

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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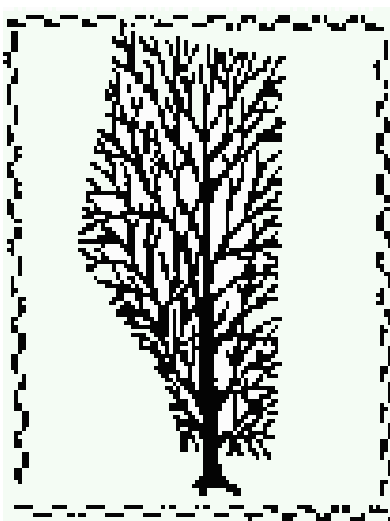


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Editor's Corner



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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President's Message

Winter has arrived, forcing us to spend more time inside. What does that mean? It means spending more time with family and friends, and hopefully more time for family research.

I happened upon a Sep-Oct 2011 Legion Magazine that had an article on 'Researching War Veterans – 6 Steps to Discovery' by Glen Wright. In the article he mentions a number of records available at the Library and Archives Canada – www.collectionscanada.ca – not all of them on line.

The best known record is the Attestation Paper – This gives personal info as well as a physical description of the individual.

Other records include – Casualty Form-Active Service – War Diaries – Hospital Records – Shipping Records – Discharge Certificate – War Service Gratuity – Citation Cards – Court Martial Records

Then there is the 'Commonwealth War Graves Commission' and the 'Canadian Virtual War Memorial'. There are a number of other records and web sites.

Since 1928 the Legion has published short death notices of Legion members with military or police service. The listing is called 'Last Post'. They have started to put the list on line. At the present time it goes back to January 1985, containing about 182,000 names. The 'Last Post' is at www.legionmagazine.com.

I hope you have had a chance to check out the AGS Cemetery Database that is online. If you find mistakes or have trouble accessing it, please let me know and I will pass on your concerns.

I want to repeat a part of my comment from last issue about volunteers. Volunteers are a valuable part of any group, be it non-profit, commercial or whatever. They are what keep things running. Please remember to report your volunteer hours every month as they are part of AGS hours and may be used in grant applications.

So now to each and everyone comes a greeting of good cheer; wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very glad New Year. (President, Doug McLeod)

Monthly Meetings

On Saturday, November 16th at 6 p.m. at the Parkbridge Estates Community Hall we held our Annual International Dinner. Everyone brought a delicious international potluck entree including Haggis brought by Henning and Bev Muendel. A few people brought some family history memorabilia and we enjoyed a fun discussion on brick walls and our family history research successes.

On Thursday, January 15, 2014 for our monthly meeting Dick Robertson will be giving us a presentation on Legacy at 7:00 p.m.

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

Winter Hours: Monday 9:00-5:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 9:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00-1:00 p.m. The Center will be closing at 1 p.m. Dec 14th and will not reopen until Monday, January 6, 2014.

Finding Your Ancestor's Story

The names in my genealogy pedigree chart lie in neat rows on the computer screen. They are as even and tidy and serene as so many grass-covered mounds in a quiet cemetery and as interesting.

But behind those names—and behind the ones in your ancestry—lies a world of story. That's why family history is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the world. People are on a treasure hunt for story. Family History isn't just for celebrities anymore. It's for you and me—learning about our roots can give us wings.

How do you and I begin to find our ancestors and the stories that lie behind the otherwise colorless dates and places?

Here are 5 simple steps to begin.

1) Gather Your Tools. You will need a place to store the information you find. Download a personal family tree program (such as the **free** Ancestral Quest Basics).

2) Record What You Know. Starting with yourself input what you know about you and your ancestors into the family tree program. Gather sources from home that back up this information (such as birth, marriage and death certificates, photos and letters).

3) Talk to Relatives. They will provide information you don't have including records, memories and photos.

4) Use Internet Resources. Everybody from governments to individuals is putting genealogy-related information online. So try to Google your ancestor's name to find a pedigree or visit the national archive of their country to find possible records.

5) Use Community Resources. Here is a brief overview of the excellent resources in Lethbridge. If you need help getting started in family history these are the places to visit!

The Galt Museum specializes in local Lethbridge/Southern Alberta history.

The Alberta Genealogical Society offer specialized info about Alberta.

Lethbridge Public Library offers free on-site

access to Ancestry, knowledgeable reference staff and reference books.

The LDS Family History Centre offers free on-site access to Ancestry, FindmyPast, The Genealogist and several databases. Not everything is online so they also have over 1,000 genealogy books and thousands of microfilms. Their knowledgeable staff and free classes complement these resources.

I used these 5 steps to learn more about my grandmother, Elizabeth Morford, who lived in regency England. A few hours after I began researching her I had found her family in the digitized parish registers (on FindmyPast via the LDS Family History Center), virtually walked about the town where she grew up (via Google Maps), took a look at the silver pint pot and crown coin she inherited upon her father's death (will from FamilySearch, images from Google Images) and learned more about the times she lived in (via books from the Lethbridge Library).

What about you? What is the story behind your ancestor's life? How will it enrich your life? Follow the steps above to find out! (Jessica Coupe—Lethbridge Family History Consultant)

The National Archives of Norway

The National Archives of Norway has been digitizing thousands of documents for some time and continues to add more daily. All the digitized documents are available online free of charge.

A wide variety of documents are already available, including census records, parish records, probate records, court records, and emigrant lists. These documents provide information about people's lives, in some cases going back to the 9th century.

Norway had mass emigration 100 to 120 years ago when roughly one-third of the population left the country. Many went to the United States with smaller numbers of emigrants to Canada, Australia, and elsewhere. The folks at the National Archives of Norway are aware that many English speaking descendants of Norwegian emigrants would like to research their heritage. As a result, the web site is available in both Norwegian and in English although the documents obviously will always be written in Norwegian. For those who never learned the language of their ancestors, a Norwegian-English dictionary can be a big help.

The Digital Archives of the National Archives of Norway can be found at <http://arkivverket.no/eng>. The starting page for parish records is at <http://arkivverket.no/eng/content/view/full/629> and

an example of a scanned register book may be found at:

http://www.arkivverket.no/URN:kb_read?idx_kildeid+571&uid=ny&idx_side=-471 (Click on Control-Plus in a Windows computer or Command-Plus in a Macintosh to zoom in on an image.)

You also might want to check out the National Archives of Norway blog at <http://dokumentenforteller.tumblr.com/> that presents documents and photos related to a different theme every month. However, that blog is written in Norwegian. (Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter by Dick Eastman 23Sep2013)

IGRS Launches New Online Irish Wills

The Irish Genealogical Research Society has launched a new online index to abstracts and transcripts of Irish wills.

The destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922 consumed virtually all of Ireland's pre-1858 testamentary records. During the decades following, efforts were made by various institutions and individuals to locate copies and abstracts of Irish wills. The IGRS wills card index is an early and praiseworthy attempt by IGRS members to build a central database of genealogical abstracts from a variety of testamentary sources.

The index includes references from a number of important and lesser known collections, referring to wills from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. It notes Irish Prerogative and Consistorial wills from the Betham Collection as well from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury; the Welply Collection at the Society of Genealogists, plus the Swanzy Collection held by the IGRS.

Others sources are not only wills deposited at the Library, or quoted in our manuscript collection, but also wills held in private collections quoted in the IGRS annual journal, *The Irish Genealogist*, as well as in other journals. In addition, the card index includes many regional wills & administrations.

There are approximately 4000 cards in all and while they stretch from Acheson to Young, those from A to F are slightly better covered than the rest of the alphabet.

In each case, the full source for the abstract is quoted, and great pains were taken to show family relationships, making this an essential reference for anyone involved in Irish genealogy.

This important new resource joins a fast growing collection or records—many of them unique—now being made available on the Society's website www.IrishAncestors.ie. While the Wills Index is one of several resources accessible to members-only for annual subscription, other records and databases can be viewed by non-members in the publicly accessible Unique Resources section of the site. (Written by the Irish Genealogical Research Soc.—Posted by Dick Eastman on Nov 18, 2013)

School Yearbooks and Newspapers

While not usually thought of as Standard genealogical sources, school publications can be a rich lode of wonderful family history material. Standard birth, marriage, and death records are necessary data for a family tree, but the bare dates and basic facts leave one with little idea of what people were like. School annuals and newspapers, on the other hand, tell little about people's basic genealogical data, but may have a great deal to show about their personalities, interests, and the times they lived in as students. Vast archives of school yearbooks are available online today, offering replacements for long-lost volumes once owned by your relatives.

Photos of members of your family who attended college are not all you can find in old annuals. Even more interesting, you'll see what your relatives' college days were like through pictures of their friends and teachers; dorm rooms and campus scenes; snippets of humor and reflections of current events; and college fads from Charleston to disco.

College annuals, or yearbooks as we know them, began to appear in the 19th century. The earliest annual, the *Yale Banner*, began as a student newspaper founded in 1841. From a newspaper, the publication changed into an annual listing of student societies and honors recipients. The concept was picked up at other colleges, and yearbooks slowly expanded to include more and more about the worlds of their students. Many chose whimsical names, such as Princeton University's *Bric-a-Brac*; the University of North Carolina's *Yackety-Yack*; and Davidson College's *Quips and Cranks*.

By the turn of the 20th century, annuals were turning into large, hardbound volumes with elaborate embossed covers. In 1931, the *Bugle*, the yearbook at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech), ran to 500 pages and consumed four tons of paper and three tons of metal type.

The first college annuals included lists of faculty and students, but pictures were scarce. Until offset photographic printing became practical at the end of the 1800s, photos had to be copied as woodcuts, lithographs, or engravings, processes far too laborious to allow an image of every student or teacher. Information given in student lists often included one's hometown; height and weight; and college club and team memberships.

Lists of alumni sometimes appeared with their current addresses or occasional updates on their career and family status.

Among the earliest illustrations in yearbooks were satirical drawings and cartoons. Before the appearance of the 1892 editions of the *Gopher*, the University of Minnesota's yearbook, rumors circulated around the campus. Some of the faculty, it was said, "did not approve of some of the

cartoons in the book and were going to suppress it". No attempt to squash the edition materialized, and the Daily Inter Ocean of Chicago speculated that the whole affair was "an advertising scheme...to get rid of the books".

Campus Statistics, 1892

Among the interesting features of some of the older annuals are collections of campus statistics. Among the 155 graduates of Princeton University's Class of 1892:

- 107 played cards
- 80 played the billiards
- 72 smoked
 - 1 chewed tobacco
 - 12 smoked and chewed tobacco
- 85 were Republicans
- 34 were Democrats
- 16 were Independents
 - 8 were Prohibitionists
 - 8 were undecided
 - 1 was a Mugwump
 - 8 had been sent home
- 29 wore glasses
- 41 wore mustaches
 - 3 had beards
- 19 were engaged
- 16 had been engaged
 - 9 had been rejected
- 14 had been "summoned before the faculty"
- Average bedtime: 11 p.m.,
- Average wakeup time: 7:15 a.m.

Printed halftone photos started to become common in annuals during the 1890s. Before this time, special yearbooks could be assembled by pasting in real photographs, although the expense involved made this relatively rare.

Even some years after the arrival of offset printing, yearbook photos usually were made of groups such as sports teams, fraternities, sororities, or student clubs. "Country clubs" were formed of students from the same home county. People in these group photos are not always identified individually, so sometimes it's worth browsing them carefully to find the face of a grandparent or other relative. Faculty members were well-represented early on in yearbook photos, making a likely source of pictures and information on the teachers in your family.

By the 1910s, it's much more likely that you'll find individual photos of each student, especially members of the senior class. Seniors traditionally had the largest portraits, and sometimes members of other classes appeared only in large group shots. Students will also appear in group photos of the yearbook staff; class officers; school teams, clubs, and societies; or in cast pictures of theatrical productions.

Besides portrait photos of students, annuals offer rare vintage views of classrooms, campuses, and the surrounding town. Advertisements may provide photos and information of popular student hangouts such as soda shops, bars, movie theatres, and so on.

Yearbooks have long served another purpose, as autograph books. Many digitized early 20th century yearbooks were scanned from copies with autographs. When browsing through an annual from a year that your ancestor attended a college, it's worth flipping through the pages to see if your ancestor attended a college or if your ancestor may have signed it. In a college with only a few hundred students, the odds that your ancestor signed a particular yearbook might not be all that bad. Pay special attention to group photos of school teams and clubs.

Ephemera such as school flyers and newsletters, graduation invitations, senior calling cards, and perhaps even graduation cap tassels bearing the school colors might also be tucked away with a yearbook. Postcards are also great potential sources of college images. Antique shops, flea markets and sellers on eBay or elsewhere online might have postcards showing dormitories, classroom buildings, and college scenes that were once familiar to someone in your family.

School Newspapers

College newspapers have long served the multiple purposes of spreading school news, offering an outlet for written expression, and providing some real-life work experience. Dartmouth College in New Hampshire had a student newspaper called the Dartmouth Gazette as early as 1799. One of its earliest contributors was young Daniel Webster.

College newspapers became well entrenched during the late 19th century. Many colleges had more than one periodical, including newspapers, literary journals, and satirical magazines, as well as periodicals of interest to particular groups such as law or medical students, or alumni.

If newspapers from your ancestor's school are unavailable, check the local newspapers for school news. Many a newspaper had regular columns of high school or college news. Often, one finds lists of graduates, scholarship recipients, casts of school plays, and even the names of class officers and committee members. Sometimes the papers printed the students' grade point averages.

School commencements were once major events, giving accomplished students a chance to shine, and letting the community see how their schools were running. Presentation of diplomas might be preceded by musical recitals, speeches, readings of student-composed essays, and excerpts from Shakespeare plays or other dramatic works.

Newspapers carried quite detailed information on local high schools. The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported in 1866 that of the 113 students entering the Central High School in Cleveland in the Fall of 1864, just 62 remained in school one year later, 51 students had “withdrawn”, one died; two left to get married; 15 left from ill health or because their families moved; 11 quit to go into business; and 15 had “failed in scholarship”. Three students left because they had “outgrown the school, being, in their opinion at least, too old to attend school any longer”.

Finding College Yearbooks and Newspapers

From a variety of sources, enough college annuals are available online that a Google search might well turn up your relatives’ year book pages. The following sources are heaviest on U.S. school annuals, but include are some digitized yearbooks from schools in Canada.

Google Books (www.books.google.com)

And the Internet Archive (www.archive.org) is rich sources of yearbooks, particularly for colleges.

Ancestry.com offers seven million images from 35,000 annuals dating from 1884-2009 in their collection U.S. School Yearbooks. Free genealogy sites such as the U.S. GenWeb Project (<http://usgenweb.org>), Distant Cousin (www.distantcousin.com/Yearbooks), Dead Fred (www.deadfred.com), Don’s List (www.donslist.net), and the ever-helpful Cyndi’s List (www.cyndislist.com/schools/yearbooks) also offer links to some collections of digitized yearbooks. (By David A. Norris—Internet Genealogy—October/November 2012)

Fun Websites for Family History

Interactive Maps Websites

U.S. Surname Distribution

<http://hamrick.com/names/>

Enter a surname into the form and you’ll get a map of the United States showing the distribution of people with this surname within the 50 U.S. states for the census years 1850, 1880, 1920, 1990 and others.

In Search of your Canadian Past

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>

These Ontario maps totals 43 atlases. This is a searchable database of the property owners’ names that appear on the township maps in the county atlases. Township maps, portraits and properties have been scanned, with links from the property owners’ names in the database.

American Ethnic Geography

<http://www.valpo.edu/geomet/geo/course/geo200/HomePage.html>

These are maps that show the distribution of ethnic groups, culture regions, religious groups, language spoken, politics, and family facts, all taken from the 2000 census. It covers U.S.A. and part of Canada.

MapYourAncestors

<http://mapyourancestors.com/>

Create your own family tree maps, life chronology maps, traceable maps, family directory maps, and even chronology maps.

Ancestry Family Facts

<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/facts/default.aspx>

Learn interesting facts about your family: name meaning and history, where your family lived and migrated in the US and the UK, where they migrated to and from, life expectancy, civil war service and occupation.

Time Capsule Website:

Search for Ancestors—Genealogy Calculator & Tools (Click on Time Capsule)

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/>

Generate a time Capsule page with headlines, consumer prices, birthdays, songs, TV shows, toys, and books for the selected date. The years included are from 1800 to 2005.

Death Test Websites

The Death Test:

<http://www.okcupid.com/death>

Ever wonder when you will die or what will kill you? This test is done by the Harvard Math department.

Life Expectancy Age—

http://familyrelatives.com/search/age_search_deaths1984.php

Family relatives have taken in excess of 50 million historical death records and have mapped them. By typing a name it searches over 600 million records in their databases – extracts all the deaths and clusters them before providing an average age for each county and mapping it. Be patient because it could take as long as 60 seconds to complete the search.

Timelines

Create a Timeline

http://www.ourtimelines.com/create_timeline.html

It will generate a timeline of 5 to 140 year span.

Archive Timelines

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/timelinearchive.html>

There are many timelines regarding world history, country history, U.S. history, disasters, biography, sports, entertainment, health and science.

ANYDAY Today-in-History

<http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/>

See historic events and birthdates that occurred on a selected day of the year.

Who Shares My Name Websites How Many of Me?

<http://www.howmanyofme.com>

There are 305,080,225 people in the U.S. If everyone in the U.S. lined up in single file, the line would stretch around the Earth almost 7 times. The U.S. Census Bureau statistics tell us that there are at least 88,799 different last names and 5,163 different first names in common use in the United States.

Who Shares my First Name?

<http://www.who2.com/name/>

Find famous people who share your birthplace, birth year, born on this day, died on this day, who were born on your birthday, who shares your first name, and who shares your zodiac sign.

Behind the Name

<http://www.behindthename.com/>

Discover the etymology and history of first names.

Behind the Name: Name Facts Message Board

<http://www.behindthename.com/bb/list.php?boards=gen> This board is for the discussion of names and their meaning, history, and usage.

Face Recognition Website:

MyHeritage Face Recognition

<http://www.myheritage.com/face-recognition>

My Heritage.com is one of the world's first services to apply advanced face recognition technology to personal photos and family history.

Google Earth <http://earth.google.com>

Google earth lets you fly anywhere on earth view satellite imagery, maps, terrain, 3D buildings and even explore galaxies in the sky. You can then save your toured places and share with others.

Genealogy Calculators/Date & Calendar Tools

Ancestor Search

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/>

Age calculator, birthdate calculator, cousin calculator, day of the week calculator, Easter holiday finder, inflation calculator, metaphone calculator, Roman Numeral converter, soundex converter, Julian to Gregorian calendar chart.

Test Your Genealogy IQ

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa022500a.htm>

Test your genealogy I.Q. with this fun quiz on some of the basic premises of genealogy.

Locality Databases

- **Epodunk**
<http://www.epodunk.com/genealogy/index.htm>
- **Linkpendium**
<http://www.linkpendium.com/>
- **Wikipedia**
http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

It's great for finding counties and shires.

Genealogy Fun Time

<http://www.bjhughes.org/funtime.html>

Christmas stories, funny epitaphs, funny wills, genealogy experiences, Murphy's law of genealogy, genealogy funny paper, and etc. (Mary Tollestrup—Lethbridge Family History Center)

Top 30 Websites for Family Research

Google News <http://news.google.com>

Google News is a computer generated news site that aggregates headlines from news sources worldwide. It searches across a large collection of historical archives, including major newspapers, magazines, news archives and legal archives, including major newspapers, magazines, news archives and legal archives. Search results include both content that is accessible to all users (e.g., BBC News, Time Magazine and the Guardian and content that requires a fee (e.g. Washington Post Archives, Newspaper Archive, and New York Times Archives). In addition to searching for content online, there is digitized material in the News Archive Partner Program. In addition to searching for content online, there is digitized material in the News Archive Partner Program.

British Newspapers, 1800-1900

<http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs/> If you are searching UK ancestors this is a newspaper site for you! Explore two million pages of 19th century newspapers from over 49 local and national titles.

MAPS

David Rumsey www.davidrumsey.com/ This free site keeps improving. High quality digital images and sophisticated viewing options make it the go-to-place for maps. The historical map collection contains over 22,000 maps and images. The collection focuses on rare 18th and 19th century North American and South American maps, with historic maps of Europe, Asia and Africa also represented. The collection also includes atlases, wall maps, globes, school geographies, pocket maps, etc.

MSR Maps (which used to be TerraServer-USA) <http://msrmaps.com> It has a great collection of freely available US topographic (topo) and aerial maps. These maps are a great way to get a sense of the “lay of the land” or geography for a locale you are researching. Being able to see features, both on a topo map and an aerial map can really help your research.

Censuses

AccessGenealogy

www.accessgenealogy.com/ Access Genealogy is particularly good for letting you know what census records are available online. For census records, you can choose a state, pick which census year is of interest and then be presented with a breakdown of what online census resources exist. It’s also a great resource for Native American research. Access is provided to Native American Records, Native American Rolls, Indian Tribal Histories and much more!

Digitized Family History, et al and Books

Google Books <http://books.google.com>

Although it’s not a genealogy-specific collection, it contains either the full contents (for both books in the public domain), snippet views of sometimes just the title and author. When you can find a full digitized book online, it can be invaluable. For example, one can get a full view of several editions of “Reports of Cases in Equity Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of North Carolina from the 1800s!

Family History Archive

www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/ This site encompasses local, county and family histories. Currently, there are over 61,000 items in the collection, including books from not only BYU and the Family History Library from the Allen County Public Library, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research and the Mid-Continent Public Library. You can search on surname, author, title or search on a term. For the latter, put in your county or community name and see what “pops up”. You will likely be pleasantly surprised!

Book Identification and Location

WorldCat www.worldcat.org Want to know if certain records have been abstracted or transcribed or are available on microfilm? Looking to see if a particular book can be found close to you? Need to place an Interlibrary Loan (ILL) with your local library? Go to this website. It’s a catalog of over 1.5 billion items available through libraries, including books, DVDs, CDs and articles. It has truly brought a worldwide collection of libraries to our fingertips!

General Records Availability

Linkpendium www.linkpendium.com

There isn’t a project that I start where I don’t first consult this resource. With new materials constantly available online and in print, it’s hard to keep up. This site organized by state and then by county, lists what records and resources are available online for different record categories. Resources listed have free access unless you see (\$). It is now expanding to encompass the UK and Ireland and surnames worldwide.

Directories

Historical Directories (UK)

www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/ Is a digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales, from 1750-1919? Directories are such a great way to get a snapshot of our ancestors, their neighbors and the community. The historical context they provide is invaluable. For example, “The period 1760 to 1850 was one of sustained, if rather erratic, growth for directories. This was driven by increased trade, urbanization and transport improvements: You can find directories by location (county) or by decade or do a keyword search.

Distant Cousin

<http://distantcousin.com/Directories/>

The availability of US directories is not as consolidated as those for the UK. This website has a nice collection of online directories (and other records) which have frequently helped track a family through the years in between the decennial census records. If you don’t find the records for your city of interest online, check out City Directories of the US, www.uscitydirectories.com/, which encompasses print, microfilm and online directories.

State or County Archives State Archives Library of Virginia www.lva.virginia.gov/

A must-see for anyone researching their Virginian ancestry! Start with searching the LVA Catalog, as many entries are for individual’s named in select documents. Can’t find who you seek? Check out the associated Virginia Memory digital collection, www.virginiamemory.com/collections/. If you still have not found them, then scroll through the Guides and Indexes, http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collection_s.asp#_guides-NewspapersandMagazines and you will find collections of many more records than can be listed here including newspaper, military, land patents, etc.

Illinois State Archives

www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html This is one of the first

state digital archives available to researchers. It has continued to be a great resource when researching in Illinois. Its included records are public domain land tract sales, servitude and emancipation records, veteran's records, pre-1900 marriage index and pre-1950 death indexes. It also includes links to record groups digitized and available at the local regional archive depositories (IRAD).

County Archives Delaware County PA

www.co.delaware.pa.us/depts/archives.html

This recently discovered archive is a great example of what a local community has made available. You will find vital records, estate administrations, criminal case records, insolvent debtors and liquor licenses lists, along with naturalization records and orphan court records, wills and much more!

Craven County NC

<http://newbern.cpclib.org/research/resources.html>

Many hours have been spent going through the records covering New Bern and Craven County. The records range from 1715 tax lists to an obituary index with death notices covering 1751-1903 and 1968-2010, with coverage of some other years. With the port city of other years. With the port city of New Bern, Craven County saw the makings of much of North Carolina's history.

Lineage

Daughters of American Revolution (DAR)

www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm

The online Genealogical Research System is a must-see for anyone considering NSDAR membership or trying to ascertain if a family member was a Revolutionary War veteran. The database contains the names of Revolutionary War Patriots whose service and identify have been established by the NSDAR. Included is information on the dates and places of birth and death, names of spouses, residence during the Revolution, rank and type of service, and the state where the patriot served.

Emigration/Naturalization

Ellis Island www.ellisland.org/

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants entered the US through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor.

Many Americans have emigrants, who started their lives in the US after entering the country through this port,

Castle Garden www.castlegarden.org

This free site offers access to an extraordinary database of information on 11 million immigrants from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. Over 100 million Americans can trace their ancestors to this early immigration period.

Joe Beine's Websites

If you are doing emigration/naturalization and not checking out the websites created by Joe Beine, you are probably missing something! Quickly go to "What Passenger Lists are Online?"

www.germanroots.com/onlinelists.html, and "Online Searchable Naturalization Indexes & Recs" www.germanroots.com/naturalization.html to see what is available online and what is not.

ISTG (Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild) www.immigrantships.net/

Volunteers have transcribed over 11,000 Passenger Manifests. You can search ISTG has transcribed or you can browse each volume (there are 12 as of this article going to print) where the ships are listed by date, name, port of departure, port of arrival and surname (especially helpful with those spelling variant issues). This site is great if you are seeking passengers who arrived in the 17th- and 18th-centuries and it has pretty extensive holdings for the 19th century and later.

NYC Naturalization Database – Volunteer Efforts by the Italian Genealogical Group

www.italiangen.org/databaselist.stm

This website has put a great collection of naturalization record indexes for Naturalizations recorded in the Eastern District (consisting of Kings, Richmond, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties), Southern District (consisting of Manhattan, Bronx and Westchester Counties), as well as the Nassau and Suffolk county and Bronx and Queen Borough Supreme Courts. The collection is expanding to include New York state naturalization records.

Vital Records

Joe Beine's websites is an individual effort. Before you embark on your vital records research, check out Joe Beine's "online Searchable Death indexes and Records", www.deathindexes.com/ and his "Online Birth and Marriage Records Indexes for the USA", <http://www.germanroots.com/vitalrecords.html>. These two websites are an updated list of what vital records are currently available online and save you the headache of wondering whether what you need can be accessed online.

Missouri Digital Heritage Collection (state) www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/

This website has a great collection of pre-1910 birth and death records and death certificates for records created after 1910 and over 50 years old. Once you find those vital records, check out the collection of naturalization records (1816-1955), service cards of over 576,000 Missourians who served in 12 wars and military engagements, and more.

NYC Vital Records (community) Volunteer Efforts, by the Italian Genealogical Group
www.italiangen.org/VRECLIST.stm.

This site has put a great collection of marriage and death indexes online covering the boroughs of New York City, as well as marriage indexes for the counties of Nassau and Suffolk. If you are researching individuals who lived in these communities in the 1864-1948 time periods, you'll want to visit this site.

Finnish Ancestry
Finnish Genealogical Society
www.genealogia.fi/indexes.htm

A free extensive collection of transcribed and searchable collection of church records (Hiski: christening, marriage, burial, movement, communion, etc), Finnish cemetery records, biographical indexes, records of Finnish communities in the US, etc. Good English interface.

Emigrant Register

www.migrationinstitute.fi/sinst/emigrationregister.php
Another invaluable Finnish research tool. A computerized database containing over 550,000 entries, including passport records (1890-1950), passenger records of the Finnish Steamship Company (1892-1910), passport records and more. In 2010, it will be adding more databases such as the records of tens of thousands of Finnish emigrants through the port of Gothenburg. Good English interface. You can search for free and full access requires payment and registration.

Finland's Family History Association
www.digiarkisto.org/sshy/index_eng.htm

It includes Images of original church (e.g. communion books) and census records. This project was started in 2004 and they have put a tremendous amount of material online since that time. They have the records for ancestral parish (Ylistaro) and farm (Lammi) now up! There is an English interface, though think of it more as online digitized microfilm. You need to use the menu to find the community and records you seek and then manually scroll through them as you would a microfilm. They are well worth the effort!

Finnish Historical Newspaper Library
<http://digi.lib.helsinki.fi/sanomalehti/secur/main.html> Helsinki University Library is digitizing all newspapers published in Finland 1771-1890. This website is only for the bravest since the newspapers are entirely in Finnish or Swedish without any English translation! Though, you can search on place/family names and look for connections.

UK Records (Eng., Wales, Scotl., Ireland)
FindMyPast www.findmypast.co.uk

If you want to see some great digitized images of the 1911 census and UK passenger lists (long-haul voyages leaving the UK between 1890 and 1960) in color, check out this site, which also includes the complete 1841-1911 census collection, parish records for baptisms, marriages and burials dating from 1538, an extensive military records collection.

British Origins www.britishorigins.com/

Whether searching British or Irish roots, this collection of pre-1837 marriage registers, indexes and abstracts of wills, court, poor law and apprentice records, census records, Griffith Valuation and Survey Maps will certainly help. You will also find Directories, electoral registers, apprentice and other record types.

Irish Family History Foundation

www.irish-roots.ie/ this site has exploded onto the scene and it provides access to an unparalleled collection of Irish records. It is the coordinating body for a network of Irish county-based genealogical research centers which have computerized millions of Irish genealogical records, including church records, census returns and gravestone inscriptions. Start your research into the records of Ireland here! (Diane L. Richard, professional researcher in North Carolina. She can be found online www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy)

Researching Catholic Ancestors

A billion Catholics live in the world today: Theirs is the largest Christian faith, with a nearly 2,000-year history. If you've got Catholics on your family tree, consider it a genealogical grace. Catholic records are arguably the most extensive in the world, and can be a proverbial stained-glass window into the lives of your ancestors.

Crusade to Colonize

Early missionaries spread Christianity along Mediterranean shores. By 380, the Roman Empire officially became Catholic. The faith swept Europe during the middle Ages. Protestant offshoots notwithstanding Catholicism expanded with European empires to North and South America.

Cross-carrying settlers raised chapels in the future USA long before New England Protestants built their meetinghouses. Spanish missions were active in Florida and New Mexico in the 1500s and 1600s, and into the 1700s in California and Texas. In the late 17th and early 18th centuries, French Catholics descended from Canada to Louisiana Territory, populating parts of what are now Michigan, Illinois and Arkansas on the way to New Orleans.

In the Protestant-leaning British Colonies, the only Catholic diocese before 1800 was in Baltimore, Md.-a colony founded as a haven for English Catholics. The diocese of Mexico (established in 1530) then included today's American Southwest. The dioceses of Quebec (1674) and eventually New Orleans (1793) ran New France. The United States gained its first significant Catholic population with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and later with Western land acquisitions.

The mid-1800s saw the start of widespread Catholic immigration. The Irish fled potato famines for northeastern US cities and inland jobs. Italians landed in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore and San Francisco. Southern and western Germans, Poles, Slovaks, Slovenes, Hungarians and other Eastern European flocked to the farmlands and mines of Pennsylvania. Basque Catholics came to Boise, Idaho.

By 1924 laws slowed immigration. In the later 1900s, Hispanic Catholics arrived along with those from Vietnam, India, Iraq and Lebanon. Northeastern and southwestern states now have the highest percentages of Catholics; the Southeast and Utah have the lowest. Mid-US states such as Texas, Illinois, Louisiana, the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Minnesota are a quarter to a third Catholic. Today, the Catholic Church claims about 74 million members in the United States.

Rites and Records

The Roman Catholic Church encompasses several autonomous churches under the banner of Rome. The Latin rite dominates in the US, but several Eastern churches are represented as well, including Orthodox, Byzantine, Maronite and Syriac.

Church governments are generally organized into regional dioceses (Latin) or eparchies (Eastern), which are in turn made up of congregations or parishes. Groups of dioceses form archdioceses. Records of individual members, which may be certificates and/or registers, are created at the parish level. They may stay there, or over time might migrate to another church, or diocesan or archdiocesan archives. Religious orders, though affiliated with the church, often have separate administrative structures.

Sacramental records celebrate religious milestones of Catholic life. They also can be the salvation of genealogists looking for their Catholic relatives. Godparents or sponsors named may be relatives or close friends. Look for photos commemorating these events among family sources:

Baptism: Infant baptismal records can include the child's full name, birthdate and baptismal date, parents' and sponsors' names, and an indication if the birth happened out of wedlock

("illegitimus"). Sometimes the baptized child's marriage data is added later (even if the marriage took place in another parish).

First Communion and Confirmation

These sacraments are celebrated at age 7 and 12 or 13, respectively, in the Latin Church, and in infancy in many Eastern Catholic churches. Participation tells you a family was affiliated with the parish and wanted to raise the child in the faith. Because a class would often receive the sacrament together, parish records may contain group photos.

Marriage: These records may include names of the couple and their parents (including the bride's maiden name), date, witnesses and home parish, if other than the one where the marriage took place.

Death: You may find multiple types of death records. A record of a Mass of Christian Burial, a service performed in the deceased's honor, will likely contain a name, age at death, death/burial date, and occasionally other details. If the person was interred in a Catholic cemetery, a burial record may also exist at the parish or diocese or at an administration office for the cemetery.

Holy Orders: If your ancestor was a priest or permanent deacon (deacons could be married), he received this sacrament. Multiple religious orders exist, and each keeps its own records about members' lives of service. Some orders also publish biographical sketches, which may mention an Old World hometown and other details. This record may appear in diocesan sources or in records kept by the religious order. Learn more about religious orders' records at www.familytreemagazine.com.

To locate Catholic parish records, you'll need to determine what parish your ancestors worshipped at using sources such as family Bibles, obituaries, cemetery records, funeral cards, marriage announcements, church bulletins and other memorabilia. If these don't offer clues, identify parishes located near your family's address using web searches, city directories, censuses or property records. Look for ethnic parishes nearby, as well. From 1817 in the US, the annual Official Catholic Directory lists active parishes and diocesan boundaries.

Contact existing parish offices for old sacramental records. Locate Latin rite parish offices via www.parishesonline.com or the current Official Catholic Directory. For Eastern churches, go to www.byzcath.org and use "Find-a-Parish." Contact the parish office to ask where records are kept for the period covering your ancestor's membership there. Records from a defunct parish may be with a parish it merged with.

One exception to the church's organizational structure is the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA www.milarch.org. Baptisms on American military bases or installations are recorded here, as well as later sacraments for that person. Records for marriages performed on bases are sent back to the home parish. You can request records (they go back to 1917) with a form on the Archdiocese's website; click on Offices, then Sacramental Records Form.

If a parish has passed along its older records, contact the diocesan or archdiocesan archives. US Catholic Sources: A Diocesan Research Guide by Virginia Humling has descriptions of dioceses and their archives. Many of these archives also have excellent websites; search for the name of the diocese plus the word archive. Diocesan boundaries change over time; the Official Catholic Directory can help you track those boundaries and church archivists can help you determine where records are today. For Eastern churches, go to www.byzcath.org and choose List of Eparchies under Resources.

Remember that the church's primary purpose is ministry, not genealogy. Keep requests limited and specific, include all known information and a donation to the church, and be polite and patient. You may not get direct access to sacramental records, which are considered private. Staff likely will copy or transcribe records before 1930; request a photocopy of the record rather than an abstract.

Holy Histories

Local parishes, especially ethnic ones, offered an active social life and often parochial education. Religious orders ran hospitals and orphanages. Their records can tell you a lot about your ancestors' lives.

Parish Histories: Often published for 50- or 100-year church anniversaries, these could contain history, membership or donor lists, group photos, school information, lists of priests and social events. Find them at parish offices or diocesan and Catholic university archives. The American Catholic Historical Society <amchs.org> has more than 1,300 parish histories in its collection at the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Historical Research Center (PAHRC) www.pahrc.net. Find a directory to nearly 4,000 parish histories at the University of Notre Dame <archives.nd.edu/PARINT.HTM>.

School Records

Look for these in school and parish offices, diocesan archives and other regional repositories. Though student files may be hard to come by, archives may have class photos, school histories, news clippings and other memorabilia. Search for Catholic school yearbooks at sites such as <e-yearbook.com> and www.old-yearbooks.com.

Other Institutional Records: Did your ancestor stay in a Catholic-run hospital, asylum or orphanage? Contact the facility (if it still exists), administrative offices of the sponsoring order, or the diocesan or other regional archives for records. Run a Google search with the name of the facility, town and a descriptor such as an orphanage.

Newspapers: Diocesan and archdiocesan newspapers date to the early 1800s. The Catholic Miscellany (Charleston, SC) ran from 1822 to 1861 and was revived in 1990; The Pilot (Boston) has published continually since 1829. Catholic papers rarely appear in major online newspaper collections. Check with dioceses to see whether they keep old newspapers as Denver does (the Denver Catholic Register is searchable at www.archden.org). PAHRC and UND maintain large newspaper collections; check with regional archives, too.

Another resource worth checking for your ancestor is the annual Records of the American Catholic Historical Society (1886-1920), indexed and available at many genealogical and Catholic university libraries. You can browse the digitized volumes 1-13 at <digital.library.villanova.edu>. (By Sunny Jane Morton—Family Tree Magazine—March/April 2012).

SPEND THE DAY WITH DAVE OBEЕ! SEMINAR ON GENEALOGY IN CANADA!

Presented by the Alberta Family Histories Society to be held April 5, 2014 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel at 2620 – 32nd Avenue NE, Calgary, AB. **Presentations on:** Destination Canada, Canadian Genealogy on the Internet, Mining in Canadian Census, Canadians in the First World War.

For information about the program, registration and hotel accommodation go to: <https://afhs.ab.ca/familyroots>.

Absentee Landowner

My great grandfather, Charles Roddy, and his wife, both born in 1800, were buried in an old burial ground. My father, who died at age of 98, was buried beside them. One day I received an urgent request to go to the cemetery office. When I got there, I was told that somebody else owned the plot. "Goodness," I said, "there must be some mistake. The other day I found a receipt for perpetual care paid by my father." He may have paid for perpetual care, but that doesn't mean he owned the plot." Well who does own it? A light dawned when he replied "Charles Roddy." When was he last in? I asked. "1850" he answered. (Originally contributed by Lyn Sutherland, M.D.)