

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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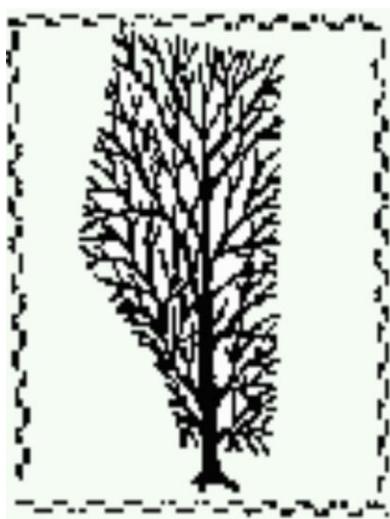


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Editor's Corner



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/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+) 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

I will start by extending a warm welcome to the five new members who have joined our branch so far in 2020.

In one of my online groups I am participating in a gratitude challenge and here are two items I listed one day recently:

- The Alberta Genealogical Society and all I have learned from other members over the years.
- Our local, informal, Monday genealogy group, a great place to share ideas.

I will also reiterate from my 2019 annual report my appreciation and gratitude for the many volunteer hours members give to make our branch productive and successful.

Our casino is scheduled for May 18 and 19, the last day of the May long weekend and the day following. There is still one position to be filled for this important fund-raising activity.

Wetaskiwin AGS Branch has put together a one-day GenFair on April 25 and would appreciate our support in attending.

I look forward to my interactions with you the members as we proceed through our activities for 2020. Marilyn Astle, President

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Henning Muendel presented “Memoirs and Memory—a Muendel-family history from World War II. Revisited in 2019. We held our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, Feb 20th at 7:00 p.m. And Rod McLeod gave a presentation on “What We Find Behind the Names.”

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

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

Spotlight

I first became interested in family history at age 12. I was always reading novels based on history. I started writing my own personal history at that age and even now I keep a personal journal recording the comings and goings of my life. It's fun now to go back and read through some of those highlights in my earlier life.

When I was 16 I started reaching out to my father's side of my family who were not LDS and

I started researching that line. My mother's side of the family who were LDS had been heavily researched and I really wanted to learn more about my paternal line. I had lost contact with my father's side of my family when my parents divorced in 1959. When I was older my father came back into my life when I was about 30 years of age at that time but unfortunately our reunion only lasted for about 6 months when he passed away from leukemia. It was a very special time in my life spending time with him and getting to know him and by the time that he passed away a lot of my questions had been answered about our family line.

Since then I have continued researching my paternal line and I have gone back a few generations into Sweden and several in England. I have had a few distant relations contact me online and it's been an interesting experience for me. (Submitted by Susan Haga, Lethbridge AGS member)

Family History Center Portal

FamilySearch has arranged for several premium online research services to be available at Family History Centers. See <https://familysearch.org/ask/salesforce/viewArticle?urlname=Free-Premium-family-history-websites-available-in-the-Family-History-Center-Portal-1381815050504> for a list of available services.

Access to these online services is provided through the Family History Center Portal at <https://fhc.familysearch.org/> and following the instructions provided there. The special access that family history centers have been granted to these databases only works when the online services are accessed through a Computer in a Family History Center. Please note that entering the websites of these providers through their regular, public URL's will not provide access to the full versions that have been authorized for family history center use.

Contents

Premium Websites

19th Century British Library Newspapers
Alexander Street Press – American Civil War
American Ancestors
Ancestry – Institution Version
ArkivDigital
FamNet
Find My Past
Fold3 – formerly Footnote
Geneanet
Kinpoint-Premium

My Heritage – Library Edition
Newspaper.com
Paper trail
Puzzilla – Premium

Other Helpful Websites

Create your Who Do You Think You Are? Story, for free
<http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarestory.com/>

Hungary Exchange
<http://www.hungaryexchange.com/>

Legacy Stories <http://www.legacystories.org>

Origins.net <http://www.origins.net/>

FamilySearch Learning Center
<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter>

FamilySearch Youtube
<http://www.youtube.com/user/familysearch>

FamilySearch Wiki
<https://familysearch.org/learn>

USGenWeb <http://www.usgenweb.org>

Genuki (UK & Ireland) <http://www.genuki.org.uk>

Mocavo Search <http://www.mocavo.com>

Utah Digital Newspapers
<http://digitalnewspapers.org>

BYU Idaho Special Collections
<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections>

Kin Crawler Search <https://www.kincrawler.com/>

(https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Center_Portal.html)

England Nonconformist Church Records

Until 1534 Catholicism was the main religion in England when King Henry VIII severed all ties to the Pope in Rome, and then began the Church of England. Those who chose not to conform to the beliefs and teachings of the Church of England were considered nonconformists. Regardless of centuries of persecution, they conducted their own ceremonies and kept their own records as much as allowed. Many of these nonconformist registers survive and are now available online. For a comprehensive listing of nonconformist denominations go to www.familysearch.org then

go to search then click on Wiki and type 'England Non-conformist Churches.'

How Do I Know If My Ancestor Was a Non-Conformist?

- A marriage record can be found in the Church of England but not a christening or burial record.
- An ancestor is not found in the Church of England records in the place where it is known they came from.
- A civil registration marriage certificate indicates a marriage in a nonconformist chapel.
- Ancestor has a biblical name such as Abraham, Jeremiah, Rebekah, etc.
- Church monuments and tombstones bear ancestor's names, but baptisms and marriages are not in Church of England registers, prior to 1852.
- Tradition in your family.

Non-Conformist Registers Online

See www.familysearch.org

FamilySearch has microfilmed many non-conformist registers. Indexes are available on www.familysearch.org with links to the images on microfilm at the Family History Library. FamilySearch contains two databases including non-conformist registers.

1. England Births & Christenings, 1538-1975

Go to Search > click records > click the map of England > click England. Search the 'England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975' for indexes to microfilm copies at the Family History Library. Included in this collection are the following:

- Extracted records from original parish registers.
- The British Vital Records Index which contained many non-conformist church indexes.
- Dr. Williams' Library--A central birth registry for Independents, Baptists and Presbyterians. Most of the collection is available at www.familysearch.org in the England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 database.
- The Wesleyan Methodist Metropolitan Registry--A central birth registry for Methodists containing about 10,000 names from 1773-1838. Most of the collection is available at on FamilySearch at www.familysearch.org in the England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 database.

2. England and Wales, Non-Conformist Record Indexes, 1588-1977' (RG4-8). A specific non-conformist registers database. Links to subscription images on BMD.

--www.findmypast.com Findmypast is placing many digital images of the non-conformist church records online. When you search their records go to **Search records**> click **A-Z of record sets** in the Search box type **England**> Click **England and Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms or Marriages or Burials.**

--www.bmdregisters.co.uk

The official website for nonconformist church registers. Includes registers for Methodist, Wesleyans, Baptists, Independents, Protestant Dissenters, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Society of Friends (Quakers), Dissenters and Russian Orthodox. Also includes overseas records and other miscellaneous records.

--www.thegenealogists.co.uk

Subscription website that has access to the indexes and images of the non-conformist church registers on www.BMDRegisters.co.uk

Non-Conformist Registers in Libraries, County Record Offices, and Local Churches Registers at the Family History Library

Go to www.familysearch.org

1. Go to Search > click Catalog
2. Next to the **Places** box enter the name of your ancestor's parish--i.e. 'England, Yorkshire, Thirsk' and then click **Search**.
3. Click the **Church records** link.

The Family History Library may also have (www.familysearch.org) valuable county wide marriage indexes pre-1837. To access a marriage index for a specific county, follow steps 1-2 above then for step 3 only type the name of the country and county, i.e. 'England, Yorkshire'. **Search Church** records--Indexes link and then check out the National Index of Parish Registers. A guide to Church of England, Roman Catholic, and other non-conformist church registers county-by-county. Shows what churches exist, years register began, and their location.

Registers at County Record Offices or Local Non-Conformist Chapels

Records not turned into the General Register's Office may have been turned into local County Record Offices or remain in the local chapels themselves. The following is a link to information and websites for local County Record Offices throughout England and Wales.

<http://www.ancestor-search.info/CRO-INDEX.htm>

Strategies for Searching Non-Conformity

Find what nonconformist denominations existed in an ancestor's Church of England parish by going to:

- www.maps.familysearch.org
> type the parish name; click **Search** >
Click on the name of the parish > a box will appear with info about Non-Church of England denominations in that parish.
- National Index of Parish Registers
www.sog.org.uk

1851 Religious Census may help you locate congregations. See www.open.ac.uk

--Non-conformists were required to marry in the Church of England from 1754-1837 and may have chosen to marry by license in order to avoid the marriage banns. Search for marriage bonds and allegations in the Diocese.

--Non-conformist chapels could cover long distances. Search Church of England parish registers and nonconformist registers at least within 10 or so miles.

--Non-conformist ancestor's birth and burials may have even been recorded up to as many as 20 miles away depending on where the nearest nonconformist chapel of their choice was located. This is particularly with Methodists and their circuits.

--Reconstruct families by combining church records with other sources like probates, parish chest, and court, tax, etc.

--Some children may be christened in the Church of England while siblings were baptized in nonconformist chapels.

--People were changing their religion back and forth. Search all non-conformist chapels in a certain area if registers aren't found in the Church of England.

--Some non-conformists, like Baptists, did not believe in infant baptisms so they recorded the births instead. They had adult baptisms.

--Quakers did not believe in baptism so they only recorded births and marriages.

--One generation may have been non-conformist while another the Church of England.

(Compiled by Susan Haga--some information taken from www.familysearch.org.)

The Earliest Genealogical Societies

In the United States genealogical research was first systematized in the early 19th century, especially by John Farmer (1789-1838)

The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) is the oldest genealogical society. The first three floors of NEHGS' present

location was built as the headquarters of beginning genealogical research, organizing, preparing lineage society. It was founded in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S. in 1845. The founders were Charles Ewer (1790-1853), Lemuel Shattuck (1793-1859), Samuel Gardner Drake (1798-1875), John Wingate Thornton (1818-1878) William Henry Montague (1804-1889). NEHGS provides family history services through its staff, original scholarship, website, educational opportunities, and research center. Today it has over 250,000 members and more than 90 staff and volunteers.

The Genealogical Society of Utah was organized on November 13, 1894 in the Church Historian's Office. The founding members included Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, John Nicholson, James H. Anderson, Amos Milton Musser, Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, James B. Walkey, Abraham H. Cannon, George Reynolds, John Jacques and Duncan McAllister.

Organizational Purposes in 1894

Benevolent in collecting, and compiling, establishing and maintaining a genealogical library for the use and benefit of its members and others. Educational in disseminating information regarding genealogical matters.

THE GSU (www.familysearch.org) is an incorporated, nonprofit educational institution entirely funded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The GSU is dedicated to gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical information throughout the world. In 1938 the GSU began microfilming records in the USA. After the end of World War II, the GSU began microfilming projects internationally.

Mayflower Society in 1897

The Mayflower Society or the General Society of the Mayflower Descendants (gsmd), was founded in 1897. The gsmd is committed to research on the lineal descent of the Mayflower pilgrims and education about the pilgrims who traveled aboard the Mayflower in 1620. Although there were only about 130 passengers on the Mayflower, and the number of individuals who left descendants is significantly less, it is estimated that more than 35 million individuals living today are direct descendants of those individuals. The General Society of the Mayflower Descendants—commonly called the Mayflower Society—is a hereditary organization of individuals who have documented their descent from one or more of the

102 passengers who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620 at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The National Genealogical Society in 1903

The National Genealogical Society is a non-profit genealogical interest group founded in 1903 in Washington, D.C. Its headquarters are in Falls Church, Virginia. Its goals are to promote the genealogical skill development, establish high standards of genealogical research, and increase awareness of and interest in family history. To accomplish this, the National Genealogical Society provides educational programs, publishes several publications in the field of genealogy, and creates networking opportunities for its members. It is the publisher of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and the NGS Magazine. Annually, in conjunction with a sponsoring local genealogical society, it holds the NGS Family History Conference. (Compiled by Susan Haga)

The Importance of Names and Naming Patterns

In genealogy we usually concentrate on surnames since they are the most important way of identifying people who are related. A surname is usually inherited and, while it may be changed over time, some form of it is usually retained. Given names are more important in a way because they represent a voluntary choice by the parents or, sometimes, by an individual. A name represents thought and feelings and can be significant to the researcher.

Naming Patterns

You will often see the same names used over and over again in families. While certain names are very popular in different areas in different times in history, the repetition could represent a pattern. Many cultures believe in honoring their elders and do so by naming children after them. Angus Baxter in "In Search of Your British and Irish Roots" describes a pattern that was popular in England in the 1700-1875 period:

- The 1st son named after the father's father
- The 2nd son named after the mother's father
- The 3rd son named after the father
- The 4th son named after father's eldest brother
- The 1st daughter after the mother's mother
- The 2nd daughter after the father's mother
- The 3rd daughter after the mother
- The 4th daughter after mother's eldest sister

If this pattern would result in a duplication of names for example., both grandfathers had the same name – then they would skip to the next one on the list. Similar patterns have been suggested for other nationalities. This could be a very

helpful formula, but many genealogists warn against giving it too much credence. Given human nature, it would be very difficult to follow it exactly.

You will probably see names of parents and grandparents, siblings, aunts, and uncles repeated, but not in any strict order. It is difficult to know whom a child called Ann or Mary was really named after. While over half of the names in a family will probably appear to be repeats, there always seem to be repeats, and there always seems to be a few totally different ones. A child might be named after a good friend or neighbor.

Some families may show an extreme fondness for one name. In one family Samuel and William, both with the same surname, came to America. Twenty years later William signed a power of attorney to settle the estate of Robert who died in Ireland. Most researchers have assumed, as a working theory, that these men were both brothers and Robert was their father. A partial list of 77 descendants shows that in four generations of descendants of Robert the name William occurs ten times. By contrast, Robert only occurs four times. This makes it a bit skeptical that Robert is really the progenitor of the family. He may have been an uncle or a childless relative.

Recycled Names

Up until this century, parents could usually count on one third of their children not surviving. If a child died, the name was almost used again. If a baby died, the next child of the same sex would often be given the same name. When checking birth records, you should never stop when you find the name that you are looking for. You should continue for a few more years, because the first child could have died, and your ancestor could have been the second child in the family with that name. If an older child died, a younger one would often be named for him and her.

Surnames as Given Names

Always note carefully a surname that is a given name, even a middle name. The mother's side of the family will often be revealed through the family names for her children. One woman named her first son Henry and a later son John Henry. Since Henry is a first name, that did not seem unusual, but it was very significant because the women's maiden name turned out to be Henry.

Although at times it may be a clue be careful not to make the wrong assumptions. A surname as a given name does not always mean that it was a family name. A couple might also name a child after a respected friend.

You may think you have a relationship all figured out to come upon a completely different name for the wife. Nicknames that were common in earlier times, especially for girls, may not be known nicknames of today. Such as Ann, Hannah, Nan and Nancy were all variations of the same name and not all different people.

Here are some others that you may encounter: Margaret: Maggie, Rita, Madge, Greta, and Peggy. Mary: Polly: Minnie, Polette (Polly/Mary is very common in early America).

Minerva: Minnie

Alice: Lisa, Sonny

Amelia: Milly

Helen: Ailene, Elaine, Leonora, Nelly

Sarah: Sadie

Louise: Alison, Eloise, and Lois.

Most male nicknames are more straightforward, although Hal and Harry for Henry or Neil for Cornelius are a little less obvious. What frequently happens with men is that they decide to go by their middle name. Everyone will know them by their middle name, and they will be written up in some records as this. John William may be called Bill most of the time. But when it comes to some official documents, he will trot out his full legal name. You may pore over the census looking for Bill or William and completely overlook John. Your best piece of luck is when you encounter a document where he uses both names together.

Baptismal Names

In Catholic Churches especially, but also found in others, the Latin name will be used at the time of baptism. Most genealogists maintain that a person should be entered in the database under his baptismal name. Since this is often the only time the Latin name is used, I do not think using this name as the primary one as the Polish name is helpful for people trying to look up information on that individual. One person was christened Bonafacius but not one of his descendants would ever know to look under that name. All his life he went by “Bonaparte.” Carolus is Latin for Charles, but not a name most people would use.

Translated Names

When foreigners came to America, they often modified the spelling of their last name or even translated name. Hence Schneider became Taylor. This happened even more frequently with given names because most names in European languages have English equivalent. A German named Franz could easily become Frank. What you need to do is keep an eye out for switching

between the two names—in the Polish paper he may be Wojciech but in the city directory he would be listed under Albert.

German Names

In some German areas you will find that all the sons had the same first name, frequently Johann, and all the daughters also, often Anna. You might find a family with Johann Georg, Johann Jacob and Johann Michael. Usually they went by their second name. But when an official record was involved, they might revert to their full name. Hans is a nickname for Johann so you might also find records for Hans Michael or Hans Jacob. Occasionally, names would be reversed so that Michael Georg became Georg Michael, probably because Georg was the name he went by and Michael was only secondary.

Patronymics

Given names become even more significant in the Patronymic system, as in Scandinavia, where the given name of the father becomes the surname of the son. If Eric Larson has a son, he will become John Ericson and his son will be Sven Johnson.

While given names do not have the importance of lived surnames, they should still be carefully studied because they can give valuable hints about your family history. (By Donna Przech—Genealogy.com)

Netherlands Research Tips and Strategies Searching Genealogical Record

Genealogical records since about 1932 or so are closed to the public, you’ll need to ask your family members about more recent events. Ask older members about where they were born, their family, their parents and even grandparents.

If your family is in possession of old documents like passports, marriage booklets (trouwboekje), birth certificates, family Bibles, obituaries, or diaries, use these as further starting point.

Start searching online on Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, Findmypast.com and other online websites for Family trees. While this information can be helpful, don’t just blindly copy online trees. Pay attention to Family Trees that have a lot of documentation from the individuals submitting the information. Use these trees as a starting point but always verify the information yourself.

Search previous research like printed family histories and genealogies, biographies, and local histories. To do effective research you should

begin by obtaining some background information and search original records.

Background Information:

It's important to know geographical and historical information about the areas that you're researching.

Locate towns or place of residence.

Examine maps, gazetteers, postal guides, and other place-finding aids to learn as much as you can about each of the places where your ancestors lived. Identify the major migration routes, nearby cities, provincial boundaries, other geographical features, and government or ecclesiastical jurisdictions.

Review local history

It will help to understand the history of the Netherlands. If possible, study a history of the areas where your ancestors lived. Look for clues about the people, places, and events that may have affected their lives and the records about them. Records about migration routes, nearby cities, provincial boundaries, governmental jurisdictions, and local historical events may be described in periodicals from the area.

Learn about jurisdictions in the Netherlands

You will need to know how the Netherlands are divided into provinces and how each province is divided into other jurisdictions.

Use language helps

The records and histories of places in the Netherlands will usually be written in Dutch. You do not need to know the entire Dutch language to search the records, but you will need to learn some key words and phrases. Some helpful sources are described in the "Language and Languages" section through the *Nederland: Portal of FamilySearch Wiki*.

Understand naming patterns

The naming patterns of the Netherlands were influenced by factors such as: where your ancestor lived (in the city or in the rural area), the time period, the social standing and the occupation. Understanding the naming customs can help you locate missing ancestors and prevent the mistake of choosing an incorrect ancestor or family.

Understand local customs:

Local customs may have affected the way individuals were recorded in the records. Illegitimacy, marital customs, and local

conditions are discussed in the "Social Life and Customs" section of the *Netherlands: Portal of FamilySearch Wiki*.

Netherlands' Research 1811-1932

This time period is the easiest for doing Netherlands genealogy. Many different detailed, reliable and easily accessible records exist. The main records are:

--Civil Registration

Starts in 1811 (or 1796 in some southern areas of the Netherlands), and is public up to at least 1912 for births, 1932 for marriages and 1960 for deaths. It can be public as late as 1916 for births, 1941 for marriages and 1966 for deaths, as of 2017.

--Population Registers

Starting no later than 1850 and are public to as late as 1939.

Other records useful in this period include:

Cemeteries, newspapers, Cadastral Registers is a (comprehensive land recording of the real estate) (1832), wills and notarial records, military records. Research in this time period is relatively straightforward and can be done almost entirely online. The main barrier will be to understand the Dutch language. Check out the *Dutch Genealogical Word List* and *Netherlands Language and Languages*.

1600-1811 Research

Before 1811/1796 there was generally no state registration of individuals in the Netherlands. Also, surnames were not universal, especially in the rural areas where patronymics were used. This makes genealogical research more difficult. Church records of baptisms, marriages and burials become the main record type used. The further back you go, the less records there are. To trace a record back to 1600 is quite rare, and anything further back is probably possible only if the records have survived or your ancestors were wealthy.

The main records for this period are Church records. Other records that may be used are: censuses, tax lists, notarial and court records, military records, citizens lists. In practice, research will be usually confined to Church Records, and will use other sources where they exist and are relevant for the family. The site *Genealogyknowhow*

(<http://genealogyknowhow.net/digi/bronnen.html>) is especially recommended for this period.

"Bridging the Gap" between the two periods

Several records are especially useful for individuals who lived across the year 1811:

--**Marriage Supplements** (Huwelijksbijlagen) for those married after 1811 but born before 1811 will have a copy of their baptismal record.

--**Name Adoption Records** list the old name and the new name of individuals then forced by the French to adopt surnames. Members of the household and their ages are often recorded.

Accessing Records

The following sites are commonly used:

WieWasWie—search a name for many civil registration records and some others

OpenArch (<https://www.openarch.nl/>)—search by name in data taken from provincial and local archives.

Geneaknowhow

(<http://geneaknowhow.net/didi/bronnen.html>)

--links to hundreds of records. They aim to have virtually all relevant records online listed in a logical way. (www.familyserch.wiki)

Ten Steps Beyond the Census

1. Estimate Birth, Marriage and Death Years

Starting in 1851 census, each census year provides the approximate age and place of birth for each person recorded, allowing you to easily calculate a year of birth.

Marriage Tip: To estimate a marriage year for a couple, examine the birth date of a couple's oldest child and subtract a year or two. Although sometimes children were born just after the marriage.

Death Year Tip: If you notice an ancestor who disappeared from the census, be sure to check the death records.

2. Trace a Family's Immigration

Later census years provide the year of immigration, which can be used to narrow your search passenger lists. Then you can start searching for their naturalization records. At the turn of the 20th century almost 2 million European immigrants came to America. For e.g.: Irish famine immigrants, Germans to America, Italians to America and Russians to America.

Check for inaccuracies: Because immigration information on the census may be inaccurate, be sure to search the records a few years before and after the date recorded on the census. Pay attention to the date of immigration for all children as families might not have traveled at the same time and could be found on different passenger lists.

3. Discover Your Ancestors Employment Records

Use occupation information

from the census to search for work records for Nurses, doctors, lawyers, farmers, merchants, and many more are all enumerated in the census. See findmypast.com for UK work records, Irish work records, Australian and New Zealand work records. See employee records, 1878-1927 for US & Canada.

4. Check the neighbors to find more relatives.

Be sure to look at families living next door to your ancestors, which might be relatives, for e.g. in-laws of siblings, and it can lead to important clues for research.

Neighbors tip: Look for patterns in birthplaces, occupations, and other details as you look at those enumerated on the same page as the family you are researching.

5. Learn About Military Service.

Some census years provide information on an ancestor's military service, listing service from the Revolutionary War to World War II. The following military records collections are indexed on findmypast.com.

--United States military records

--Irish military records

--UK Armed forces and conflict records

--Australian and New Zealand armed forces and conflict records

6. Look for Children Not Listed

Remember the census is only a single snapshot of a family on a given day and might be incomplete. Look for gaps between the ages of children, as a child might have died young, moved out of the house, or be living (and working) outside of the family's home when the census enumerator visited.

7. Examine Naturalization Dates

How to read about census abbreviations: "Na" indicates the individual was naturalized, while "AI" indicates that they had not begun the process yet.

8. Look for Land Ownership.

If someone owned land be sure to search local land records for information on sale of the property. Land records can answer questions about relationships, dates of migration, maiden names, and answer other questions on your family tree.

9. Find Ancestors in Yearly Directories

Most cities in U.S. and in Canada publish a directory of their residents each year, which can provide a year-by-

year timeline of a family. Start with the year of the census and work backwards or forwards as needed. Directories might include information on a family's arrival or departure into an area, address changes, and even significant events in the family such as marriages, divorces, and deaths.

10. Look for Other Types of Censuses

There are state censuses in the U.S. Some states such as (Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island) took a state census to bridge the gap between the federal census. In Canada in the Western Provinces they have Provincial censuses for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in 1906, 1916 and 1926. (<https://www.findmypast.com>)

20 Things to Do When You Are Stumped

1. Explore Name Variations in Your Findings

Take time to analyze your findings and give everything another look. Specifically look for any conclusions you might have made that cannot be verified from the records you have found. Avoid making any assumptions and ensure that each name, event, and place can be verified before moving on.

2. Browse Record Collections

Although census records and birth, marriage and death records are a great way to start looking for your ancestors, they can only take you so far. Here are some often overlooked record collections that will add depth in and will introduce you to family members instead of just names and introduce you to family members who may otherwise be left unnoticed.

--U.S. Immigration Records: follow your ancestors first steps into the U.S.

--Soldiers of the First World (See Automated Genealogy)

--Crime Prisons and Punishments: explore UK criminal records

--Chelsea Pensioners Discharge Documents 1760-1887: Offers a wide range of people who served in the British Military

Tip: If you are unable to find an answer in a specific record, consider browsing through its pages. In some of the cases names might be misspelled or incorrectly indexed and can only be found by browsing through a collection online. It is also possible that the first or last name you are searching for is different than what was recorded in the records and might only be recognized when browsing the records.

3. Find Family Stories in the Newspapers

By searching through newspapers online you may find details about your ancestors and

discover what life was like on their street, their town and their time period from 1700 to 1950.

4. New Records – New Opportunities

Some families are much easier to find than others. Family history is a lifelong pursuit for many as there are always another set of parents or siblings to discover as your family tree continues to branch out. As more records become available online and are discovered across the world it is possible that the answers to your toughest research problems can still be solved.

5. Create a Family Tree

Chart out a chronological timeline of a family helps to organize a family identify missing information. Include significant dates for each family member, such as birth, marriage and death records, length of military service, findings in the census records, and other details. You can also add historical events by using newspapers to see how your ancestor might have been impacted by what was happening in the world around them, and what other records might be available to search.

6. Search for Siblings in Family Lines for a Few Hours

Focusing your search on an ancestor's siblings often yields additional records that benefit your research. For example, a brother or a sister might provide the names of their parents in a record while your own direct ancestor did not. Tracing wide instead of deep into family lines can also identify distant cousins, aunts and uncles who might have useful information.

7. Go Social with Other Family Historians

Multiple resources exist for asking other genealogists for ideas and advice when you are stumped. You can look for record updates or easily post a query about any family on the findmypast blog or join social networking on Facebook or Twitter. Include information (names, dates, and places) that would be useful in assisting someone to answer your question. Listen every week to family history podcasts exploring common issues, new events and tips for search.

8. Don't let "Brick Walls" Break You

Before becoming too frustrated with your brick wall take a short break from your research and focus on another task or family. Being able to put away your research for a few hours, days or weeks allows you to approach your research with a fresh set of

eyes. Many genealogists find that taking a longer break can be beneficial as new record sets may appear online that provides important information that either solves the brick wall or moves the research forward.

9. Consult a Professional Genealogist

Professional genealogists are available to assist you with your research and can often work with you to tackle your brick walls. Many professional researchers work at an hourly rate and often specialize in a specific record type, locality, time period, or subject matter. The Association of Professional Genealogists provides an online directory searchable by specialty to assist you in finding a professional.

10. Locate the Original Record

In some of the cases you might be looking at a transcription or an abstract made from an original record. While every effort is made to ensure transcriptions are accurate, it is essential to examine a copy of the original record. In some of the cases you might only have an abstract or an abbreviated version of the record and the original record might yield additional information for your research. In order to locate the original record, keeping track of your findings is imperative. Use a research log to assist you.

11. Attend a Webinar, Class/Conference

Several opportunities to learn more about researching your family history are available online and in person. Potential events include individual classes on a specific record or strategy, an online webinar, or a day-long seminar on a variety of genealogical topics. There are also multiple week-long conferences, in-depth institutes across the country that you can attend including the National Genealogical Society's Annual Conference, the Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy.

12. Find a Genealogical Society Near You

Thousands of genealogical societies exist in the United States and Canada and throughout the world. Societies offer a wealth of resources for those researching family history and might even have local volunteers who can assist you in your research. Visit the Federation of Genealogical Society's online directory to locate a society in your area or join a society where your ancestors used to reside.

13. Visit a Genealogical Library

A few key libraries for family history

research exist in the U.S. and in Canada, each with a dedicated staff of professionals and volunteers who can assist you with your research. The world's largest genealogical library, the Family History Library located in Salt Lake City, has a worldwide collection of over 2.4 million rolls of microfilm (now digitized and can be found on familysearch.org) and thousands of books.

Other prominent libraries for genealogical research include the Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library in Washington, D.C., the Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri, the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, Texas, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society's Library in Boston, Massachusetts.

14. Visit a Public Library Near You

Your local library might have access to databases and records that can help you expand your search. In some of the cases you might be able to access materials remotely (without visiting the library). Contact your local public library and inquire about their family history and genealogical resources.

15. Participate in a DNA Study

The science of DNA analysis can have great benefits for genealogists. Many individuals participate in DNA surname studies which combine genealogical research and DNA results to prove relationships between individuals and potential origins of various surnames or groups.

16. Write a Family Sketch

Begin writing a family sketch, focusing on the family that has you stumped. Include each detail you have uncovered about the family as you write and look for any patterns or potential contradictions in your data. Documenting each name, date, and relationship as you write helps to ensure your research is accurate and can often identify areas that could be researched further.

17. Search Family History Publications (Expand Your Knowledge)

The answers you are seeking could easily be available in records you have yet to discover. Learn more about family history at www.findmypast.com or through other resources such as Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org and FamilySearch Wiki.

18. Subscribe to a Genealogical Journal

Scholarly journals for genealogy and family

history can include record abstracts and published family sketches that demonstrate the research process and even solve some of the toughest brick walls. Even if an article has not been published on your family, these articles provide sources and techniques you can apply to your own research.

19. Search for Printed Resources

There are thousands of records not yet available online that include important information for family history research. Printed resources include printed genealogies, local histories, record transcriptions and abstracts, and other materials. Search for these materials in libraries and other repositories through WorldCat to locate sources close to your home. Check out PERSI found on www.findmypast.com.

20. Think Outside the Record Set

Many records for research are available online at libraries and archives across the U.S., Canada and the world. Manuscript collections can often be a goldmine for research as they contain unique personal records, such as letters, diaries, and photographs not found anywhere else. Use resources as ArchiveFinder and Archivegrid (both available at many public and university libraries) to find other collections to continue your research www.findmypast.com

Danish Research Online Resources

Translations

The first problem many English-speaking researchers encounter is the fact that they don't speak the Danish language. Fortunately, there are now many Danish translating programs available online. Check out the following website

<http://translate.google.com>.

Dansk Demografisk Database

The Danish Archives has been indexing the Danish national censuses and placing them online. The Dansk Demografisk Database <http://www.ddd.dda.dk/> contains Danish Census records from 1787 and onwards as well as other features. The Danish State Archives are in the process of indexing the census records, but the indexing is not complete for all years. The website is given in both Danish and English, it is important to note, however, that the English version of the website does not yet have the same amount of results available that you will find in the Danish version. To access the English version,

click on the British flag that appears in the upper right-hand corner of the webpage. For more information about the site see Danish Demographic Database.

If you search for an individual and get no returns, it may be that you are using the wrong spelling for the name (you must use the Danish alphabet and spell the name correctly) or the name may not have been indexed yet. Remember, that a lot is still to be transcribed, so check back later if you are not initially successful.

If you can locate an ancestor in these census records, you will then know the place the ancestor lived, their age, and possibly family members.

Arkivalieronline.dk

The second helpful website is found at <http://www.sa.dk/ao/>. This website does not have an English translation; however, there is a wiki page describing the website (Digitized Danish Records Online). There is also an overall English description found at this website

<http://www.sa.dk/ao/English/default.aspx>. This website accesses original scans of the census records and the church records. These are not indexed, so the only way to use them is to look through all the records. However, they are categorized by location and year. Don't be intimidated by the fact that this website is in Danish. Use the translator found at <http://translate.google.com> and copy and paste the words. (See the following site for the full article. (<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Danish-Research.html>))

GenFair 2020

Date: April 25/2020

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AGM: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Wetaskiwin Seniors Centre 5216 – 54th St
Speakers: Dr. Karen Aberle, Wetaskiwin Museum,

Sandi Ratch, Historical Archaeologist

Claudia Malloch, Wetaskiwin member, and Sharon Aney, Wetaskiwin member

Registration: \$20.00 (pre-register). It includes a catered lunch. See AGS Provincial website at <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/genfair-registration>
Phone AGS Wetaskiwin Branch at 780 352-2150

Genealogy Humor

--Genealogy is where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

--Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate. –Unknown