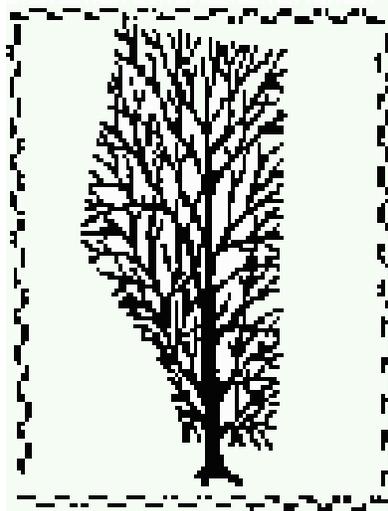


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
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## Editor's Corner



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](mailto: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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North.**

**Phone: (403) 328-9564**

### Membership Dues

Regular individual or family (Includes 1 Branch)--\$50.00, seniors (65+) individual or family (Includes 1 Branch)--\$45.00

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Doug McLeod
Vice President	Susan Haga
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Alma Berridge
Membership	Pat Barry

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## President's Message

Well here I am – President again. Thanks for a job well done to the previous executive. The new executive follows my message.

It seems as if spring has arrived and we tend to think about lawns, gardens, and flower beds instead of our genealogy efforts. However don't forget that we still need volunteers for the Resource Centre. Volunteers are a valuable part of any group, be it non-profit, commercial or whatever. They are what keep things running smoothly. Please remember to report your volunteer hours every month as they are part of AGS hours and used in grant applications.

Seven of our branch members attended the AGS Conference and AGM in April up in Edmonton. I'm sure we all picked up a few helpful hints.

One of the sessions was *'Did the Ingalls Family Always Live in Walnut Grove?'* (Little House on the Prairie) given by John Althouse. Using the census and other records he showed that they didn't always live in Walnut Grove. They wandered around quite a bit, even had a Canadian connection. This made me wonder if we couldn't do something like this.

So I challenge Lethbridge AGS members to do a family history on *'Lucy Maud Montgomery'* (*Anne of Green Gables*). There is lots of information on Google and Wikipedia; however the challenge is to prove the information by searching, finding, and sourcing the information by the use of census and other genealogical records you can find. Put it all together and print it. Your printout will be collected at the September meeting and the winner will be announced at the International dinner in November. The idea is to learn a bit about one of Canada's authors, but also learn how and where to find and source your information.

That's it for now, have a safe, enjoyable spring and summer. President—Doug McLeod

## Welcome the New Executive

### Doug McLeod—President

I was born in Edmonton and raised in Calgary. After serving 27 years in the RCAF/CF, I retired in Abbotsford, BC and worked with Commissionaires BC for 13 years.

I retired for the second time and moved to Lethbridge in January 2007. I have been married for 44 yrs and have a daughter and son and 3 granddaughters and 2 grandsons.

I started my family research in 2006 as I was thinking of taking a trip to Scotland to see the

military tattoo in Edinburgh (trip never happened) and thought it would be nice to track the family back to and in Scotland.

I joined AGS Lethbridge Branch late in 2006 while still in Abbotsford. My father's family came from Scotland to Ontario and then to Okotoks, Alberta. I have hit the brick wall as my 2g grandfather (I call him the old guy) left Scotland in 1842 and of course there are no records of this time frame. My mother's family came from England, to Ontario, to Edmonton.

As a member of the Lethbridge Branch, I have been involved in cemetery and obit recording, researching, reviewing newspaper microfilms for BMDs. I've worked in the library and helped with the computers.

I was first elected President of the Lethbridge and District Branch in Feb. 2009 and served a two year term. Now as the new Branch President I look forward to working with the Branch members and the AGS Board.

I enjoy helping others with their research. My hobbies include geocaching, and model railroading

### **Susan Haga—Vice President**

I was born on Vancouver Island, B.C. where my father was stationed in the air force. We moved to Vancouver when I was a young child, and then moved to Calgary when I was five years old. I spent my formative years in Calgary. My interest in family history began when I was 12 years old when I began writing my personal history. My mother wrote the first 6 years of my life and I continued updating it from thereon. When I was sixteen years old I started researching my ancestral lines. In the 1980's my family formed a family genealogical society and I was the Editor for our newsletter for a number of years. Since there are a lot of family members working on my mother's line I decided to focus on my father's line and on my maternal grandfather's line. Recently I have connected with a distant relative on my father's side and have been very happy to have someone else who is researching on that side of my family.

I received a B.A. in History and Family History at BYU, in Provo, Utah. After receiving my degree I moved to Lethbridge. About 15 years ago I began teaching classes at the Lethbridge Family History specializing in Western Canada, United States, British Isles and Sweden. In the past several years I've taught classes with A.G.S. The most intriguing class I've ever taught and my favorite is "Analyzing Handwriting of Our Ancestors."

Before moving to Lethbridge I had volunteered at the Calgary Family History Center for five years. I have been volunteering at the Lethbridge Family History Center as a Family History Consultant for the past 15 years.

I began attending A.G.S. meetings as a guest for many years and in February 2005 I officially became a member agreeing to assist with the newsletter. Shortly thereafter I became the newsletter Editor for Yesterday's Footprints and was put in as the Vice-President, then later on the President and then back to Vice President (eternally). I have served on the Provincial Board for A.G.S. as 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. and I am now serving on the Board as First Vice President.

### **Patrick John Barry--Treasurer**

Pat was born 1942 in Rossland, B.C. He is the son of John Albert Barry, Egmont Bay, Prince Edward Island, and Kathleen Annie Barry, Bath, Somerset, England.

Pat is the middle child of 3 children. His brother George Albert (deceased) at infancy. His sister Mary Bernadette Shaw of Winnipeg, Manitoba came to Lethbridge on March 1946 on the old C.P.R. Kettle Valley Line.

Pat was educated in the Separate School System (5) different schools in Lethbridge from old Convent to the New St. Francis Boys' School in 1960. He attended Gonzaga University and he studied Accounting. In June 1963 he joined the Lethbridge Herald and retired in December 1999 after 35½ years. Pat spent 30 years in the Circulation Department of the Lethbridge Herald and for about 20-25 years was the Assistant Circulation Manager. He spent the last 5 ½ years in the Accounting Department. For the last 10 years he has worked in the Automotive Industry working for Carline/Switzer Automobile and then Silver Automotive.

Pat married Carol Ann Otley in St. Bridget's Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 18, 1964. They will celebrate their 49th Wedding Anniversary July 18, 2013. They adopted two children; Richard Andrew Barry of Calgary and Elaine Marie Lawrence of Coalhurst. Elaine and Brock have 3 children; Ashley, Austin and Kaitlyn. Pat and Carol have one great grandchild Beckham, son of Ashley.

Pat has been interested and involved with genealogy for over 20 years. He has served as Treasurer of AGS Lethbridge District Branch for about 7 years. He has also served as President of AGS and Property and Inventory Chairperson.

### **Alma Berridge--Secretary**

I was raised on a farm just S.E. of the big metropolis of Cheadle Alberta. From there I moved to Calgary where I finished school, I also met my future husband Charlie there.

Charlie was in road construction so we moved around Alberta a lot, and once our children were ready to attend school we settled here in Lethbridge.

We have three children two sons and a daughter. From there our family increased by three's. We have three grand kids and three great grand kids. We seem to like the number three.

I became interested in genealogy from an uncle who was researching the Sackett's from Massachusetts. I joined AGS in the late 1990's and have enjoyed it ever since. I've enjoyed the mystery of researching and the excitement when I find some of the missing links. It's like reading a good mystery book.

I have been involved in a lot of hobbies, rubber stamping, water color, quilting, lapidary and most resent ink and rouging.

We are both retired so when we have the chance we take our fifth wheel and go camping.

### **Monthly Meetings**

On Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we had a very informative presentation by Inger Schaufert on Hungarian Research. She also showed us how to use familysearch.org and Family tree to find digitized and indexed records. At least half of the people in attendance (30) were newcomers. On Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Inge Pot will be giving us a presentation on Dutch Research.

### **Lethbridge Family History Center Hours**

Summer Hours: The Lethbridge Family History Center will open for summer hours on June 11<sup>th</sup>. It will be open Tues: 9:00-5:00 p.m. and Wed 1:00-9:00 p.m.

### **Family History Classes**

May 22 at 7 p.m.—Scrapbook a Story (Every picture tells a story.)

May 29 at 7 p.m.—Go from Buried in a Drawer to Fun Family History (What do we do with all these good pictures and heirlooms? Please call (403) 328-0206 to register.

### **Canada Voters Lists, 1935-1980**

These lists are available at [www.ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca) by subscription (or free to view at our Resource Center, the Lethbridge Public Library or at the Lethbridge Family History Center.) This

database gives their occupation and street address, and is a great way to track your family's movements.

This database contains preliminary voter's lists for general elections in Canada, 1935-1980.

### **Historical Background**

By 1935, the year of the earliest voting records in this database, the franchise had been extended to both men and women age 21 and over for federal elections in Canada. The last property qualifications were done away with in 1948, and exclusions for Inuit and Indians living on reserves were eliminated in 1950 and 1960. In 1970, the voting age was lowered to 18 and the franchise reserved for Canadian citizens, though some British subjects retained their right to vote until 1975.

### **What You Can Find in the Records**

This database contains voters lists created for general elections in Canada for the years 1935-1980. Lists are organized by polling district within each province and from there by polling station number and address. The forms varied some over the years, but they typically included name, post office or street address, and occupation. They sometimes indicate marital status for women in lieu of occupation. Because they were created during various election years, these lists make useful census substitutes.

Those marked by asterisk have been indexed. Others are available for browsing only. The index for this collection was created using text recognition (OCR) software. Records were not transcribed. Because this collection uses OCR technology, we encourage you to correct any errors you find in the data by going to the image and editing the name in the correction panel at the bottom of the page.

Background information on Canadian voting comes from the Elections Canada website. (Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy)

### **Good Genealogy Advice from an 1847 Newspaper Letter to the Editor**

"J.B." wrote a letter to the editor of a Connecticut newspaper in 1847 that contained good advice for genealogists in all ages.

J.B. called on everyone "to see that a correct record be made of his family so as to connect the past with the future. Every parent would do well also to state the name of his father, and date of birth, and even the grandfather, with such notes or reference to place as will hereafter serve, in all time, to distinguish

the individuals.” Wow – don’t we wish all of our ancestors read his genealogy advice and took it to heart!

From the Constitution

(Middletown, Connecticut), 26 May 1847, pg 2:  
“REGISTERS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS”

“Our own townsmen have of late years strangely and most culpably neglected recording the births of themselves and children. Such matters if not promptly attended to are soon forgotten and often irrecoverably lost. Family records when entrusted to the perishable leaves of some volume or bible, may change owners in the course of time, and are difficult to be found. Not so with the Town Records. They are always accessible. We would advise every townsman to see that a correct record be made of his family so as to connect the past with the future. Every parent would do well also to state the name of his father, and date of birth, and even the grandfather, with such notes or reference to place as will hereafter serve, in all time, to distinguish the individuals. This is especially important where there are many of the same names in a place. For this additional service we are confident that only a moderate charge will be asked by our excellent and obliging town clerk. Middletown, Ct. J.B. (Taken from AFHS-Discussion-L Archives—08—2012)

### **Genealogy Research Tips**

Ignore Surnames—sometimes just looking for the given name will bring success when the surname is illegible, oddly spelled, entered or indexed incorrectly. At times married daughters or remarried widows can be found with this method.

Remember Soundex—Ignore vowels and the letters H, W and Y (unless they are the first letter in the name then use with extreme care). Treat similar sounding constants as one sound e.g. (B,F,P,V) (D,T) (M,N) (C,G,J,K,Q,S,X,ZO for example Campbell can become Gambel or Kempel or Quimble/Siller can become Cellar.

Focus on Unique Identifiers—many names are common. If so, focus on unique identifiers e.g. occupation, religion, middle name, wife’s name, birthplace or home location, witnesses. Compare their signature to others with the same name.

Follow the Females—usually to find females we need to follow the men in their lives however at times in order to find the men we need to follow the females. Often the elderly men went to live with their daughters, so in order

to find death or burial records, wills, obituaries etc. you need to find their daughters. Men tended to migrate with their in-laws so follow their families.

Learn Common Nicknames--short forms or interchangeable names. Siblings can have the same name.

One Name Studies—if a surname is rare check with the Guild of One Name Studies <http://one-name.org/> You may be lucky and find a whole group already tracing families with your surname.

Make a collection of and try to think of other possible surname variations

Surnames Can Follow the Female Name—this is unusual but does happen. There are two main reasons for this. 1. A child whose birth is illegitimate. 2. In rare cases when the woman has inheritable property and there are no male heirs. There are usually legal papers to document the change in a case like this. (Booklet—101 Best Genealogy Research Tips published by Moorshead Magazines.)

### **English Parish Baptism Registers**

A child’s birth has always been a cause of celebration in most cultures, but formerly, the actual birthday was seen as less important than the sacrament of infant baptism (otherwise known as christening.) In general, records of baptism, rather than birth, were kept and in English research, these form the building blocks of any family tree prior to 1837.

With the high rates of infant mortality, there was a good chance that the child’s time on earth would be short. However, according to the teachings of the Church, a child would be subject to damnation unless it had been baptized. Baptism was, therefore, a rite of supreme importance. The priest, cradling the newborn in his arms, would sprinkle consecrated water on the child’s head from the font, which was positioned just inside the church door. Parents, godparents, and indeed, the whole congregation would gather round as the vows were said and the child was received into the family of the church.

However, it wasn’t until the English Reformation that records of baptism were kept officially. With Henry VIII’s divorce from Catherine of Aragon, the English Church broke away from Rome and became the Church of England, headed by Henry himself. Following this, injunctions were issued in 1538 that “every church kepe one boke or registre wherein ye

shall write the day and yere of every wedding christening and buryeng made within your parishe". Information was to be entered into the register every Sunday by the parish priest. Not surprisingly, some baptisms were forgotten, or incorrect details were recorded.

### **Information Recorded**

For genealogists, records of baptism are particularly valuable because they reveal parentage. However, in the early years, this was not always the case. Children may be recorded simply as "Robert Cooper baptized 4<sup>th</sup> December 1563". The amount of detail depended upon the whim of the parish priest. More often than not, the father's name would be entered in the register too and as the years progressed, the names of both parents were commonly recorded. Sometimes additional annotations, such as an occupation or date of birth, would be added. Children born out of wedlock would generally be referred to as bastard or base born and the name of the mother (and occasionally the father) would be given.

### **Private Baptism**

Usually, babies would be baptized within a few days or weeks of birth. In some cases, the parents were in a hurry because the child was sickly and there was a danger that it would not survive. The parish priest would be summoned to perform a private baptism at home, or, if time was critical, the local midwife was legally licensed to perform a rudimentary baptism. If the child recovered, it would then be received into the church at a later date. Frequently, a parish register entry will record the date of the private baptism (or half-baptism) and the date the child was admitted into the church.

### **Nonconformity**

There is also the question of nonconformity. Many nonconformists did not believe in baptism, so refused to have their children baptized by the parish priest. Religious alliance could be fickle though, so sometimes, at a later date, parents might have all their children baptized on the same day, their respective ages recorded in the register. Adults might also be baptized, renouncing the faith in which they had been brought up. It is therefore, often worthwhile to search a register for some years past the ancestor's alleged year of birth. Of course, some sects also kept their own registers of baptism or, more often, of birth.

### **Dates of Registers**

Although parish registers were instituted in 1538, many registers do not begin until much later. The Injunctions had to be reissued in 1547 and in 1559 because many parishes were not complying with them. In 1603, instructions were given for the entries in the existing paper registers to be copied into more durable parchment registers "so far as the ancient books thereof can be procured, but especially since the beginning of the reign of the late Queen [Elizabeth I]". Unfortunately, many transcribers interpreted this to mean that they could omit all entries prior to 1558, when Elizabeth I ascended the throne. As a result, many parish registers date from 1558.

### **Gaps in Registers**

Registers may not exist in a continuous series either. Gaps can be found because of fire, theft or as a result of careless storage. Fortunately, it was ordered that copies of the registers should be made from 1598 and sent to the bishop on an annual basis. Therefore, even if the original registers do not survive, the bishops' transcripts (also known as register bills) may be an alternative source. A particular problem is the lack of parish registers during the Commonwealth period. Civil War broke out in England in 1642 and when Charles I was deposed, the official religion became Puritan. Clergy who were not Puritans were ejected from their parishes and replaced by others whose beliefs were more in keeping with those of the regime. In this anarchic period, many registers ceased to be kept at all. Some baptisms were recorded retrospectively upon the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 but the "Commonwealth Gap" can cause problems for genealogists because so many entries are missing.

### **Taxation**

Parish registers, from their inception, were viewed with suspicion as it was thought they could be used for taxation purposes. Sure enough, in 1681, Parliament ordered parents to pay six pence to register the births of their children, so even nonconformists who didn't baptize their children would be encompassed. In 1694, the fee was increased to two shillings, ostensibly to provide more money for the war against France. Poor people were exempt from paying the taxes so consequently, there was an increase in the number of people described as "paupers" in the registers. Many parents just didn't bother to get their children registered or baptized, so the legislation was repealed in 1706. Similarly, the Stamp Act of 1783 imposed a duty

of three pence on every baptism, but it was repealed in 1794 due to stiff opposition.

### **Format of Registers**

The format of parish registers varies. In some, baptisms are recorded chronologically and are mixed in with marriages and burials. In others, particularly larger parishes, there is some division of entries, with baptisms perhaps appearing in the front of the book. As time went on, the amount of information recorded tends to become more detailed. An occupation or residence of the parents might be added, for example. It is, therefore, always worth looking for the baptism of every child in the family to gather the fullest information.

### **Rose's Act of 1812**

In 1812, Rose's Act was passed, which had a great impact on the keeping of parish registers. From now on, specific information had to be recorded and a separate printed baptismal register had to be kept. There were columns for the forename of the child, the forenames of the parents, residence of the family, the occupation of the father and the name of the officiating clergyman. In most places this meant that more information was recorded than had been the habitual practice. However, registers were now largely devoid of other notations of interest that might have been added previously.

### **General Registration**

In 1836, almost 300 years after their inception, the passing of the General Registration Act meant that parish registers ceased to be the sole records relating to birth. It was recognized that a national, civil system of registration was needed so age and parentage could be proven more easily. Nonetheless, parish registers continued to be kept and can be consulted up to the present day.

### **Tracing Baptisms**

When searching for the baptism of an ancestor, the first step is to consult a finding aid, as there are more than 12,000 parishes in England and Wales. A search in the International Genealogical Index at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), may reveal a likely entry, although coverage is far from complete. The original parish registers should then be consulted to obtain the full entry. The Atlas and Index of Parish Registers, edited by Cecil Humphery-Smith and published by Phillimore (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2003), is of invaluable assistance when tracing baptisms. Many genealogical libraries hold this useful reference

work, which will tell you the extent of the registers of each parish, the indexes that cover them and the archives where they are held. Most parish registers have been microfilmed and are to be found at English county record offices. In addition, microfilms of parish registers can be ordered and viewed at your local Family History Center.

If you can't find the baptism you are seeking in an index, the county maps, contained in the Atlas or available from the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies ([www.ihgs.ac.uk](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk)), will enable you to identify likely parishes where the event took place. Even if you have found a promising baptism, it is important to check that there is no other candidate in the vicinity. The local topography should be taken into account as our ancestors were much more likely to move along a road or down a valley to the next village rather than across the hills or over a river that was not affordable. Sometimes the first-born child was baptized in the mother's home parish, whereas subsequent children were baptized in the parish where the family actually lived.

If you have ancestors who lived in England before 1837, you will need to consult parish registers to trace their baptisms. This will enable you to trace more distant generations, perhaps as far back as 1538. The amount of information you find will vary but the registers bear witness to a very special and sacred family event that is of singular genealogical significance. (Judith Batchelor is a professional genealogist, lecturer and writer with the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies ([www.ihgs.ac.uk](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk)) in Canterbury England.—Family Chronicle March/April 2007)

### **Inferring a Family Relationship Based on Medical History**

I pride myself on using almost every scrap of information I can find in my genealogical research. But there are two lines of evidence that, foolishly, I neglected when I got started.

The first is physical descriptions—hair and eye color, height, distinguishing marks and so forth. This information has obvious use in identifying people in photographs. But it can also provide indications of family relationships. For example, among my Peller relatives there are some with brown, blonde or reddish hair. This might provide hints as to which branch may claim a new found Peller.

The second type of evidence I've neglected is medical. Medical information usually comes

from two sources: death certificates and family oral history. Also put there are other sources. Photographs might show you certain conditions, such as a goiter. If you are a direct descendant, you might be able to obtain a person's medical records by claiming a medical need, such as to assess your health risk factors. However, confidentiality concerns make it increasingly difficult to obtain such records. WWI draft registration cards note medical factors that might affect the suitability of the individual for military service. Obituaries sometimes list cause of death.

Additionally, the US federal census for 1880 has supplemental schedules that detail a number of medical conditions. Unfortunately, the available medical information is often of very poor quality. Medical knowledge at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was not what it is today. Thus, physicians had less ability to describe their patients' problems. And, specifying the cause of death was not considered as important then as it is today.

Consider the case of Sam Peller, who died in 1918. The death certificate indicates he died of pneumonia. But, his WWI Draft Registration card indicates he had kidney disease.

I was curious about Sam Peller because he came from Jablonow, Austria, which is a small village where my great grandfather, Zische Peller, was born. It seemed Sam might be a relative. Eventually, I found a living relative of Sam, I'll call him Benjamin Peller, who didn't know much about family history, but told me that a number of his relatives had died of kidney disease. At the time, this made no impact on me. I still didn't know how or even if, I'm related to the Sam-Benjamin line of Pellers.

### **Lena's Reminiscences**

A few years ago, I visited my second-cousin Marcia in New York and she handed me a sheaf of papers and said "Here, you're interested in family history. I found this while straightening up my office. My jaw dropped when I looked at the papers. There were 20 handwritten sheets of the stories Marcia's mother, Lena, had heard as a little girl. The pages were undated, but the paper was yellowed and crumbling.

I surmised that Lena had written her stories sometime between 1930 and 1950. In the manuscript, Lena mentioned that my great-grandfather Zische Peller was one of six siblings and that he had a sister who lived near Jablonow. I knew the names of five of the six siblings. But the existence of the sister living near Jablonow was new to me and very exciting. Who was she?

For many towns in what was the eastern Austrian province of Galicia (now the Ukraine), there are fairly complete vital records going back to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Alas, Jablonow is not one of those towns. I have, therefore, had to use indirect methods to fill in the gaps.

I found a record of an immigrant named Tobe Rakowitz coming to New York at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to join her brother Charles Rakowitz. She was the daughter of Joseph Rakowitz and Esther Peller, and she was from Jablonow. Further checking found a great deal of interaction between the Rakowitzs in New York and my relatives. For example, my grandfather's first-cousin, a Peller, was listed as living with the Rakowitzs as a boarder in the 1900 census.

I developed a hypothesis: The unidentified sister of my great grandfather in Jablonow was Esther Peller-Rakowitz. She was, after all, my only candidate. Jablonow was a small town and Peller is an uncommon name.

Thus, I have been searching for a way to confirm my hypothesis. In the absence of vital records, I've been searching for family, oral history, photographs, letters personal sources that might mention family relationships.

### **The Medical Evidence**

Recently, I picked up some evidence which did nothing for me at first, but then gave me a jolt. A grandchild of Charles Rakowitz (who was thus a great-grandchild of Esther Peller-Rakowitz) told me that five or six of his relatives died of polycystic kidney disease. I remembered the only other group of Pellers—the Sam-Benjamin line—that had kidney disease. Was there a connection?

It became important to learn something about polycystic kidney disease. With such a high prevalence in the two groups of Pellers I presumed it is a genetic disease and that it could be a dominant rather than recessive gene. But is it linked to gender?

The National Institutes of Health has a wealth of information about genetic diseases. Their webpage indicates that there are three types of polycystic kidney disease: Autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive and acquired. The dominant form accounts for 90 percent of the cases. As we'll see, because it's a dominant gene, it can be fairly easy to track the disease over several generations. Autosomal means the disease is not associated with a sex chromosome (either X or Y); thus, the disease affects males and females equally.

Autosomal dominant means that a person develops the disease if he or she receives the gene from either parent; it is not necessary to receive the gene from both parents. That explains why the disease can be so prevalent within a family line.

On the other hand, the disease is also associated with high blood pressure, which can occur even before the onset of kidney disease. So, some people with the gene might die of heart disease or a stroke and not be recorded as having kidney disease. Also, it is possible for people with the disease to die of the flu, or an accident or another disease and again, not be recorded as having kidney disease. This explains why half the children of a carrier of the disease may inherit the gene but many fewer may be recorded as having the disease. The National Institutes of Health webpage also indicates that polycystic kidney disease is the fourth leading cause of kidney failure. Thus it is important to identify the particular type of kidney disease.

With this information, I contacted Benjamin, the Peller from the other line with kidney disease and asked him more about it. He confirmed that it's polycystic kidney disease that runs through his family line. I concluded that the Sam-Benjamin Peller line and the Esther Peller-Rakowitz line are related, but that Esther Peller-Rakowitz is not the missing sister from my great-grandfather's line. The former conclusion is important: It suggests I should ask Benjamin to gather as many family photos as possible of the Sam-Benjamin line and compare them to the photos that Charles Rakowitz's grandson has of the Esther Peller-Rakowitz line. If they have photos in common, that would suggest a close relationship between two lines of Pellers that had not known of the connection.

The latter conclusion that Esther Peller-Rakowitz is not the missing sister in my great grandfather's line seems well supported: Of the five people I postulated were her siblings, none of them gave rise to a line with kidney disease. This seems to be strong evidence that Esther was not a full sibling. There is still a possibility she was a half-sibling. For example, my great grandfather might have remarried if his first wife died, resulting in some children with one mother and Esther with another. In this case they would share one parent.

Medical data can be useful for developing hypotheses about family relationships. It also adds some insights, albeit rather creepy ones, about family history. But, the information is only useful if it is gathered and organized. In this

case, the medical evidence cast doubt on one hypothesis, but suggested that two previously unlinked lines of Pellers might be closely related.

### **Sources-- Information--Genetic Diseases:**

- National Institutes of Health website, [www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov)
- Medline Plus, a service of the US National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus)

(John M. Hoenig—is an avid genealogist. – Family Chronicle—Sept/Oct 2007)

### **Golden Rules of Genealogy**

#### **“Speling Dush’n’t Cownt”**

Back in the day folks couldn't spell and barely could write, so how a name sounds is more important than how it's spelled. Use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.

#### **Assume Nothing**

Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume that:

- Your ancestors were married
- Census information is accurate
- Vital (or other records) were correct
- Your ancestor's life events were recorded.
- Ancestors had the same name as their enslaver

#### **Use Discretion**

Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

#### **Always Document Your Sources, No Matter How Much They Contradict One Another**

Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so always cite your sources.

### **Most Dates Are Approximate**

It's okay to state that someone was born "abt" 1845," or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various documents have different dates. Which date is "correct?" They all are.

### **If Unsure, Say So**

Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts ever.

### **You Cannot Do it All Online**

Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

### **Just Because It's Online Doesn't Mean It's True**

The Internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

### **Pass Along Your Research**

No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Remember plan on passing along your research to the next generation's researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand...in essence, leave your research the way you'd liked to have found it.

### **Don't Die With Your Stories Still In You**

Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but remember that you have been chosen to tell their stories.

### **DNA Is Not a Trump Card**

DNA is just one of many possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed thereby providing false information. DNA results should always be used in concert with other sources.

### **Anything You Post Online Will Be "Borrowed"**

You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be "borrowed" or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast...the internet. Get over it. (Submitted by Eleanor McMurchy from GotGenealogy.com)

### **Who were my Portuguese Ancestors?**

Being of a German Baltic family – with generations of ancestors having lived in the present-day Latvia and Estonia, including my parents and oldest brother still born there before World War II – a big question mark for me hung over the shipwrecked Portuguese sea captain, recorded in our family archives as **Franciscus Joze CUELHO (FJC)**. My fourth great-grandfather apparently came ashore in Arensburg (the German name of Kuressaare, on the Island of Oesel, or Saaremaa in present-day Estonia); becoming a citizen there. By 1808, as a merchant, he became a citizen of Riga. According to the detailed documentation from church and civil documents (e.g. in Riga) prepared and published by my maternal grandfather, Maximilian von RADECKI in 1965 (BAST 9) FJC came from Porto in Portugal and his parents were named Joseph (called 'Bareira') CUELHO, a merchant in Porto, with trade relations to Brazil, and Rosa Maria GOMEZ dos SANTOS. And that was about the end of our records!

What could the LDS genealogical library from Salt Lake City help me here? So off I went to the local (Lethbridge) Family History Centre and ordered a number of microfilms of various churches in Porto covering the birth (baptism), marriage and death records of the late 1700's. While I have zero knowledge of the Portuguese language, I could manage to gradually 'read' (= make out) dates, all written e.g. for 1770 in the Portuguese equivalent of "one thousand seven hundred and seventy." Yes, no numbers which one could quickly skim over. Indeed, these dates appear either at the beginning of an entry; somewhere inside; or even at the bottom! A few days of this: no, this will not work! So – I awaited an inspiration!

Wishing to determine information about FJC's ancestors, I contacted a fellow German Baltic immigrant in Edmonton (Mathias Kuester) who had put together a voluminous record of names and references in the one-time Oesel (now Saaremaa) – a copy of which I received. No luck there. He even contacted a genealogist in Saaremaa on my behalf. No luck there either.

The decisive inspiration came about a decade after my own searching attempt in the Porto parish microfilms: when I came across a professional genealogist, Mayra F. Sanchez-Johnson, in Texas, also specializing in Portuguese genealogy. Well – let's try! Initially I gave what I had and asked

her to find two items for me: the birth (or baptismal record) of my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, FJC, and the marriage of his parents. That was mid August 2012.

It became apparent very quickly that the name had been ‘Germanified’ in our family records and should have been spelled as **COELHO**. And that it was indeed Francisco who was the legitimate son of Jose COELHO and his wife Rosa Maria, baptized in March 1770 in the parish of São João da Foz do Douro, in Porto, Portugal. The parish translates as ‘St. John of the Mouth of the Douro’ (i.e. the Douro River). Genealogist Mayra found this listing in the last of the Porto parish lists available from Salt Lake City!

When the marriage records came – ‘we struck gold’. The marriage record for my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents on 10 Feb. 1760, gives parents, and paternal as well as maternal grandparents of both husband and wife, with home parishes!

Here is the English translation by Marya F. Sanchez-Johnson ([m.f.sanchez.j@gmail.com](mailto:m.f.sanchez.j@gmail.com)) of their marriage record:

*Translation of the marriage entry found in the parish of São João da Foz do Douro, Porto, Portugal, Libro C Folio 142v, Doc.#2 (with ‘Jose Coelho Barreiros with Rosa Maria dos Santos’ in the margin):*

*“On the tenth day of the month of February of one thousand seven hundred and sixty, at about four in the afternoon in the church São João da Foz do Douro, county of the Maya, bishopric of Porto, where the contracting parties are originally from, having done first the announcements as customary from the Sacred council of Trenton, and rules of this bishopric, and having found no impediments, in my presence Father Fray Manoel de Santa Gertrudes vicar of this parish, and having present as witnesses Antonio Freitas, Manoel do Souza Henriques and Alexandre Ferreira de Souza, all from this parish, they solemnly received by word of the present **Jose Coelho Barreiros** from this parish, legitimate son of Manoel Coelho Barreiros and his wife Maria Ferreira, he of this parish and she from the parish of São Silvestre de Requião of the Archbishopric of Braga, paternal grandson of Francisco Coelho and his wife Maria Pereira, from the parish of São João de Alpendurada, he, and she from the parish of São Miguel de Barreiros, and maternal grandson of Joaquin Ferreira and Anna Ferreira both from the same parish of Requião, with Rosa Maria dos Santos,*

*from this parish, I mean, **Rosa Maria dos Santos**, legitimate daughter of João Gomes and his wife Maria Antonia dos Santos, he from the parish of Couto de Corujaes, and she from Aldea du Real, parish of Boucais, paternal granddaughter of Antonio Manoel and his wife Isabel Pereira, both from the mentioned Couto de Corujaes and maternal granddaughter of Manoel Andre and his wife Isabel Antonia, both from the mentioned Aldea du Real, parish of Boucais, and the nuptial ceremony was done in the form of the Roman Ritual of which I make an entry the same day and sign it ut supra, together with the witnesses. Vicar Fr. Manoel de Sta. Gertrudes Antonio Freitas Soares Manoel de Souza Henriques*

*Alexandre Ferreira de Souza”*

Of course I had to ask my genealogist to continue! And in the week before Christmas 2012 – I received the documents including copies in Portuguese (handwriting!) and English translations starting with the baptism of my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather **Francisco Jose COELHO** in 1770 back from 3 to even 5 generations (four of my 9<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents) of baptisms (some births) and marriages! This pedigree (see attached – from the parents of FJC back) and some background information on the locations in northern Portugal became my main Christmas present for our children and my siblings!

Porto – my ancestral home – is the place which not only gave the country of Portugal its name; but also the well-known fortified Port wine. While no direct record exists that my shipwrecked sea captain ancestor carried this wine to the Russian Empire – such was a common practice in that later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. And from Russia, such goods as hemp (e.g. ‘Russia linen’) for ropes, sail canvas, and clothing; as well as furs, came back to Portugal. Well – not on that particular trip which ended in a shipwreck in the eastern Baltic Sea near Oesel!

((Submitted by Hans-Henning Mündel )

- See pedigree and pic on page 12.

References:

BAST (Baltische Ahnen und Stammtafeln) 9 – 1965.

Parish of São João da Foz do Douro, Porto, Portugal March 1770 (Libro 3, Folio 74, Doc. #1): (English translation from the Portuguese baptism entry)

Parish of São João da Foz do Douro, Porto, Portugal 10 Feb. 1760 (Libro C Folio 142v, Doc.#2): (English translation from the Portuguese marriage entry)

## This Week in History

In 1473, the founder of modern astronomy, Nicolaus Copernicus, was born in Poland. His theory established The Sun as the centre of the planetary system.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas. Mexican troops under General Santa Anna eventually wiped out the American Garrison. Among those killed was frontiersman Davy Crockett.

In 1877, the first news dispatch was sent by telephone. The story about a lecture and phone demonstration by Alexander Graham Bell appeared the next day in the Boston Globe.

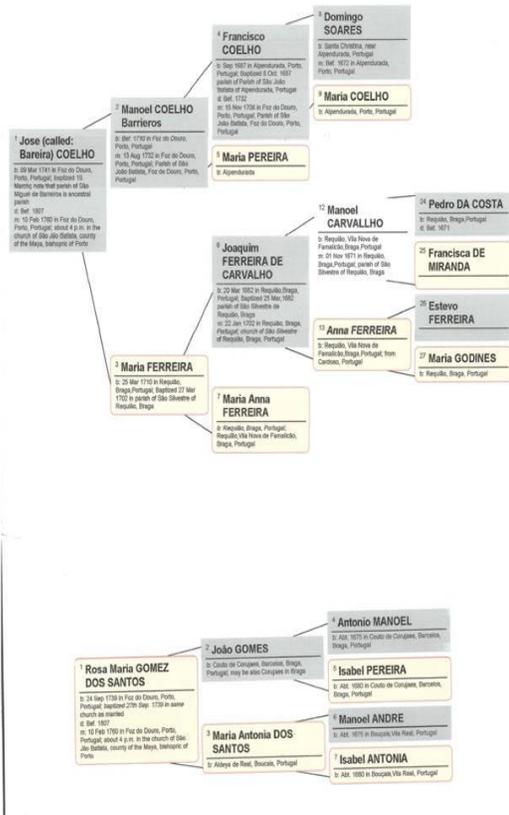
In 1878, Thomas Edison was issued a U.S. patent for his phonograph, less than two months after he applied. In the autumn of 1877, Edison had successfully tested a crude cylinder phonograph that recorded his voice on a piece of tinfoil wrapped around a cylinder. He had shouted into the mouthpiece of the instrument the nursery rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” When he played back the recording, and a recognizable reproduction of his voice emerged. Edison was quoted as saying: “I was never so taken aback in my life.”

In 1891, an explosion in a coal mine at Springhill, N.S. killed 125 miners. Coal gas was suspected as the cause of the blast. The accident was the first of several that occurred over the years in Springhill. The mines were shut forever after a rock surge on October 23, 1958, in which 74 miners died.

In 1893, the Stanley Cup was awarded for the first time to the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association team.

In 1906, Michigan doctor William Kellogg formed the Battle Creek Cornflake Company to make a breakfast cereal he had developed for patients suffering from mental disorders.

In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a “dwarf planet”) was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. (This Week in History, Sun Times—February 2013)



*Henning dressed in style of his 18<sup>th</sup> cent. Portuguese ancestors*