Museum Archives gave a presentation on the Community of Hardieville. On Thursday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. we will be holding our Annual Meeting everyone is encouraged to attend.

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

The Lethbridge Family History Center hours: Monday 9:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-8:00 p.m. **Note:** The Family History Center is no longer open on Saturdays.

RootsTech—Feb 27-2 March 2019

Held: Salt Palace Convention Center
100 South West Temple St, Salt Lake City, Utah
The event will feature 300 breakout sessions, an exciting line-up of celebrity speakers (including Lianne Kruger) and 200 exhibitors. Check www.rootstech.org for updates and registration details.

Trading in an Old Name: Occupations of Yesteryear (What Your Ancestors Did for A Living)

Iceberg movers, face feelers, pet detectives, undercover bridesmaids. These names refer to a few modern-day occupations that would baffle our ancestors. But that doesn't mean our ancestors didn't have their own confusing assortment of names for trades and occupations that existed in their own times. Fortunately, family historians can rely on the internet to help them sort out occupations from the past.

When you find an unfamiliar occupation listed for one of your relatives in a source such as a census, a city directory, or a newspaper, you might refer to some of the following websites to begin to understand what the job involved.

Old Occupation Names from England and the United States The four websites in this section offer extensive lists of old occupations. If you can't locate an occupation you are looking for on one of the web sites, try another one. Each site includes some unique entries.

1) Hall's Genealogy Website

You'll discover a large index of old English occupations at <http://rmhh.co.uk/occup>. Besides listing many names, this site offers several useful features. When applicable, it provides multiple definitions for an occupation, for example, you'll learn that a "shepster" could be either a "dressmaker" or a "sheep-shearer". Variations of a name appear, as in the case of "sempster/seamstress/sewster" meaning seamstress". Related occupations, such as "shingler" and "iron puddler", are cross-referenced. And links to rich text files (rtf) provide further information. In some instances, you'll even encounter relevant history associated with the name of an occupation.

2) Victorian Occupations

This blog provides transcriptions occupations that appeared in the decennial, 1891 census for London, organized alphabetically, at: www.census1891.com/occupations-a.php. Basic explanations accompany the name of each job. You'll find more than one definition for an occupation when appropriate. You'd discover that a "waller" was "someone who built walls either with bricks or dry stone", but it could also be "someone who worked making coarse salt". The site offers you the chance to view all the occupations that existed in a single time and place.

3) World Through the Lens

Obscure old English occupations extracted from the censuses dating from 1841 through 1911 appear

with descriptions of the jobs at this website www.worldbroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php. The list isn't as exhaustive as that included on some similar sites, but the site's creators inform viewers that the occupations have been carefully chosen and defined.

4) Family Researcher

Genealogist Jane Hewitt offers her Dictionary of Old Occupations for family historians to consult at www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index.html#Old-Occupation-A.

You can access the alphabetical index of professions from the home page. The name of each occupation links to a page including its definition. If you're interested through the site, you can purchase the dictionary for offline reference purposes.

Old Occupation Names by Region and Language The websites below focus on old occupation names for geographic areas and/or include foreign language references.

1) Old Scottish Occupations

If you'd like to research Scottish occupations of the past, you might want to look at this website www.wakefieldfhs.org.uk/morayweb/Scottish%20Occupations.htm. This partial extract of occupations and the associated explanations that originated with the Scotroots Ancestor Service. Some of the jobs, such as "wadsetter", are specific to Scotland. The text explains that a "wadset" is "a right, under the Scottish Law, by which lands are honored to a creditor in security of a debt."

2) Occupations in New France

To research occupational names found in New France, consider consulting www.acadian-home.org/occupations.html. New France covered a large area that, by the early 1700s, extended roughly from Newfoundland through Arcadia, along the St Lawrence River, to the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi Valley, down to the Gulf of Mexico.

On this website devoted to Acadian and French-Canadian genealogy, research, and history, you'll discover almost three-hundred old occupation names in French with their corresponding English translations. You won't find descriptions of the jobs included, but you may want to consult the list as a place to start when researching individuals from the region.

3) Old French Occupations

If you can understand written French, you'll be able to take advantage of an excellent site for

research into French occupations from long ago at <http://www.vieuxmetiers.org/>. A description or definition follows the name of each occupation. Links connect related occupations throughout the site. In some instances, you'll also be able to view an image associated with the job.

4) Old German Occupations

If you're one of the 49 million Americans who claim to have German ancestry, you may do some research using German records. European Roots Genealogy has published the names of the most common old German occupations that no longer exist: www.european-roots.com/german_prof.htm

On the site, you'll see the names of trades or occupations in English, followed by a lengthy list of names in, which may prove challenging to decode German. By way of example, it includes many terms for trades associated with leather: for tanners, shoemakers, saddlers, bridle makers, purse and glove makers, belt makers, and whip makers. You'll also find words for various types of leather (goat, cow, chamois, etc.).

To search for keywords of interest, press CTRL + F on your keyboard, and enter your search term. The site often groups together related occupations, without necessarily providing precise definitions for each one. Nevertheless, it offers valuable information you're unlikely to find elsewhere.

Even if you think you know what a certain old occupation involved, you'd be wise to double-check the definition. "Shoe finders" did not search for their neighbors' misplaced shoes; they sold cobblers' tools.

And when an odd spelling from the past turns up, the name of an occupation you might otherwise have recognized, may prove challenging to "decode". Consider looking it up. Even if your spell checker might go crazy if it were to find a reference" to "qwylwryghte". Baffled? It's someone who made and repaired wheels: a "wheelwright". (Sue Lisk—Internet Genealogy—October--2018)

Do You Have Ancestors Who Were Indentured Servants? (Databases Containing Information to Assist in Your Research)

Sometimes in order to emigrate to the United States or to Canada (and other places around the world), able-bodied individuals would become indentured servants. Though many of these arrangements were by choice, others were not.

Per www.NCPedia.org, typically "indentured servants" were white Europeans of modest means who for various reasons wanted to go to the British colonies but could not pay the cost of their passage.

During the colonial period (www.ncpedia.org/history/colonial/overview), a thriving business developed in Europe in which young men and women agreed to work for a specific time in the New World for a master who paid their way to cross the Atlantic Ocean. The indenture was the contract they signed and carried with them for the length of their service.

A typical servant's contract noted the length (four to seven years) and place of service, the master's name, and the minimal food, clothing, and shelter that he or she was to provide." See www.ncpedia.org/indentured-servants.

To help you explore the indentured servants who may appear in your ancestry, here are a few databases where their records may be found. Also provided is a bibliography where context on indentures, servitude and related can be found.

Immigrant Servants Database
www.pricegen.com/immigrantservants/search/advanced.php The Immigrant Servants Database is a project designed to help Americans trace the European origins of their colonial ancestors. Currently 20,269 immigrants are included in the database.

Virtual Jamestown
www.virtualjamestown.org/indentures/about_indentures.htm "This database of indentured contracts includes over 15,000 indentured servant's contracts from the London, Middlesex, and Bristol Registers. The contracts indicate not only the servants name and length of indenture, but also the name of the servant's parents and owner, their home province and city, occupation, destination, and ship of embarkation. These records provide a detailed composition of indentured servants in the 17th century Atlantic World."

"The Proceedings of the Old Bailey 1674-1913"
www.oldbaileyonline.org Contains almost 200,000 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court; many of the accused were transported and indentured.

Geography of Slavery (Virginia)
www.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos "A digital collection of advertisements for runaway and captured slaves and servants in the 18th and 19th century Virginia newspapers."

Chester Count PA—Indentured Servant Complaints, 1700-1855”

www.chesco.org/1723/Indentured-Servant-Complaints-1700-1855 “Papers relating to actions before the Court of Quarter Sessions involving problems between masters and indentured servants or apprentices. The papers may include the following: petition of servant, apprentice, petition of master, master’s account, indenture, petition to transfer assignment of indenture.”

“Corotoman Servant Database (VA estate) [via Historic Christ Church and Museum]” <http://christchurch1735.knack.com/corotomanservants#home> Corotoman was the Virginia estate (Lancaster County) owned by the Carter family from 1653 until 1862. Christ Church was built upon it in the 1730’s. For its first seventy-five years, Corotoman fields, forests, waters, and buildings were worked by black slaves and white indentured servants. But by 1735, the last indentured servants were completing their terms.

British Home Children in Canada www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/home-children-1869-1930/Pages/home-children.aspx. “Between 1869 and the late 1930’s, over 100,000 juvenile migrants were sent to Canada from the British Isles during the child emigration movement. Motivated by social and economic forces, churches and philanthropic organizations sent orphaned, abandoned and pauper children to Canada. Many believed that these children would have a better chance for a healthy, moral life in rural Canada, where families welcomed them as a source of cheap farm labor and domestic help.

For additional primary documentation sources, check out Archivegrid. A search in Archivegrid returned 88 hits for “indentured servants” and many of these are lists of such. (Diane Richard—internet-genealogy.com—November 2018)

Irish Research Researching Around Ireland’s Destroyed Records

Demographers and others who have studied the issue estimate that there are over 50,000,000 living Americans who descend in one or more of their lines from ancestors of Irish origin. This makes Irish research and sources critical for many who are pursuing their genealogy today. I will concentrate on indicating where you can find more information, giving a few tips about how to start your research.

In the past few years, some excellent guides to Irish research have been published, most of which are available through: Gill Genealogical Publishing Company in Baltimore. Three of the more noteworthy include the following:

“Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research” (Evanston, Illinois: Margaret Dickson Falley, 1961-1962). This is one of the better older works.

“Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History” (Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1988—author is James D. Ryan.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide (Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1992). This more recent work is by John Grenham.

Several good bibliographies for guides to research and genealogical records in Ireland also exist.

“Irish Genealogy in the 1990’s,” Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine 25 (1993). In this article, Bonnie M. Fountain gives an excellent summary of useful titles and periodicals that existed up to that year.

“Research Outline: Ireland” Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, has published this guide, which is available in most of its Family History Centers (Family Search Wiki). This 48-page booklet has a list of and published sources for various record types, as well as a list of general publications.

“Resource Guide: The Ireland Householder’s Index” This publication, also by the Family History Library, shows you step by step how to use these records of persons who paid taxes to the Church of Ireland or the Government of Ireland. These records are 1820-1864. The index is also called the Index of Surnames of Householder’s in Griffith’s Primary Evaluation and Tithes Applotment Books. It is a 14-volume index found online now (originally Microfilm roll numbers 919001-919007).

Also, of interest is the Family History and Genealogy Guide published by The National Archives of Ireland which is available through a number of websites, or directly, moreover, the Irish Family History Foundation is the coordinating body for the network of government approved genealogical research centers in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland which have computerized tens of millions of Irish ancestral records of different types. Their website contains detailed descriptions and ordering information.

Record Destruction in Ireland

Many people know that there has been some record destruction in Ireland but are unaware of specifics.

An overview of this disaster might help you to determine what is or is not available. The best description of this destruction is from Bonnie M. Fountain's article, mentioned above:

“Sadly, any publication on Irish genealogy since 1922 has of necessity begun with a statement about the destruction of the valuable records in the fire in the Public Registry Office in the Four Courts of Dublin in that year. Included were the originals of most of the wills, many church records (most Church of Ireland, none Catholic), and Marriage License, Bonds, and Grants.

The census situation is equally dismal, since most of the censuses were pulped during World War I or later. Lost are the censuses for 1813, 1821 (records of a few parishes in five counties exist), 1831 (a few parishes in one county exist [Londonderry: found on CD), 1841 (one parish, one county exists [also on CD 197 for County Cavan]), 1851 (some parishes in two counties exist), and 1861, 1871, 1881, and 1891. The result of these losses is that Irish genealogy has not totally deserved the reputation for being hopeless!”

The Best Way to Start Your Irish Research

Because of this record destruction, it is very important to begin your Irish genealogical research in the country of immigration, such as the U.S. and Canada, or Australia. Family traditions, combined with birth records, marriage records, death records, obituaries, cemetery records, wills, bibles, census records, and immigration and naturalization records are of vital importance. You should attempt to learn the complete names of all your ancestors who immigrated, their dates of birth and marriage in Ireland, their towns or townlands, parishes and counties of residence, religion, occupation, dates of emigration and so forth. Only after making a complete search of available records in your own country should you consider research in Irish records. With this information gleaned from sources in your homeland, whatever still exists in Ireland will be much easier to find. Although many of the sources in our country tend to be more modern, they can still contain vital information for periods much earlier than one would suppose.

As an example, James Barclay died October 31, 1914 at 80 years of age was buried in the cemetery of the Holy Cross in Flatbush, Brooklyn, New York. His place of birth is given on his tombstone as Kildoagh, Templeport, County Cavan, Ireland.

The year of birth, is based on his age, is calculated as 1834. He was undoubtedly Catholic, based on where he was buried; therefore, a search of Catholic parish records, which are generally still available,

may uncover his lineage in County Cavan. One entry of this family at that time period could place the genealogy back into the 1700's.

Any pedigree tracing into the 1700's is bound to tie in with other records of fairly small population of that time period. There was a much more structured society, with generations of family members living in one place. Surnames tended to be localized. People knew where they belonged. There are many records of this general information on surnames. With any luck, the pedigree is then extended into the 1600's and even earlier, into the preserved genealogies of antiquity. The Irish have some of the best, preserved ancient genealogies of any people on earth. (Dr. Lyman Platt—was employed at Genealogical Society of Utah for 17 years. See <https://www.genealogy.com>)

Historical Timelines

Timelines can assist us in knowing where our ancestors were living in a specific time period and give us clues where to search for them. We can then check out what resources are available for that time period and places to search for our ancestors.

Comparing our ancestor's personal timelines with historical timelines can bring important insights and add interest to our family's history. Local national and world events may have had an impact on their lives encouraging them to move on or to remain in the same area.

Timelines Will Help

- Get new ideas for different records.
- In locating those records
- Find ancestors who are missing
- Gain significant insight into the lives of your ancestors by learning about the times and places in which they lived.

It is very important to learn about the history of the areas of where our ancestors lived. Why did they move where they did and when they did and what encouraged them to stay there? Keep a history reference binder on places that your ancestor lived.

What was in the area when they arrived such as churches, schools, cemeteries—and when did they cease to exist? Names of streets and towns changed as well as county borders moved. Always check in provincial gazetteers to help with this. They can tell you when the town began and what it may have been named before the name it is known today.

Weather and Other Natural Disasters

Ancestors in agrarian pursuits may have been affected by drought that ravaged crops (Irish Potato famine), heavy rains, cold and extended winters.

Did they live along the coastlines, could they have been hit by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and earthquakes? Devastating fire caused people to move when crops were burned and homes forcing them to leave their places of residences. Check newspapers in areas where your ancestor may have lived previously for hints of their reasons for relocation.

Large Scale Migrations

Other large-scale migrations may have been the result of opportunity rather than natural disaster. The availability of land, new modes or routes of transportation such as steamship, canals, railroads, new roads and faster advances with people moving to larger cities.

Other Events to Consider

We need to consider those living in areas where wars were fought; the War of 1812, Civil War, conflicts with other countries and prejudices against different nationalities. Some people of different nationalities (Polish) changed their names because they couldn't find work because of the prejudice of the people in the areas where they lived and later may have changed their names back when the prejudice swayed to another culture (Germans).

Epidemics

Epidemics had a huge impact on our forebears, particularly those in urban environments. Contagious diseases were easily passed onto others. Not only may our ancestors have lost family members from diseases, some may have chosen to leave during an outbreak rather than risk infection.

Keep a copy of your timeline with you when you go and do research and make a habit of updating your timeline whenever you learn new information about your family.

Comparative Timelines

Comparative Timelines can be used to compare two or more people/families. For example, the objective may be to determine the migration of two separate families joined together by marriage. A timeline showing both families will help to focus the research. Unlike a basic timeline, a comparative timeline shows each year, whether there is an event or not. Constructing a timeline whether simple, detailed or comparative, can help illustrate gaps of time. The timeline can help determine where to look for records.

You can take comparative timelines a step further by adding additional family members or associates to the mix. You could follow, and ultimately compare, children, siblings, in-laws or even neighbors to see if other connections can be made.

A comparative timeline is also useful when trying to sort out identities. Sometimes we run across instances of name changes or aliases, and of course, we all have those female ancestors with unknown maiden names, or parents. A comparative timeline can help you track each of the individuals to see if any fit the pattern to your ancestor.

Trace Your Ancestors

Track where your ancestors went and resided by consulting the census records, voting lists and local history books. People didn't always attend their preferred church but rather the nearest church to where they were living.

Try Different Resource Repositories

Search out every genealogical and educational institution; genealogical societies (abgenealogy.ca), family history centers (familysearch.org), university and public libraries in your area and specifically your city/town archives (Sir Alexander Galt Archives, Provincial Archives of Alberta (or other Provinces). Remember when searching Provincial or City Archives; they are somewhat different than other repositories their hours are more limited so make your research preparations before you leave home.

Learn About Different Migration Patterns

Migration patterns allow you to expand your perspective so you will spot things of significance that you might otherwise miss, and you will gather more proof from sources you research. One important observation is that men tend to marry younger women on the opposite side of the river from where they reside—recording marriages in counties you would not usually search. This is especially true where the river was the boundary line.

Successful Genealogy Research

Successful genealogy research largely depends on these three factors: correct name, correct time period, and correct locality.

Correct Name

Search for all variations of the name even if the surname is spelt differently than expected, do not discard it as a possibility. Search all possible nicknames Molly, Polly and over 100 other variant nicknames for Mary.

Correct Time Period

If a family record lists John Brown's birthplace as Salt Lake City, Utah in the year 1760 there is something wrong with that time period. The pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley July 24, 1847 and before that it was just a desert and a territory.

Correct Locality

The city/town/township belongs in the first field of the locality. This is followed by the township, then by the province, and then by the country. Make sure you are looking for the right town name and not the county name.

Historical and Personal Timeline Websites

A timeline is a representation of information that can be used in history. It usually represents a horizontal line with segments of time. Each segment can have its own sub-elements.

How to Create a Personal Life Timeline Chart

<http://www.oueverydaylife.com/timelinechart-8274369.html>

Internet4Classrooms.com

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/timelines.htm>

Wikipedia Timelines

<http://timelineindex.com/content/home.php>

How to Make a Timeline in PowerPoint

<https://www.ispringsolutions.com>

Lastly search Google for personal and historical timeline chart ideas and other family history within the same family research topics. Historical and personal timelines have helped me a lot in my research. (Compiled by Susan Haga)

Maps in Family History Research

One of the first special aids a beginning genealogist will want probably is a blank pedigree chart. The second might be a family group form. The third will most likely be a “good map.” Chances are that you may not be very familiar even with the area where your grandparents were born. You may think it’s a small town or village but may not have any ideas beyond that.

Your First Map

If you are lucky, you will have an atlas or book of road maps that will show your town. If not, a trip to your local bookstore or AAA (AMA) club will turn up a good contemporary road map. This will prove satisfactory for a time, but you will but you will soon come to realize that there are many, different kinds of maps and they all have their use in genealogy.

One major difference between a contemporary map (how things are today) and a historical map (how they were in the past). Within these two divisions there are many different categories, and some maps show more than one type of information:

- Roads (most common contemporary map)
- Political (showing boundaries)

--Topographical (showing mountains/elevations)

--There are also maps showing distribution of many things—languages, population, crops, temperatures, etc.—but these are less important to genealogy.

There are any number of mapping programs around which claim to have all the towns and villages in North America and in other countries and every street by name. They will also help you plan a trip and provide driving directions. Online you can find the same service at MapQuest, Expedia or Google Maps. It doesn’t hurt to check map websites online.

Geological Survey Maps

There are websites for U.S Geological Survey Maps (and Canada). You can request the location for over 2 million places, past and present including churches, cemeteries, creeks, population centers, towns, etc. It also produces a map you can zoom in on for detailed view. However, it only shows the name of the feature you request and surrounding towns. It does not name streets, rivers or other features.

County Maps

To be truly helpful for genealogy, any map must show the boundaries as they existed when the ancestor you are researching lived there. Boundaries have been changing constantly for hundreds of years.

Counties have changed a great deal. Your ancestors may have lived on the same farm for 200 years, but the records could be in five counties because of shifting borders. Counties generally started out large and then were divided, sometimes several times as the population grew.

The records are not divided when counties are split so you need to know which county to look in, for the certain time period you need. If you are looking at a census index in a bound volume, there will probably be a map in the front showing the county boundaries for that a certain census.

Historical Maps

Historical maps, which show the area for the time period you are researching, are vital. “Historical” refers to the time period, not necessarily the age of the maps. They can be of many different types:

--a map might show the landowners in a town or who occupied which farms.

--a seafront village may have had a very different shape 200 years ago depending on whether the sea is depositing land or taking away—or areas may have been drained or dredged.

--In areas where large amounts of land were distributed at once, such as New York or Spanish land grants in California, a map to these early grants gives an entirely different perspective.

--In cities, the location of early churches, in relation to where your ancestors lived, helps you decide which records to check.

--They can even show name distributions.

Historical maps are not as easy to find as contemporary maps. Chances are that you may find them in book form or on websites where maps have been digitized. People who have copies of these old maps have been very good about making them available online. If you enter "maps" and "genealogy" into a search engine and you will get lots of hits. A good search engine is Dogpile because it searches many search engines at once. Some sites will have the actual maps whereas others will be places where you can buy maps.

A helpful site for locating historical maps online is the Perry Castavieda Library Map Collection, University of Texas. Global Genealogy Supply has a large, number of historical maps of Canada for sale.

If you know the name of a book that you want to obtain, but cannot find it as its out of print, check the Advanced Book Exchange. You can put in a request and when the book is located, they will advise which dealer has it in stock. The prices are very reasonable. For creating your own maps based on descriptions of plots found in deeds, try DeedMapper. It can translate the exotic descriptions of "18 chains, 4 links to the old oak tree" and produce a map of your ancestor's plot of land.

European Maps

The geographical breakdown for locating genealogy records in Europe is much the same as for the U.S (and Canada). First there is a country which is broken down into several regions. Many countries maintain vital records on a national level but for older genealogical records you need to be aware of regional breakdown – such as counties, regions and provinces. Instead of townships, most European countries are divided into parishes and its on the parish level that you will find the important early birth, death and marriage records.

European countries are documented in many fine, and very detailed maps. In a good

bookstore, you can usually find foreign countries, but frequently it will be an entire country on one map without enough detail.

Once you know the village of origin, you need to locate it on the best map available. The Expedia Place Finder did a fine job of locating small villages in both England and Germany but didn't show enough detail of the surrounding area. For Great Britain, Multimap can locate a town by name or modern postal code, and search London by street name. You can zoom in to get detailed map. However, with computer maps, due to screen and printed page size, it is difficult to produce a map that has enough detail but is large enough to show some of the surrounding area.

In Europe, historical maps are essential. The borders of Germany with its many kingdoms, duchies, protectorates and principalities are impossible to keep straight. For example, in Germany you need to know which political ruler was in charge. A historical atlas of Germany would be a good investment if you are researching that area. Gold Bug software produces a program called Centennia that maps 10 centuries (1000-2000) of European border changes with over 7,000 maps. You can check the boundaries of any area for any year. Also see the Perry-Castavieda Library Map Collection mentioned previously. KIUT is a free mapping program for areas ruled by Hungary.

Always be on the lookout for historical maps of the areas you are searching. (Donna Przech--
<http://www.genealogy.com>)

What Are Dit Names

A dit name is essentially an alias or alternate name, tacked on to a family name or surname. Dit (pronounced "dee" is a French form of the word dire, which means "to say," and in one case of dit names is translated loosely as "that is to say," or "called.") Therefore, the first name is the family's original surname, passed down to them by an ancestor, while the "dit" name is the name the person/family is actually "called" or known as. Dit names are primarily found in New France (French-Canada, Louisiana, etc.), France, and sometimes Scotland. They are used by families, not specific individuals, and are usually passed down to future generations, either in place of the original surname, or in addition to it. After several generations, many families eventually settled on one surname or the other, although it isn't uncommon to see some siblings within the same family using the original surname, while others carried on the dit name. The

use of dit names slowed down dramatically during the mid-to-late-1800's, although they could still be found used by some families into the early twentieth century.

Why a Dit Name?

Dit names were often adopted by families to distinguish them from another branch of the same family. The specific dit name may also have been chosen for many of the same reasons as the original surname – as a nickname based on trade or physical characteristics, or to identify the ancestral place of origin (e.g. Andre Jarret de Beauregard, where Beauregard refers to the ancestral home in the French Province of Dauphine). The mother's surname or even the father's first name, may also have been adopted as a dit name.

Interestingly, many dit names derived from military service, where early French military required their nom guerre, or war name, for all regular soldiers. This practice was a precursor to identification numbers, allowing soldiers to be identified collectively by their given name, their family name, and their nom de guerre.

Example of a Dit Name

Gustave Eiffel, architect of the Eiffel Tower, was born Alexander Gustave Bonickhausen dit Eiffel in Dijon, France, on 15 December 1832. He was a descendant of Jean-Rene Bonickhausen, who emigrated to France from the German town of Marmagen in the early 18th century. The dit name Eiffel was adopted by descendants of Jean-Rene Eiffel mountain region of Germany from which he had come. Gustave formally changed his name to Eiffel in 1880.

How You Might See Dit Names Recorded

A dit name can be legally used to replace the family's original surname. Sometimes the two surnames may be linked as one family name, or you may find families who use the two surnames interchangeably. Thus, you may find an individual's name recorded with a dit name, or under either just the original surname or just the dit name. Dit names may also be found reversed with the original surname, or as hyphenated surnames.

Beaulieu dit Hudon	Beaulieu-Hudon
Hudon Beaulieu	Hudon
Beaulieu Hudon	Beaulieu

How to Record a Dit Name in Your Family Tree

When recording a dit name in your family tree, its generally standard practice to record it in its most common form – e.g. Hudon dit Beaulieu.

A standardized list of dit names with their common variants can be found in Rene Jette's "Repertoire

des Noms de Famille du Quebec" des Origines of 1825 and Msgr Cyprien Tanguay's Dictionnaire genealogique des familles canadiennes (Volume 7).

Another extensive source is the dit name: French Canadian Surnames, Aliases, Adulterations, and Anglicizations by Robert J. Quentin.

The American-French Genealogical Society also has an extensive online list of French-Canadian surnames, including variants, dit names and anglicizations. When the name is not found in one of the above sources, you can use a phone book (Quebec City or Montreal) to find the most common form or, even better, just record it in the form most often used by your ancestors. (Kim Powell—Aug/2018 <https://www.thoughtco.com>)

Tips for Reading Handwriting

"If only the typewriter had been invented a few centuries earlier!" That's often the cry of people trying to read old records. Old fashioned handwriting often gives older documents charm, but it also can be difficult to decipher. Here are a few clues that may help you out.

First read slowly with care.

Make sure that the words make sense, and don't assume anything.

Watch out for double S's.

The first S in a pair was often written to look like a lower-case F.

The following capital letters often look the same: I and J, L and S, L and T, M and N, T and F, and U and V.

Don't forget the possibility of abbreviations.

Names were abbreviated quite often, as well as common words. For example, you may find "sd" for "said," "decd" "for deceased," "do" for "ditto," "chh" for "church," and "rect" for "receipt." Double letters were often written as single letters with a line or a tilde above them. Name abbreviations usually consist of the first three or four letters plus the last letter. Both name and word abbreviations are normally written with the last letter of the abbreviations raised.

If you're having trouble deciphering a word, try saying it out aloud in several different ways.

If you can, read the remainder of the sentence

And try to figure out what word would make sense.

Find other words in the document that you can read and use the letters in those words to piece together the letters, in the words you can't read.

Use A Handwriting Book to Help Piece the Letters Together. Two books that you can use are: The Handwriting of American Records for a Period of 300 Years, by E Kay Kirkham and Understanding Colonial Handwriting by Harriet Strykker-Rodda.

If all else fails, you may need to consult a handwriting expert. (Home Articles Developing Your Research Skills <https://www.genealogy.com>)

Alberta Churches, Archives & Societies

Churches and Records

The following Alberta repositories may contain church records of baptisms and marriages and other helpful information.

Anglican Church of Canada

Edmonton 1889-1989, Athabasca 1874-1989
MacKenzie River 1859-1942

182 churches are represented from the Edmonton and Athabasca dioceses. The MacKenzie River Diocese of the Arctic; four parishes are represented in the records.

Anglican Diocese of Calgary

University of Calgary Archives
(<http://specialcollections.ucalgary.ca/manuscript-collections/canadian-historical-archives/-/anglican-church-canada-diocese-calgary-fonds.html>)

The university holds the Anglican Diocese of Calgary records, 1881-1991, for many parishes. Permission for access must be obtained first from the Synod Office.

Anglican Diocese of Calgary.

<http://www.calgary.anglican.ca/>
Phone: 403 243-3673

Roman Catholic Church

Five different Catholic Dioceses cover territory in Alberta: Calgary, Edmonton (Archdiocese), St Paul, Grouard-McLennan (Archdiocese) and MacKenzie-Fort Smith. While they do not publicize archives as such, most will consider genealogical requests.

Calgary Catholic Pastoral Centre Library

Catholic Pastoral Centre
<http://rcdc.kohalibrary.com/>
e-mail: library@calgarydiocese.ca
Phone: 403 218-5510

Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

<http://www.edmontoncatholic-church.com/>
Phone: 780 469-1010

Records of Five Religious Orders and One Parish of the Church are Held by the PAA.

Les Oblats de Marie Immaculate, 1842 to 1986
Les Soeurs de L'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge, 1868 to 1987
The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, 1849 to 1990
The Sisters of the Providence, 1886 to 1978
Soeurs Grises/Grey Nuns, 1877 to 1967
St Joachim Parish-Edmonton, 1891 to 1985

Some oblates records are closed (restricted). For transcripts of such records you will have to contact either the parish office or the diocese (or archdiocese) if you are not sure in which parish the event would have been registered.

United Church of Canada

Congregational to 1990. Also are included records of the three denominations which united to form the church in 1925:

--Presbyterian 1887 to 1925
--Methodist 1863 to 1925
-- Congregational 1910 to 1912

(Over five hundred congregations are represented.)

Alberta and Northwest Conference Archives

c/o Provincial Archives in Edmonton, AB
<http://www.provincialarchives.alberta.ca>

Lutheran Church

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories
(<http://www.albertasynod.ca/about-us/administration/synod-archives/>).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has records from 1898-1989. Over 75 congregations are represented in the holdings. Administrative records and registers of birth, marriage and death have been deposited in the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Lutheran Church-Canada Archives

(<http://www.lccarchives.com/>)
Email: kbaron@lccarchives.com

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

1912 to 1980 records are housed at the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Westwood Unitarian Society

1982 to 1986 records are housed at the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Presbyterian Synod of AB and the Northwest

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Records of the Synod Archives are held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Archives

Provincial Archives of Alberta

<http://archivesalberta.org>

Glenbow Museum Archives

<http://www.glenbow.org/collections/search>

This fine archive has records of several early and some Anglican churches in the Calgary area, as well as some for Baptist and Presbyterian churches and some Methodist missionaries' papers

Other Church/Parish Records May Be Found:

Red Deer and District Archives

(<http://www.reddeer.ca/archives>)

Email: archives@reddeer.ca /online-databases (FamilySearch Wiki—see Alberta Churches)

Unique Genealogy Websites

Alberta Canada Obituaries

<https://www.lenecrologue.com/obituary/state/alberta>

Alberta Genealogical Society (Provincial)

www.abgenealogy.ca

Alberta Newspaper Archives

<https://newspaperarchive.com/ca/alberta>

Archive Society of Alberta

www.archivesalberta.org/membership/directory-of-archive

Bill Martin's Genealogy website

www.my.tbaytel.net/bmartin/index.htm

(Includes Wesleyan Methodist Baptisms)

British Home Children in Canada

www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weekly.com

Calgary Municipal Archives

www.calgary.ca/CA/city-clerks/Pages/Corporate-records/Archives

Canadian Obituaries Forum Alberta

www.archivesalberta.org/membership/directory-of-archive

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>

City of Red Archives www.reddeer.ca/about-red-deer/history/archives

Doukhobors in Alberta

www.doukhobor.org/alberta.html

Edmonton City Archives

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/edmonton_archives/city-of-edmonton-archives.aspx

FamilySearch Research Wiki

www.wiki.familysearch.org

Glenbow Museum Newspaper Clippings

www.glenbow.org/search/library/NewspaperSearch.asp

Lethbridge Municipal Archives

<https://albertaonrecord.ca/city-of-lethbridge-archives-collection>

Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov>

Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

<https://mennonitehistory.org>

Provincial Archives Naturalization Records

<http://hermis.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa/Default.aspx?Dept>

Richard Heaton's Index to Digitalized British and Irish Newspapers Online

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleu/BritishandIrishNews.html>

South Peace Regional Archives Surname Database

www.southpeacearchives.org/online-databases/surname-database/

Stephen P Morse Genealogy

<https://www.stevemorse.org/>

The ShipsList. www.theshipslist.com

(Submitted by Susan Haga)

Genealogy Quotes

"We all carry, inside us, people who came before us." --Liam Callanan

Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors. --Ralph Waldo Emerson

There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his. --Helen Keller

We need to haunt the house of history and listen anew to the ancestor's wisdom. --Maya Angelou

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root. --Chinese Proverb