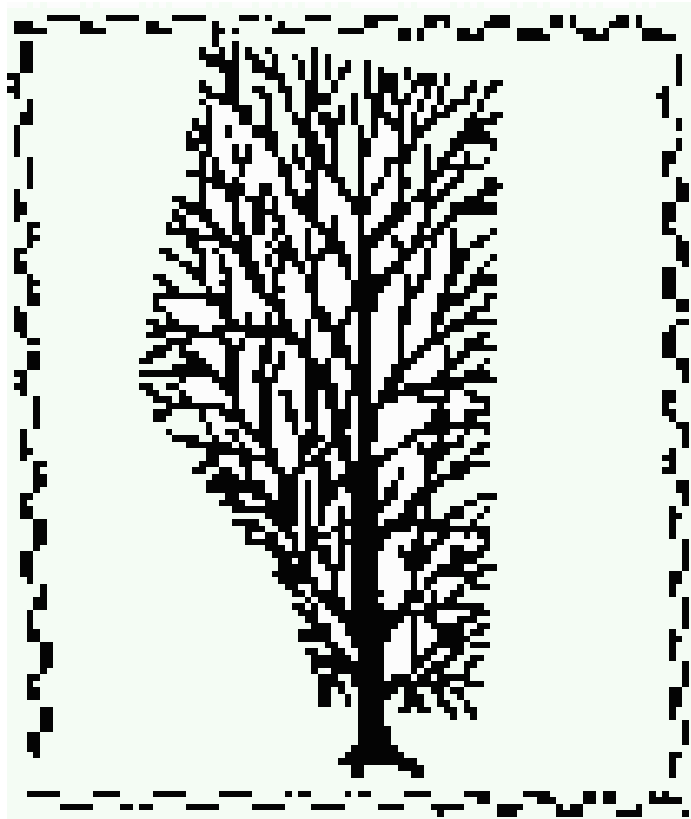


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
Vol. 23, No. 2  
May 2006  
ISSN 0836-531B



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I am putting this to print it is too late to remind you to make sure you say it is okay to make your census information available in 92 years. However, it is not too late to remind you that you should put your genealogy out there and see what happens.

Out there could mean many places. I have learned from experience that you don't wait until you know all the dates or places or that you have proved them. Case-in-point. I shared a line of my genealogy with a wife of a cousin thinking that the information was just going to remain between the two of us. Well after prodding, on her part, and still doing nothing, on my part, she took the bull by the horn and submitted the line up to and including my father to the Pedigree Resource File at the familysearch.org site. She used her name and address as the contact person and sat back and waited to see if there were any nibbles. It wasn't long before it sparked an interest. It wasn't a nibble it was a bite. A third cousin once removed answered. She happens to be living in England. I only know of two first cousins on this line plus one of them having a child and then they have a child. My father comes from a line of very small families.

It isn't the genealogy part that I want to bring to your attention but it is the willingness to share what you know with others that will bring results. Perhaps this experience will stir your soul to action and that perhaps you will have dozens of presently unknown cousins before the year is over.

Kenneth J.G. Young  
President, Lethbridge & District Branch of AGS

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE



This is our second issue of 2006! If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, websites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can send your submissions to our A.G.S. Office at (403) 328-9564 or send an e-mail to [lethags@theboss.net](mailto:lethags@theboss.net).

## LETHBRIDGE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER SUMMER HOURS

The Family History Center will close at the end of June for regular hours. The Center will be open **Tuesdays-Wednesdays 9:00-5:00 p.m. and Thursdays 1:00-9:00 p.m.**

All of our classes are over and will resume again in the fall. In our next newsletter we will have a list of classes and the times they are held.

## MACLEOD TIMES, MACLEOD, AB, WED, MARCH 17, 1920, PG 3

### CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS Released On Suspended Sentence

Before Mr. Justice Simmons on Tuesday Bertha Knowles of Pasburg pleaded guilty to a charge of committing suicide. After receiving admonishment from the judge the accused was released on suspended sentence.

### SERIOUS OFFENCE AT HILLCREST

John Magdall of Hillcrest was charged with seducing Mary Korach. Defendant pleaded not guilty and Mr. J.D. Matheson called witnesses for defense to prove that the complainant had had improper relations with others. However, the jury found the defendant guilty and His Lordship imposed a sentence of 18 months imprisonment.

We understand that the defendant's lawyer, Mr. J.D. Matheson of Macleod, has obtained leave to appeal the case.

## CASE ENDS IN MATRIMONY

John Camp, a Nanton farmer, was charged with an offence against Evelyn Nesbitt, but upon the couple condescending to be married the charge was drawn. The wedding took place on Wednesday at 2 o'clock before a large crowd of witnesses, among who was the Crown Prosecutor. After the ceremony the couple returned to the court house to receive the congratulations of the judge.

## PERJURY

In the case of King vs. Billingsly, a perjury case, the commitment was set aside with leave to the Crown to lay new information if deemed advisable.

## SENTENCED FOR STABBING

Pete Bosco, a miner of the Hillcrest district, was found guilty in the Supreme Court on Thursday of wounding a fellow miner by stabbing him with a knife. The accused was sentenced to three year's imprisonment with hard labor by Judge Simmons. The defense was conducted by J.C. Hendry of Lethbridge, J.W. McDonald, K.C., appearing, for the Crown.

## MACLEOD TIMES, MACLEOD, AB WED, MARCH 17, 1920, Pg 2

Miss Delia Bailey is confined to the house with measles.

J. McMillan is absent on a business trip, taking in Calgary, Big Valley and Drumheller.

J. Girarclin projects building a new verandah on his house on the corner of 20<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

Alex McDonald was confined to its house for a few days last week with an attack of tonsillitis.

J. H. Mill, formerly of Macleod now of Coaldale, was a business visitor to Macleod Monday.

Stewart Bro's—Gordon, Orville and George have moved out to the Stewart ranch to get ready for spring operations.

Harrison and Frederick Goodwin of Monarch, who spent the winter in California, have returned to attend to their farming operations of 1920.

Mrs. R.W. Russell, who have been absent for three weeks in hospital in Seattle, to undergo an operation is reported-to be progressing favorably.

St. Andrew's Church choir practice will be held next Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Taker at 8 o'clock.

Announcement on front page re: Dr. G.S. Mills's reads by error "Miller" —see corrected announcement on this page.

R. D. McNay has greatly proved the appearance of his drugstore window by putting an oak and cedar bark. The work was executed by C.W. Stevens.

J.D. Allan, a former resident of Macleod now of Spokane, is spending a few days in town. We understand he sold a quarter section of land at Pearce to J.J. Burke of the Alberta Pacific Elevator Co.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced with the catch basin in the town during the past week owing to their freezing. It is understood that the council intends to make some changes during the summer.

St. Andrew's Ladies Aid held a very pleasant afternoon tea at the home of Mrs. Tasker on Friday last. The executive wish to express their gratitude to their many friends for the financial success of the flower fund.

We understand that Mesdames F. Thewlis, Wm Martin, S. Lewis and R. Gillespie, with her two children, are contemplating a trip to the old country this spring, leaving Macleod as soon as navigation in the St. Lawrence River opens up.

Miss A.M. Wilson has returned from Calgary, where she spent a week attending spring millinery openings. Previous to this Miss Wilson spent some time in Winnipeg looking for ideas and suggestions in millinery effects for this season.

Two cars of government hay arrived from Lethbridge on Monday morning? The cars were opened at 10:30 and by 11:30 the hay was all gone, and at that time some ten or twelve teams were in line, but were not able to obtain anything. Mrs. Geo. Skelding in the absence of Mr. Skelding, has been looking after the distribution of this hay and has handled the very difficult situation very smoothly.

The members of the W.C.T.U. desire to thank all the friends who so generously helped to make their tea and pantry sale, which was held on Saturday, so successful. Part of the proceeds will be sent to help support missionary working among Ruthenian girls in Northern Alberta.

Mayor Fawcett and R.T. McNichol were out with Major Burrell, the engineer for Col, Peuthen to look over the Potts Bottom as a log storage pond, and it was found that it is an ideal place for the purpose. Col Peuchen was expected in Macleod on Monday, but did not arrive. However, he is expected any day, Mayor Burrell's report will be taken.

## SINCE WHEN?

Since when did Morrin, Alberta become Drumheller, Alberta?

Jeannie (my wife), and I decided that on our first trip from Lethbridge to Edmonton we would tour the back roads looking for local libraries that might have information on various branches of my family.

Our first stop was Drumheller. This is the place that my Aunt Nellie and Uncle George said they came from before settling in Calgary. Aunt Nellie was my Nana's (grandmother's) sister. I knew she and her husband had both died and had their death dates, but really nothing else other than the fact she was born in Scotland. As far as I was concerned they had always lived in Calgary but I believed that they had made money from farming in Drumheller. Several Lethbridge people I had spoken to about this thought perhaps it may have been from coal.

We arrived in Drumheller and soon found the Public Library. I explained to the librarian what I was looking for and she produced two excellent local histories; "The Valley of the Dinosaurs its Families and Coal Mines" written and compiled by Ernest Hlady, 1988 and "The Hills of Home Drumheller Valley" written in 1973 by the Drumheller Historical Association. Both of these were excellent books but contained nothing on Uncle George and Aunt Nellie. I knew I was grasping at straws because they didn't have any children so there was no one that knew any more about them, who are still alive, than I did.

I then thought of a long shot, perhaps Aunt Nellie had put a notice in the obituary column of the local newspaper about the death and funeral of Uncle George. Thank goodness they had the local newspapers on microfilm with a great machine to use. Also I am very thankful we arrived when we did as they only had one machine and by the time I was ready to leave, a line was forming for its use. Sure enough in the "Drumheller Mail" 7 April 1971 issue I found Uncle George's obituary. It said they had lived in Morrin.

I explained to the librarian I had no idea where Morrin was and it wasn't mentioned in either of the two local history books. It turned out that

Morrin had its own local book and sure enough there were several paragraphs in Uncle George's own words about his life. The book was written only a year prior to Uncle George's passing. It turned out that having his own threshing machines and crew was the real money maker. And that was how Morrin became Drumheller.

We were on a roll. So before we took in several other areas of the province we drove up to Morrin to tour the village. Morrin is about 25 km's north of Drumheller. It has an active museum made out of sod but the door was padlocked from the outside. We skirted over to communities of Castor and Stettler but found nothing. Even though Stettler celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> year of settlement last year it has never had a local history book done nor is there one in the works.

I could have been disappointed as I came up short in finding information on families that I had also set out to find, but I had found success thanks to Aunt Nellie putting a notice in a local newspaper about the death of her husband nineteen years after they had moved away from there.

Could other members of my family, or could people in your ancestral families have done the same, used the name of a larger place, close to where they lived, as the place of reference from where they came from in order to give people an idea of where the place might be because the municipality in which they lived was too small.

By Kenneth J.G. Young

## SOME FACTS ABOUT THE 1500'S

AGS Medicine Hat Branch, "SAAMIS: Seeker"  
Vol. 23 #1

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Baths consisted of a big tub of hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children – last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it hence the saying "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water".

*Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.*

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, rats and bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof-hence the saying “Its raining cats and dogs”. There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other dropping could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That’s how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying “dirt poor”. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entryway-hence a “threshold”.

They cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometime the stew had food in it that had been there for quite awhile hence the rhyme, pea’s porridge: hot, pea’s porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.”

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man “could bring home the bacon”. They would cut off a little share with guests and would all sit around and “chew the fat”

### **MOST COMMON MISTAKES IN GENEALOGY**

OGS Bruce & Grey Branch newsletter Vol. 30 #4  
Nov. 2000 (Originally printed in Lambton Co.)

1. Not using family group sheets & pedigree charts.
2. Not contacting relatives for assistance.
3. Assuming that “no one else is working on my line.”

4. Not using maps of the area at the time your ancestors lived there.
5. Not knowing the history of the area you are researching.
6. Not using common sense when reading family historians work.
7. Gathering info. on everyone by “that name”.
8. Not using primary sources; land, probate, church, city records; but relying on printed histories.
9. Not making photocopies.

### **A TRIP TO SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

Many years ago when I was still a single woman living in Calgary and working as a temporary secretary, Kasey (roommate) and I decided to go on a trip to a small town in Southern Alberta. My roommate wanted to find out more information about her great grandfather who had lived in this town for many years. He had been a physician and had died rather suddenly a number of years before this and she did not know much more about him.

Kasey and I left early Saturday morning and when we arrived to our destination it looked like any other small town. We first set out to find the public library and to search through their newspapers on microfilm. She found some interesting details to fill in the holes but still had some unanswered questions. After getting something to eat we decided to walk through the town and talk to some of the merchants in the stores on Main Street to see if they could help us in our search.

We were told that there was a wedding being held in town this weekend and the reception was being held at the home of one of Kasey’s very distant relatives whom she’d never met. Many of the old family members came back to attend the celebrations. Kasey was given directions to the home where the small reception was being held in their backyard. We were delighted!

Upon arriving at the home of my roommate’s distant relative where the celebration was well underway Kasey parked the car and then ventured to the backdoor of this home. She knocked on the door and this elderly woman’s son answered the

door and told her she had a visitor. Kasey spoke with this woman and her son. She explained that she was doing family history research and wanted more information on her great grandfather. This new found relative was a little leery with Kasey's request as she didn't know her personally. Meanwhile I was sitting in the car watching the whole situation. The woman finally consented to take down Kasey's name, home address and phone number and perhaps would contact her at a later date when she wasn't in the middle of entertaining a houseful of people. At least we were hopeful of that.

Kasey got into the car and we drove away heading back to Calgary. When I returned to work on Monday my boss asked me what I had done for the weekend and when I told him his mouth fell open and he said "Is your roommate's name Kasey?" I said "Yes, Why?" He said because I went to visit my mother this weekend for a family wedding and I believe I spoke with your roommate about her great grandfather.

I couldn't believe "the coincidence" or was it? After talking to me awhile about what my roommate's intentions were he said he would speak to his mother and see if she wouldn't consent to sending Kasey some information.

I wondered later what would have happened if we hadn't gone to Southern Alberta this particular weekend and if I had been working on another temporary secretarial assignment! When I returned home from work and told my roommate the events of the day she was so amazed at how everything how turned out. The answers were right here in Calgary with my boss but we needed to go and visit this small town this particular weekend to find out that information.

By Susan Haga

### **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

OGS Bruce & Grey Vol. 16 No. 1 Spring 2003

I have nothing but admiration for families that used uncommon names for their children and so were fascinated at the way in which a Thurston Family, living in Michigan in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century named their 12 offspring. Thus, Ulysses Ithicus, Leodia Iphigenia, Chrystemas Andromea, Epimondas Epaphroditus, Achilles Lucurgus, Milittades Aristiades, Cassius Brutus, Solon Kossuth, Agathemnon Hiland, Dulcena Dulcerado, Pattroclas Antilocus and Wendell Phillips.

### **ENGLISH RESEARCH TIP**

(OGS Bruce & Grey) "News & Views Newsletter" Vol. 28, No. 6 Nov/Dec 2002

In England, a "Hamlet" has no Episcopal Church; a "Village" has a church; a "Town" has a royal charter to hold markets and has a church; and a "City" has an Anglican bishop. For years, only clergyman of the Anglican Church/Church of England could legally perform the marriage service.

### **PECANS IN THE CEMETERY**

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big, old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucket full of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence.

Another boy came by riding on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me."

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy, "you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls."

The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me..." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord." Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done."

They say the old man made it back to town a full 5 minutes ahead of the boy on the bike.

(Submitted by Jeannie Young)

## **10 REASONS TO JOIN A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Society membership has its benefits. Genealogical societies exist at the national level or even international level as well as within a region, state, county or even more locally. At the same time, ethnic specific groups can help you understand any peculiarities and distinctive record sources unique to your heritage.

Whether a beginner or experienced genealogist, belonging to a society can enrich your own research and help others as well.

Here are 10 reasons to join.

### **1. Opportunity to Network**

Often at home, our families aren't as enthusiastic as we'd like them to be about our genealogical pursuits. But within a genealogical society, you'll find people who not only care, but can offer additional ideas for further exploration.

### **2. Blast Through Research Roadblocks**

Membership can help get passed the roadblocks. Connie Cooper, of Philadelphia says "When a group meets, we discuss problems of where we are with our research. People who have been at that point or who have gone beyond it provide answers and guidance."

### **3. Travel the Proven Path**

Reach out to other members and find which methodologies work best, which archives are the most genealogy-friendly, how long you have to wait to get those documents you requested, the best day and times to go to the local archives, and what you are not allowed to bring into the reading room.

### **4. Fly With Birds of a Feather**

The African-American Genealogy Group takes a unique approach. Since its members are highly interested in researching records of states along the middle and southern Atlantic seaboard, it founded five "states groups" where members could work with each other to travel to state archives and share their problems and results. Even within a society, sub-groups with similar research interests form and take flight.

### **5. Access to Resources**

Each month when I attended the North Jersey Jewish Genealogical Society, I could barely wait to seize the computer printout of the Jewish Family Finder, reference books or copies of document request forms from a variety of archival repositories. This became especially useful when the price of some reference books prohibited personal ownership.

Many societies purchase reference materials for a local library. The Old York Genealogical Society donates CDs and books to the library where it meets. The North Jersey Jewish Genealogical Society created a genealogical reference section in the library where it meets. The Jewish Genealogical Society of New York purchases large collections for the New York Public Library and often puts frequently requested microfilms on indefinite loan at the local Family History Center.

### **6. An Open Door to Subject Matter Experts**

Society programs can give you access to notable personalities you wouldn't ordinarily get. For instance, nothing moved me more than hearing the father of Jewish genealogy, Arthur Kurzweil, at a society event. At other events, I learned about additional document sources and how to increase my success.

### **7. Linguistic Support**

One benefit of many ethnic societies is linguistic abilities. Says Shea, "Joining an ethnic society puts a researcher in contact with persons who know the language in which records are kept and can render linguistic assistance to others."

### **8. Newsletters and Other Publications**

Often, tidbits in the society publications I receive have led me to incredible finds such as European archival addresses that yield results or recommendations for private researchers. In other cases, reading about the success of others continued to inspire me when I felt I had hit brickwalls.



**9. Help Yourself While Helping Others**  
Opportunity abounds for those who want to get actively involved. No matter which society, the need for volunteers is great. Societies have few, if any paid staff members. This can also be your opportunity to learn and expand your skills. Become the society's publicist, programming chairperson, or newsletter editor. Become a spokesperson and get over that fear of public speaking. Offer to enter data for that new hot project the society is working on or even volunteer to head up the effort.

**10 Share and Celebrate the Obsession**  
The camaraderie you gain through membership and working on society projects can be one of the best and long-lasting benefits. Says Carol York of the Monmouth County (New Jersey) Genealogy Society, "For us there's the importance of having lots of friends who share your obsessions so you have people to talk to and go on trips with!" For Cooper, membership has been like being with family. It gives people a feeling of security along with the information they need to pursue their own history."

(Family Chronicle-Sept/October 2005)

### **ANCESTRY.CA**

Most of us are familiar with Ancestry.com and are aware of Ancestry.uk and now most recently Ancestry.ca which is Canadian records grouped together in one website to search online. The cost for Ancestry.ca is \$99.99 to subscribe to it at home. The Lethbridge Family History Center has free access to Ancestry.com .and Ancestry.uk and is presently working out a deal with Ancestry.ca to have it made available for free access in the Family History Centers in the near future.

Those who have used Ancestry.ca so far are very pleased with what they've been able to find. Here are some of the records you can search.

1911 Census of Canada  
Ontario Vital Records Indexes  
B.C. Death Index  
Canadian Genealogy Index  
Address and Phone Directories 1995-2002

Using Ancestry.ca you can search over 150 million names from 1592-2002. Gain access to the largest online collection of Canadian Family History Records. You will find amazing history complete with full names, baptisms, birth dates and places, wedding dates, burials, wills, occupations and geography. To learn more go to <http://www.ancestry.ca> or to [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

(Susan Haga—Lethbridge Family History worker)

### **20 BILLION NAMES**

Headline One: Envision 20 billion names, all indexed all linked to the original images available online, free of charge

Headline Two: 200,000 published family histories available online, every word indexed and linked to the original images again, all free. Wow! Twenty Billion names! To give you an idea of how massive this is, the International Genealogical Index (IGI) currently contains about one billion names while Ancestry.com claims two billion.

These aren't simply wishful thinking: it has already started and it is going to change the way we conduct our genealogy in the future, courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' (LDS) and their online genealogy site [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

The LDS Church has around 2.3 million rolls of microfilmed genealogy records from 110 countries in their famous Granite Mountain record Vault in Utah. These include birth, marriage and death records, ship's manifests, census and church records, city directories and a hundred other categories. Although the film has been available at the Family History Library and, via their loan program, to thousands of Family History Centers, the vast majority of these films are not indexed making them very difficult to search. Indexing has been an incredibly laborious task. The 1880 U.S. Census was one of the earliest databases made available online by the LDS Church. This project took 12 years and required tens of thousands of volunteers.

Since then, things have advanced enormously; The Church has had a team of computer experts figuring out ways of digitizing records (which are mostly on microfilm) and developing software that considerably lessens the task of indexing them. Even so, with the present rate of scanning it

will take years to complete 2.3 million rolls of film. The indexing, of course, will take far longer.

Even though technology and good software will help reduce the workload, there will still be plenty of work needed to be done by volunteers: this is already underway. Volunteers associated with select societies are supplied with special software and given online access to the digitized images. Two volunteers will transcribe each image. If there are discrepancies in the results, an arbitrator will be shown the conflicts and decide which input is correct. This system will (eventually) allow anyone to volunteer, even if it is only for 10 minutes during lunchtime.

“It is estimated that there are over 20 billion names found on records in the Family Search vaults and that may include some duplication. Also, we should make it clear that Family Search does not have the right permissions to process all these records.” Although the Church does have some idea of the percentage of “restricted” films, they do not release this figure publicly.

#### Family Histories Online

The second part of this initiative involves the 200,000 family histories that are held by the Church. These are being digitized and linked to an every-word index. Although the family histories are held by the Family History Library, this part of the program is being operated in cooperation with the LDS Church’s Brigham Young University. Only those publications without reprint or distribution restrictions will be processed. These histories are being scanned and indexed at a very rapid rate. Four thousand are already online and may be viewed at [www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu](http://www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu).

To see an example of this collection, go to the website and enter the surname Gourley—the system will display the original scanned document (Paul Gourley: A Pioneer Father) in a PDF format. On the left of the PDF image is a search box into which you may enter anything you wish to examine: names of people or place, dates, etc. These family histories can also be accessed through the Family History Library Catalog located at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Users will find links from the source listing in the catalog to the digital image if it has been digitized.

The family histories can be searched by name, author, title or geographic area. Imagine the potential power of this. Your family may not yet have its own written history but searching the records of other families from the same area may contain vital information on your own genealogy.

You can contribute to the growth of this collection by donating your published family histories to the Family History Library. For more information, call the Acquisitions Unit at 801-240-2337. Your permission allows your printed copy to be digitized and your history to be posted as part of the online collection. To learn more, contact BYU’s Harold B. Lee Library at 801-422-2905.

(Family Chronicle—Nov/Dec 2005)

### **TOP 20 WEBSITES EASTERN EUROPEAN RESEARCH**

#### **1. Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies (FEEHS) [www.feefhs.org](http://www.feefhs.org)**

FEEFHS was organized in 1992 an umbrella organization that promotes family research in Eastern and Central Europe without any ethnic, religious or social distinctions. The FEEFHC website provides an extensive online “map room”, an ethnic, religious and national index of home pages and resource guide listings of organizations associate with FEEFHS (from 14 countries) and a collection of unique surname database. This site should be the first stop for any researcher with Eastern European routes.

#### **2. One Step Web Pages by Stephen P. Morse [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)**

A collection of online forms used to search certain genealogical databases in “one step”. The most notable is the frequently accessed “Searching the Ellis Island Database in One Step”, which enables researchers to mine date from the Ellis Island Database (containing immigration records of some 22 million immigrants who came to the US through the port of new York from 1892-1924).

#### **3. Family His. Library ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org))**

The Family History Library (FHL) has microfilmed civil & church records from areas in a number of Eastern European countries, and also has a large collection of atlases, gazetteers and maps essential for research in many countries (especially pre-WWI). The FHL catalog can be searched online for free and the desired films then ordered from your local FHC.

#### **4. The Carpatho-Rusyn Knowledge Base**

**[www.carpatho-rusyn.org](http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org)**

This is the resource to consult for anyone of Carpatho-Rusyn ancestry. Visitors may also want to check out the Carpatho-Rusyn Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to manifesting Carpatho-Rusyn culture in the US and in central Europe.

#### **5. Hal Gal ([www.halgal.com](http://www.halgal.com))**

This website offers information of Halychyna/Eastern Galicia, a region that is often misunderstood or ignored in North America. Hal Gal stands for Halychyna Galicja. Halychyna is Ukrainian, Galicja is Polish, or as it is commonly referred to in English, Galicia.

#### **6. Czechoslovak Genealogical Soc. Interntl (CGSI) [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org)**

The society serves to promote Czechoslovak genealogical research and interest among people with ancestry in the Czechoslovak region as it was in 1918, including families of Czech, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, German, Hungarian, Jewish, Rusyn and Silesian origin.

#### **7. [GenealogyLinks.net](http://www.genealogylinks.net) ([www.genealogylinks.net/europe/index.html](http://www.genealogylinks.net/europe/index.html))**

This site consists of 3,500 pages of more than 30,000 genealogy links that serve as a directory of genealogy links to mostly online surname databases, including parish registers, censuses, cemeteries, marriages, passenger lists, city directories, military records, etc.

#### **8. Roots Web ([www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com))**

“The oldest and largest free genealogy website”, Roots Web serves to connect people so that they can help each other and share genealogical research. The EastEuroGenWeb of the World GenWeb project will be of particular interest to those with Eastern European roots. Volunteer genealogists have set up a network of websites to help answer the occasionally daunting questions about research in different countries.

#### **9. Jewishgen.org ([www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org))**

Often people of Eastern European descent will discover they have Jewish roots. JewishGen is the primary internet source connecting researchers of Jewish genealogy worldwide. Its most popular components are the JewishGen Discussion Group, the JewishGen family finder (a database of 350,000 surnames and towns), the comprehensive directory of Info Files, ShtetLinks for over 200 communities and a variety of databases.

#### **10. It’s All Relative ([www.iarerelative.com](http://www.iarerelative.com))**

The “It’s All Relative” Genealogical Research Pages offer tools, resources and information to help you search your Czech, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, Lemko or Carpatho-Rusyn family history and ancestry.

#### **11. Church Record Translations (John Jaso) [www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html](http://www.bmi.net/jjaso/index.html)**

Reading and interpreting church records written in old world languages is often a big obstacle for researchers. This site is an excellent resource for anyone who must translate *vital records* from Hungarian, Latin or Slovak languages. Images of sample records are shown, and an interpretation of information typically found in these records is provided in columnar format.

#### **12. Eastern Slovakia Genealogy Research Strategies [www.iabsi.com/gen/public](http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public)**

A very informative set of web pages that aid English-speaking researchers of immigrants from Eastern Slovakia and surrounding areas. Primary research areas include those of Carpathian Mountains, borderlands of Southern Poland (Galicia) and Western Ukraine (Carpatho-Rus).

#### **13. Research in Ukraine and Belarus ([www.mtu-net.ru/rrr/ukraine.htm](http://www.mtu-net.ru/rrr/ukraine.htm))**

“The gateway to Genealogy in Russia” provides links to state archives, genealogy resources, heritage and history, and much more!

#### **14. Radix – Genealogical Research in Hungary ([www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml](http://www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml))**

This website is dedicated to genealogy research in Hungary and aims at helping family historians in finding out more about their Hungarian ancestry.

#### **15. PolishRoots: The Polish Genealogy Source ([www.polishroots.org](http://www.polishroots.org))**

Its most popular features are the PolishRoots SurnameSearch, which allows users to register surnames they are researching, translates entries from the *Slownik Geograficzny*, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Polish gazetteer covering present and former territories within Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

#### **16. Slovenian Genealogy ([www2.arnes.si/rzjt/rod/rod-an.htm](http://www2.arnes.si/rzjt/rod/rod-an.htm))**

This site provides many links for Slovenian genealogy including sources of genealogical data, research methods and resources, archives in the FHL, and in Slovenia, information on the Slovenian Genealogical Society, collection of family trees and more.

## 17. LinkToYourRoots

([www.linktoyourroots.hamburg.de/](http://www.linktoyourroots.hamburg.de/))

Many immigrants from Europe left via Hamburg, Germany. For a long time, the index to these records (1850-1934) has been available on microfilm through the FHL. The online database, "Link to Your Roots", was launched several years ago by the Hamburg State Archives for searching the Hamburg emigration lists. Currently, the database covers the years 1890-1906. The year 1890 was selected as a starting point because of the surge in emigration from that time until WWI.

## 18. Bremen Passenger Lists 1920-39

//[db.genealogy.net/maus/gate/index\\_en.html](http://db.genealogy.net/maus/gate/index_en.html)

Bremen was another frequent port of departure for Eastern European immigrants. Unfortunately from 1875-1908, the staff of the Nachweisungsbureau, because of insufficient office space, decided to destroy all lists older than three years. With the exception of 2,953 passenger lists for the years 1920-39, all other lists were lost in WWII. You can search the database free of charge.

## 19. Repositories of Primary Sources

([www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html](http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html))

A listing of over 5,500 websites compiled by Terry Abraham and describing holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs and other primary sources for the research scholar.

## 20. Immigrant History Research Center

(University of Minnesota) ([www.ihrc.umn.edu](http://www.ihrc.umn.edu))

This is a great online reference site for the American immigrant experience. The Center's collection is particularly strong in its documentation of Eastern, Central and Southern European ethnic groups, and includes: newspapers and serials, fraternal society material, church records, and publications, manuscript collections and oral histories.

(Lisa Alzo—Family Chronicle—May/June 2005)

### NOTE:

### EMPRESS OF IRELAND 1906-1914

Celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the inauguration of the Atlantic Empresses-- JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2006.  
Calgary Telus Convention Center

Come and see the artifacts from the Empress of Ireland.

## FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCES

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT.

### EDMONTON, ALBERTA CONFERENCE

**FEEFHS 12<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE--JUNE 15-18<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Check online at [www.abgensoc.ca](http://www.abgensoc.ca) & <http://feefhs.org>

### CONFERENCES BEING HELD

#### **AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA**

37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
AUGUST 14-20, 2006

AHSGR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
631 "D" ST., LINCOLN, NE 68502-1199

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LETHBRIDGE F.H.C. (CUT OFF DATE JULY 1, 2006)

### SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE

### EEGS/FEEFHS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—AUGUST 4-6, 2006  
EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOC.

[www.feefhs.org](http://www.feefhs.org)  
[info@eegsociety.org](mailto:info@eegsociety.org)  
[www.eegsociety.org](http://www.eegsociety.org)

#### **Library Location:**

Room 1:28, 909 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave North  
Lethbridge, Alberta  
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#### **Hours of Operation:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday  
1:30 – 4:30 p.m. or by appointment  
Closed for months of December, July and August except by appointment.

#### **General Meetings**

Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
(except June, July, August & December) at our Library Room.