YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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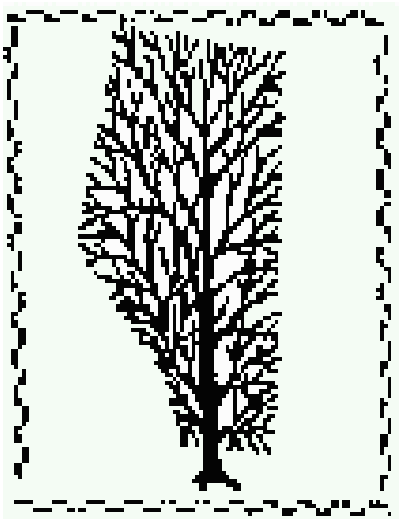

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Editor's Corner

If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting web sites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can drop off your submissions to our library or phone (403) 328-9564 or send an e-mail to lethags@theboss.net Susan Haga, Newsletter Editor.

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. September through May. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our web site at:
http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/Exec.htm
Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Avenue North.
Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

Individual or Family Membership (Includes 1 Branch)--$60.00, Seniors (65+) Individual or Family (Includes 1 Branch)--$55.00. If you receive Relatively Speaking digitally your membership is $10.00 off except for Youth membership $5.00—Young Adult membership is $25.00 (includes RS).

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President's Message

Summer is just around the corner, so I hope that you are planning your vacations to be able to take in some genealogical sleuthing on your trips.

We experimented for 3 months with an evening opening of the library, the first Tuesday of each month from 6 pm to 9 pm. This was unsuccessful as we only had one visitor over the three sessions.

Our membership has increased to 53, but we still need more members. If you have any ideas of how to increase the membership, please let me know.

We received over 200 parish register books for Yorkshire and Lancashire in England from the Lethbridge Family History Centre so if you have any ancestors from these areas you should drop into the library and review. These register books go back to the early 1600s.

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

AGS is also looking for committee members for the AGS Surname Data Base, which is currently under review. This data base includes the Cemetery data bases as well as other data bases held by AGS. I will be on this committee and would appreciate assistance from any members also interested.

Have a good summer and plan to return in the fall ready for new challenges.
Cheers, John Squarek

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, April 19th at our monthly meeting Jim Benedict the Canada West Regional Rep from Calgary gave a presentation on Guild of One-Name Studies. He spoke on surname research and the benefits of having a Guild membership. Then on April 21st our GenFair and AGM was held at the Camrose Masonic Hall hosted by Camrose Branch. There were two presentations the first one given at 10:30 a.m. by Glynys Hohmann from the PAA "Hatched Matched & Dispatched and at 1:00 p.m. Rosella Peterman a retired Land Title Searcher: gave a presentation on "Using Land Records in Exploring Your Family Tree".

This past month at our May meeting Jean Fletcher from the Lethbridge Family History Center gave a presentation on Familysearch.org. On June 21st at 7:00 p.m. Len Ross, one our members will be giving a presentation on Networking To Find My Mother's Polish Family.

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

The Lethbridge Family History Center summer hours will start June 4th: Tuesday 9:00-5:00 p.m. and Wednesday 1:00-9:00 p.m. Fall hours will resume again after Labor day weekend.

Spotlight

I began my interest in family history at 12 years of age when I began writing my own family history and I have continued it thru the years. Then at age 16 I began searching out my father's side of the family as I had a keen interest in learning about that side of my family but I really got involved in doing serious research in 1984 when I was unemployed and was able to spend a lot of one on one time with my father after he was forced into early retirement with the onset of leukemia.

I really didn't know my father's family well as my parents separated when I was young and this fueled my desire to learn more. As I spent a lot of time with my father we discussed his life and the life of his parents and grandparents. After his passing I started meeting with my grandmother in her lodge and spending quality time with her. I then began ordering birth and marriage certificates and pouring over microfilms, Henderson Directories, church records, local history books and newspapers to try and fill in the holes that were missing in my family lines. While doing research at the Public Library and the Family History Center I ran into Bev Tufts and Eleanor McMurchy and was invited to attend an AGS meeting which I did for a number of years until I was persuaded to join Lethbridge AGS in Feb 2005 and the very next day I became the vice president of our Branch and immediately afterwards I became the editor of this newsletter.

I've spent the last 8 years on the AGS Provincial Executive as 2nd V.P. 1st V.P, President, and Past President. It's been a busy time and I've learned a lot. I very much enjoy doing family history as always. I continue researching my lines that go into Sweden, England, Scotland and Ireland. (submitted by Susan Haga, Editor)

The Online Release of Irish Civil Registration Records

The civil vital records from Ireland's General Register Office ("GRO") are available online with over 2.5 million images (representing over 12.5 million individual records). The records are freely accessible at www.irishgenealogy. Best of all these are not transcriptions, but rather the digitized images of the originals themselves.

The registrations of Irish marriages (other than Roman Catholic marriages) began in 1845. It wasn't until years later that Parliamentary Bills in 1863 mandated compulsory registrations of all births, marriages and deaths as of 1 January 1864. At the time of this writing, images of the following records are available on the Irish genealogy site. Births 1864-1915, Marriages 1882-1940, Deaths 1891-1965.

The 1845/1864 - 1881 marriages and 1864 - 1890 deaths will be included on the website through future updates. Note that the ending cutoff dates are the result of privacy law restrictions, only permitting access to births occurring 100 years ago, marriages over 75 years, and deaths of more than 50 years. There is also information on the site regarding applying for the redaction of records for those over 100 years of age and/or who have been married more than 75 years and don't want to have their certificates online.

We've had online access to the indexes of these records through various resources including the FamilySearch collection of "Irish Civil Registration Indexes" (from the beginning compulsory dates through 1958 for the Republic of Ireland and through 1922 for Northern Ireland) at website www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1408347

There are similar indexes available at www.findmypast.com and www.ancestry.com as well. The indexes provide very basic information for entries; with reference to a volume and page number that can be used to request the actual record from the GRO. If you seek civil registration documents that are outside of the years online, certified copies and/or photo copies are available by contacting the GRO, at www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/ApplyforCertificates.aspx for ordering instructions. The site also has links for the GROs for Northern Ireland, England, and Wales, and Scotland.

The www.irishgenealogy.ie website also has a digital index - which is now the gateway to the digitized images of the underlying records! Irishgenealogy.ie was already in the toolbox of many Irish root seekers, offering them research guidance, useful links, and some church records for parishes in counties Dublin, Carlow, Cork and Kerry but I suspect there's been a remarkable increase in web traffic.

Navigation and Jurisdiction

Once you're at the irishgenealogy.ie website, select the "Civil Records" tab, go through some simple bot-busting CAPTCHA steps (attesting

that you're human), then sign-off acknowledging that the search of the records is in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Registration Act - and voila, you're in! There's a basic search feature for entering a name, range of years, "Registration District" and the choice of event; birth, marriage, or death. The Civil Registration Districts sometimes cut across county lines and were set up based on the earlier Poor Law Union boundaries created in 1838, and to this day, remain largely the same. So under the current search parameters in this site, it is very helpful to know your ancestor's likely Registration Districts in order to narrow your results. There is also an advanced search option allowing you to further pinpoint your results by entering the specific day and/or month of the event, mother's surnames for births, 2nd party's (witness') names for marriages, and age of the deceased for deaths.

There's currently no way to start off your search selecting an area any smaller than the Civil Registration District or to search the birth records using both parents' names. Try using the above mentioned indexes together with the irishgenealogy.ie site for optimizing your experience. You can also do things in reverse if you choose, since the records are browsable by Registration District. There were many spelling variations of names in the records and their transcriptions. Thankfully there's a "wildcard" character search function allowing you to substitute asterisks and question marks in place of letters; asterisks for more than one letter and questions marks for a single letter. This will come in handy for all but the simplest of surname searches, especially for those beginning with 0', Mc or Mac. For example, I did all of my "McGill" searches as "m*gill" - this way, the results included McGill, Mc Gill, Magill, and so on. The same theory applies for first names.

If you know the town land or general geographical area of your ancestor's birth, marriage, or death, there are some good resources to determine the applicable Registration District. John Grenham's website has a great interactive map of the Poor Law Unions adhering to the Registration Districts with links to names of the town lands therein at www.johngrenham.com/places/plu_index.php. There's another similar tool for finding the Registration District associated with particular town lands at www.swilson.info/explorerb.php

Dates in Records - Take With a Grain of Salt

Some estimates indicate that 10-15% of folks simply didn't bother to register their vital events for the first couple of decades after enactment. Compliance improved by the 1880's, but be warned that the dates (particularly the birthdates) in the civil vital register entries are often not accurate. Presumably, the main reason for inaccuracies was that fines were assessed for late registration, so precision often lost out to frugality. Imagine a late 19th century farmer in a rural Irish village toiling sunup to sundown for the family's sustenance and living a day's walk from the registration office, faced with reporting the birth of a child. When the responsibilities of a hard knock life delayed the trip to register a life event, the birth date just might be altered to fall within the penalty-free time period..

The Separation of Church and State

The majority of baptisms and christenings were penned into the parish books on the same day as the event, sometimes also recording the child's birth date. In times past, it was extremely important, especially in the Catholic faith, for the child to be baptized very soon after birth. For this reason and the others above, a child's birth date in baptismal records is usually much more precise than their birth date in the civil registration records.

The ages entered for married couples and the departed should be considered as estimates as well. By the way, digitized images of baptisms, marriages and deaths in the Catholic parish registers (up to the 1880's) were released in 2016 by the National Library of Ireland for free online access at http://registers.nli.ie. There are also searchable transcriptions of Catholic parish records beyond the 1880's (along with some Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, and Methodist parish registers) via RootsIreland's subscription-based site at www.rootsireland.ie

Other Information in the Records

There's more in the civil registration record than just the dates of birth, death, and marriage. Equally useful information for genealogists includes: for births - place of birth, maiden name of mother, occupation of father, informant's name and residence; marriages - place of marriage, the ages and residences of couple, names of the couple's fathers, and witnesses; and deaths - place of death, age, occupation, cause of death, informant's residence and relationship to the deceased. When putting together the pieces of your Irish puzzles, look to these records to support theories or conclusions regarding birthplace, residency, parentage, and other family relationships. Sometimes the places

mentioned in the records refer to smaller geographical areas than town lands. Such tidbits are hugely relevant when facing the challenges of common surnames. (Joe Grandinetti-- Internet Genealogy--January 2017)

Tips For Overcoming Your Brick Walls

Review What You Have

Go back and review what you know about your ancestor. Take some time to create a timeline during your review to get a better picture of your ancestor's life. This is good not only to refresh your memory, but to also double check for any mistakes. Be sure to take a second look at all of the documentation you have as well. Many times when we first look at documents, our eyes automatically search for names and dates. However, you may miss other valuable information and even overlook other people who may be mentioned in the document. Review your records to see if you missed any vital clues in your initial search.

Research Other Close Relatives

If you're stuck on an ancestor, take some time to research the person's close relatives. Look into siblings and cousins because they may hold the answers that you are looking for. They may lead you to parents or grandparents or hints on where to continue your research.

If you find other names on an record for an ancestor, take some time to research those people, too. For example, a baptism record will typically include the names of godparents. Often, those godparents turn out to be relatives. Researching their names may turn up more family history information or clues for you to explore.

Take a DNA Test

If you're stuck, try taking a DNA test for genealogy. You never know what new surprises are in store. Perhaps you'll get a DNA match to a relative that will finally bring down that brick wall.

Research Nicknames

Names can be a tricky thing. Sometimes individuals may be listed in the historical record under the nickname rather their given name. Try doing searches using nicknames or even different spelling variations. It's not uncommon to find names with multiple spelling variations in historical records.

Ask the Community

If you're stumped, then reach out to the genealogical community. Geni's public discussions are a great place to seek advice and questions about your brick wall ancestor. Perhaps someone else may have suggestions on your next steps or even recognize the person that you are searching for. Learn how to use public discussions to connect with the Geni community.

Contact Your Local Genealogical Society

There may be someone at your local genealogical society who may be doing research in the same area as you. Get involved with the society whether in town or out of town. You can belong to a genealogical society in an area where your ancestors came from even if you don't live there.

Check out Your Local Family History Center

Check out a family history center near you. Attend their classes to see what new information you can learn. Mingling with other genealogists may provide you with the answers that you are seeking. (Article found at geni.com see website https://www.geni.com/blog/tips-for-overcoming-your-brickwalls.html)

Mennonite Research

North America became the destination of choice for Mennonites as early as 1683. The appeal of religious freedom and free farmland influenced their decision to leave South Germany and Switzerland to seek out the "New World" in the State of Pennsylvania.

The arrival of Mennonites in Canada goes back to the late 1770's. The Swiss Mennonites left Pennsylvania and crossed the Niagara River to settle in Canada. During that same period, about 2,000 Pennsylvania Dutch, as they became known, left the United States to settle in Canada. Free land and avoiding military service in the American Revolution were motivating factors to head north to Canada.

One group settled in the Niagara District in the present-day Counties of Welland, Lincoln and Haldimand; a second group settled in Whitchurch in York County; a larger third group founded the Grand River settlement. In Perth County, the communities of Milverton and Millbank are home to Canada's largest Amish settlement, a group named after Bishop Jacob Ammon, a conservative leader in the late 17th century.

In 1807, Benjamin Eby founded Ebytown (now Kitchener) in Waterloo County. In the late 1800's, 18,000 Dutch Mennonites fled Russia to

seek Russia to seek refuge in North America and a large wave of Mennonites from Ukraine were the first settlers to arrive in the new province of Manitoba in 1870. Within the next decade, more than 7000 settled the regions of the East Reserve and the West Reserve.

The Dominion Land Act of 1872, which granted inexpensive and free land to settlers, the aggressive immigration policy publicized in Central Europe, and the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway all contributed to furthering the establishment of Mennonite communities in Central and Western Canada.

Over the last century, both the First World War, chiefly the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, and the Second World War encouraged the mass migration of conscientious objectors to settle in North America.

Today, almost 200,000 Mennonites call Canada home and in 2010, the largest urban concentration of Mennonite in the world. Elsewhere in Canada, the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, Vancouver and Saskatoon are home to many Mennonites. Library and Archives Canada holds records pertaining to Mennonite & Amish immigrants to Canada. Consult the Archives Search database using keywords such as a surname or the name of an organization.

Researching the United Empire Loyalists

The United Empire Loyalists are people who were living in the original 13 colonies of the United States when the American Revolution took place. The Loyalists continued to support the King of England. Thousands moved north to Canada. Today about one-fifth of Canadians can claim descent from a Loyalist. In addition to Canadians having Loyalist ancestry many others of Loyalist descent live elsewhere--in the United States, in commonwealth countries such as Australia, and New Zealand.

Over 80,000 Loyalists fled from the country, majority left by ship, some overland with over half going to British possessions in Canada; Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Quebec. This was the largest group of immigrants coming to Canada at any one time. Many families ended up at refugee camps near Sorel, Quebec for the winter of 1783.

There were three main areas planned for their settlement: the Royal Townships near Cornwall, the Cataraqui Townships near Kingston, and the Niagara Frontier. Areas were also to be laid out in the Bay of Quinte and Grand River area for the Mohawks who had fought with the British and lost their land in New York State. The first group of Loyalists under the command of Major Peter Vanalstine landed on June 16th 1783 at Adolphustown, Ontario. Not only were the Loyalists granted lands for their Loyalty, but their sons and daughters were each entitled to grants of 200 acres as well.

As this area grew, so did the need for self-government of this region, being so far away from Quebec. Today the title U.E. is Canada's only hereditary honor, and literally thousands of Canadians can claim it as their descendants of the United Empire Loyalists, one of Canada's great founding peoples.

UEL Websites

Library and Archives Canada

A huge amount of information will be found on this government website. It includes census, immigration and military information. This site also includes: Loyalists in the Maritimes --Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office 1777-1785-20,000 Loyalist references.

The Olive Tree

Historical and genealogical information on Ontario, Niagara area Loyalists, Palatine\s, Mennonites, Huguenots and Walloons, Mohawk Nation and more. It also has Ship's Passenger Lists and Canadian Muster Rolls from the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

Loyalist Collection--Univ. of New Brunswick

Search the Loyalist Collection at the Harriet Irving Library

Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies

This has material on the Loyalists in the fields of military research, genealogy and living history.

Index to Ontario Loyalists

General information to Loyalists, Ontario historical facts, Loyalist Regiments/muster rolls. (Information in this write=up found at http://www.cangenealogy.com/loyalist.html)

25 Essential Websites for Austro-Hungarian Genealogy

1. EastEuropeGenWeb Project

www.rootsweb.com/~easeurgw

This website is an online data repository for queries, family histories, genealogical records as well as offering links to other databases to assist researchers. It is the regional branch of the WorldGenWeb Project. This site is arranged alphabetically by country (much like Cyndi's List).

2. Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies www.feefhs.org This site is one of the best first stops for anyone researching in Eastern and Central Europe. This website has a number of surname databases, a map room and numerous other links.

3. Radix - Genealogical Research in Hungry www.bogardi.com/gen/index.shtml This website focuses on genealogy research in Hungary. The main available resources include: Industry and Trade Directory of Hungary in 1891, a searchable 1913 Gazetteer of Hungary, a listing of most common Hungarian surnames and a link to a Hungarian blog called Radixlog.

4. JewishGen www.jewishgen.org This site includes various databases and other genealogical links. JewishGen includes ShtetlSeeker, which allows you to search for towns in Central and Eastern Europe by using exact spelling or the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex system.

5. Steve Morse www.stevemorse.org A collection of online forms used to search genealogical databases in "One Step". One of the most remarkable is "Searching the Ellis Island Database in One Step", that enables researchers to find data from the Ellis Island Database. Users can search criteria for first and last names, as well as town name. This is helpful for locating misspelled Eastern European surnames and towns/villages.

6. LinkToYourRoots
http://linktoyourroots.hamburg.de/ltyr/index.html
Many immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire departed from Hamburg, Germany. For a long time, the index to these records (1850-1934) has been available on microfilm through the Family Search Library. The "Link to Your Roots" database (Hamburg State Archives) allows online searching of the emigration lists (1890-1906). The initial search can be performed for free, but the results show only minimal details (in text format, not digitized images): Surname, First Name, State of Origin, Marital Status, Date of Birth and Destination. For a fee based on a number of records ordered and payable by credit card, you can see other details, such as name of the ship and date of the arrival.

7. Breman Passenger Lists
www.schiffslisten.de/index_en.html
Bremen in Hamburg was a frequent port of departure for immigrants who came from countries once part of Austria or Hungary. Unfortunately, with the exception of 2,953 passenger lists for the years 1920-1939, all other lists were either lost or destroyed. You can search the database free of charge, and obtain such details as Family Name, First Name, Sex, Age, Place of Residence, Nationality, Profession and Destination.

8. Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) www.cgsi.org This society promotes Czechoslovakian genealogical research with people who have ancestry in the Czechoslovak region as it was in 1918. This includes families of Czech, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovak, German, Hungarian, Jewish, Russian and Silesian origin.

9. Polish Genealogical Society of America
www.pgsa.org Those searching Polish ancestors will discover numerous finding aids, databases, record indexes and other information related to Polish ancestry.

10. PolishRoots: The Polish Genealogy Source
www.polishroots.com This is an informative Polish genealogical site for tracing your Polish ancestry. Check out the extensive databases, maps, heraldry, cultural and historical information. This site includes Polish forums and etc.

11. HalGal www.halgal.com This easy-to-navigate website offers information on Halychyna/Eastern Galicia, an area that is often misunderstood as we attempt to do our research. This site should be a starting point for those researching their ancestral roots in the Western/Ukraine/Eastern Galicia. Many of the pages will be helpful in researching Western Galicia as well.

12. Bukovina Society of America
www.bukovinasociety.org This is a site helpful for those searching for their Bukovina roots. There's a genealogy and contacts page with contact information about Bukovina genealogical researchers along with their list of ancestral names and locations, a families/villages section with information about Bukovina villages, a culture and customs section including articles about cultural traditions practiced by Bukovina people, a Map Room with Bukovina maps and etc.

13. SloveniaGenWeb
www.rootsweb.com/~synw.gw/index.htm This site provides numerous 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, a collection of family trees and more.

14. Hungary Lookups
rootsweb.com/~wghungar/Lookups/lookups.html
Part of the Hungary?GenWeb on Rootsweb. Includes lists of reference books, lookups and names of translation volunteers.

15. Behind the Name
www.behindthename.com Users can find the etymology and history of first names on this website including Hungarian, Polish, Slovene, Czech and Slovak, and other Eastern European names. There are also message boards, interactive polls and a name translator, where you can type a first name into the search box and select a language in which to "translate" the name. For e.g., type in "John" and select Hungarian to get "Janos".

16. Genealogical Research in Austria
usembassy.at/en/embassy/cons/genealogy.htm
This is a useful page from the US Embassy in Austria. The American Embassy does not maintain any historical or immigration records, and it cannot undertake genealogical research in Austria.

17. The Carpatho-Rusyn Knowledge Base
www.carpatho-rusyn.org This is a useful resource to consult for anyone of Carpatho-Rusyn ancestry. Visitors may also want to check out The Carpatho-Rusyn Society, www.carpathorusynsociety.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to manifesting Carpatho-Rusyn culture in the US and supporting Rusyn culture in the homeland in East Central Europe.

18. Church Record Translations
www.bmi.net/ijaso/index.html This site is an excellent resource for anyone who needs to translate birth, marriage and death records from Hungarian, Latin or Slovak.

19. GenealogyLinks.net
www.genealogylinks.net/europe/index.html
This site consists of 3,500 pages of more than 30,000 GenealogyLinks that serve as a good portal site for information from Eastern European countries and the links are indexed geographically (e.g. Albania, Austria, Belarus, etc.)

20. Research in Ukraine and Belarus
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.

21. Eastern Slovakia Genealogy Research Strategies www.iabsi.com/gen/public This is a very informative set of web pages that aid English-speaking researchers of immigrants from Eastern Slovakia and surrounding areas. There is a useful page on Hungarian Census Records, .iabsi.com/gen/public/censusmain.htm

22. Immigrant History Research Center (University of Minnesota) www.ihrc.umn.edu
This site is a great reference to the Center's Collection is particularly strong in its documentation of eastern, central, and southern European ethnic groups.

23. About.com Genealogy by Country Europe
http://genealogy.about.com/od/europe This is a site to help guide the research process for European ancestors. Utilize links to free genealogy databases, records and resources for tracing your ancestry in Europe. Browse by country or explore genealogy resources encompassing all of Europe (Austria, Germany, Poland, and Ukraine).

24. Austrian Genealogy Research Links
www.distantcousin.com/Links/Ethnic/Austria
Informative site with numerous links for Austrian genealogy, including an Austrian genealogy forum, Austrian mailing lists, phone books, a large surname list and Austrian genealogy queries and much more.

25. Hungary Genealogy Links
Numerous links for anything related to Hungarian genealogy, including: Hungary GenWeb created to help researchers find local resources and reference information, Hungary Message Board to share your Hungarian genealogy with other researchers, Hungarian and Slovak Genealogy, Hungarian Settlers in Canada; 1897 Hungarotips Genealogy List database of Hungarian researchers and their research, Hungarian Jewish Genealogy, Hungarian Cemeteries, and Census records.
(Internet Genealogy.com/austriahungary/25.htm)

Top 10 Dutch Genealogy Websites

There are thousands of sites that are helpful for researching your ancestors from the Netherlands. This list has been limited to websites that would be useful for people who don't speak Dutch.

1. WieWasWie
WieWasWie is the largest genealogy database in the Netherlands. It includes information of over 82 million people, mostly covering the 19th century. The website is available in English.

2. Digital Resources Netherlands and Belgium
This portal provides links to records that are available online. These can range from name indexes and transcriptions to digitized original records.

3. Archivenet
Archivenet is a portal that provides links to the websites of all the Archives in the Netherlands and Flanders.

4. Wat Was Waar
"Wat Was Waar" means "What Was Where". The websites shows the digitized 1832 plot maps including the lists of owners. You can zoom in on the map and click it to see the selection of maps from that area. Scans from the information about the owners of the plots are available as well. These are called "OATs (Oorspronkelijke Aanwijzende Tafels, original referring tables).

5. GahetNA
This website by the National Archives contains several indexes, including emigrants to Australia and freed slaves in the West Indies.

6. Memory of the Netherlands
This large image database shows the highlights of the collections of many cultural or historical organizations in the Netherlands. One of the themes is the Atlantic World. Select the EN-button in the top right for the English version.

7. Stamboomgids
This portal uses Familienamen (familyname) section which is easy to use and provides links to websites about specific family names.

8. Family Name Database
This data base shows the occurrence of Dutch family names based on the 1947 (most recent) census. Fill in a naam (name) and click the Zoeck (search) button. A list of names will appear. Check 'kaartweergave' (map display) to see the geographical spread.

9. Trace Your Dutch Roots
This website has some great research tips on Dutch genealogy. It also comes with weblog.

10. Dutch Genealogy Facebook Group
Facebook group dedicated to Dutch genealogy. This is a very friendly community where people help each other solve brick walls. See website (https://dutchgenealogy.nl/top-10-dutch-genealogy-websites/)

Russian Genealogy

Ancestry.com--Russian Database Search: voter's lists and censuses, WW2 and Jewish records.

A Russian Language Translator at Google Translate--It translates words or web pages from Russian to English etc.

Alberta Chapter, Germans from Russia Heritage Society
www.glenbow.org/collections/search/findingAids/archhtm/grhs.cfm Includes family histories 1969-2005. Passenger Ships & Border Crossings List of Immigrants 1900-1918.

The Bessarabian Collection
www.odessa3.org/collections/bess
American Historical Society of German's from Russia https://www.ahsgr.org/default.aspx

Cyndi's List--Germans from Russia--largest private collection of genealogy links on the web. https://cyndislist.com/germans-from-russia.htm

Doukhobor Genealogy Website
www.doukhobor.org/index.html The primary internet source connecting researchers to Doukhobor genealogy.

Emigration of Finns from North America to Soviet Karelia in the Early 1930s
www.genealogia.fi

Genealogy Bank 514,433,226 Family Records found in newspapers (world's largest obituary database) www.genealogybank.com

Genealogy Surname Navigator, Russia—geneaservice.nl www.geneaservice.ml
Everything you need to know to bring alive your Family tree including software and community connections.

Immigration of Russians to Alabama USA 1834-1897

Immigrants to Canada from Russian Empire-From Canadian Archives--The series on passports and identity papers is comprised of about 11,400 files on Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants who came to Canada from Russian Empire (see www.collections.canada,ca

Immigration Torza, Hungary to Russia www.odessa3.org
Israel & Jewish Genealogy found at www.genealogylinks.net
Jewish Religious Personnel Russia 1853-1854
Mennonite Ship List 1872-1904 (J. Hubert, J Thiesen) www.odessa3.org
Moscow, Jews of Latvian Descent
Name Extracts from Book. "Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763-1862"Odessa Provincial Executions 1937-1938.
Researching Russian Roots
Russia Genealogy Forum--read and post your messages.
Russian GenWeb created in an effort to help researchers find local resources.
Russian Links & Kozin's Genealogy (In Russian and in English)
Swiss Volhynian Genealogical Database—It has over 27,000 names. A group of Swiss Amish who spent 100 years in Prussia/Russia before emigrating to South Dakota and Kansas in 1874.
The Brest Ghetto Passport Archive--WW2 deaths 1941-1945.
Torza, Hungary to Russia 1794-1804
Volga: The Lower Volga Villages Saratova, Volga, Russia
Volga: Dobrinka Surnames
Volga: Dreispritz, A list of surnames from 1798 Census for the village of Dreispritz.
Volga: Kraft Village Surnames--including immigrants to America.
Volhynia, South Russia births, deaths and marriages 1835-1885.
Zuerichtal, South Russia births, deaths and marriages 1833-1839

Parish Registers
Bessarabia; Neu-Sarata births 1883
Eigenheim births and deaths 1861-1884
Freudental Parish Register 1830's-1880's
Glueckstal Parish Register 1833-1900
Grossliebental Parish Register
Neusatz Parish Register 1830-1860
Odessa City Parish Registers 1840-1880
Rohrbach Parish Register 1830-1880
Zuerichtal Parish Register 1830's

Census Records
Molotschna Census 1835
South Russia Mennonite Census 1795-1814
Volga: Schwab; Surnames from the 1798 census for village Schwab
Volga: Scherbakova; Surnames in the 1798 census for village Scherbakova
Volga: Stephan: A list of surnames from the 1798 census for the village Stephan
1798 census of the German colonies along the Volga
1873 Census YazykovoColony
1869 Census Nikolaifield Village, Yazykovo Colony (Found on Genealogylinks.net under Russian Genealogy) (Just Google titles)

Before Your Trip--Doing Your Homework A Checklist For Your Genealogy Vacation

Taking a trip to do genealogical research can be a rewarding experience and is the highlight of many genealogists' vacations. Whether you travel 30 or 3000 miles to do genealogical research, there are many things you should do at home before you begin your journey. Planning for your genealogical "vacation" should begin at least two months before the proposed trip.

While you may not be the only person involved in planning your trip, you must decide if the main purpose of your trip is genealogical or non-genealogical. This is in part dependent upon whether or not that you're traveling companions are interested in doing genealogical research. Once that decision is made, there are six important steps to take:

1. Know What You Want
Adequate preparation can make your trip more fruitful and prevent some frustration along the way. Deciding what family or person to focus on is the first decision. There might be specific facts you would like to prove or disprove. Do you want to learn great-great grandma maiden name? Do you want to locate great-grandpa's tombstone? Is it to research a certain family in Kentucky? Having a purpose in mind for your research trip will help to keep you focused while on your trip and make the planning easier. Just deciding to leave tomorrow to do genealogical research 1,000 miles away might sound tempting, but planning can help you to make more efficient use of your time and money.

2. Know What's Available
Once you have decided which areas you would like to visit, make certain that you are generally familiar with record sources in that region. Learn about the area you are planning to visit and their resources ahead of time before your trip. The LDS Research guides are available on familysearch.org (Familysearch Wiki) and provide excellent background information for most geographical areas of research. It's not possible to learn (or remember) everything, but a general idea of what to expect will serve you well. The research guide should make the trip with you.

In addition, check out the state (province) GenWeb page to learn more about sources for that specific location. Are there any individuals who will do free lookups for records in the areas you are going to visit. Getting these lookups done in advance may save time when you get to the actual record site. These sites might even provide links to information about local record sources. It may also be beneficial to check out city or county Web pages to assist in travel preparations.

If you are planning to visit any libraries, look and see if they have web pages. Do any of the libraries have their catalogue available online? Remember to search the catalog at home, before you leave, will provide you with information about specific books, so you can spend more of your time in the library actually looking at books and the hours that they are open.

3. What Do You Mean Your Closed!

While it would be nice the world does not revolve around genealogists. Contact the city and provincial courthouses, libraries, and other record repositories you plan to visit to determine their office hours. Will they be closed while you plan to be in town? Also determine if there are any festivals occurring during your expected stay. If you inadvertently arrive during a local festival you may find all nearby motels full (and waste time looking for a vacancy). Staying during a busy time is your own choice, but it is a choice best made from the comfort of your own home before your trip and not during.

4. Practice Makes Perfect

Are you planning on taking photographs of tombstones or making tombstone rubbings on your trip? If you are, and you have never taken a picture of a tombstone or made a tombstone rubbing, practice on some local stones before you leave. The time to learn is not at a cemetery 2,500 miles from home, on the last day of your trip with a thunderstorm quickly approaching.

5. Do I Have It At Home?

Double-check sources where you live. Does your local library have any citywide indexes or published records for the area for which you are traveling? Search these indexes before you leave may provide reference numbers to books or for indexes which will cut down on research time on your trip. It may be your local library has a book or two that may be useful in your research. You don't want to travel 2,500 miles to look at something your local library has.

Are there any regional archives or special collections that you should visit? Frequently genealogists focus on the courthouse, local library, and cemetery, and ignore other possible sources. There are provinces that have provincial archives or provincial libraries that may contain some records useful to your search. Perhaps a nearby university library has a collection that may be of use to you in your research.

Take your charts with you, but leave your original documents behind. No one will probably steal them, but forgetting them somewhere is a definite possibility. Fill out the family group charts, pedigree charts, and research logs as completely as you can. Traveling a distance to check a source you have already checked is a waste of time.

Make certain you have all your genealogical and office supplies you need. There are record repositories that do not allow pens to be used in their facility, so have plenty of pencils. Either bring a sharpener or use an ever point pencil (making certain that you have plenty of lead). Have a sufficient number of blank charts and forms for use during your trip. Family group and pedigree charts, research logs, and abstract and extract forms may prove useful. Unless you are traveling to a major genealogical center, forms may not be easily purchased. Laptop computer users should even have some of these forms handy in case of machine failure.

Mapping out your trip is an important part of the research process. There are sites on the internet that will calculate driving distances and directions for your trip, such as Mapquest. You may wish to print out detailed maps of the areas in which you will be staying and doing research.

An Example

My great grandmother was born near Gothenburg, Nebraska in 1882. I would like to visit the local library and other places that might have information on her family. Going to Mapquest, I request driving directions between my residence of Galesburg, Illinois, and Gothenburg is just off the interstate 80and is an estimated 605 miles from home.

To learn more about Gothenburg and Dawson County, I check out Yahoo! I find the site of the city of Gothenburg. A casual surfing of this site indicates when local festivals are and the city even has a sod house museum. I next checked into the site for Dawson County on the USGenWeb and located information on the County Historical Museum (with hours) and a link to the county seat (Lexington). The site or

the county seat included information about local government, including the address for the courthouse and phone numbers of the county offices located in the courthouse.

I suspected that my ancestors attended a local Lutheran Church and a search on Bigbook, provided the names and the addresses of many churches in Gothenburg, including one that was Lutheran. They don't have an email address, but I could write them and inquire about their records.
Traveling to visit an area where your ancestors lived can be a rewarding experience. Seeing the homestead where my great-grandmother was born in Nebraska really added something to my research. Planning for your trip is an integral part of the process. It is one thing to have to take a detour because of road construction. It is entirely another to have to cross a library off your research list because they were closed for remodeling. Good luck and good hunting.
(Michael John Neill--Ancestry Daily News--genealogy.com)

10 Steps to Writing An Engaging Family History

(Penny Stratton, the publishing director for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, believes we "pass the torch" to succeeding generations through recording our stories. By following these steps, you can create a family history story to inspire family members present and future.)

1. Plan Your Project
Decide on what you want to accomplish, a time frame, and your audience. Start small if this is your first project, perhaps just a single family's story or a couple of generations. Are you writing a book, or an informal publication? Write a rough outline and perhaps a table of contents.

2. Find a Format and Style You Like
Look at other published memoirs and family histories and see what appeals to you and holds your interest. Your format could be register or descendancy style which usually starts in the past with one couple immigrating to America and moves forward through the years to include their children and families. You may chose ahnentafel style, which typically follows direct line of couples from present to past-like a pedigree chart turned into text.

3. Gather Your Materials
Find physical and electronic records (census, deeds, military, immigration, wills, etc.), pictures, family papers, diaries, letters, treasured possessions, genealogy charts, transcribed interviews or questionnaires of living relatives, etc.

4. Look for Themes
Create an ancestor's timeline against a backdrop of local and world events to highlight themes (war, politics, immigration, the Depression, etc.) Find themes of home and family, faith, work, adversity, as well as cautionary tales.

5. Write!
"Just put fingers on the keys and get going. It's that easy and that hard!" Usually write in the third person (he, she) if not a memoir. Include full names and what you know about your ancestors, using data from your sources (dates, places, facts) to undergird your story. Document your sources.

6. Review and Supplement
Details and context add greatly to understanding and bring your story to life. Check regional and town histories, genealogical websites, newspapers, diaries. Find images: residences, old postcards (VintagePostcards.org), maps (David Rumsey Map Collection); image portals (Library of Congress, National Archives, Smithsonian, National Library of Ireland, Flickr Commons photo streams (copyright free); New York Public Library, Find A Grave, etc. Do not download or use images without appropriate permission.

7. Edit Your Text
Be clear, focused, and concise. Have another person read your story, and read it out loud.

8. Put it all Together Decide to put your visuals together or interspersed into the story.

9. Publish Your Story
You can produce an entire book using Word. Some publishing services include: Otter-Bay Books.com; Genealogy House.net; Stories to Tell Books.com..

10. Share and Enjoy
Your creation no matter what you write, it will be a compelling read for your family. Because you have recorded it for posterity a family story will live on.

Take time now to think about what stories you would like to begin writing and be the one who passes the torch of a family legacy to future generations. If you write this, who will?