

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 36, No. 2
May 2019
ISSN 0836-5318

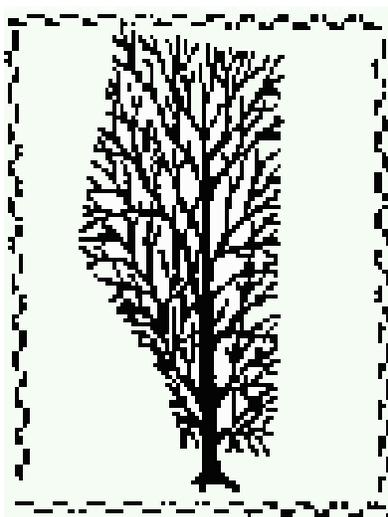


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Committee	2
President's Message	2
Award Certificate	3
Monthly Meetings	3
Lethbridge Family History Center Hours	3
Note from the Editor	3
The Search for Family	3-4
Spotlight	4-5
Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury Beyond 2022	5
Ireland Genealogy Websites	5
Scottish Tax Rolls Online	6-8
England & Wales Poor Law Records	8-9
Tips for Reading Old Handwriting	9-10
Trading in An Old Name: Occupations of Yesteryear	10-11
Ancestors Who Were Indentured Servants	12

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 lenthags@theboss.net.

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 There

Membership Dues

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Marilyn Astle
Vice President	Barry Simmonds
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Julie Miller
Past President	Doug McLeod

BRANCH COMMITTEE

BMD	Eleanor McMurchy
Cemetery	Eleanor McMurchy
Librarian	Win Evans
Publicity	Win Evans
Researchers	Eleanor McMurchy
Computer	Doug McLeod
Newsletter Editor	Susan Haga
Web Master	Doug McLeod
Youth Rep	Susan Haga
Programs	Laureen Tetzloff
Advisory Group	Doug McLeod, Nestor Martinez, Susan Haga, E. McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett & Win Evans

President's Message

This being my first message as president I will introduce myself. I am a retired psychologist and worked as a student counselor at Lethbridge (Community) College, Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College, Grant MacEwan College (now MacEwan University) and two colleges in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). My last job before retirement was as an employee assistance counselor.

From 1986 to 1997 I lived in Lethbridge and I was briefly a member of this Branch before our family moved to the UAE for 9 years. We moved back to Canada in 2006, settling in Edmonton, where I joined the Edmonton Branch of AGS.

After my husband died in 2010 and I retired in 2011 I spent the next six years travelling extensively with only a storage unit for my worldly goods. In May of 2017 I returned to Lethbridge to settle again and transferred my AGS membership to Lethbridge Branch. It was a surprise to be asked to consider the role of President but here I am. I aim to serve the society and branch to the best of my ability.

On April 27th and 28th I attended the AGS Conference in Edmonton as did several of our members. I found it to be well organized with informative and entertaining speakers and the usual networking opportunities.

I attended the AGM held during the conference. Lethbridge Branch member Doug McLeod was elected by acclamation as Society Secretary. A budget was passed, although there were numerous unknowns regarding funding. A copy of the 2018 Annual Report will be available in our library. I will be attending the May AGS Board meeting in Edmonton.

On behalf of our Branch I would like to thank the volunteers who collect, index and collate the obituaries from various newspapers and funeral homes: Alma and Charlie Berridge, Bev Tufts, Luella Cronkhite and Eleanor McMurchy.

Eleanor also coordinates our popular Monday afternoon Legacy Family Tree group.

At our May Branch meeting we passed a motion to establish a Facebook group. The Lethbridge Branch Alberta Genealogical Society group is now in place and I hope you will consider joining it. This is one more way for us to keep in touch and continue sharing ideas on genealogy and family history. –President Marilyn Astle

Win Evans Receives 25 Year Award

At the May 16th Lethbridge Branch Meeting Win Evans was presented with a certificate acknowledging her 25 years of AGS membership. Win has been a very active member during her past 25 years of service. She was Vice-President 1995-1997 and served another term in that role this past

year. Win was Branch President 1997-1999. Win worked on the Master Data/Bank Cemeteries Project 1999-2008 and coordinated the Mountainview Cemetery Project. She has looked after Branch Publicity from 2011-2019 and has been involved with our International Dinners (hosting & organizing) since 2003. Win continues to organize volunteer scheduling for the Resource Center and to arrange speakers for our meetings. She is also a member of the Legacy Family Tree group. Congratulations, Win and thank you!

Monthly Meetings

At our February Annual meeting a new executive was put in place: President: Marilyn Astle, Vice President: Barry Simmonds, Treasurer: Pat Barry, and Secretary: Julie Miller.

For our March Branch meeting all attendees viewed a documentary film "We Are the Roots: Black Settlers and Their Experience of Discrimination on the Canadian Prairies."

In April at our Branch meeting David Tyler from the Raymond Family History Center gave a presentation on Alberta Research. Our AGS Conference, Images Through Time was held in Edmonton at the Radisson Hotel on April 27-28 and several of our members were in attendance. Then for our May Branch meeting our presenter Stephanie Hamilton spoke on Lethbridge Brewing and the Sick Family of Lethbridge and many were in attendance that evening.

Note from the Editor

I would like to thank all those who submitted articles to this newsletter. In every newsletter I will be including a spotlight of one of the members of our Branch so we can get to know each other better. If you have an article you would like to submit send it to footprints14@gmail.com. If you would like to send me some interesting websites and/or genealogy humor quotes I'd be pleased to print them in our newsletter--Susan Haga, Editor

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

Summer Hours: The Lethbridge Family History Center will start our summer hours on June 11th. It will be open Tues: 100-4:30 p.m. and Wed 4:30-8:00 p.m. Fall/winter hours will start up again September 3rd after Labor Day weekend.

The Search for Family

I grew up in Central Saskatchewan near LeRoss, Saskatchewan. I have worked in numerous locations in Alberta, and Saskatchewan and have done checkout and start-ups in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Montana. I have a family of three children two are married and each has a grandchild. The third is in Ottawa working in

the Tech sector. Audrey and I have been married for 46 years living in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

In 2008 I was named as Power of Attorney for my mother and my father, as my mother had a stroke and my father was not able to look after her or himself. This left me in charge. Of course, for a couple who had been married for close to 63 years had accumulated a lot of things and different papers. I had a period of about 10 months to clean out their Condo in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

I remember my mother receiving a letter about an estate settlement back in the seventies. I happened to come across this letter when we were staying in their place. I thought she had thrown this out years ago. But my mother being the pack rat that she was had held onto this one piece of paper that had a family tree on it. I guess at that time it made me raise the question 'what do I know about my family?'

I didn't think much about it at the time, so I filed it in with the boxes of papers and pictures and took it back home to Saskatoon. At that time, we were busy packing up our place in Saskatoon getting ready for a transfer to manage a fertilizer plant in Granum. We had just bought a house in Lethbridge prior to cleaning out mom and dad's condo so the boxes, pictures and other papers, just sat in the basement while we moved in unpacked and renovated our house. I retired in 2012 and didn't know what to do with my time.

My wife and I did the holiday thing both out west and travelling in our Motorhome south to Arizona during the winter. While we were travelling and seeing all the history we saw at that time, it raised some questions again 'do I really know my family's past?'

I knew about my Aunts and Uncles on my mother's side, but I only knew that my grandfather and grandmother had come from England. I knew from my father that I had an Uncle who had been living in the LeRoss area where I had grown up but had moved back to England after a tragedy in their family.

I received an e-mail from my sister from a first cousin once removed. I also knew that she and her husband had visited my mom and dad and that she was related to my grandfather. But I didn't know how so I sent an email to this cousin wondering about my grandfather's family. Well what a shock I got when she replied that my grandfather was from a large family. I only knew about four possible relatives. Little did I know that my grandfather was one of a family of seven children. This was a total shock to me and again the same question came up 'do I really know my family?'

A couple of months went by and I saw an advertisement for Ancestry on the web and just out of curiosity I clicked on the site thinking that I could do everything in the two-week trial period. I

worked on it furiously for the next two weeks and I got hooked then and there and at the end I decided that I needed to research even further back.

A couple of months went by and I was reading the community ads in the paper and came across that the Alberta Genealogical Society was having a meeting with a guest speaker and everyone was welcome to attend. I talked it over with my wife and she said see you later. I signed up at the first meeting that I had attended. I've been a member for at least 4 years maybe even more. Time sure flies by. I enjoy the fellowship and the guest speakers that are at each meeting.

I also belong to the Lethbridge Host Lions Club as an incoming president, so I know the value of becoming involved with a club. I can see the goals, the achievements and the need to be involved to help make decisions. This past February I was at our annual meeting and the executive asked for a volunteer to be vice president with the prospect of not becoming president. I volunteered, little did I expect to lead the next meeting, but that's what I signed up for.

And that is how I became involved in genealogy. I am looking forward to finding out more about my family and my wife's family. I now have about 900 people in each tree to research further. (By Barry Simmonds, Vice President)

Spotlight

Let me introduce myself—I was born Laureen Adele Kane in Lethbridge at the Galt Hospital August 16, 1939. I was the 2nd child and first daughter to Robert Wilson Kane and Doris Dorothy Zmurchyk Kane. Over the next few years, I would be big sister to two other brothers and two sisters. I guess you could say that I've lived here all my life. I did live in Fort McLeod for three years and later, on my grandmother's farm one mile east of the Lethbridge Correctional Institute (Jail). I had most of my "schooling" at the rural school, McNally School and completed my high school in Lethbridge, graduating from LCI. I went on to take the training program at the Municipal Hospital and graduated two years later as a Laboratory Technologist. I married Harry Piekema and we had four sons. I divorced in 1984 and married Len Tetzloff in 2001. I was widowed in 2016 when Len passed away.

I guess I first started an interest in my Family Genealogy in the late 1970's. My youngest sister and I created some family "charts" with information we obtained through a Family Bible and verbal information.

This Bible was passed down to my paternal grandmother, Edna Mary Munro Kane, from her

father Charles Donald Munro and then to her only son, my father Robert Wilson Kane and then to me Laureen Kane Tetzloff, the oldest daughter in the family. The Bible was presented to Charles D. Munro, who was born May 15, 1853, as a birthday gift from his mother, Mary (McLeod) Munro on his 21st birthday in 1874.

This Bible contained written dates at the back of the book and with this information, my sister Verna and I created these genealogy charts. My sister was on disability leave from work at the time and was able to devote the extra time required to compose these charts, long before digital charts were available. We have both since added information to these charts, replaced these charts with the help of a Family Tree put on MyHeritage, which was initiated by my nephew, after the birth of his two children in 2007 and 2009.



Laureen's Munro Family Bible.

I have since added many more dates to this side of the family, through research on the internet. The most recent finding was the will probate of Charles D. Munro's father, Donald Munro, from 1896 in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin.

This was the paternal side of the "Kane Family Tree". Information from the maternal side of my family was mostly verbal. My maternal grandparents, Alexander Daniel Zmurchyk and Kalyna Wyrostok Zmurchyk, were born in the Ukraine, having arrived in Medicine Hat, Alberta in the early 1900's. My interest started when I was shown a "funeral" picture, taken in 1914, with my grandparents standing in the middle of those present, each holding an infant son. The widow in this picture would later marry Pete Zmurchyk and their daughter, Mary Zmurchyk Slemko (a so called, cousin to my mother) would later share her family information and pictures with me. This funeral took place in Medicine Hat and I have visited the "old cemetery" in the river valley, to view the grave marker for the individual who is



buried there.

I have been a member of the Lethbridge Branch of Alberta Genealogical Society for about 20 years and appreciate the help I have received from members in the ongoing pursuit of gathering more information to add to the Family Tree. I have attended a few Alberta Genealogy Conferences while a member of the Lethbridge Branch and look forward to them every year.

(By Lauren Tetzloft, Branch member.)

Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury: Beyond 2022

Downwind of the fires on 30 June 1922, folks might not have realized that the charred bits of paper floating from the sky like volcanic ash were the remnants of hundreds of years of their own history. On that fateful Friday at the onset of Ireland's Civil War, smoke billowed from Dublin's Four Courts Building; a stately six story repository, dubbed the Record Treasury, which fell victim to explosive bombardment. Flames scorched seven centuries of historical documents including wills, land ownership papers, Church of Ireland parish registers, the vast majority of 1821-1851 census records and more. The loss of the early decades of censuses added insult to injury, since those from 1861 had already been purposely destroyed (for various reasons) by the government years before. A gripping void for us, the non-existence of pre-1901 censuses makes for some of the stiffest mortar in the "Great Brick Wall" of Irish genealogy.

Roots hunters quickly learn to work through and around such roadblocks, and technology has greatly shortened the detours. There is a remarkably futuristic project called Beyond 2022 underway that is certain to please Irish family historians. The plan is to

digitally resurrect the grand old Record Treasury Building and its contents. It's a cooperative undertaking between Trinity College Dublin and four archival partners: Ireland's National Archives, the UK's National Archives, The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and the Irish Manuscript Commission. The revival will feature an immersive 3-D model of the structure, designed using original architectural plans and contemporary photos. However, the real magic is in virtually recreating the paper records that once filled the shelves and filing cabinets. A comprehensive inventory of the losses is in the works and the Beyond 2022 team named ten potential resources for survivors and viable alternatives as follows:

-Surviving Records: those that survived somewhat unscathed because they were held in the Reading Room of the Public Record Office, not the Record Treasury itself.

-Salvageable Records: those records that were damaged by the fire but which were not completely destroyed are now in varying states of conservation.

-Duplicates of original records now held in partner archives.

-Facsimile images made before 1922.

-Antiquarian transcripts

-Printed editions.

-Certified copies.

-Published calendars summarizing the contents of the records.

-Unpublished calendars in manuscript form.

At completion, the project's legacy will be a centralized cyber hub of information from the various sources across Ireland and "beyond". Users will interact with a fully searchable archive, accessing digitized versions of the surviving documents, substitutes, restorations or descriptions thereof. The scheduled unveiling of the Virtual Record Treasury is in 2022, the centenary of the tragedy itself. Learn more and monitor the progress by visiting their website at <http://beyond2022.ie>. (By Joe Grandinetti, a CPA and an avid family historian—Internet Genealogy—June/July—2018)

Ireland Genealogy Web Sites

Birth Certificates Document and Certificate Retrieval Service in Northern Ireland
<http://www.ulsterancestry.com/documents/births.html>

Births in the Rosemary Street Church Records,
Belfast, Ireland
http://www.ancestorsatrest.com/church_records/rosemary_street_church_Ireland_birthspg15.shtml

Co. Down Ireland Genealogy Research Site
<http://www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rosdavies/>

Emerald Ancestors – Irish Genealogy, Irish Ancestry, Irish History
<http://www.emeraldancestors.com/index.asp>

Family Tree – Genealogy – Ancestor – Ancestry – Family History
<http://www.genesreunited.co.uk/static/signin.asp?nextpage=/home/Default.aspx%3fix%3du>

Free Genealogy Pages Ulster Ancestry Free Genealogy Information
<http://www.ulsterancestry.com/ua-free-pages.php>

GRO Web Site
<http://www.groni.gov.uk>

IGP Archives
<http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/>

Ireland Vital Records – How to Obtain Civil Regis. Records of Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce
<http://genealogy.about.com/library/vital/blireland.htm>

Irish Genealogy Search Ireland
<http://www.ancestryireland.com>

Irish Genealogy <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>

Lennon Wylie <http://www.lennonwylie.co.uk>

National Archives Census of Ireland 1911
<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>

PRONI Records, Irish History, Family Genealogy, Family History, Digital Preservation freehold
<http://www.proni.gov.uk/index.htm>

The Society
<http://www.nifhs.org/society.htm>

Ulster Historical Foundation – Irish Genealogy Research Ireland, Ulster, Antrim, Down, Belfast
http://www.ancestryireland.com/index.php?ai_home

Antrim and Down Databases, Ulster Historical Foundation <http://antrimdown.brsgenealogy.com>

Tipperary Northern Genealogy
<http://tipperarynorth.brsgenealogy.com/index.php?&set=yes>

The Olive Tree (has Persi Index)
<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/articles/persi.shtml>

Linen Hall Catalogue
<http://www.linenhall.com/Catalogue.asp>

Irish Roots
<http://www.irelandroots.com>

The Down Recorder
<http://www.thedownrecorder.co.uk>

County Down
<http://www.igp-web.com/down/index.htm>

County Monaghan Genealogy – Search Surname, Census & BMD Databases
<http://www.genealogy-of-uk.com/Ireland/Monaghan/genealogy.htm>

IreAtlas Townland Search Form
<http://seanruad.com/>

Griffiths Valuation
<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>

Mid-Antrim Genealogy: Message: Re: [Mid-Antrim Genealogy] Kirkinriola
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mid-AntrimGenealogy>

How to Trace Your Irish Family History
<https://www.irishtimes.com>

Wholly Genes
<http://www.whollygenes.com>
(Submitted by Susan Haga)

Scottish Tax Rolls Online

Tax rolls are some of the best substitutes for census rolls that a genealogist will ever find. Scotland's Places offers a truly valuable collection of online tax records, "Historical Tax Rolls" at <http://scotlandplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/historical-tax-rolls> beginning of a land tax in 1645, this collection has particularly extensive and detailed coverage 18th century Scotland. Fifteen different sets of tax records, levying duties on real estate, shops, windows, hearths, carriages, horses, dogs, clocks and watches, and servants, contain information on thousands of people in Scotland's counties and burghs.

In late 18th century Scotland, taxes fell on fancy carriages as well as working carts used in farms and towns. Tax rolls can reveal who

owned wheeled vehicles, and how they were used, giving rare information on economic status.

Similar taxes were also levied in England, and some were in effect in Ireland, often within different rates or requirements. Perhaps the best known of these taxes were those on windows and hearths. First levied in England in 1694, the window tax was in force in Scotland from 1748-1851. Records available through Scotland's Places run from 1748-1798. When the tax began in Scotland, houses with fewer than ten windows were exempt, although the minimum was lowered to eight, and then lowered again to seven windows.

It's well known that some people went as far as bricking in windows to avoid the tax. In practice going to such an extreme was rare, and most people grumbled, but paid the money. Households already too poor to pay their church or poor rates were exempt.

The hearth tax in Scotland was to be paid by Candlemas (2 February) 1691. Every head of household, unless exempted for poverty, owed 14 shillings for each hearth. Simply counting chimneys was not enough evidence for the government. Because some chimneys were built to convey the smoke from more than one hearth, householders had to permit government representatives to enter their homes. The hearth tax was so unpopular that collecting the money dragged on for years, and the law was repealed in 1695. In these rolls, you will find the name of the head of household; the number of hearths; and the amount paid. For Scotland, some rolls are missing, while others have only district totals without naming the householders.

Window and hearth taxes are useful indications of a household's economic status. Researchers also consult these rolls when investigating the history of old houses in Scotland and England.

Rolls for other taxes on property or business available on the site include those for land taxes (scattered rolls from 1645-1831); the Inhabited House Tax (1778-1798); and the Shop Tax (1785-1789).

Vehicle taxes included a carriage tax, as well as a farm cart tax. Records from 1785-1798 are available for both. The carriage tax landed more heavily on the wealthy, while the cart tax hit farmers as well as working carters and draymen. Some well-to-do carriage owners had residences in town and country. With the carriage tax rolls, some urban pages are headed with a notation such as "A List of Those Who Pay in Country"

and are filled with the names of taxpayers with the counties where they paid their carriage taxes. Horses were taxed in two categories: those "for riding and drawing with four & two wheels", and those used in husbandry or trade". Mules were taxed in the latter category.

Records for a tax on male servants (1777-1798) and female servants (1785-1792) are available. The servant tax was for "no-essential" help; it excluded employees such as farm hands, industrial workers, and shop clerks. Servants necessary for running businesses such as inns or taverns also did not come under the tax.

For 1797-1798, there are records for a tax on "non-working" dogs. John Dent, the member of Parliament who proposed this very unpopular tax, was quickly tagged with the nickname "Dog Dent". Dogs kept as pets or in hunting packs were taxed, but canines needed for jobs such as herding sheep were exempt.

There are also clock and watch tax pages dating from 1797-1798, although entries for several counties are missing. Each page has the date of assessment; the "Master's and Mistress' Names and Conditions"; and the total number of taxed timepieces, broken down into clocks, gold watches, and "silver and metal watches"; and a total amount of duty paid.

Timepieces were expensive rarities, and often there is only one person in a parish who owned one; the minister. A Lord Kintore in Aberdeenshire is listed as paying for three clocks and one watch. Following his entry are the names of five servants, each of whom owned a "silver or metal watch". Other servants also appear on the rolls, often identified by position as well as their employer.

Under the tax law, "non-essential servants" meant household help such as footmen, maids, cooks, butlers, and so on. On the rolls, servants are listed with their employers, and are often identified by their jobs, such as footman, porter, or cook.

On the rolls, entries are usually sorted by county, burgh, and sometimes, parish. First names are not always given; people might be named by an initial, or a surname and title, such as "Mrs Campbell" or "Captain McDougall". Occasionally, we have a title such as "Miss", "Doctor", or "Reverend".

Coordinating the data from the different tax rolls might reveal an unusually detailed sketch of an 18th century household. Most households did not need to pay for all the taxes, and many were exempt from most, or even all, of the taxes. If we find that one household one male servant paid

taxes for a house with ten windows; for one female servant and one male servant; one four-wheeled carriage; two horses; and one clock, we see a family that is not vastly rich, but quite prosperous.

Some late 18th century city directories for Edinburgh and Glasgow, as well as one for Dundee, are available at the National Library of Scotland's page "Scottish Post Office Directories" at www.nls.uk/family-history/directories/post-office. For urban dwellers, the directories can be a helpful supplement to tax records, giving or confirming information about occupations or places of residence.

There's another wonderful feature of this site: transcriptions of the manuscript pages, contributed by volunteers. This makes it easy to search the pages and help check one's interpretation of any unfamiliar or hard-to-read words. "Historical Tax Rolls" is a great gift to family historians with Scottish connections and shows the potential harvest that can be gleaned from sifting through tax rolls for genealogical information. (By David Norris—Internet Genealogy—June/July—2018)

England and Wales Poor Law Records

Before Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1536-39, the monasteries took care of the poor in England and Wales. With the monasteries gone, this responsibility shifted to each parish. An entire system of laws and documents grew up around caring for the poor. For the researcher, these documents can be invaluable in tracing migration of families, both poor and not poor, in England and Wales. Poor law documents can also reveal family relationships as well as giving insight into living conditions of ancestors.

Poor law records are also known as parish chest records. This is because a chest kept in a strong box in the church or priest's house was used to store Parish records. The major portion of the Old Poor Law Records (Pre-1834) date after 1680 and up to the year 1834 when the new poor laws became effective.

Poor Law Records 1834-1948

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 placed the responsibility for the care of the poor in England and Wales, from 1834 onward on the Poor Law Unions and their workhouses took over the responsibility from the Church of England parishes. Prior to 1834 a few parishes or collections of parishes had established a few workhouses to help relieve

the poor and provide indoor relief in the form of food, clothes and shelter (Bristol 1696).

Both outdoor relief in which recipients lived in their home while receiving some form of relief, and indoor relief (workhouse living) were offered, as needed prior to 1834. From 1834 onward all relief was supposed to be given in the workhouse only. The New Poor Law and its records began in 1834 and continued until 1948 when it was replaced by the National Healthcare system.

Poor law records covered many, many people, both the poor and those who paid tax to support them. This tax, called a rate, was collected from all the householders in the parish who were not paupers themselves.

Researching Poor Law Records

A researcher can find names of individuals and entire families listed in poor law records. Poor or pauper families often have all their names listed in the admission register along with the dates of admission, occupation, age, religion, parish, and the cause of need for relief. Frequently a mother and her children are recorded together. Some births, baptisms and deaths/burials of the poor are recorded.

Poor law administrative records also contain information on the individuals administering relief and employed in the system. They contain the names, some relationships, time and place and activities of the various found at levels of supervising officers and other employees. The workhouse system was abolished in the UK 1 April 1930, but many workhouses, renamed Public Assistance Institutions, continued under the control of local county councils.

UK Workhouse Records

National Archives
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Workhouses, Hospitals, Prison Inmates
www.workhouse.org

Victorian Workhouses (Workhouse before 1834)
www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk

Ancestry: London Poor Laws & Board of Guardian Records 1738-1930

Ancestry: London Workhouses Admission/Discharges 1764-1930
See www.findmypast.com for workhouse records:

Bury, Cheshire, Chesterfield, Chorlton, Dublin, Lincolnshire, Manchester, Monmouthshire, Portsmouth, Sligo, Southwark.

Irish Workhouses see www.Findmypast.com
(See FamilySearch Wiki)

Tips for Reading Old Handwriting

Understanding handwriting can be a challenge to decipher as the English language has evolved over time, spelling has changed, the way we abbreviate words has changed, just being able to interpret someone's style of writing can be a mystery and a challenge in and of itself.

Paleography, or the study of old handwriting, is an art form, to say the least. Not only does paleography require careful studying and analysis, it's also deeply rooted in history and the understanding of historical documents. With a few tips and strategies, you'll be able to interpret those 1600s registers of licenses to pass beyond the seas of time.

1. **Analyze the record** before you begin reading the handwriting. Before you begin studying the handwriting in original image you have in hand, analyze the document type you have a hold of. If it's a probate record, you'll likely see legal terms used throughout.
2. **Move slowly, very slowly** Start your analysis very slowly. Analyzing the old handwriting takes time, so make sure you have time to do it. We often miss key indicators and clues in the document when we read too quickly through them, so it's important to slow down and evaluate word by word, then by letter by letter, then back to word by word again.
3. **Read for Content First** Begin by reading the document for content to the best of your ability. You need to make sure to give the document a one time read over. You must read the document looking closely at every letter, word, and phrase.
4. **Conduct a letter by letter read and create a "key"**. Next begin your letter by letter read. Do not try to interpret words, just try to determine what letters are in your document. The easy identifiable letters will be your key to unlocking the rest of the words and phrases.
5. **Conduct a word by word read.** Once you've done a letter by letter read, go back and read word by word using the letters you've already discovered to help you uncover words and phrases you're not sure about.
6. **Read aloud** If you're really stumped at one or two phrases or a whole section in your analysis, try reading what you can aloud and try sounding out the document. You might be surprised by what hearing yourself read can reveal. Reading it aloud and then listening to the words spelled phonetically can then help you to recognize words with alternate spellings or archaic words that have similar counterparts in modern English.
7. **Trace the handwriting** If you're really struggling getting used to the handwriting, try writing the document yourself. Print out the record that you're looking at online. Lay some trace paper over it. Slowly trace each letter of each word on your own. Writing in the past was much more decorative than it is today. Trying to decipher what's a decorative loop versus an "o" or an "e", for example will give you a better feel for the text that you are evaluating.
8. **Cross Your t's and dot your i's** One thing to watch out for is uncrossed t's and undotted i's in the records, or misplaced slashes and dots. If you've ever forgotten to cross a t or dot an i when jotting down something quickly, chances are your ancestors did as well, so if you think you have a t, but don't have it crossed, this could be the case. The same thing goes with i's.
9. **The letter "s"** The letter "s" is a commonly confused letter that causes many genealogists headaches when interpreting old handwriting. Often in the past, the letter "s" was written like a backward, cursive "f", especially in instances where there are 2 s's in a row in a word. "s's" may also resemble the letter "p" so keep an eye out for that. An "s" may also be confused with an L, so use context clues and letters from your "key" to determine which is which.
10. **"Th" and 'y" and "y" and "t"** One common abbreviation in the past was to abbreviate "th" with a character that closely resembles the letter "y". If you encounter a document that looks like "ye" that could mean "the." You might also see the "e" written as a superscript because it wasn't uncommon for the abbreviations to be written as the main letter with the rest superscripted with or without a line underneath.

You may also see “yt” which is an abbreviation for that. “Y” is the abbreviation for “th” followed by a “t” would be “tht” or “that.”

11. **Take A rest** When you’re getting frustrated, feeling as if you can’t analyze the document any longer, or feeling as if you are not getting anywhere with your analysis, step away from the document. Let both your eyes and the document “rest,” so that you can approach it again later with fresh eyes. After studying one document for hours, you may be missing slight differences and changes in the handwriting that could be a key clue to uncovering the letter you’re stuck on. Let your eyes and brain rest for a bit and chances are you’ll make a new discovery upon visiting it again. (By Alexandria Edmondson—Blog)

Trading in An Old Name: Occupations of Yesteryear

Sorting out what your ancestors did for a living can be a challenge. Our ancestors had trades and occupations that are unfamiliar to us. Family historians can rely on the internet to help them sort out occupations of the past. For example, the boatswain still in existence today was a petty officer in charge of ship’s crews, rigging and deck maintenance. A boatswain piping on the deck of a US Naval warship, c. 1863

When you find an unfamiliar occupation listed for one of your relatives in a source such as a census, a city directory, or a newspaper, you might refer to some of the following websites to begin to understand what the job involved.

Old Occupation Names from England

The four websites in this section offer extensive lists of old occupations. If you can’t locate occupations that you’re looking for on one of the sites, try one of the others. Each site includes some unique entries.

1) Hall’s Genealogy Websites

You’ll discover a large index of old English occupations on this website <http://rmhh.co.uk/occup>. Besides listing many names, this site offers several useful features. When applicable, it

provides multiple definitions for an occupation; for example, you’ll learn that a “shepster” could be either a “dressmaker” or a “sheep-shearer”. Variations of a name appear, as in the case of “sempster/seamstress/sewster” meaning “seamstress”.

Related occupations, such as a “shingle” and “iron puddler” are cross-referenced and links to rich text files (rtf) provide further information. In some instances, you’ll even encounter relevant history with the name of an occupation.

2) Victorian Occupations

This blog provides transcriptions of the occupations that appeared in the 1891 census for London organized alphabetically,

www.census1891.com/occupations-a.php. Basic explanations accompany the name of each job. You’ll find more than one definition for an occupation when appropriate. You’ll discover that a “waller” was “someone who built walls either with bricks or dry stone”, but it could also be someone who worked making coarse salt”. The site offers you the chance to view all the occupations that existed in a single time and place.

3) World Through the Lens

Obscure old English occupations extracted from the decennial censuses dating from 1841 through 1911 appear with descriptions of the jobs at www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php. The list isn’t as exhaustive as that included on some similar sites, but the site’s creators inform viewers that the occupations have been carefully chosen and defined.

4) Family Researcher

Genealogist Jane Hewitt offers her Dictionary of Old Occupations for family historians to consult on website www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index.html#Old-Occupations-A

You can access the alphabetical index from professions from the home page. The name of each occupation links to a page including the definition. If you’re interested, through the site you can purchase the dictionary for offline reference purposes.

Old Occupation Names by Region and Language the most common old German occupations that no longer exist. The websites that follow focus on old occupation names for various geographical areas and/or include foreign language references.

1) Old Scottish Occupations

Check out Historic Scottish Professions and Occupations see website <https://www.visitscotland.com>. For example, a Turner was responsible for manufacturing metal components and assembling them to construct tools. Another occupation were milliners who made and sold women's hats.

2) Occupations in New France

To research occupation names found in New France, consider consulting this Acadian website www.acadian-home.org/occupations.html. New France covered a large area that, by the early 1700's, extended roughly from Newfoundland through Arcadia, along the St. Lawrence River, to the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi Valley, down to the Gulf of Mexico. On this website devoted to Acadian and French-Canadian genealogy, research, and history, you'll discover almost three-hundred old occupation names in French with their corresponding English translations. You won't find descriptions of the jobs included, but you may want to consult the list as a place to start when researching individuals from the region.

3) Old French Occupations

If you can understand written French, you'll be able to take advantage of an excellent site for research into French occupations from long ago at www.vieuxmetiers.org/. A description or definition follows the name of each occupation. Links connect related occupations throughout the site. In some instances, you'll also be able to view an image associated with the job.

4) Old German Occupations

If you're one of the 49 million Americans who claim to have German ancestry, you may do some research

using German records. European Roots Genealogy has published the names of the most common old German occupations that no longer exist at www.european-roots.com/german_prof.htm. On the site you will see the names of the trades or occupations in English, followed by a lengthy list of names in German. By way of example, it includes many terms for trades associated with leather: for tanners, shoemakers, saddlers, bridle makers, purse and glove makers, belt makers and whip makers. You'll also find words for various types of leather (goat, cow, chamois, etc.)

To search for keywords of interest, press CTRL + F on your keyboard, and enter your search term. The site often groups together related occupations, without necessarily providing precise definitions for each. Nonetheless, it offers valuable information you're unlikely to find elsewhere. For example, puddlers made wrought iron from cast iron using a coal-fired "reverberatory furnace".

Even if you think you know what a certain old occupation involved, you'd be wise to double-check the definition. "Shoe-finders" did not search for their neighbors' misplaced shoes; they sold cobblers' tools.

And when an odd spelling from the past turns up, the name of an occupation you might otherwise have recognized, may prove challenging to "decode". Consider looking it up. Even if your spell checker might go crazy if it were to find a reference to a "qwylwryghte". Baffled? Its someone who made and repaired wheels: a "wheelwright". (By Sue Lisk, writer, genealogist—Internet Genealogy—Oct/Nov—2018)

Do You Have Ancestors Who Were Indentured Servants?

Sometimes in order to emigrate to what is now North America (and elsewhere around the world), able-bodied individuals would become indentured servants. Though many of these arrangements were by choice, others were not.

Per NCPedia.org, typically, "Indentured servants were white

Europeans of modest means who for various reasons wanted to go to the British colonies but could not pay the cost of their passage. During the colonial period

(www.ncpedia.org/history/colonial/overview), a thriving business developed in Europe in which young men and women agreed to work for a specific time in the New World for a master who paid their way across the Atlantic Ocean. The indenture was the contract they signed and carried with them for the length of their service. A typical servant's contract noted the length (usually four to seven years) and place of service, the master's name, and the minimal food, clothing, and shelter that he or she was to provide." See www.ncpedia.org/indentured-servants.

To help you explore the indentured servants who may appear in your ancestry, here are a few databases where their records may be found. Also provided is a bibliography where context on indentures, servitude and related can be found.

Immigrant Servants Database

www.pricegen.com/immigrantservants/search/advanced.php. The Immigrant Servants Database is a project designed to help genealogists trace the European origins of their colonial ancestors. Currently 20,269 immigrants are included in the database.

Virtual Jamestown

www.virtualjamestown.org/indentures/about_indentures.html. "This database of indenture contracts includes over 15,000 indentured servant's contracts from London, Middlesex, and Bristol Registers. The contracts indicate not only the servant's name and the length of indenture, but also the name of the servant's parents and owner, their home province and city, occupation, destination, and ship of embarkation. These records provide a detailed composition of indentured servants in the 17th century Atlantic World."

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913 www.oldbaileyonline.org

This site contains almost 200,000

criminal trials held at London's central criminal court; many of the accused were transported and indentured.

Chester County PA—Indentured Servants Complaints, 1700-1855

www.chesco.org/1723/Indentured-Servant-Complaints-1700-1855 "Papers relating to actions before the Court of Quarter Sessions involving problems between masters and indentured servants or apprentices. The papers may include the following: petition of servant or apprentice, petition of master, master's account, indenture petition to transfer assignment of indenture."

Corotoman Servant Database (VA estate) [Via Historice Christ Church and Museum]

<http://christchurch1735.knack.com/corotomanservants#home>

Corotoman was the Virginia estate (Lancaster County) owned by the Carter family from 1653-1862. Christ Church was built in the 1730's. For its first 75 years, Corotoman's fields, forests, and buildings were worked by black slaves and white indentured servants. But by 1735, the last indentured servants were completing their terms.

British Home Children in Canada

www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/home-children-1869-1930/Pages/home-children.aspx

"Between 1869 and the late 1930's, over 100,000 juvenile immigrants were sent to Canada from the British Isles during the child immigration movement. Motivated by social and economic forces, churches and philanthropic organizations sent orphaned and abandoned and pauper children to Canada. Many believed that these children would have a better chance for a healthy, moral life in rural Canada, where families welcomed them as a source of cheap farm labor and domestic help."

For additional primary documentation sources, check out Archivegrid. (By Diane Richards—Internet Genealogy—Oct/Nov—2018)