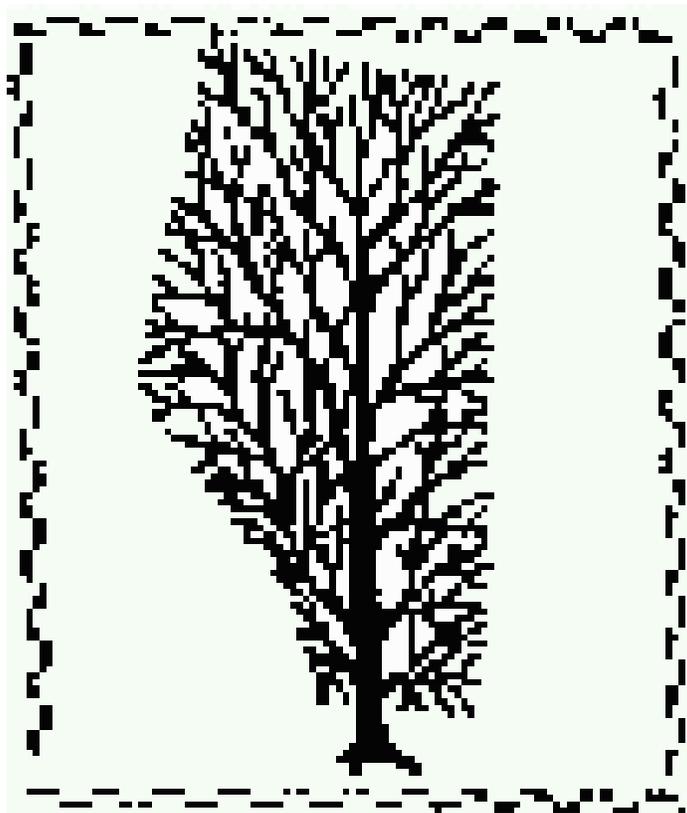


YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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**The Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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Lethbridge, Alberta
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**Lethbridge Branch Website: <http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net>
AGS Website address: <http://www.compumart.ab.ca/abgensoc/>**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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Vice-President	Susan Haga	328-3275
Secretary	Rod McLeod	327-5722
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	Susan Haga	328-3275
	Anne Baines	328-7309
Scrapbook	Bev Henderson	327-0243
Webmaster	Anne Baines	328-7309

General Meetings

Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (except June, July, August & December) at our Library Room 1:28, 909 – 3rd Avenue North, Lethbridge, Alberta

Notice: Membership dues are due January 2006

Visitors Welcome!

President's Message



At this time I hope that you had a great Christmas and the New Year has rung in loud and clear. As you contemplate the many activities that will happen throughout 2006 I hope that you will be successful. Setting goals is an important first step to any accomplishment larger or small.

As you contemplate where you are going genealogically there are many tools to choose from. There is the internet and the ever increasing websites. There is the old printed material that has been around for years. Of course there is the letter writing or the one on one conversation with relatives and friends. Whatever approach you are taking for whatever the information to be found, don't forget to enter it on your research log.

I can speak from experience when I say that these research logs are time consuming. I even rationalized that I will remember what I have done. However, whatever the excuse there is nothing like a research log to keep you focused. I can share it with others to get ideas as how to tackle this perplexing problem and get their input.

Some activities you might become involved with this coming year are...I can

- become involved with a genealogical group both here where I live and also where my families came from
- get involved either in leadership or involved with a special project that will assist others...
- attend seminars, workshops, monthly meetings or even conduct a class...
- share my knowledge with others through networking
- read about the life during the time period my ancestors lived.

Yes, these are all activities that involve doing.

I would like to thank those of you that have helped the Lethbridge and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society become what it is today and what it will become in the future. Have a wonderful and successful 2006 by getting out there and finding a new ancestor or cousin. Who knows what will fall out as you shake those bushes?

Ken Young, President

Editor's Message

This is our first issue for 2006! First I want to thank Anne Baines for her great article printed in the November issue on Pictou County Research. We are very grateful for any articles that we receive. Everyone has a different approach in doing their research and it gives us ideas that we may want to try.

If you are interested in submitting articles, genealogy humor, websites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can phone our AGS Office at (403) 328-9564 or send an e-mail to lethags@theboss.net.

Thank you! Susan Haga, Newsletter Editor



Lethbridge Family History Center Classes

Sat., Feb 4th--9:30 a.m. Researching in Newspapers (a valuable source of information) Ken Young

Thurs, Feb. 9th--7.00 p.m. How Using "PAF Insight" enhances the PAF program Peter van Schaik

Thurs., Feb. 16th--7:00 p.m. Overcoming "Brick Walls"—Val Duncan

Tues, Feb. 21st--7:00 p.m.--Ontario Research (including online) Anne Baines & Ken Young

Sat., Mar 4th--9:30a.m. Important FHC Resources that You Didn't Know Were Here—Ken Young

Thurs., Mar 9th--7:00 p.m. Unscrambling the Handwriting of Old Records—Val Duncan

Tues March 14-7.00 p.m.—Researching in Ireland—Anne Baines

Sat, Mar 25—9:30 a.m- Using LDS Resources including Internet Websites—Susan Haga

Please pre-register at the FHC in person or by phoning 328-0206. Register early! Computer classes fill up quickly.

The News, Nanton, Alberta
Thursday, Jan. 15, 1931, Pg 5

J.O. Fetherston attended a convention, with trimmings, of the Associated Grocers in Calgary Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. G.P. Galloway left Saturday for Scotland, expecting to be away between two and three months.

Mrs. Bishop of High River visited Mr. and Mrs. R. Jones here over the week end, returning home Tuesday afternoon.

Irwin Comstock is in Nanton hospital this week for treatment for endo carditis or inflammation of the inner lining of the heart.

Wilson Cross returned from Armstrong, B.C. last week, where he and Mrs. Cross spent the Christmas holidays, and Mrs. Cross is remaining for awhile longer.

Mrs. P.C. Loree is the delegate from Nanton local U.F.W.A. to the annual convention next week, with Mrs. Mabel Robertson as alternate. H.G. Loree will represent U.F.A. local.

F.L. Rhodes, manager of the local branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, left last Thursday for Toronto to attend a conference of Bank of Commerce managers. A.C. Maxwell is acting manager here while he is away.

Mrs. Anna Jones of Minot, N.D. formerly Miss Anna Lindholm of Nanton, is visiting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J.A. Creighton, and meeting old time friends. Mr. Jones is on a visit to her mother, Mrs. J.J. Jenkins at Stavely, and took a few days to visit her old home town. She is returning to Stavely Friday, and will leave to return to Minot Friday of next week. Mrs. Jones was bereaved by the death of her husband the late W.F. Jones, about a year ago. Her eldest daughter, who was born in Nanton, accompanied her, but returned home this week.

Death of H.H. Cox

H.H. Cox, a highly respected resident of this district, living eight miles east of town, died suddenly Sunday evening, dropping from his horse to the ground in the lane east of his farm. Jackie Montgomery and Kittie Anderson first saw

Mr. Cox about 5:30 p.m., and he appeared to be slumped over in his saddle, and a moment later he fell to the ground by the side of the road. Homer Thorn was the first one notified, but soon word was sent to other neighbors and several hastened to the place. Coroner Dr. Keen was summoned and found that death was due to hardening of the coronary arteries, producing anemia of the heart. Mr. Cox had been troubled for some time with high blood pressure, but he was a man who said very little about his ailments, and his friends never knew how serious they might be.

Mr. Cox's horses had gotten out of the pasture into the lane and he was trying to round them up when he was overtaken by death.

Mr. Cox was 62 years old in August last. He was a bachelor, and is survived by one brother, J.W. Cox living at Dewdney, B.C., and a sister-in-law, Mrs. E.A. Cox of Edmonton, and two nieces, all of whom were present at his funeral.

Huston Harvey Cox was born at Bedford, Ia, August 11, 1868. He came to Canada in 1903, and engaged in the hardware business at Ponoka and also in farming in that district. He disposed of his interests in that locality about 1919, and about a year later bought a section of land east of Nanton, where he has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Cox was a member of the Disciples of Christ, and took great interest in church work. In early life he studied for the ministry, but after completing his course, decided that he could be more useful as a layman, and during the remainder of his life gave liberally of his time and his means to the cause. He was a member of the Alberta board of the Christian church almost from the time of his arrival in Alberta till his death, and served as secretary-treasurer of the board for years, relinquishing that position only recently, and had also been president of the Western Canada convention of his church. He was in the true sense of the term, a Christian gentleman.

The funeral was held in St. Andrew's hall Wednesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. J.W.S.. Jenkins of Aldersyde assisted by Rev. F.W. Locke of Nanton United Church and Rev. C.H. Phillips of Lethbridge. The arrangements were in charge of E.L. Snodgrass of High River. The pall bearers were H.L. Thorn, A.S. Eaton, Cecil Dennison, H.H. Montgomery, J.E. Gothard and Hugh Russell.

101 Records You Might Have Missed

1. Advertisements in City Directories
2. Almanacs
3. Anniversary Publications of churches, associations, towns, companies, etc.
4. Annual Reports
5. Artwork and Handicrafts
6. Auction Notices and Catalogs
7. Autograph Albums
8. Baby Books
9. Bank Records
10. Bankruptcy Announcements
11. Biographical Compilations
12. Birthday, Anniversary, Christmas, Congratulation and Sympathy Cards often pasted into scrapbooks
13. Certificates
14. Certifying and Licensing Agencies
15. Charitable Organizations
16. Church Membership Lists
17. City, County or Town Council Records
18. Civil Service Lists
19. Clubs, Trade Associations, Fraternities
20. Company Newsletters
21. Contracts
22. Coroner's Records
23. Court Session Records
24. Crests and Coats-of-Arms
25. Deeds, Mortgages and Other Property Ownership Records
26. Diaries and Letters
27. Registration Cards
28. Films or Videotapes of family events
29. Funeral Home Records
30. Funeral Visitation Books (kept in family)
31. Government Secretary's Incoming Correspondence
32. Heirlooms
33. Hospital and Asylum Records
34. Hymn or Prayer Books
35. Immigration Documents
36. Immigration Society Records
37. Immunization Records
38. Inquiry Records
39. Insurance Records
40. Invitations to Weddings and etc.
41. Jail Records
42. Justice of the Peace Records
43. Library Subscribers' Lists
44. Lists of Letters Remaining at Post Office
45. Military Enlistment or Discharge Papers
46. Militia Muster Rolls
47. Minutes of Church Meetings
48. Minutes of Town, County, & City Council Meetings
49. Missionaries' Papers
50. Museum Catalogs
51. Mutual Assistance Clubs
52. Neighbors' Land Records
53. Newspaper Accounts of Agricultural Fairs
54. Newspaper Accounts of Anniversaries of Settlement (e.g. 100th anniversary of founding of a town.)
55. Newspaper Accounts of Major Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays
56. Newspaper and Government Reports
57. Newspaper Reports of Court Sessions
58. Non-Population Census Schedules (agricultural, industrial, mortality etc.)
59. Nursing Home Records
60. Oaths of Allegiance
61. Occupational Directories
62. Old Cook Books Belonging to Relatives
63. Orphanage Records
64. Papers of Companies
65. Passports and Passport Applications
66. Pension Records
67. Personal Address and Telephone Books
68. Photographs
69. Photography Studio Records
70. Poetry
71. Politicians' Papers
72. Postcards
73. Private Papers of Clergymen
74. Private Papers of Local Professionals
75. Private Papers of Wealthy Members
76. Programs from Graduation Ceremonies
77. Property Ownership Maps
78. Receipts
79. Records of Poor Houses/Workhouses /Houses of Refuge
80. Religious Newspapers
81. Resumes
82. School Board Records
83. School Graduation
84. School Papers
85. School Yearbooks
86. Scrapbooks
87. Ship's Logs
88. Social Columns
89. Social Security Applications, Cards
90. Souvenir Matchbooks
91. Surveyors' Maps and Journals
92. Tax and Assessment Records
93. The Organizations Section of City Directories
94. Tickets for Passage on Ships and Trains
95. Travel Logs Kept by Family Members
96. Traveler's Diaries and Published Accounts
97. Trophies, Medals, Commemorative Rings, Pins, Ribbons, etc.
98. Used Calendars
99. Wedding
100. Wedding or Baby Shower Record Books
101. Wills and Estate Papers

(Family Chronicle-May/June 2005 issue--Janice Nickerson)

Online Sources for Irish Ancestry

- Otherdays (www.otherdays.com)

There are over 130 databases of Irish records at this subscription-based website, including fully indexed images of Griffith's Valuation, Dublin wills and marriage licenses (1270-1857), and a County Antrim census taken in 1803. Charges for access range from an annual subscription of \$44 U.S. to a 72-hour membership for \$8 U.S.

- Irish Origins (www.irishorigins.com)

Griffith's Valuation is searchable on this subscription-based website too, which also contains an index of Irish wills (1484-1858) at the National Archives of Ireland. The wills consist of some original documents, as well as copies, transcripts, abstracts and extracts. The website also contains an index of heads of household in the City of Dublin from the 1851 census. Charges to view the records start at 3.95 (pds) for 72 hours, while a year's subscription costs 22.50 (pounds).

- Irish Ancestors (scripts.ireland.com/ancestor
(no www))

This website is run by professional genealogist John Grenham, in conjunction with The Irish Times. One of the site's most useful features is a surname search of Griffith's Valuation, which lists the number of households of that name (or variants) in each county. You can also enter a second surname and see a list of counties where households of both names lived in the same parish. A 30 credit-subscription to the site costs \$60 US.

- Irish Genealogy (www.irishgenealogy.ie)

Irish Genealogy Ltd. is the umbrella organization for genealogical services in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, and manages and markets the IGP. Various computer indexes are now being created by the family history research centers and at this site you can search free-of-charge in a combined index of records held by some of the centers. The records cover 11 counties, mainly in the north & west of Ireland. You can also place an online order for research, and download a 22-page booklet called Tracing Your Ancestors in Ireland.

- Ulster Historical Foundation
(www.ancestryireland.co.uk)

The Foundation is the IGP research center for the counties of Antrim and Down, and carries out family history research throughout Ireland. The cost of a preliminary assessment is \$31 US. As a member of the Foundation's Ulster Genealogical Historical Guild (which costs \$57 US per year), you can carry out an online search of the Foundation's IGP database. This contains 2.5 million births, marriages and deaths, mainly relating to Antrim and Down, and including the City of Belfast.

- General Register Office (Republic of Ireland)
(www.groireland.ie)

The GRO in Dublin holds vital records for the whole of Ireland before 1922 and for the Irish Republic from 1922 onwards. The website includes details of the Republic's Civil Registration Modernization Programme.

- General Register Ofc (Northern Ireland)
(www.groni.gov.uk)

Vital records of non-Catholic marriages began in Ireland in 1845, and of births, deaths and Catholic marriages in 1864. The GRONI in Belfast holds all birth & death records for Northern Ireland, as well as marriages from 1922 onwards. You can find earlier vital records of marriages in the six counties both at GRO in Dublin and in the offices of District Registrars in Northern Ireland. At this site, you can order and pay for certificates online.

- National Archives of Ireland
(www.nationalarchives.ie)

This is the successor to the PRO in Dublin, & holds both the 1901 and the 1911 censuses for the whole of Ireland, as well as microfilm copies of most of the surviving pre-1870 Church of Ireland registers. The site contains an online database of convicts transported to Australia between 1791 and 1853.

- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
(www.proni.gov.uk)

The PRONI in Belfast holds records for Northern Ireland including copies of Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Church registers, the 1901 census, and wills (1858-1995). The website contains online indexes that list the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Church records that have been microfilmed by the PRONI (some covering areas in the Irish Republic). In addition, the site contains indexes of 18th- and 19th century lists of property-owning freeholders and of the half million signatories to the Ulster Covenant in 1912. Both indexes are searchable online.

- National Library of Ireland (www.nli.ie)

The library holds microfilm of almost all Roman Catholic parish registers (which tend to begin in the late 17th century in the east of Ireland, but can start as late as the mid 19th century in the south and west), as well as microfiche copies of Griffith's Valuation.

- Church of Ireland (www.ireland.anglican.org)

The Representative Church Body Library holds most of Church of Ireland's registers from 830 parishes in republic. You can order published copies of 8 of registers using a form on website.

(Article from Family Chronicle March/April 2005—pgs 11-12--Alan Stewart (author of Gathering the Clans: Tracing Scottish Ancestry on the Internet).

Castle Garden Passenger Ship Arrivals

www.castlegarden.org

It truly was a breakthrough for genealogists when the Ellis Island records came online in 2001. The database (www.ellisland.org) comprises 25 million passenger arrival records from 1892 to 1924 linked to digital images of original manifests. Deservedly, the launch of this site was widely promoted and for some weeks it was hard to access because of the popularity.

Just 4 years later, the Castle Garden records have come online with little publicity. Most genealogists know that Castle Garden was the center that processed ships arrivals in New York prior to 1892.

Until now, it has been difficult to research passenger arrivals except for those of Ellis Island. Although the manifests have been microfilmed, it has been a formidable task unless you have a good idea of the date of the ship's arrival.

The Castle Garden website hosts a database of 10 million passenger arrivals for the years 1830-1892. It is not yet complete—a further two million names have yet to be added. The website tells us that 73 million Americans can trace their ancestry to people who immigrated in this period.

The site lacks some of the nicer points of the Ellis Island site: the index is not linked to any digital images and, although the name of the vessel is given, images are not available. Neither can you see who else arrived on the same ship, a useful feature. Still, the index can provide you with a date and a ship which makes it possible to look up the microfilm and this has made life far easier than it has been.

Quick Search is free—and fast. Advanced searches are available for \$45 but this seem confusing. To quote: “Advanced search allows you to cross reference subjects in context according to many different variables”. However a person's name is not one of the variables you can input so its usage is puzzling.

(Article taken from Family Chronicle-Nov/Dec 2005 issue—pgs 60-61. All issues of Family Chronicle are available for reading at the Lethbridge Family History Center)

Canadian Ship Manifests Go Online

National Archives Canada plans to have digitized images of passenger lists in a database online for almost every port of entry for the years 1865 to 1921. This work is part of a larger virtual exhibit entitled “Moving Here, Staying Here: The Canadian Immigrant Experience.” The first images should be online by the year's end. Currently there are no plans for the Archives to include a name index to these records.

Stepping up to provide a portion of this important component, the Nanaimo Family History Society of British Columbia plans to create an index of all passengers from 1900 to 1921 arriving at Halifax and Quebec (Montreal is included in the Port of Quebec). This is expected to be a multi-year project with all labor contributed by volunteers.

The Nanaimo Family History Society plans to index all passenger names shown on the ships manifests for the targeted ports and dates. The index will include returning Canadians, tourists, passengers destined for the U.S., and persons whose names have been crossed out. As a result, you may see a person more than once as they return to Canada from visits overseas. Persons whose names have been crossed out are annotated as such. They may be shown in a different section of the same ship, or they may have never boarded the ship. The information provided includes name, age, country of birth, arrival date, and name of ship, port of entry, microfilm number, and page number.

The first part of this index is already available online: Quebec Ports for the periods 2 Jul 1908 to 5 Jun 1909, 25 Jul 1909 to 13 May 1910 and 17 Sep 1910 to 12 Oct 1910. For more information or to view the partial index already available, go to <http://members.shaw.ca/nanaimo.fhs>.

My thanks to Michael Kinsey for telling me about this new resource.

Posted by Dick Eastman on Dec. 2, 2005.

(Thanks to Eleanor McMurchy for this information.)

Homestead Photos Bring Tears of Joy

(Toronto Star (www.thestar.com)
Bill Redekop, Sep. 27, 2003, Pg L13)

Winnipeg—Hoots of joy or tears erupt when people find what they thought they'd never see again—the old homestead area.

Those are sure to be some of the reactions when an archive of farm aerial photos dating back to 1955 is brought to Manitoba next month.

“The response is amazing. Some people are just shocked and surprised. Some cry. Some just break down,” says Eileen Deringer, co-owner of Homestead Aerial Farm Photos.

The aerial photos are boring to many people, but saturated with meaning to people who actually lived on those farms. Some 30,000 aerial shots of Manitoba farm homesteads—most of them bulldozed long ago—are in the collection.

“This is the only existing library of aerial farm photos dating back to the 1950's,” Deringer says. “Most people don't have a clue these photos still exist.”

Some of the aerial farm shots are more interesting than today's because there were fewer flight restrictions back then, so fly-overs were much lower. People can be plainly seen in some photos. Some people are seen waving to the plane. Some are out stooking hay or driving the hayrack.

“We see grandma in the garden, and dad opening the garage door, and kids playing in the middle of the field,” says Deringer. “We hear tons of stories. People will say, ‘Oh my God! I remember that tree!’”

Laundry hangs on a clothesline in at least half the photos.

“You have to remember families were a lot bigger back then and clothes had to be washed every second day,” says Deringer.

There are also old aerial photos of general stores, service stations and churches. The photos were black and white until the 1980's.

Homestead Aerial takes aerial photos from a helium blimp today, but only in Calgary area.

The difficulty can be in finding your homestead, or that of your parents or your grandparents.

Half the photos still have names of the owners, when the photo was taken, on the back. If not, people who are interested need a legal land description, i.e. the quarter, section, township and range. Deringer says old phonebooks are a good source of this data.

Even with all this information, people still have to identify the photograph, knowing whether the homestead had a hip-roofed barn, or whether it was a one-or two-storey home, and which side of the driveway it was on.

People who are interested should check website homesteadaerial.com.

(Winnipeg Free Press)

French Children Can Bear Mother's Surname

(The Globe and Mail--Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2004
—Page A11)

French women won a small but significant victory over the mighty forces of Gallic bureaucracy yesterday with the publication of an amendment allowing children to bear their mother's surname.

Until now, under a law that dates back to Napoleon, parents have been required to pass on the name of the father. Beginning in January, they can give “either the name of the father, or the name of the mother, or the two surnames (in either order).”

The law still requires that the surname chosen for the first child be given to all offspring that follow. And, in the event of the parents being unable to agree, “the name of the father will prevail.”

(Guardian)

A man visiting a graveyard saw a tombstone that read: “Here lies John Kelly, a lawyer and an honest man.” “Well, how about that! He exclaimed, “They've got three people buried in one grave.” (Halton-Peel Newsletter, Nov. 1997 From Reader's Digest, June 1996.)

100 Million Newspaper Pages Online

(Marc Skulnick)

Godfrey Memorial Library (www.godfrey.org)

- Online portal to tens of millions of newspaper archive pages.
- More than two million pages added monthly.
- \$35 US annually to join but this covers many of the newspaper archives listed below. A Godfrey Scholar library card including Otherdays, Ebsco, Proquest, Accessible Archives, Library of Congress.

Paper of Record (www.paperofrecord.com)

- Collection of newspapers from Australia, Canada, Mexico, UK and USA.
- Features over eight million pages, with new pages added every week.
- Subscription required--\$16.75 US/month or \$99.99 US/year.

Toronto Star (<http://thestar.pagesofthepast.ca>)

- Over 2 million pages dating from 1894- 2001.
- Results are displayed as high-res PDF's that can be saved or printed.
- Free trial allows you to search and access all of 1945, including obtaining high-res PDF's.
- Subscription required—Prices range from \$3.95 CDN for one hour \$9.95 CDN for 72 hours, up to \$29.95 CDN for one month.

New York Times (1851-2001)

Wall Street Journal (1889-1987)

Washington Post (1877-1987)

Christian Science Monitor (1881-1984)

Los Angeles Times (1881-1984)

Chicago Tribune (1849-forward)

(www.proquest.com)

- Fully searchable by date, keyword, etc.
- Results are displayed as high-res PDF's that can be saved and/or printed.
- Only available through libraries and educational facilities.
- Each newspaper's archives are also accessible through its own website (i.e. www.nytimes.com)

Obits Archive.com (www.ObitsArchive.com)

- Obituaries and death notices from more than 500 US newspapers.
- Each obituary or death notice is indexed by the name of the deceased person.
- In addition, the text of each obituary or death notice is searchable by place of residence, occupation, names of family members, or other personal information.
- Text-only results can be printed and/or saved.
- Searching is free, with the results available for purchase on a per article basis (starting at \$3.50 US for one article).

Paratext (www.paratext.com)

- Free to access, but only available through academic, public and special libraries.
- 19th Century Masterfile section of the Paratext website contains over 60 fully searchable reference databases and indexes including pre-1925 newspapers, indexes, periodicals, books, patents and US/UK government documents.

The Times (London) (www.timesonline.co.uk)

- Considered the paper of record for the UK.
- Online archives from 1985 to present can be searched free of charge, with the results available for purchase on a per article basis (for as little as 17 cents an article).
- Fully searchable digital archives of the 'Times' complete run from 1785-1985 are also available online but only through select reference and educational libraries.

Library of Congress (www.loc.gov)

- The LOC website now has an entire section devoted to the various online newspaper archives including Stars & Stripes military newspaper and the NY Tribune.
- Free to access, keyword high-lighted results are displayed as high-res PDF's that can be saved and/or printed.

Ancestry's Historical Newspapers (www.ancestry.com)

- More than seven million pages from over 5000 different newspapers across the US, UK and Canada dating from 1765-2001.
- Newspaper subscription also includes access to Ancestry's Obituary Collection that contains more than two million obituaries.

Historical Newspr (<http://historynews.chadwyck.com/>)

- A division of Proquest, Historical Newspapers features Palmer's Index to the Times which covers the period from 1790-1905 in the Times, The Official Index to the Times which takes the coverage forward from 1906-1980, The Historical Index to the New York Times which covers the New York Times from 1851-September 1922 and Palmer's Full Text Online, 1785-1870, providing access to the full articles referenced in Palmer's Index to the Times.
- Only available in libraries and educational facilities

NewspaperARCHIVE.com

(www.newspaperarchive.com)

- 21.3 million newspaper pages online from UK, US, Canada, Ireland, Denmark and Jamaica.
- Subscription required--\$17.95 US/month or \$99.95 US/annually.

(Family Chronicle-Mar/Apr 2005-pgs 30-34)

Fine Spurs Surname Frenzy

(Mongolia) June 12, 2004

Oliver August (Times of London) Ulan Bator

Mongolians have been ordered to invent their own surnames, after generations have lived with just one name on the orders of their former Soviet masters.

Hundreds, pondering what to call themselves, daily besiege a small office in the centre of their capital where identity documents are issued.

Held back by armed guards outside some opt for surnames like Seven Drunk Men that hint at Mongolia's national pastime. Others prefer to adopt the name of Genghis Khan, still the mightiest of Mongols, who now has 500 namesakes in Ulan Bator.

When communism crumbled in 1990, the ban on family names was lifted, but many nomadic herders who roam between Siberia and the Gobi desert continue to refer to each other only by single names.

Now, to fight incest and make official records more intelligible, the government has set a deadline of June 27 for all 2.5 million Mongolian to choose a family name on pain of a fine equivalent to several months' salary. "We are returning to our ancient traditions," said Gurragchaа the Defence Minister.

The result is a stampede to state registration offices by Mongolians wearing felt hats and embroidered riding boots.

Some take their new name from their profession, or where it has taken them in the case of Gurragchaа.

In 1981 he became the first and only Mongolian cosmonaut and was on a Soviet spaceship for an eight-day mission that made him a hero on the moonscape that is Mongolia. When choosing a surname, there was only one choice—Sansar, or Cosmos.

Google Earth (www.earth.google.com)

Since Google became a public company in August 2004, they have continually amazed us with new services. One of the most recent, and most

exciting, is Google Earth. To use the website you need to download a free program.

Google Earth shows you satellite images of almost the entire world, although the resolution varies considerably depending on your location. Major population centers, especially in North America, are generally available in high resolution – and that resolution is good! You can see motor vehicles and even spots that appear to be people! The images are not real time and not even new – the images around my home appear to be about two years old.

When starting the program you are presented with a cloudless view of the earth from space. To find a location, you enter the address. (This can be a bit tricky – the program is not very smart at finding locations unless they are in exactly the right form and it isn't always obvious what that form should be.) The earth then rotates until you are directly over your location, then it starts to zoom in. The program is accessing data from the Internet and the rate at which the image builds up to a maximum resolution will depend upon your connection speed.

So, does it have any relevance to genealogy? I believe it does. I have been able to find aerial views of several family homes that I have yet to visit. Finding them on a map is okay but seeing a satellite image gives you a far better idea of the surroundings. As you are able to bookmark locations, I was able to trace my great-grandfather's movements from England to the US and then as he moved from city to city. Google Earth zooms from one location to another – great fun.

Not all areas are in good resolution. My own home cannot be distinguished except from the road layout as it lies about a mile from the edge of high resolution coverage.

You may also read longitude and latitude to the nearest second and determine the height above sea level at any point. The image can also show contours and the effect is three dimensional. After "flying" through the Grand Canyon I decided to fly right up the Rockies into Canada – I was mesmerized for 40 minutes – I reckon I was traveling at 1,000 mph!

(Family Chronicle—Nov/Dec 2005 issue--pg 61)

Family History Research A Success Story
(Susan Button—Owen Sound, Ontario)

Family History Research began for me shortly after my Father-in-law, Leonard Button, died and my husband discovered that only did he not know his Paternal Grandfather's name, but neither did his Mother. I took it upon myself to solve this mystery. I eventually did find that Walter Button was the Gents name and that he had 10 children the last one born being my Father-in-law.

I managed to discover the names of all the 10 children. Now came the hard task, putting some information about each on paper. This started out quite easy, as some of the family had stayed in touch over the years, but then I started to expand to the older children, and since these had moved away from the family home of Suffolk, it became very difficult.

The small stories came in such as "Wally who left in the 30's to go to Manchester to sell coal, and had a son Dennis". Not much to go on, but at least something. Another elusive one was Gertie. She moved to Liverpool and married a man named Heaton. They had 2 children, but nothing else known. Lots of Heaton's in and around Liverpool but none knew of a Gertie. Then I needed something on Stanley and his wife "Emmy" as I was told, who had a child and still lived in Suffolk "somewhere."

My first thought was to give up and be thankful I had found what I had managed to garner from the older members still able to recall facts. Something in me wanted to prove it could be done, so after 5 years of no success, I decided to use my computer to help me. I discovered that by surfing the net I could access different newspapers all around the world.

I e-mailed the Manchester local newspaper and gave them the same details about "Wally and Dennis" that I mentioned earlier. This little posting was accepted but they warned me that since it was a free service that I would have to wait until they had the space to run it. I promptly forgot all about it thinking it was another dead end. That was in Jan. of 2000 and on a Saturday in June 2000, out of the blue, I received a phone call from a lady in Manchester, I think she was more excited about having to be able to make a long distance overseas call to Canada than she did about her wonderful news she gave me. She was once engaged to the said Dennis Button and knew his address, etc., I was ecstatic, frantically writing the address down. A letter was written and mailed within an hour of the call, and I sat back to wait, calculating at least 3 weeks for a response. However, the following Monday, found a very wonderful gift waiting on the answering machine. The message was "I am

looking to speak to Susan Button, this is Susan Button the wife of Dennis Button." She went on to note that this small ad that was placed on the back page of the Manchester paper was not even seen by either Susan or Dennis Button, but by about 4 different folks who immediately passed on the message to them, as they no longer lived in Manchester but lived in a smaller town called Bolton, just outside of Manchester.

The success of finding "our Wally" prompted me to try again with the other siblings. On the 2nd of Feb, I placed a small posting in the newspaper for Ipswich called the Ipswich Evening Star. It can be read online too, and yet again, I put it out of my mind not thinking I would hear anything from it. Especially as I had even less information on "Stanley and Emmy" than I had on "Wally."

On Saturday, Feb 23, 2002, I received an e-mail from a very nice Gent named Ron Burrell regarding my posting, but the strange thing was, he lived in Denver, Colorado. This was confusing at first, until he told me that he is an ex US Airman based at the USAF base in Suffolk during the 1960's and had met and married his lovely wife Pam, a Suffolk girl, and that Pam was the niece of Emma Button who was married to a Stanley, and could they be the same ones? He mentioned that they had one child only and her name was Margaret (Peggy) and was still alive, and that they were still in contact, Peggy being Pam's first cousin. Again I am flabbergasted, wondering just how many Stan and Emma's can there be in Suffolk? Emailing him right back and asking if he could give me this lady's address to write to in Suffolk. He emailed me back shortly after I sent the letter. While I was reading his reply, my phone rang. It was Ron on the phone.. He just had to call, and tell me he had phoned Peggy and asked her permission to pass on her address which was given, and he mentioned a few facts that Peggy said she could recall, such as another brother of Stan's who had gone to Manchester. This was 'Uncle Wally' of course. Then there was another clue, she mentioned another brother named Ernie. This I mentioned was the father to David, Ernie's only surviving son, who we are in contact with and still lives in Suffolk. It was definitely a match.

I have to say with many thanks to Ron and Pam Burrell, we can say without a doubt that this Stanley is indeed a brother to my Father-in-law, Leonard Button. The proof was yet to come a short while after Ron's phone call. He started to email us some pictures of Stanley and Emma as they knew them while still in England during the 60's and the first picture was of Stanley taken shortly before his death in 1976. I called my husband to look at the computer screen and asked who the man in the picture was, and he said "that's my Dad". "No", I told him "that's your Uncle Stan."

Murphy's Laws as Applied to Genealogy

1. When, at last, after much hard work, you have finally proven that "gr-gr-gr-gr grandfather's name was really Wilford not William, your aunt says, "I could have told you that" and then she sends the documents (originals at that) that you just paid \$50.00 for a copy from the archives.
2. The relative who had all the "old" family photos died and the family had no interest, so they threw the pictures away about a week before you found that relative.
3. The spelling of your ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.
4. The document you need for confirmation is in the safe on board the Titanic.
5. Copies of old newspapers have holes in the exact part that would give you vital information.
6. The public ceremony in which your ancestor participated in and at which the platform collapsed under him turned out to be a hanging.
7. Your research uncovers that the family member that everyone says is "the family progenitor" died on board the immigrant ship at the age of 10 and is buried at sea, not in the family plot as everyone claims.
8. The only thing you know after many hours of research about your ancestors is that they are dead and buried somewhere but you have no idea when or where.
9. None of the pictures in your recently deceased grandmother's family bible have names written for them.
10. The week you set aside to cemetery "tramp" will be rainy, windy, or both.

(Taken from Saamis Seeker—March 2005
Medicine Hat & District Branch Newsletter)

Tombstone Tales

Found in Simcoe Co. Archives. From the Cleveland Leader as quoted in the Stayner Sun Jan. 6, 1898.

Tis not the dead alone that lie
In the graveyards still and drear
Too often do the tombstones tell
What isn't true. I fear.

Funny Epitaphs

In a London, England cemetery:
Ann MANN
Here lies Ann MANN
Who lived an old maid
But died an old Mann.
Dec. 1, 1767

Memory of an accident in a Uniontown, P.A. cemetery:
Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas instead of the brake

In a Georgia cemetery
"I told you I was sick!"

On Margaret Daniels grave at Hollywood Cemetery,
Richmond, Virginia
She always said her feet were killing her
But nobody believed her.

In a Thurmont, Maryland, cemetery:
Here lies an Athiest
All dressed up and no place to go.

Oops! Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York:
Born 1903-1942
Looked up the elevator shaft to see if
The car was on the way down. It was.

Alexander Dingwall Fordyce Jr. transcribed the "Auld Kirk-Yard", St. Andrew's Presbyterian Cemetery in Fergus over 122 years ago. At that time he wrote following to explain why he did it.:

When those still in life who feel a strong attachment to it, and take a special interest in it, have been laid beside their kindred—the old Church Yard will probably be entirely disused. On this account it seemed desirable, before inscriptions on the stones marking the resting places of this & that one, were obliterated,—to get them transcribed, and by means of this give a further opportunity for their preservation, for the satisfaction of those who count the spot sacred, from its association with those who have gone but are not forgotten.

A.D. Fordyce's reasons for recording transcriptions are as valid today as they were in 1882. The following year he transcribed and published those of Belsyde Cemetery, Fergus. Both transcriptions were reprinted in Wright, A.W. 1924. Pioneer days in Nichol. Mount Forest.

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